

**SYMBOLS OF MADDIE’S POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION IN “9-1-1” THE
SERIES DIRECTED BY RYAN MURPHY (2019): SEMIOTIC ANALYSIS**



**Compiled as one of the requirements for completing the Strata 1 Study
Program in the English Department Faculty of Teacher Training and
Education**

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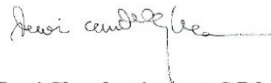
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Surakarta, 07 September 2022

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini merupakan analisis tentang depresi postpartum pada tokoh Maddie dalam 9-1-1 the series karya Ryan Murphy (2019) Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui arti dari tanda atau symbol pada film dengan analisis semiotik, metodologi yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah deskriptif kualitatif. Sumber data dalam penelitian ini adalah series 9-1-1 yang di produksi oleh Ryan Murphy pada tahun 2019. Dalam pengumpulan data, peneliti menggunakan teknik merangkum, setelah data terpenuhi, data yang sudah dikantongi tersebut dijabarkan dengan identifikasi data menurut masalah dan tujuan penelitian yang sudah ditentukan sebelumnya, peneliti menggunakan teori semiotic Charles Sanders Peirce. Terdapat 5 data yang diperoleh, Ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi depresi postpartum yang dialami oleh Maddie dari sudut pandang semiotik dan menerapkannya pada teori semiotik. Hasil penelitian ini mengungkapkan bahwa depresi postpartum yang dialami Maddie ditunjukkan dengan perilaku dan perkataan. Perkataan dan perilaku seseorang sering kali menggambarkan kondisi mental orang tersebut. Banyak orang yang masih enggan mengungkapkan masalah mental yang dihadapinya, namun itu dapat tergambarkan melalui perkataan dan perbuatan.

Kata kunci: depresi, tanda, 9-1-1 the series, semiotic

Abstract

This study is an analysis of Maddie's postpartum depression in 9-1-1 the series by Ryan Murphy (2019). The aim of this study was to determine the meaning of the sign or symbol in the movie using semiotic analysis, the methodology used in this study was descriptive qualitative. The data source in this study is 9-1-1 the series produced by Ryan Murphy in 2019. In collecting data, the researcher uses a summarizing technique, after the data is fulfilled, the data is described by identifying according to the problem and research objectives that have been determined previously, the researcher uses the semiotic theory of Charles Sanders Peirce. There are 5 data that researcher found. This aims to identify Maddie’s postpartum depression from a semiotic theory and apply it to semiotic theory. The results of this analysis is that Maddie's postpartum depression was shown by her behavior and conversation. Words and behavior often describe the mentality of someone. Many people still don’t express their mental problems, but it can be shown through their words and actions.

Keywords: depression, signs, 9-1-1 the series, semiotics

1. INTRODUCTION

Literature represents the culture and tradition of a language or a people. Literature is an imaginative work that depicts human life in society It's fun, easy to understand, and can be used in society. Author writes the result of this concept in the form of literary works. The form of this literature works such as dramas, poetry, short stories, and novels. According to Pradopo (1994:26) the literary work is as the picture of the world and human life, the main criteria that is putted on the literary work is ‘truth’, or everything that wants to be pictured by the author.

Through this natural process, the readers or viewers will be better to understand literary works, especially those who feel related to the literary work and her/his life.(Moputi & Husain, 2018)

The literary work created from thoughts and phenomena around the author, human being and also the nature of the people around are ideas to turn the author's thoughts into literary works . It is a subject that never becomes empty when digging deeper. On the other hand, the reader was able to find ideas for humans and his character by digesting literary works. Like the author, the relationship between literary works and social life dramas that use social background in their literary works, as they sometimes speak phenomena around them. (Meyer, 2018).

Literary works have different shapes, characteristics and conditions. There are some kinds of literary works, they are films, drama, novel, short stories, and autobiography (Christin, 2018). The development of literature continues to change following the flow of the times to the forms and types of literature. Literature is the expression of artistic and imaginative facts as a manifestation of human life and society in general, through language as a medium and has a positive effect on human life (Arfila Lestari, 2019). One of the literary works is film. Film is one of the famous literary works. The reasons why film is one of the most popular literary works compared to other literary works is that the film expresses the content of the story directly and is shown directly through audio and visual..Film is a unique art production and has a strong influence toward its viewer because it combines paint, technology, music, literature and drama, and becomes interesting to be watch.

Films are literary works that provide stories that have various forms of life and aspects of society (Yulfani & Rohmah, 2021). Films also often feature life that we often experience so that we feel connected to the film. The audience can enjoy if they can understand the film.To understand the entire content of the film, we need to understand several things such as acting, make up, costumes, and dialogue. Some aspects, such as costumes and make-up, are often not looked at carefully by the audience because they only focus on dialogue. In films, there are explicit and implicit meanings (Pascual, 2021). Explicit explain what is very clear and unambiguous or unambiguous. Implicit refers to something that is understood but not clearly or directly described, often acting as the opposite, often using implications or assumptions. We can find the explicit meanings the dialogue which is shown through the words spoken in the dialogue.For the implicit meaning we can find it on the aspect the makeup, costumes, emotions, and also the setting of the place. We can understand the implicit meaning by understanding the symbols.

Language and communication are inseparable because of the need for communication. The language that is the content is symbols and symbols, and each symbol and symbol has meaning. And in that sense, people can understand the language. Take the autograph Words, images, sounds, colors, scents, actions, shapes of things, Things have no internal meaning and are only a sign when people invest them meaningful. People are able to communicate with one another exactly because people use the same symbol. Symbol can be found in the movie from several aspect the form of words, images, sounds, colours, flavours, acts or objects, but such things have no intrinsic meaning and become signs only when people invest them with meaning (Chandler, 2019).

Semiotics is derived from the Greek. Semiotic from Semion which means sign. As we know that semiotics is a study of analysis the signs. Saussure (1916) stated semiology aims to take in any system of signs whatever their substances and limits; images, gestures, musical sounds, object and the complex associations of all these which form the content of ritual, convention or public entertainment. Barthes (1977) continues the thought by emphasizing the interaction between the text with the personal and cultural experience of its users, and the interaction between convention in the text and the conventions experienced and expected by its users. Barthes' idea is known as order of signification, including denotation (dictionary meaning) and connotation (second meaning by cultural and personal experience). (Oktavyanthi & Kholiq, 2018).

"9-1-1" the series is a series that chronicles the lives of the people behind the 911 emergency number in Los Angeles such as police, paramedics, firefighters, and dispatchers. 9-1-1 is an American procedural television series created by Ryan Murphy, Brad Falchuk, and Tim Minear. The series "9-1-1" is told various characters from the captain of the fire department to the dispatcher. One of the characters that attracts attention is Maddie, the character of a dispatcher who marries a violent, toxic and obsessed man. Maddie often experiences abuse and also beatings by her own husband even she was kidnapped when she wanted to run away. Her married life made Maddie suffer to depression. After some time her husband died because of an argument while kidnapping Maddie, Maddie decided to have a child with her boyfriend who is also a firefighter, Howie. Maddie and Howie have a daughter named Jee-Eun. Maddie and Howie think by having a child Maddie's depression can be cured. Postpartum depression is a condition when a mother feels sad, guilty, and other common forms of depression for a long time after giving birth. Maddie never said she was depressed but she showed some signs that she was depressed in several episodes in "9-1-1" the series season 5.

2. METHOD

The researcher's method for this study was qualitative. According to Mukhtar (2013) qualitative descriptive research method is a method used by researchers to find knowledge or theory of research at a certain time. For analyzing data the researcher using the semiotic theory of Charles Sanders (Khadijah, 2020)

Object of this research is 9-1-1 the series(2019) which tells about postpartum depression . Where in the movie there are signs that may be studied using signs or representations, objects, and interpretants in Charles Sanders Peirce's semiotic theory. The primary data of this research are selected pictures in the movie. The secondary data in this research is from several literatures such as journals, and websites related to research.

In order to understand the message that is presented in the film, it is necessary to look at and observe every indicator that is included in the movie, including the speech and various scenarios. The researchers used this method of collecting data by watching the movie multiple times and screen-capturing specific phrases and moments that showed signs of postpartum depression.


3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION





The aim of this research is to find the sign of Maddie's postpartum depression and find the meaning of the sign.

3.1 Result

In this series, researcher found signs that expressed in the film after watching it repeatedly and carefully. The finding can be described below:

Table 1. Expressed in the Film

No	FINDINGS	OBJECT	INTERPETANT
1.	 Figure 1. Maddie looking at the mirror	Maddie looking at the mirror with teary eyes	Maddie doubts and questions herself as a mother for not being able to calm her daughter when she is crying.

2.	 <p>Figure 2. Maddie is the fog</p>	Maddie says she's in the 'fog'	Maddie is confused, dazed with her current situation.
3.	 <p>Figure 3. Maddie feels she lost her mind</p>	Maddie feels like she's lost her mind	Maddie feels anxious and stressed about her role as a mother to her daughter and feels like she disappointed her daughter
4.	 <p>Figure 4. Maddie was daydreaming</p>	Jee Eun accidentally drowned because Madie was day dreaming	Maddie worries about her daughter's future all the time, so she often daydreams when doing things.
5.	 <p>Figure 5. Maddie wants to suicide</p>	Maddie tries to commit suicide by drowning herself in the ocean	Maddie feels like everyone will be happier when she disappears and Maddie deserves to be blamed for all the trouble.

3.2 Discussion

Researcher found signs related to objects and interpreter that meaningful, so the result that can be analyzed are as follows:

3.2.1 The first sign (Maddie looking at the mirror with teary eyes)

The meaning of this sign can be obtained using three part model of sign by Peirce in Chandler which can be seen as follow:

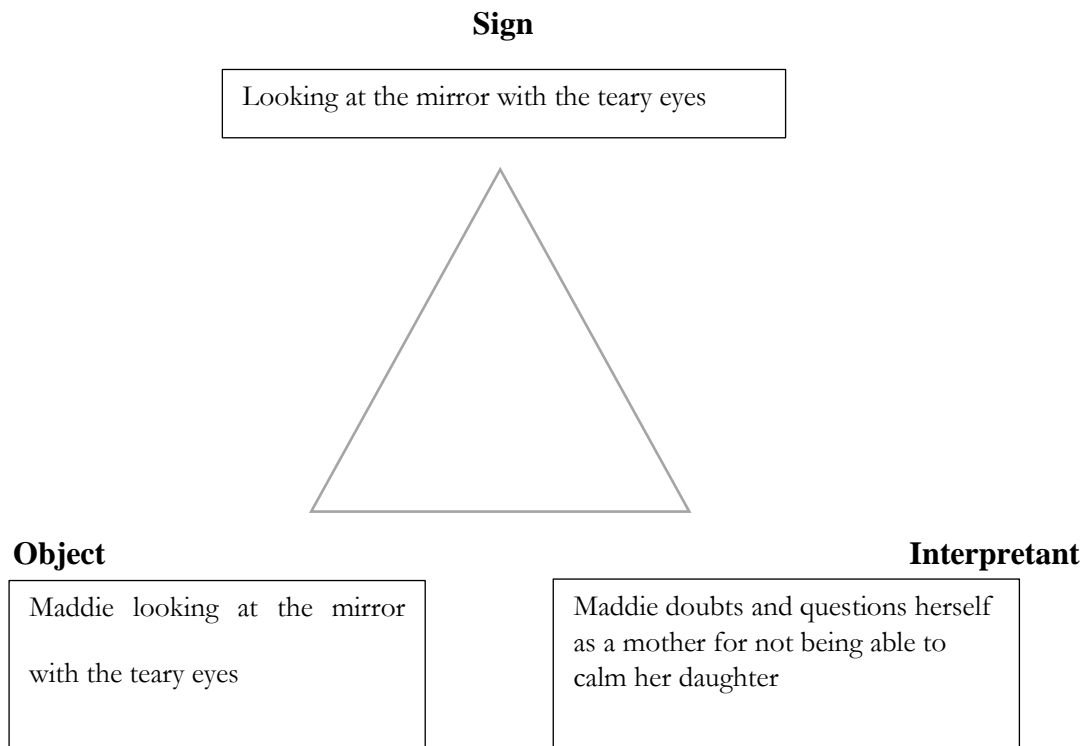


Figure 6. The First Sign

A mirror is a flat piece of glass which reflects light, so when you look at the mirror you can see yourself reflected in it. When you look in the mirror you can see the details of yourself, you can talk to the mirror as if what is in front of you is yourself and not a mirror. In the scene Maddie cries when looking in the mirror after Howie can't calm her baby while she can't even though Maddie has tried many ways she also spends a day with her baby "why can't I make her stop crying?". Maddie's unstable mental affects her view of herself. Mothers who have postpartum depression will see themselves as always guilty and not a good mother, because the mothers feel their children are not safe with them. That's how Maddie felt at that moment. She questioned herself in the mirror "Am I a good mother?" "Is my daughter happy with me?" "I'm a bad mother. She is in pain with me." The sign above is found in episode 13 of season 4, this sign is in the scene where Howie comes home from work after working as a paramedic in fire house department for 24 hours or 1 full day.

The conversation between Maddie and Howie is:

Howie : "Are you okay? something else going on?"

Maddie : "It's the way she cries, like she's in pain all the time, and I just don't know how to help her"

Howie : "Oh, it's just the colic"

3.2.2 The second sign (Maddie says she's in a 'fog')

The meaning of this sign can be obtained using three part model of sign by Peirce in Chandler which can be seen as follow:

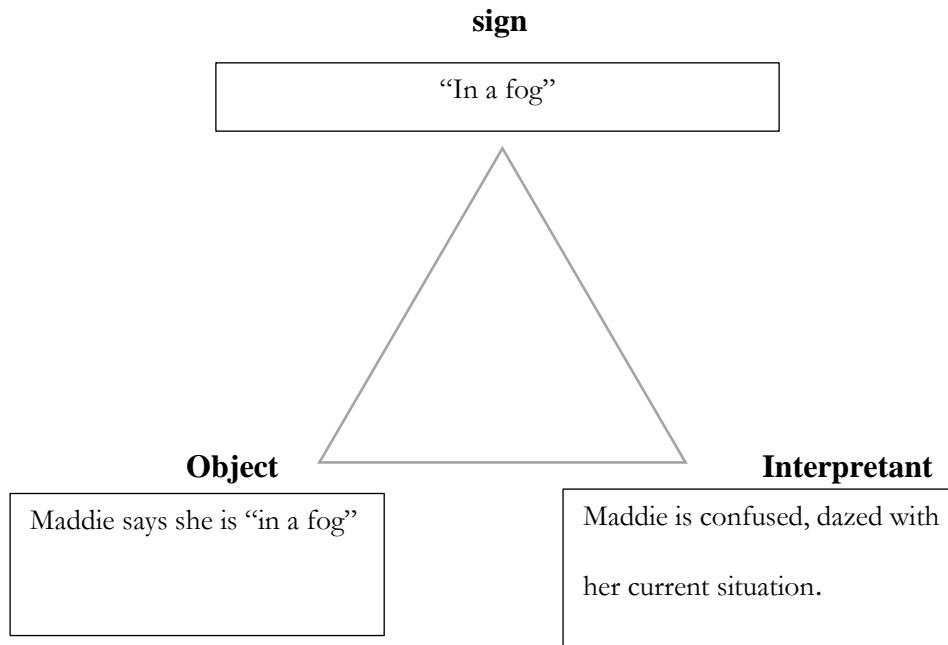


Figure 7. The Second Sign

"In a fog" is an idiom an English, the meaning is not paying attention or confused. This idiom will be used in situations when people are confused, dazed in certain situations like death, birth, and new situations that are surprising and strange. Maddie uses these idioms in season 4 eps 14 minutes to 26:39. The conversation between Maddie and Sue (her boss) went like this:

Sue : "This isn't going to be a happy talk, is it?"

Maddie : "I'm quitting, Sue"

Sue : "Is everything okay at home? i know you've been worried about Jee"

Maddie : "I'm failing her. I'm just so tired all the time and I can't focused. I feel like I'm in this fog that I can't get free of "

What Maddie said to Sue was already showing symptoms of postpartum depression, that she said she had disappointed her baby. This means Maddie feels guilty for being a bad mother, also said that she is in a fog and couldn't be free this explain the

current situation she is in regarding her baby. This situation where she had to take care of herself, divide her time and focus, and think about her baby's future was a new situation for Maddie. This made Maddie think too much about it.

3.2.3 The third sign (Maddie feels like she's lost her mind)

The meaning of this sign can be obtained using three part model of sign by Peirce in Chandler which can be seen as follow

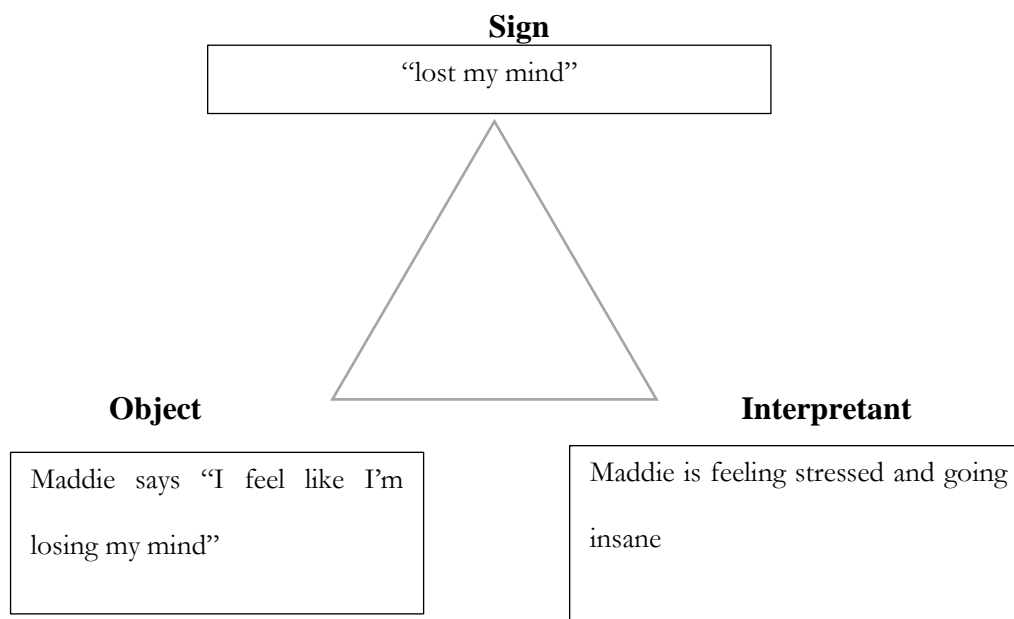


Figure 8. The Third Sign

According to Merriam Webster dictionary idiom is an expression in the usage of a language that is peculiar to itself either in having a meaning that cannot be derived from the conjoined meanings of its elements . Idioms usually cannot be explained briefly, and are used in a specific condition (Merriam, 2022). These idioms are used when people feel like they're going insane about something until they feel like their mind is lost. The definition of “losing my mind” is same as what Maddie feels. She can't understand thing until she feels insane. She can't understand why she always feels wrong, and not good enough, Maddie uses these idioms in Season 4 episode 14 minutes 36.53. Their conversation went like this:

Howie : “Are u napping without me?”
 Maddie : “I quit my job”
 Howie : “What? did something happen? Are you okay?”

Maddie : “No I'm not okay. I'm not okay in here(points to her head)I feel like I'm losing my mind.I need help(crying)”

Howie : “Okay I'll get you help whatever it is “

In this scene Howie looks very worried about Maddie because this is the first time Maddie asking for help. After that Maddie went to a psychologist specializing in postpartum depression. Howie always reminded about the schedule of meetings with psychologists, schedules to take medication, and asked how Maddie was. But this was not enough, Maddie still felt the depression. Maddie went to a psychologist not to treat her depression but to make Howie not worried anymore. It got even worse because he had to go to a psychologist and pretended to be better even though his condition worsened.

3.2.4 The fourth sign (Jee Eun accidentally drowned because Maddie was day dreaming)

The meaning of this sign can be obtained using three part model of sign by Peirce in Chandler which can be seen as follow:

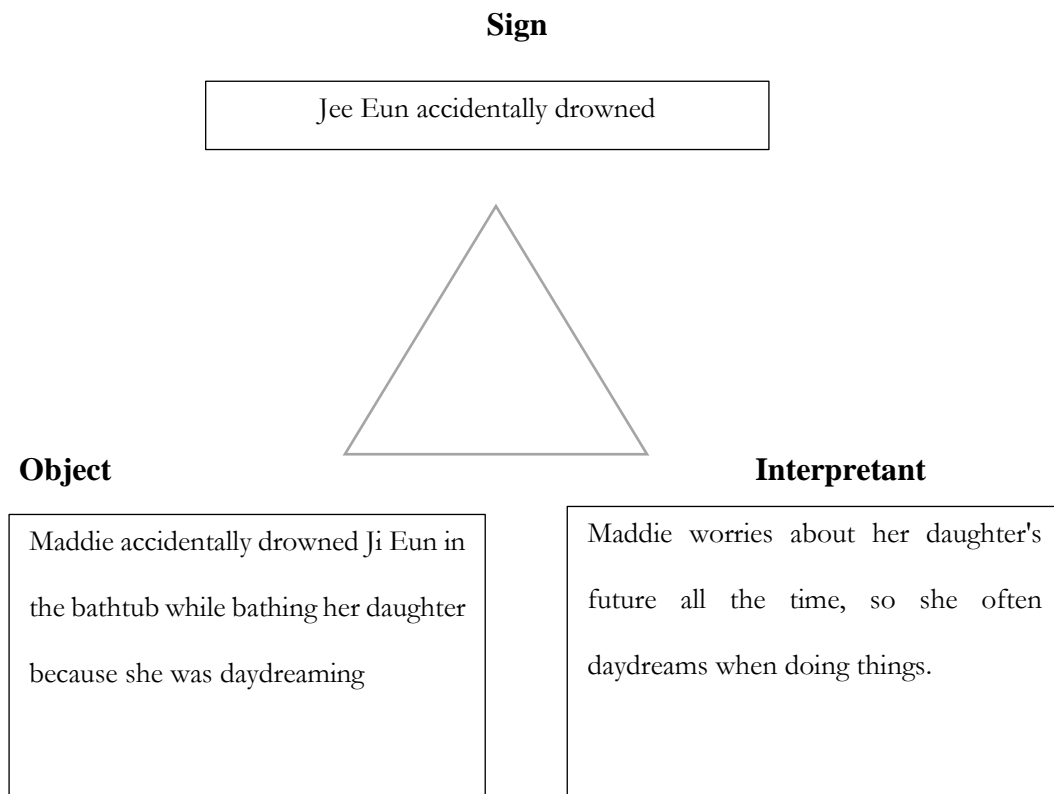


Figure 9. The Fourth Sign

Day dream is thoughts about something you would prefer to be doing or something you would like to achieve in the future. When people are daydreaming their

minds will be disconnected for a moment from the real world around them, and the real world is becomes blurred and replaced by fantasy especially happy things, hopes or ambitions, and these are experienced in a conscious state . This definition is the same as what experienced by Maddie, she imagines a hope and happy things. Maddie of course wants the best for her child's life and can avoid the bad things. Jee Eun is her first daughter,of course Maddie will be very extra on Jee Eun. That's what makes Maddie really think about the future and also plans for Jee Eun later.

At 33:05 minutes in episode 2 season 5 there is a scene of Maddie bathing Jee Eun. In this scene Maddie doesn't seem taking care of herself such as a dull face, big dark circle under her eyes, and a messy hair. Jee Eun looks very happy in the bath up..When bathing Jee Eun Maddie had a dialogue like this:

Maddie : "If you think this is great wait till I show you the ocean."

After a few seconds, Maddie closed her eyes for a while because she didn't focus on Jee Eun, and then Jee Eun sank for a few seconds. Luckily Maddie refocused and immediately picked up Jee Eun. Jee Eun sank in less than 10 seconds.

When Howey arrived at the apartment he did not find Maddie and Jee Eun anywhere. Suddenly he was called by his captain that Jee Eun was at the station and asked Howey to pick up his daughter. But when Howey arrived at the office, only Jee Eun was there.Captain Nash gave Howey an ipad, he said that the ipad was found in Jee Eun's baby stroller. On the ipad there is a video of Maddie saying something in front of the camera. What Maddie said was:

"I'm sure that you're confused,hurt,and probably really scared.I don't know what to say.You don't need to go to the police or come looking for me.I'm not in any danger and no one making me to do this.But Jee Eun is not safe with me.I know you're gonna take really good care of her.And she is better off without me.I love you.I love both of you and I'm really sorry"Maddie left Howey and their child while having postpartum depression.

3.2.5 The fifth sign (Maddie tries to commit suicide)

This is is a sign that has meaning.The meaning of this sign can be obtained using three part model of sign by Peirce in Chandler which can be seen as follow:

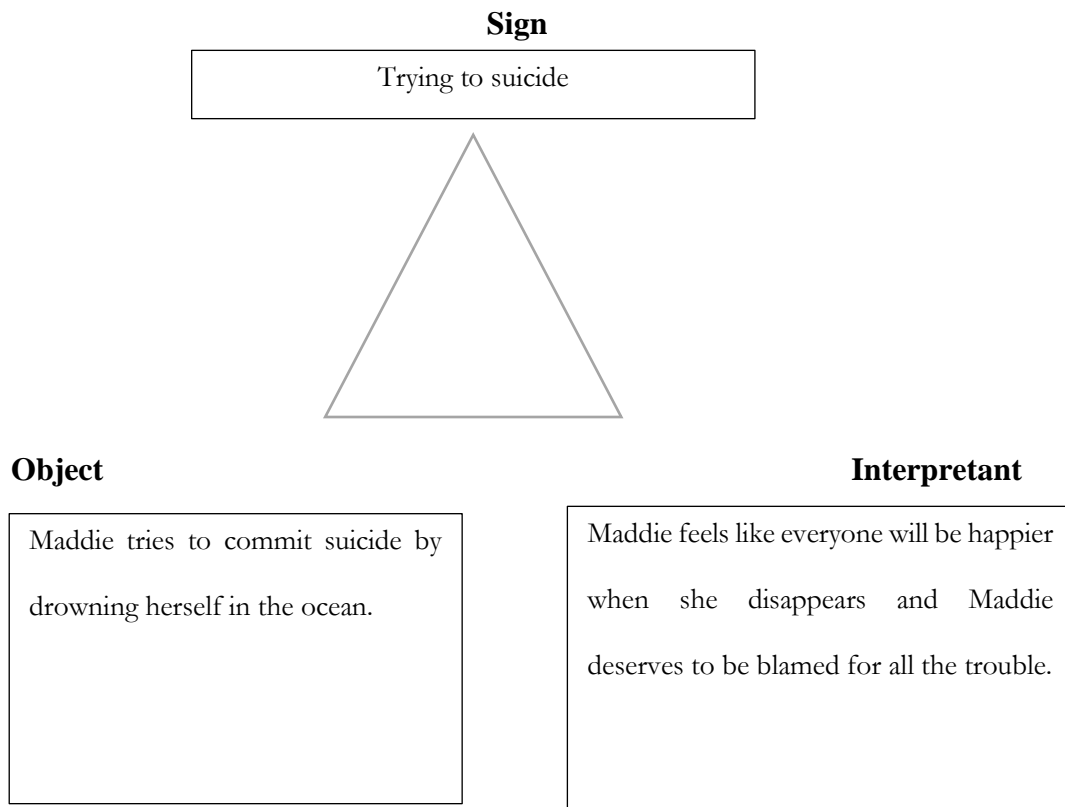


Figure 10. The Fifth Sign

According to Cambridge Dictionary suicide is the act of killing yourself intentionally (Meriam, 2022). The cause of many suicides is not being able to solve the problem. They choose suicide because suicide is the best solution for them. They feel they have no hope, and suicide solves all the problem.

There are many things that make Maddie become depressed and choose to commit suicide by drowning herself in the ocean, this is in season 5 episode 12 minutes 2.00 in the scene where Maddie begins to drown all the memories of problems that make Maddie think that she deserves to die. Some of these problems are:

a) Her Family

Buck often made trouble to attract his parents' attention but always ended up with he was scolded. Maddie's parents also often blamed Maddie for always helping and defending Buck. Maddie's home situation was often in a bad situation, and her mother who was depressed and often trying to commit suicide, also affects Maddie's mentality. Maddie's mentality is also "hurt" little by little seeing the condition of her family

b) Her marriage with Doug

Maddie married Doug, her boyfriend from high school. But Maddie's family did not agree with the marriage, because Doug really controlled Maddie. Without her parents' know, Doug often beats Maddie. Doug is a man who is temperamental and often violent, when Doug is angry he will take it out on Maddie by hitting her. After much violence, Maddie finally leaving Doug from Boston to Los Angeles to Buck's place. Doug is very angry with Maddie because she left, he follows Maddie to Los Angeles. Doug kidnaps Maddie and plans to bring Maddie back to Boston. Maddie, who knew she was in danger, was forced to kill Doug before he was killed herself. Maddie always felt guilt after killing Doug. When Maddie was kidnapped, Doug always said it was all Maddie's fault.

c) Postpartum Depression

Her depression had not completely healed and then there was a new depression. Howard, who is Maddie's closest person, always reminds Maddie of her medication and appointments with a psychiatrist, but Howard never really talks about Maddie's postpartum depression, what Howard always says is "Maddie, your schedule with psychiatrist" "Maddie your medicine". Maddie felt that she was a bad mother and deserved to die. After a while Maddie drowned, she returned to the surface of the water. Maddie changed her mind. After Maddie realized what she had done, suicide would not solve the problem. Maddie went to Boston for better treatment in hospital. Maddie finally recovered after a few months and was ready to return to Los Angeles.

4. CLOSING

The researcher analyzed the series *9-1-1* (2019) using triadic concept based on the semiotic analysis of Charles Sanders Peirce's theory includes sign or representamen, object, and interpretant (Sugiharto et al., 2020). In the series *9-1-1* (2019), the researcher found five signs that each sign has an object and an interpretant. The researcher can find these signs in the activities and the conversation that Maddie did. These signs are (1) Maddie looking at the mirror with teary eyes, (2) Maddie says she's in a 'fog', (3) Maddie feels like she's lost her mind, (4) Jee Eun accidentally drowned because Maddie was day dreaming, (5) Maddie tries to commit suicide.

Maddie is new mom who's still struggling to deal with her trauma and her new baby born. Where these activities and conversation are signs that contain meaning to them. The

meaning in these signs are (1) Maddie doubts and questions herself as a mother for not being able to calm her daughter, (2) Maddie is confused, dazed with her current situation, (3) Maddie is feeling stressed and going insane, (4) Maddie worries about her daughter's future all the time, so she often daydreams when doing things (5) Maddie feels like everyone will be happier when she disappears and Maddie deserves to be blamed for all the trouble

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