

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

*The Lost Symbol* is a thriller fiction novel which has story about ancient organization and involve some historical buildings in America. This novel made by American author Dan Brown. The book consists of 133 chapters and 478 pages with prolog and epilog. This book was published in 2009. *The Lost Symbol* is the fifth novel of Dan Brown after his four best seller novels.

Dan Brown is a famous author from America. He studied in Amherst College. After Graduated from Amherst College, he spent time as an English teacher before turning his efforts fully to writing. He wrote some bestseller novel. His novels are *Digital Fortress*, *Angels and Demons*, *Deception Point*, *The Da Vinci Code*, and *The Lost Symbol*. Brown's novels are thriller fiction, treasure hunts, set in a 24-hour time period, feature the recurring themes of cryptography, keys, symbols, codes, and conspiracy theories. Not only interesting for people around the world to read the novels, but the novels also caused some controversies.

Dan Brown is the author of numerous bestselling novels, including the #1 New York Times bestseller, *The Da Vinci Code* is the one of the bestselling novels of all time. In early 2004, all four of Dan Brown's novels held spots on the New York Times bestseller list during the same week.

Recently named one of the World's 100 Most Influential People by TIME Magazine, Dan Brown has made appearances on CNN, The Today Show, National Public Radio, Voice of America, as well as in the pages of Newsweek, Forbes, People, GQ, The New Yorker, and others. He is the Winner of Book Sense's 2004 Book of the Year Award in the Adult Fiction category. His books have been translated into over 40 languages, and as of 2009, sold over 80 million copies. Two of them, *The Da Vinci Code* and *Angels & Demons*, have been adapted into feature films.

The book of *The Lost Symbol* tells a story about ancient organization and historical places in Washington, DC. Brown chooses freemasonry to be the object of the story. It is interesting because freemasonry is a real controversial organization which the members are the higher leader in America. The story takes places in Smithsonian Museum, US Capitol, Washington Monument, and others where surprisingly are places that have mysteries and secrets.

*The Lost Symbol* tells about a symbologist, Robert Langdon, who had contacted by someone that claimed himself as Peter Solomon's assistant. He asked Langdon to be a speaker in an event held by 33<sup>rd</sup> degree Mason, Peter Solomon, Langdon's mentor, at United States Capitol. Langdon, without had a bad feeling, accepted the invitation. When Langdon arrived at US Capitol, he knew that the invitation was not from Peter Solomon, but from Peter's kidnapper, Mal'akh. It was a trick made by Mal'akh to invite Langdon to find the Masonic symbol which Masons believed was hidden somewhere

underground in Washington D.C. Mal'akh wanted to find it because he believed that the pyramid was a key to open secrets of an ancient source of power. Mal'akh sent a message to Langdon by using Peter Solomon's hand which placed in certain position in Capitol rotunda. Mal'akh knew that Peter ever gave a small pyramid to Langdon and he asked him to take care of it. Mal'akh used Langdon to get what he wanted by using the pyramid.

Langdon then met Trent Anderson, head of Capitol police, and Inoue Sato, the head of Office of Security CIA. Sato said that the case was connected to national security. Examining Solomon's hand, they, then, discovered the clue leading them into underground room in Capitol called Solomon Masonic altar. There, they found a small pyramid which was another clue to break.

In the other place, Mal'akh tried to find Peter's younger sister, Katherine Solomon. Mal'akh said to Katherine that he was Peter's psychiatrist, Dr. Abaddon. He deceived Katherine by saying that he wanted to tell something secret with Peter and Katherine. But, it was a trap. As Langdon dealt with the events into which he had been thrust, Mal'akh destroyed the Smithsonian-sponsored laboratory of Katherine Solomon and tried to kill her.

Robert Langdon, Katherine Solomon, Inoue Sato, Trent Anderson, Warren Bellamy, and others trapped into Mal'akh's trick to find the source of power. Mal'akh then successfully captured Langdon and seriously injured Katherine Solomon. Langdon and Katherine were eventually rescued by

Sato and her staffs who raced to the House of the Temple where Mal'akh threatened to release a heavily edited video showing government officials performing secret Masonic rituals. Mal'akh, who turned out to be Peter's long-believed dead son, Zachary Solomon, forced the Word—the circumpunct—out of his father and tattooed it on his head on the last portion of unmarked skin on his body. Mal'akh then ordered Peter to sacrifice him, as he believed that it was his destiny to become a demonic spirit and led the forces of evil. Director Sato, however, arrived at the Temple in a helicopter, which smashed the Temple's overhead glass panel which fatally impaled Mal'akh. The CIA then failed Mal'akh's plan to transmit the video to several leading media channels using an EMP blast, disabled Mal'akh's laptop computer.

Finally, all Mal'akh's plans were failed and he died in vain. Peter Solomon saved and Katherine's research about Noetic also saved, because Peter Solomon made the copy of the research. The secret of Mason which would spread over the world by Mal'akh also failed by CIA and it was saved.

At that time, Robert wanted to rescue Peter, but he already saved. Then everything revealed. Peter asked Robert to join him to reveal the lost symbol or word. Robert believed it as just an unreal legend. But he was totally wrong. It did exist. The symbol was a holy book (bible, in this case) which all religions have it.

The writer wants to analyze *The Lost Symbol* because this is the brand new book from Dan Brown. It has many interesting things to study. In this research, the writer wants to mention seven interesting aspects of this book.

Firstly, this novel is a thriller-fiction book. It has many interesting things such as adventure, kidnapping, conflicts between one character to each other, murdering, terrors, etc. This book is interesting because it is like a movie. In watching a movie, it is not interesting when we watch just a half of the movie. It also happened in this novel. The reader will not stop reading until the story ends.

Secondly, Brown featuring Robert Langdon tried to break the codes as in Brown's two previous novels *Angels and Demons* and *The Da Vinci Code*. The reader will understand what the story about because they are familiar with the character if the reader ever read the previous books. In this novel also found a unique character, Mal'akh. The character is unique because he can turn to be somebody else. Brown also clearly describes the character's feeling and emotion, so the reader can imagine clearly how the characters feel and the researcher can easily analyze it by using psychoanalytic criticism.

Thirdly, the other interesting thing is the setting. All places in this novel are real. All the places and buildings are in Washington DC, such as Washington Monument, Smithsonian Museum, Library of Congress, House of the Temple, etc. Brown broadly explains the details of the places and the buildings. It can give more knowledge to the reader about the places.

Fourthly, the Brown style in writing a novel is so exciting. Firstly, he always surprises the reader in every chapter. He smartly combines the internal and external conflict. There are many things which make the reader surprise and want to know how the story continued. Brown also sometimes uses flashback to tell the character's past.

Fifthly In this novel, there are so much symbolic words. It might not be understood by the reader. But Brown clearly describes what the words are and gives some explanation about the words. It is an understandable complicated story because Brown uses modern English although sometimes he uses long sentences.

Sixthly Brown bravely made a fiction story about controversial history and an ancient secret organization, Freemasonry. Freemasonry recognized as an ancient organization which has members of number one person in America. Freemasonry is a controversial organization which a lot of controversy. People judge them as an anti-religion organization, occultism practice, and their purpose to grab the world in their hand to make the new world order along with their view. Brown mentions some ritual, the members, and buildings which has freemasonry mark briefly.

Seventhly, the theme of the novel is also interesting. Brown's story is not so far from symbolism and mystery. From this novel, the reader will join Brown's rule on an adventure to break some codes of the symbols and uncover the mystery behind them. The reader also will get more knowledge

about the symbols. Over all, Brown tried to raise a story about ancient history in a modern country and its connection to religion.

In this study, dealing with the quotation above, the researcher wants to analyze novel *The Lost Symbol* by using the structural approach in order to find the elements (character, setting, point of view, theme, plot, and style) that are unified and coherent. And the research also uses psychoanalytic criticism of this novel.

## **B. Previous Study**

The researcher did not find a literary study of *The Lost Symbol* novel so far, at least a study by student at Sebelas Maret University and Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. But there is only one analysis that the writer found from the internet. It is an analysis about *The Lost Symbol* by using linguistic perspective. The thesis was written by Marina W P Sihombing from University of Sumatra Utara. The title is “An Analysis of Phrasal Verbs in Dan Brown’s *The Lost Symbol* And Its Translation into Bahasa Indonesia by Ingrid Dwijani Nimpoeno”. It is analyze the translation of phrasal verbs from the original book in English to bahasa Indonesia and in this research found 140 phrasal verbs which translated by using Vinai and Dalbernet translation procedure.

From the research above, the researcher can see that there is no other research paper analyze *The Lost Symbol* novel by using literature perspective. That is why the researcher encourage herself to analyze *The Lost Symbol* novel by using psychoanalytic criticism.

**C. Problem Statement**

The problem of the study is how the conflict between wisdom and material achievement is reflected in Dan Brown's *The Lost Symbol* novel.

**D. Objective of the Study**

Based on the problem that has been stated above, the objective of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze novel based on the structural elements.
2. To analyze the novel based on the psychoanalytic perspective.

**E. Limitation of the Study**

To carry the study, the researcher needs to limit the study. The researcher is going to analyze the internal conflict of the antagonist characters by using Freud's psychoanalytic criticism.

**F. Benefits of the Study**

The benefits expected from this study are:

**1. Theoretical Benefit**

This study is expected to contribute to the larger body of knowledge, particularly the literary study on Dan Brown's novel.

**2. Practical Benefit**

The practical benefit is to improve the researcher to understand about literature, especially in analyzing Dan Brown's novel based on the psychoanalytic perspective.

## **G. Research Method**

### **1. Type of the Study**

The type of research conducted by the researcher is descriptive qualitative research. In this research the writer uses descriptive qualitative method to find out the descriptive concerning the psychoanalytic element of the character.

### **2. Object of the Study**

The objects of research in this study are the structural element of Dan Brown's novel and the psychoanalytic perspective of the novel.

### **3. Type of the Data and the Data Source**

#### **a. Primary Data Source**

The primary data are all words in *The Lost Symbol* novel from Dan Brown.

#### **b. Secondary Data Source**

The writer takes the secondary data source from the internet and other book that related to Dan Brown, his novel *The Lost Symbol*, and psychoanalytic aspect.

### **4. Technique of the Data Collection**

The method of collecting data in this research is note-taking *The Lost Symbol* novel. The document of this research is *The Lost Symbol* novel. So the writer has some steps in analyzing the data as follows:

- a. Reading *The Lost Symbol* novel to understand the novel deeply.
- b. Analyzing the structural element of the novel.

- c. Finding the psychoanalytic aspect in the novel.
- d. Analyzing the novel by using psychoanalytic criticism.

## **5. Technique of the Data Analysis**

The method used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It concern with the structural element of the novel and psychoanalytic aspect.

## **H. Research Paper Organization**

Research paper organization of “Wisdom Versus Material Achievement Reflected in Dan Brown’s *The Lost Symbol* Novel (2009): A Psychoanalytic Criticism” is as follows: Chapter I is Introduction. It consists of background of the study, previous study, problem statement, objective of the study, limitation of the study, benefits of the study, research method, and research paper organization. Chapter II is Underlying Theory. It presents psychoanalytic theory, structural elements of novel, and theoretical application. Chapter III concern with structural analysis of the novel and discussion. Chapter IV consists of the analysis of the novel using psychoanalytic criticism and discussion. Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion. The last part will be bibliography, virtual reference, and appendix.