

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter includes six topics which are related to the study. Those are background of the study, literature review, research questions, objectives of the study, limitations of the study, benefit of the study, and paper organization.

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is derived from Latin word 'littera' which means letter. It is about the collection of creative writing in various aspects of life. In other words it can be related to the written or printed works which expresses and mirrors about life experiences. It includes the events which happen in the society. The authors of literary works usually use their imagination for making their works can be more interesting and innovating. The words in literary works are powerful, effective, and yet captivating manner. Literature also promotes recreation and revelation of hidden facts.

Literature means all of written language. The material in the literary work is deal with imaginative thought and feelings of the author which usually applied on written works. The authors who create their creative works such as fiction may give influence to how the people think and believe into something in the world through the stories which made by them. The one of fiction is a novel (Klarer 2004).

Novel is a part of literary work which tells a story about life, such as a social problem in a certain society where the author lives. The author can write the novel in many ways. In analyzing a literary work like novel, the researcher can start it through the intrinsic or extrinsic aspects of the novel. Characterization is one of the elements of intrinsic aspects of novel. This characterization comes from the psychological development of the character which appears in the series event or its plot. Novel is also usually called as world of words. Words in novel include as structure of signs which have the meaning. Thus, it is believed that signs are connected to semiotic.

Paper Towns is John Green's novel which has an unique story. It tells about a journey by adolescents to find their friend who escapes from her hometown, with the clues which left by her. Thus they must find the meaning of the clues. This novel was published by Dutton Books on October 6, 2008. The main character named Quentin "Q" Jacobsen. Q is the narrator of the story. He loves his neighbor named Margo Roth Spiegelman. The girl is assertive and she loves traveling. Q knows everything about Margo even though she is a mysterious girl who has a struggle to finish her missions. The character that brings by Margo is unique.

In another moment, Margo has eleven-part plan of vengeance on a group of people she feels have hurt her during her time at high school, these people include Lacey, Jase, and Becca. Those are very important. It should be done before sunrise. Margo needs an accomplice and a car to help her complete the tasks, and tries to get Q to help her accomplish it. Q accepts, and after the plan is implemented, Margo and Q return to their homes around dawn.

Back from the long night, Q feels very brave and he stops bullying in the school, but he doesn't meet Margo. It is the third that Margo has gone. Her parents are frustrated, they thought that it was ordinary thing, because when she was gone, there are clues, then she gone without any words or messages, but Q believes that Margo want to be found. He believes that Margo wants to be found by him not others.

Q does detective to find information, he believes that the words "Paper Towns" is the key of the place he will find Margo. He drives to all of the pseudovisions where he feels that she may be hiding, but cannot find her. On the day of his graduation, while getting ready, Quentin discovers Margo has been hiding in a fictional town in New York called Agloe, which was created as a copyright trap by mapmakers. Quentin, Radar, Ben, and Lacey skip graduation and drive to New York to search for her, with a plan to drive to Agloe before noon on May 29th.

Paper Towns is the novel by John Green which has the interesting plot. It is noted that *Paper Towns* debuted at fifth on the New York Times bestseller list and won the 2009 Edgar Award for Best Young Adult Mystery. John Green's *Paper Towns* is adapted to the movie *Paper Towns* which is released on July 24, 2015. This movie is directed by Jake Schreier and produced by Marty Bowen and Wyck Godfrey. The main characters are Quentin "Q" Jacobsen was acted by Natt Wolff and Margo Roth Spiegelman was acted by Cara Delevingne. *Paper Towns* is distributed by 20th Century Fox which guided the production company such as Fox 2000 Pictures, Temple Hill Entertainment, TSG Entertainment in the United States.

There are the readers who give praises and criticisms. Many readers are entertained. They also give support to the writers. They liked the characters and the plot. The story gives the good messages about friendship and struggle to make the dreams come true. But, not all of the readers interested in the story of this novel. In general the readers satisfied with the ending of the story. Some readers said that the ending completely ruins the entire story and the themes that it was building.

Therefore, the researcher chooses this research because the researcher wants to know the meaning of the signs which are found in *Paper Towns* novel clearly. Based on the background above, the researcher proposes to conduct a research entitled "**A Semiotic Analysis on The Novel *Paper Towns* by John Green (2008)**".

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the previous background of study, the research questions are:

1.2.1 What are the signs which can be found in John Green's *Paper Towns*?

1.2.2 What are the meanings of the signs?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the research questions above, the researcher decided that the objectives of the study are:

- 1.3.1 to describe the signs which can be found in John Green's *Paper Towns*, and
- 1.3.2 to describe the meanings of the signs by using Pierce's semiotic theory.

1.4 Benefit of the Study

The researcher expects that this study will give many benefits to the readers in order to know about semiotic meaning toward the clues that left by Margo to Quentin. In this section, the benefits of this study will be differentiated into two benefits:

1.4.1 Theoretical Benefits

The result of this study is expected to be able to give information and contribution of knowledge to the academic reference. It can be the reference for the other researchers who want to conduct further research and particularly the literary studies on *Paper Towns* novel.

1.4.2 Practical Benefits

This study will give contribution for other researchers who are interested in literary study on the literature from a Semiotic Theory.