

CHAPTER I

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

A. Background of the Study

In today's modern era, the position of literature is increasing and more important. Literature does not only give inner pleasure and satisfaction but also as a means of delivering moral messages to the community. Literary work contains a good moral value and written in a beautiful language that has form and value. This beautiful language has a certain meaning, and maybe we cannot interpret it with the usual meaning. One form of literary work is a novel. A novel is an imaginative story created by the author's imagination to entertain the readers.

Novel can be called a place to reveal work and fantasize about someone without limits in it. According to Nurgiyantoro(2009)in Sadili(2009), The term novel comes from the Italian novella which contains the literal meaning of a small new item, which is then interpreted as a short story in the form of prose. In this life, literary work and society are two things that can not be separated. Literary work will always be related to societies and socio-culture. In the process of creating literary works, the author writes their thinking and feeling based on reality found in society. The written work is still a product of the author's imaginations.

Semiotic is the study of sign, symbol, and signification. It refers to the study of how meaning is created not what it is. Everything that can be taken as a sign is called semiotics. Semiotics is the realization of everything human experience without exception. It's an interpretive structure mediated and sustained by a sign. By using semiotic theory, we will find out the author told to the readers. Thus the researcher attempts to observe the type and what the the meaning of symbols and illustrations in the novel *The Hound of The Rowan The Tapestry*.

In this research, the researcher is motivated to analyze one of the literary work that is the novel entitled *The Hound of The Rowan The Tapestry* (Henry H Neff, 2007). The novel has interesting characters and epic stories. The storyline of the novel is known for combining various genres, including fantasy, history, mythology, folklore, and science fiction. (Henry H Neff, 2007)wrote and illustrated these books. This novel is the first in the five-part of the Tapestry series, the fantasy fictional novel. This novel interesting to analyze because contain action, friendship, myth and humor

stories. Beside that, there are pictures and illustrations that help reader imagine the situation and condition in the story.

The Hound of The Rowan Tapestry by Henry H Neff (2007) tells about the adventure journey of a twelve-year-old boy named Max McDaniel, who finds a magical Celtic tapestry at the Chicago Art Institute. At that time Max is recruited to the Rowan Academy, a special magic abilities school for boys and girls. At the school, he meets many new friends who have special magic abilities and he learns how to control his special power. Nevertheless, he also must be faced with dark magic who stole priceless artwork and kidnap children around the world. When he tried to fight and reveal his identity he becomes caught in a dangerous situation of good and evil.

The story begins in Chicago when Max McDaniel was twelve-years-old traveling to the Chicago Art Institute with his father, Scott McDaniel. Max has tradition, he and his father always visit his mother on his mother's birthday. While on the train, he accidentally stares at a man with one pale eyeball and very creepy. Then, in the museum, he noticed the man again and hiding in a roped-off back room. In the backroom, he saw a colorful Celtic tapestry depicting an ancient battlefield, but no one else can see it. He begins to think something strange is occurring.

Then after a few minutes, suddenly he is pursued by a monster that took the form of a teacher named Mrs. Millan. Afterward, he knows if he has the potential and opportunity to study magic by attending classes at Rowan Academy. At first, he did not want to go to Rowan Academy. But, after he meets new friends and seeing the beauty of magic he became interested. Finally, he wants to learn and develop his potential.

During Rowan Academy, Max take some various courses and there is a rule that each student has a task to save a mystical creature. Nick, a sharp-clawed Black Forest Lymrill selects Max to be his guardian. Soon, he knows that the enemy is stealing priceless artwork and the one-eyed man named Peter Varga is one of the agents of the enemy. The enemy has plans to summon the demon Astaroth with Max as an intermediary. They also kidnap children around the world.

Astaroth is trapped inside a painting, David tries to find it. Besides that, Max and his friends try to defeat the evil forces but time is running out for them.

During the climax, Max and Alex are kidnapped in Kestrel by Vye. The enemy will use Max's blood to resurrect Astaroth. Knowing that Max tries to escape and he is shocked when Varga helps him. Then they escape and save the children.

When the chamber collapses, Alex is left buried underground with Astaroth. In the end, the teachers of Rowan Academy find Max as a hero. The world is temporarily saved.

The researcher wants to analyze the novel *The Hound of The Rowan Tapestry* by Henry H Neff(2007)based on semiotics theory. By using semiotics theoretical basis, the researcher aims symbol and illustration in sentences that implied a specific meaning.

B. Problem Statement

The problem statements in this study, as follows:

1. What are the types of symbols and illustrations used in the novel *The Tapestry*?
2. What are the meaning of symbols and illustrations used inthe novel *The Tapestry*?

C. Objectives of the Study

The object study in this study, as follows:

1. To determine the types of symbols and illustrations in the novel *The Tapestry*.
2. Todescribe the meaning of the symbol and illustration in the novel *The Tapestry*.

D. Limitation of the Study

Semiotic Approach on language use includes three main: analysis symbol, icon, and index. However, this study is limited only to the symbol used in the novel *The Tapestry* because the outcome of semiotic is too broader. So, these matters need to be limited to the symbol used in *The Tapestry*.

E. The benefit of the Study

In conducting this research, the writer intends to present some benefits to the readers.

1. Theoretically
 - a. This research can enrich the study on semiotics for language learners.
 - b. The study will increase the knowledge of the reader's comprehension of the symbol used in *The Tapestry*.

2. Practically

a. Students

This research is expected to be useful for the students especially to understand the meaning of the symbol in *The Tapestry* and the type of symbol used in *The Tapestry*.

b. Lectures

It can give additional references for teaching Linguistics. Besides, it can be used as further references study about linguistics study, in particular the language of signs.

c. Other researchers

This research can be used as a stimulus to conduct further research related to this research in more detail or from other points of view.

F. Research Paper Organization

The research paper comprises in five chapters. A summary of the content: Chapter I, Introduction; in this chapter, the researcher explains about background of the study, problem statement, objective of the study, benefits of the study. Chapter II, Underlying Theory; in this chapter, the writer would like to discuss some theories related to the research that is included of previous studies, and underlying theory. Chapter III, Research Method; this chapter explains about type of research, object of research, data collection and data analysis to conduct the study, and type of data and the data source, data validity. Chapter IV, Finding and Discussion; in this chapter, the researcher tries to analyze the data that have been collected. This chapter discusses the research findings based on the result of the data analysis, and the discussion of the findings present in this chapter. Chapter V, Conclusion and Suggestion; the last chapter of this study is conclusion and suggestion. It presents some conclusions, and suggestions concerning the finding of the study.