

THE ANALYSIS OF SYMBOLS IN ANGELS AND DEMONS NOVEL BY DAN BROWN

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Abstract

This research aimed at finding out symbols which are used in Angels and Demons novel, the meaning of the symbols in Angels and Demons novel, and the effect of the symbols in Angels and Demons novel. This research used descriptive method. The data were analyzed by using semiotic approach that was used to analyze the symbols in Angels and Demons novel. The results of the research show that there are thirteen symbols in the novel, they are Chapel Chigi and Fountain of Four River as settings, Illuminati, The Pyramid and Trinacria, Abbauc and the Angel, Ekstase Sant' Teresa, Earth, Air, Water, Fire, The Lone Dove, Logo CERN, and West Ponente as objects. The meanings of the symbols are Chapel Chigi is the name of Earth Chapel, Fountain of Four River glorified to the four of rivers. Illuminati is the symbol of ancient brotherhood, Abbauc and the Angel are prophets who are predicted the destruction of earth, Earth is power, Air is intelligence, Water is emotion, Fire is ardor, The Lone Dove is the symbol of Pagan which represents the angel of peace, Logo CERN is the sign of savagery, and West Ponente is the wind of God. The symbol had affected the whole story, Langdon had solved the marker, found the cardinals, found the assassin, and the Church Illumination, and proved that Illuminati has not died.

Keywords: Symbol, meaning of symbol, semiotic approach

Introduction

Language cannot be separated from literature. Language involves a wide range of activity and reference. Language is a tool of communication which involves the use of symbols based on speech. Hornby (2005:898) states that literature is piece of writing that is valued as works of art, especially novels, plays, and poems. In relation to language and literature, Learner (1960) in Halim (2007:4) states that literature is simply defined as language well used. He then suggests four virtues of language under which to depict language well used such as simplicity, freshness, precision, and vigor.

Novel is one kinds of literary work. Novel mostly written based on the author's imagination. Through language, the author tried to describe what he thought, think, and feel that it becomes a perfect work of literature, life, and interesting. One way authors create a literary work become more interesting and alive is to use the symbol into the story. Symbol is one element of literature that cannot be separated. Symbol used in the story so that the story is not boring.

One of the novels that is interesting for the writer to analyze its symbol is "Angels and Demons" by Brown (2000). The novel tells about someone who is the master of symbol, Robert Langdon. He is a famous person in Harvard. He never thought that he would be faced with something strained to guess the answer of the symbols and restrain the death of four cardinals. Ambigram is Illuminati's symbol. It has embedded in his chest. Robert has motivation to save Vatican from Antimatter which has a big explosion. Robert, Guard Swiss, and a beautiful scientist Vittoria Vetra must work hard to guess the answer of the symbols and find out the killer of the cardinals. Illuminati, air, water, earth, and fire are the keywords to find out the answer of the symbol in the novel because they are related to each other. Symbol in the novel represents other things in the story. The symbols in this novel are restricted to setting and object. In this story, semiotic approach is a method to analyze the symbols.

Actually, there are many reasons why the researcher chooses "Angels and Demons" novel by Dan Brown (2000) to analyze the symbol. First, the novel is written by American Author Dan brown. He is a famous author. He also wrote The Da Vinci Code and The Lost Symbol novel. Second, the novel is the best-selling of mystery thriller fiction in the world. It is the sequel of The Da Vinci code. Third, the novel of Angels and Demons in 2009 was adapted tothemovie.It means that, there are many people interested with the novel because the story of this novel was adapted to the movie. The novel has been phenomenal after adapted into a movie directed by Ron Howards. Story in the movie was the same with the story of the novel itself. Finally, the Angels and Demons movie which is adapted from the novel itself becomes the best mystery thriller movie. This proved that both the novel and movie are in great demand by people (Squibnocket, 2009).

The last reason is the researcher never thought that there was an interesting thing or it could be said to be a remarkable thing has happened in a famous city known for its history. Conflict between two different things emerges sensation for The Vatican City. Both of these are science and religion. The novel also tells the story of an ancient group of organizations that are contrary to the Catholic church of Rome. It is a phenomenon history there. Robert Langdon as a master of symbol has to solve the symbol to guess the answer of the fourth cardinal assassin and also to find Antimatter. Based on these reasons, the researcher was excited to analyze the novel by finding out and interpreting the symbols in the novel.

Based on explanation above, the researcher formulated the problem statements as follows: (1) What are the symbols used in "Angels and Demons" novel by Dan Brown? (2) What are the meanings of the symbols in "Angels and Demons" novel by Dan brown? (3) How does the symbol in "Angels and Demons" novel by Dan Brown affect the whole story?

Brief Review of Related Theories

Fiction

Fiction is a type of literature that describes imaginary people and events, not the real ones (Hornby, 2005:568). Fiction prose is a kind of a literary work that described something which is not factual because it is based on the author's imagination.

One of fiction kinds is novel. Forster (1927) in Ataormina (2005) stated that the word "novel" (which was not even used until the end of the 18th century) is an English transliteration of the Italian word "novella"—used to describe a short, compact, broadly realistic popular tale during the medieval period (e.g. The Decameron). The novel deals with a **human character** in a **social situation** with man as a social being. The novel places more emphasis on character, especially one well-rounded character, than on plot. Novel is a fictional narrative prose that has a complete long story and written in the form of text book. Elements of novel are plot, setting, theme, character and characterization, point of view.

Symbol

Symbol represents something. Nasta (2008) states that the word symbol is from the Greek root 'symbolon' and Latin symbolon which means mark; token; watchword; outward sign. Basically language that we use is a symbol because words are the symbols for our referents. The word 'dog' symbolizes a class of animals. That is to say a symbol is an image. However, as a symbolic system, the language is entirely limited. Not all things can be precisely named, or in other words, there are many things which are talked about because of the numerous areas of human experience. Therefore, people need a symbol which refers to anything (character, place, gesture, object etc) and which suggests a meaning or many meanings over, above and beyond itself. Hornby (2005: 1556) states that symbol is a person, an object, an event, etc., that presents a more general quality of situation or a sign, especially in scene.

Kennedy (1983:146) in Nasta (2008) explained that a symbol is not an abstraction like truth or love. Commonly, a symbol is something visible. He also mentioned that those literary symbols are usually found in setting, character, object, and action.

Semiotic approach

Semiotic approach is a method which analyzes a sign and symbols in used and their meaning. According to Endraswara (2008:66), the system of analysis by using semiotic approach as follows: "*Sistem kerja penelitian semiotik dapat menggunakan dua model pembacaan, yaitu heuristic and hermeneutic. Pembacaan heuristic adalah telaah dari kata-kata, bait-bait (line), dan term-term karya sastra. Sedangkan pembacaan hermeneutic merupakan penafsiran atas totalitas karya sastra*".

Research Method

This research used descriptive method by using semiotic approach. Descriptive method is a method to describe everything related with the topic. This research described symbols which are represented by setting and object. Researcher used "Angels and Demons" novel by Dan Brown as a primary data and used secondary data to support this research. Procedure of analyzing data in this research is semiotic approach. Semiotic approach is a method which analyzes a sign and symbols in used and their meaning. The researcher made the procedures of data analysis in especially, as follows: (1) classifying the symbol that used in the novel. (2) reading some data that supported the analysis from movies, books, thesis, article, and Internet. (3) classifying the symbol based on the scope of this research, object and setting. (4) analyzing the meaning of the symbol based on the context in the novel by using semiotic approach. (5) analyzing the effect of the symbol to the whole story.

Discussion

Based on the findings, the following description is illustrated:

The Symbol that used in the novel

The symbol used in the novel is classified into two parts, stands as setting and object. The symbols are Chapel Chigi and Fountain of four rivers as symbols that stand as places. Illuminati, the Pyramid and Trinacria, Earth, Air, Water, Fire, Abacue and the Angel, the Lone Dove, Ekstase Sant' Teresa, West Ponente, and Logo CERN as symbols that stand as objects.

The symbols that the researcher has analyzed are similar to the theory from Hornby (2005: 1556) that symbol is a person, an object, event, etc, that present a more general quality situation or a sign, especially in scene. Hornby (2005:1045) states that object is a thing that can be seen and touched. But it is not alive. Based on the theory of symbol, the researcher concludes that symbol is represent about something else; it could be a person, an object, place, and etc. Sometimes symbol is used based on when and where the symbol being.

The symbol of this novel included conventional symbol. Conventional symbol are things which the meanings have been agreed by particular group of people. Same like in the novel Angels and Demons that symbol that there is a symbol derived from the deal a group of organizations whose meaning is a mutual agreement between them, Illuminati.

The meaning of the symbol

The meaning of the symbols that found the researcher is based on the explanations about theory setting and object as symbol. Theory from Kennedy (1983:146) states that setting in a story both the physical location and also the time may represent something more than what the author described in history.

Setting as symbols

Capella chigi

.... He shook his head. "No, but it should have dawned on me earlier. The Chigi Chapel was not always known as the Chigi.

It used to be called *Capella della Terra*."

"Chapel of The Land?" Langdon asked.

"No," Vittoria said, heading for the door. "*Chapel of the Earth*."

(Page 197)

.... *Pyramids, stars, planets, ellipses*. Suddenly everything came back. **This is the first altar of science! Not the Pantheon!** It dawned on him now how perfectly Illuminati the chapel was, far more subtle and selective than the world famous Pantheon. The Chigi was an out of the way alcove, a literal hole-in-the-wall, a tribute to a great patron of science, decorated with earthly symbology. *Perfect*.

Langdon steadied himself against the wall and gazed up at the enormous pyramid sculptures. Vittoria was dead right. **If this chapel was the first**

altar of science, it might still contain the Illuminati sculpture that

Served as the first marker. Langdon felt an electrifying rush of hope to realize there was still a chance.

If the markers were indeed here, and they could

Follow it to the next altar of science, they might have another chance to catch the killer.

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Based on the dialogue, the researcher had analyzed that Chapel Chigi was in Santa Maria del Popolo. Langdon, Vittoria, and Guard Swiss tried to find the Chapel Chigi. Chapel Chigi is the first altar of science and the location of the first marker to the next altar of science. The color of the Capella is called Earth Chapel or brown. At the beginning, Langdon thought that if the first altar of science was a pantheon, but after he saw there was many symbol of Illuminati so that made him conceived that was wrong. That also became the location of the first marker, Earth. Then, it could be a guideline to the next altar of science and found the killer and the first cardinal.

2.Object as symbols

a. Illuminati

.... "Only what I had time to read on your website. **The word Illuminati means 'the enlightened ones.'** It is the name of some sort of ancient brotherhood."

(Page 26)

Although accounts of the Illuminati emblem were legendary in modern symbology, no academic had ever actually *seen* it. Ancient documents described the symbol as an *ambigram*—*ambi* meaning "both"—signifying it was legible both ways.

(Page 27)

Langdon took a deep breath. "The symbol itself was created by an anonymous sixteenth-century Illuminati artist as a tribute to Galileo's love of symmetry—a kind of sacred Illuminati logo. The brotherhood kept the design secret, allegedly planning to reveal it only when they had amassed enough power to resurface and carry out their final goal."

(Page 31)

Based on the dialogue, the researcher had analyzed that Illuminati was the name from the people who are more convinced about science. Illuminati are a symbol, Illuminati had become a legend, history, and fact in the world. There were many opinions about the symbol of Illuminati. The symbol described as an ambigram, it means that we can read the word in two sides. Langdon conceived that the symbol was created on sixteenth century but nobody does know who was the created. They would keep the secret of the symbol.

The effect of the symbol to the whole story

According to Manser (1995), effect is changed and caused by somebody or something; result; impression produced on a readers, hearer, etc.

Based on the definition of effect, the researcher had concluded that effect is the result or consequence that is caused by someone or something. The following paragraph is proofs and the analysis:

Effect setting as symbols

.... . The each piece of course was a marker . . . subtly pointing to the next church . . . where the next marker awaited. It functioned as a trail of clues disguised as religious art. If an Illuminati candidate could find the first church and the marker for Earth, he could follow it to Air . . . and then to Fire . . . and then to Water . . . and finally to the Church of Illumination."

Vittoria was looking less and less clear. "And this has something to do with catching the Illuminati assassin?"

Langdon smiled as he played his ace. "Oh, yes. The Illuminati called these four churches by a very special name. *The Altars of Science.*"

Vittoria frowned. "I'm sorry, that means noth—" She stopped short. "*L'altare di scienza?*" she exclaimed. "The Illuminati assassin. He warned that the cardinals would be virgin sacrifices on the altars of science!"

Langdon gave her a smile. "Four cardinals. Four churches. The four altars of science."

She looked stunned. "You're saying the four churches where the cardinals will be sacrificed are the same four churches that mark the ancient Path of Illumination?"

"I believe so, yes."

(Page 140)

.... . Tonight they want to make their secrets public. This is their moment. Their grand unveiling."

(Page 141)

Based on the dialogue, it shows that there are some questions which should be solved and should be verified. Langdon has to find the cardinals, the killer of cardinals, the existences of the Church Illumination, and proves that the Illuminati has not died. Every marker will give direction to the next marker. They are related one another. The marker will give direction to go to the next church wherein it will follow up to the Church Illumination. The marker also helps Langdon to find the cardinals and the killer of the cardinals.

Effect object as symbols

The camerlegno seemed suddenly stoic. He reached out and put a quiet hand on Chartrand's shoulder. "Thank you for your concern and service. I cannot tell you how. I cannot tell you I understand. But I have had a revelation. I know where the antimatter is."

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"Camerlegno, no!" she shouted down the passage. "You don't understand!" Vittoria pictured the multitudes of people surrounding Vatican City, and her blood ran cold. "If you bring the antimatter up . . . everyone will die!"

"Camerlegno!" Langdon felt himself closing the gap on the lantern's glow. "You must leave the antimatter where it is! There's no other choice!"

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High above Vatican City, a pinpoint of light appeared in the sky. For a fleeting instant, a new heavenly body had been born . . . a speck of light as pure and white as anyone had ever seen.

Then it happened.

A flash. The point billowed, as if feeding on itself, unraveling across the sky in a dilating radius of blinding white. It shot out in all directions, accelerating with incomprehensible speed, gobbling up the dark. As the sphere of light grew, it intensified, like a burgeoning fiend preparing to consume the entire sky. It raced downward, toward them, picking up speed.

Blinded, the multitudes of starkly lit human faces gasped as one, shielding their eyes, crying out in strangled fear. As the light roared out in all directions, the unimaginable occurred. As if bound by God's own will, the

surging radius seemed to hit a wall. It was as if the explosion were contained somehow in a giant glass sphere. The light rebounded inward, sharpening, rippling across itself. The wave appeared to have reached a predetermined diameter and hovered there. For that instant, a perfect and silent sphere of light glowed over Rome. Night had become day.

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Based on the dialogue, it shows that a person is named Camerlengo inspired about the existence of antimatter. He is someone who is devoted to the Pope. Camerlengo is trying to look for antimatter and trying to save the Vatican from destruction. He tried to save Vatican City from antimatter huge explosion by taking it away. The Antimatter was carried away to leave the Vatican City, with Langdon he tried to blow up the antimatter far into the Vatican City sky. And his efforts succeeded. Antimatter explodes far, though still wearing the Vatican City. However, at least it can prevent the destruction of the Vatican City and the Catholic Church in particular.

Conclusion and Suggestion

Based on what the researcher had found in findings and discussion on the previous chapter, the researcher has concluded from this research The Analysis of Symbol in "Angels and Demons" Novel by Dan Brown, as follows: There are thirteen symbols in the novel "Angels and Demons" by Dan Brown that found by the researcher. The symbols are divided into two elements, those are settings namely Chapel Chigi and Fountain of four rivers as a symbol and objects are Illuminati, Abacuc and the Angel, the Pyramid and Trinacria, Earth, Air, Water, Fire, West Ponente, Ekstase Sant' Teresa, the Lone Dove, and Logo CERN as a symbol. The symbols in the novel are conventional symbol. The symbols are symbol derived from the deal of a group of organizations whose meaning is a mutual agreement between them.

The effect of symbols to the whole story that made Langdon, Vittoria Vetra, and Guard Swiss succeeded in solving the symbol and finding the marker until caught train of Church of Illumination. They also found the Vatican assassin, especially Catholic Church. The antimatter which had lost, Langdon also had found that and prospected to detonate the antimatter far from Vatican. So that, Vatican could safe from destruction. When the problem had finished, Vatican has a new pope.

Suggestion for the reader and the next researcher who will be analyzing the symbol using by semiotic approach, those are: (1) For the readers who are interested to read the literary work, they should never forget about symbol in the story, especially novel. Because sometimes through the symbols the author tries to make the story alive and he conveys the messages of the story. (2) Through the use of semiotics approach, the next researcher should be focused on the symbol and identify the symbol whether it stands as setting or object. Semiotics approach talks about analysis of the sign and symbol. (3) The researcher awards that this research has not been perfect but the researcher hopes that this research can be a reference for the next researchers.

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