

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literary works provide insight and context to all societies around the world. As an example of literary work, prose is without a doubt the most popular and widespread literary genre. Prose fiction is expressed in the form of prose and is meant to be an imaginative art, a product of the author's imagination. In prose, the author tells the reader a fictional story intended for educational and/or entertainment purposes. It inspires us with new ideas, confuses, frightens and worries us. It helps us see ourselves and the world in new and interesting ways.

Fiction is also effective at times. The artistic value of the elements that make up the work of fiction will be enhanced, and you will be able to enjoy the work of fiction in various beauties. In order to analyze a work of literature, someone may consider the elements outside the work itself, or focus attention to the work itself as a whole entity. In his well-known book *Theory of Literature*, Wellek and Warren (1949: 221) points out that here are two major methods to studying literature, there are extrinsic method and intrinsic method. Extrinsic method covers all environmental factors from the author of the story such as biographical, psychological, sociological, philosophical, and other arts (music, sculpture, painting), while the intrinsic element is cover what in the works itself by putting aside the environmental factors and focus on the work itself such as plot, characters, setting, worldview, and tone.

Another intrinsic element, relevant to this research, is symbolism. Symbolism has big part in literary work because “Symbolism (is) one of the most important aspects of serious imaginative literature” (McMahan, Day, & Funk, 1986: 58).

Symbol is the common thing used by people to make something become easier to be understood by other. A symbol is something solid that represent things more than itself (McMahan, Day, & Funk, 1986), for example, white dove as a peace symbol or black cat as a bad luck symbol.

In summary, symbolism in literature is like a tool for the author to convey your message in a way that your readers can fully understand. When the author uses symbolism, the meaning of the message also changes. By Using symbol Messages can be powerful. If a male character wishes the author does not say that a woman's beautiful face does not last forever Straight forward expressions like, "A beautiful woman will be the ugliest of them all. "Instead of saying, " You grow old, " you say, " Flowers will die someday. "Reading this phrase, the reader may wonder why the author says "flower".

When it "withers", the reader uses his imagination to interpret its meaning. Deciphering the Meaning of "Flower" and "Withering" for "Woman", it has something to do with "getting old". If the reader understands the meaning of the symbols This means that the author has successfully grabbed the reader's attention. Symbolism does not only give powerful message (Green, 2013), but also adds the richness of a story and shares the author's philosophies (O'neal, 2013). For example, when a woman says to a man 'the best part of you is your eyes because I can see myself in it,' It makes the sentence richer because this one sentence can be interpreted differently by different people.

Some readers can catch the literal meaning of 'eyes' as the best part of the person or some other readers can recognize the symbol represented by eyes, which means that the woman wants to say that the man is her soulmate. An example of the author's philosophies can be found in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland novel by

Lewis Carroll, where he puts his philosophies on mathematician concept in this novel. In the part where Alice falls into a rabbit hole and eats cake that changes her into 3 inches height and where Alice smokes a hookah pipe and is back to her normal size, Lewis Carroll wants to show his philosophies about mathematics' limited concept that Alice needs to eat the right balance to make herself into the right size (Bayley, 2009).

After describing symbolism as an author's tool, it turns out that authors are not the only ones who benefit from the use of symbolism in their works, but readers may take advantage of it. Use of Symbolism in Literature Like Alice's example, this work may help broaden the reader's horizons. Previous adventures in Wonderland allowed people to understand math concepts. There are several processes involved in recognizing symbolism. People should let their imagination run free. Without imagination or literary understanding A Work with a lot of symbolism is difficult. Therefore, those who read more literary works can be an advantage. That's why symbolism is one of them. An interesting topic to explore.

Here the researcher attempts to discover how symbolism is utilized within *The Little Prince* in Antoine de Saint-Exupery. In this work, the symbolism of the novel "The Little Prince" is the subject of analysis, and the writer considers the symbolism and explains the meaning of the symbolism of this novel. This novel first published in English and French in the United States in April 1943, the novel was written by French nobleman, author, and aviator Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. *The Little Prince* is no ordinary novel.

Although styled like a children's book, the author appeals to all ages, especially adults. Some have called this novel an autobiography of the author, an aviator stranded in the Sahara Desert (Le Petit Prince Licensing). The novel has been

translated into over 250 of his languages and received the most votes in France as his best book of the 20th century (Goodreads, Inc., 2007). The most compelling aspect of this book is the fact that the author uses symbols to convey messages to adults in a child-friendly style. The author's writing style may sound childish, but his way of conveying symbols has deep meanings for people.

The Little Prince teaches us that adults, more than children, need sermons and plain truths about what's important and what's not in life. The most interesting aspect of the book is the fact that the author's writing style uses symbols to convey messages to adults. The author's writing style may sound childish, but his way of conveying symbols means a lot when people look at them differently. For this reason, I choose to examine the symbols used in the novel *The little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry and their meanings of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's novel *The Little Prince*.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The researcher formulated the statements of the problem as:

1. What are the symbols in *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint- Exupéry?
2. How does each symbol represent their meaning in *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint- Exupéry?

1.3 Objective of the Study

1. To identify the symbols in *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint- Exupéry.
2. To analyze how each symbol represents their meaning in *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint- Exupéry

1.4 Scope of the Study

This study is focused on symbolism. The focus of the novel includes symbol of animal and natures. I used Chevalier theory to limit my research to the meaning of symbols in the story of the novel *The Little Prince*. There are a lot of symbolism in this novel, but the author does not intend to go into all the symbolism in the novel. In *The Little Prince*, the author focuses only on the most important symbols such as symbol of animal, symbol of natures, and their meanings.

1.5 Significance of the Study

It is hoped that through this study will yield even more knowledge about the symbolism of *the Little Prince*. The researcher hoped that this study will assist Islamic University of North Sumatra's College of English Literature and other persons interested in the issue in conducting more research. Jean Chevalier theory is used to identify symbols and their meanings. The research will provide the author a greater knowledge of how to employ symbols in the future. The reader with a literary interest will mostly find it valuable to understand how a technique may be utilized to produce a better literary work, such as a book, poetry, play, and symbolism in the writing process to make the work more aesthetic and enjoyable to the readers. As the author knows, the reader should train himself and read a lot of books to understand the symbolism of the story. Therefore, I hope that the reader can gain a lot of information about symbolism in literature from this study. Especially sentences that use a lot of symbolism.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

As has already been explained, a symbol is an object that stands for something other than what it literally means. The purpose of symbol creation is to enable deeper and more straightforward communication of concepts. An expression can also be a symbol. of what individuals believe or feel about life and death. For instance, the Ankh is an Egyptian symbol that stands for immortality and life (Mark, 2016). Symbols can also be seen in everyday life, such as the red light, which means "stop" for road safety. Even individual names serve as symbols for other concepts. However, symbols are frequently seen in literary works like poems, songs, and movies.

2.1 Symbol in Literature

Literary installations have been a significant part of literature history ever since people started telling stories to one another. Writers employ these literary devices as instruments to express content, add depth and complexity to their writing, and expertly accentuate, change, or improve it (Christie and Spiropoulou, 2015). The basic purpose of these techniques is to convince and motivate readers to act. Speeches that are well-crafted emphasize both logical and emotive reasoning. Strong figurative language is frequently used by authors to evoke emotions in readers, including shame, rage, and happiness, and to help readers perceive the world in a fresh and magical way (Rashid, 2014).

According to Ostashchuk (2017: 88) symbolism is a literary device that authors employ to aid readers in understanding their works. It is a literary technique with several layers of significance that are frequently obscured at first inspection.

Additionally, it depicts features, ideas, or other characteristics that differ from those found in a literal translation alone. In contrast, a symbol may be used to indicate a variety of things in a literary work. Typically, a symbol will appear as a person, a word, a figure of speech, an occasion, or an action.

2.2 Theories of Symbol

The word symbol is derived from Latin word “symbolum” which means “creed, token, mark” and from Ancient Greek word “súmbolon” which means “a sign by which one infers something; a mark, token, badge, ticket, tally, check, a signal, watchword, outward sign” It is taken from the root words “syn” which means “together” and “ballein” which means “throwing” or which nearly means “throwing together.” (McCormack, 2020)

Symbolism The movement, theory, or practice of the late 19th century Symbolists (Akter, 2013). The term “symbolism” was first applied to the arts before being applied to other literary works.

2.2.1 Kinds of Symbol

Natural symbols and conventional symbols are two kinds of symbols mentioned by Sylvan Barnet in *Literature: Thinking, Reading and Writing critically* (1997: 906). Natural symbols, or those connected to nature, can vary from culture to culture. Moon, for instance, represents wisdom in one culture but strength and perseverance in another. Contrary to natural symbols, conventional symbols are understood by everyone to represent something other than themselves. Many civilizations recognize and understand what a sign means. For instance, the traditional interpretation of the heart as a sign of love.

Symbols come in many different forms, and depending on their significance, they may be divided into many groups. A Christian symbol is a symbol that is utilized and whose meanings correspond to those found in the bible. As an illustration, an apple represents temptation or original sin in Christian symbolism. Chevalier has created a comprehensive work on examples of conventional or traditional symbols. According to Chevalier (1996), the following are some instances of these symbols:

- a. Colors, for example (1) Blue represents calmness, coolness, peace, (2) Red represents immorality, the color of life principle, bravery, and blood often associated with fire.
- b. Nature, for example, (1) Summer season represents maturity, knowledge, (2) Oak tree: strength, wisdom, (3) Moon represents feminine symbol.
- c. Directions, for example, (1) West represents land of evening, old age, and the descending passage of the sun, (2) South represents the side which lies on the Sun's left hand and is the hand of fire, represents of warmth and comfort.
- d. Weather, for example, (1) Winds and storms represent violent, human emotions; (2) Thunder represents the voice of God or gods.
- e. Animals, for example, (1) Fox represents slyness, cleverness, (2) Salmon represents instinct, sacred wisdom.
- f. Walls, for example, (1) Barriers represents between people, shuts out the world.
- g. Human body parts, for example, (1) Bones represents the framework of the human body, since it contains bone marrow 13 it symbolizes strength and virtue, (2) Eyes represents windows to the souls.
- h. Clothing, for example, (1) Mask represents externalize demonic tendencies, (2) Cloak represents symbol of human trickery.

- i. Objects, for example, (1) Ladder represents symbols of ascension and realization of potential, (2) Chain represents symbolize bond which connect to heaven and earth, ties together extremes and beings.
- j. Journeys, for example, Quest for truth, peaceful or immortality.
- k. Settings, for example, (1) Forest: place of evil or mystery, (2) An isolated place: loneliness.