

## ABSTRACT

This thesis analyzes the symbolic meanings of the cave, fire, and sun in the animated movie *The Croods* (2013), directed by Kirk DeMicco and Chris Sanders. Using Roland Barthes' semiotic theory, the study explores how these symbols convey deeper meanings beyond their literal interpretations. The analysis is divided into two parts, the first explores the denotative and connotative meanings of the cave, fire, and sun; the second examines how these symbols reflect the values of protection, change, and hope. The cave, denotatively a place of shelter, connotatively symbolizes protection as well as fear and ignorance. Fire, as a literal tool for survival, represents transformation and the acceptance of change. The sun, essential for life, symbolizes hope and new beginnings. These three symbols are essential narrative elements that visually and thematically represent universal human experiences. Through a qualitative descriptive method and narrative analysis, this study reveals how symbolic elements in animated films like *The Croods* can offer profound insights into personal growth, emotional resilience, and the human journey.

**Keywords:** *Symbolism, Semiotic Analysis, Roland Barthes, The Croods, Cave, Fire, Sun, Protection, Change, Hope*