

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The Croods, also known as *Crood Awakening*, is a 2013 animated adventure-comedy film produced by DreamWorks Animation and distributed by 20th Century Fox. It is directed by Chris Sanders and Kirk DeMicco, who also wrote the script. The movie takes place in a fictional prehistoric era called "The Croodaceous". It is featuring a variety of fantastical creatures.

Human life is not far from art and literature, because literature is a part of human feelings (Okunoye, 2008). Literature is a medium for expressing human feelings and thoughts in the form of written works and films. On the other hand, according to Kwang-su in Rizki (2022) literature is a form of expression that contains human feelings and concepts in a certain form.

Film has a close relationship with literature and has had a significant impact on literary studies. Since its inception in the early 20th century, film has been an interesting medium for its creators to explore various aspects of life. Film makers have continuously tried to convey human stories in unique and innovative ways. This medium serves as an effective tool to shape and influence the way people think, perceive, choose, and have opinions.

Symbols in films often play a significant role in conveying the messages. For example, the use of colors, objects, and characters can reflect deeper themes, such as social struggles or injustice. As Fadaee explains that symbolism can be people, situations, actions, or elements of nature, "a literary symbol is something that has a deeper meaning than its literal meaning. It's a thing, a person, a situation, an action, or anything else in the story that has a literal meaning but also suggests or represents other meanings" (Fadaee: 2011)

Symbolism is one of the literary devices that is most rich in nuance and implied meaning. Symbols also have a strong relationship with literary works. The use of symbols in literary works often has multiple meanings depending on the context of the story, where a single symbol can

represent multiple conflicting meanings. For example, fire can symbolize destruction and evil, but it can also symbolize regrowth and the cycle of life (Glatch: 2023).

A literary work often uses symbolism to deepen the meaning of the work. Ivan Ostashchuk (2017) explains that symbolism can take the form of an object, something in the character's environment in the story, or a situation. Symbolism allows authors to freely add double interpretations to literary works. According to Bai in Zain (2021) symbolism has two different meanings, an obvious literal meaning and a symbolic meaning that is deeper than the literal meaning. Thus, symbolism makes the themes of literary works universal.

The Croods 2013 tells the story of a prehistoric family living in a cave. Grug, the father, is very protective of his family with very strict rules and prevents them from exploring and facing new things. However, when their cave is destroyed by a natural disaster, they are forced to find a new, safer place to live. On their journey they find danger, forcing Epp to call Guy by blowing a conch shell. The Grug family and Guy begin a journey to find a new place to live.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

This analysis is designed to answer some problems. The problem identifications of this study are formulated as follows:

1. What are the symbolic meanings of the cave, fire, and sun in *The Croods* 2013?
2. How do the symbols of the cave, fire, and sun reflect the values of protection, change, and hope?

1.3 Objective of the Study

In relation to the problem presented above, the objectives of this analysis are

1. To find out the meanings of the cave, sun, fire symbols in the animated movie *The Croods*
2. To find out the symbols of the cave, fire, and sun reflect the values of protection, change, and hope.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The scope of this study is limited to the analyzing the cave, fire, and sun as symbols in *The Croods*. Although the movie contains other symbolic elements, this study only focuses on these three symbols because they are most closely contribute to the narrative and thematic development of the story. this study adopts Roland Barthes semiotic theory, which analyzes

meaning on two levels: denotation and connotation. Through this approach, the cave, fire, and sun are not only seen as physical elements within the narrative but also as signs that carry deeper meanings about human experience.

1.5 Significance of the Study

Research significance is presented in two ways, they are follows:

1. Theoretical Significance

The study can contribute to the literature on symbolism in animated movies that are often under-explored

2. Practical Significance

The study is expected to help viewers better understand seemingly simple animated films, by highlighting how symbolism enhances the storytelling contained in the movie .

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Symbolism

Symbolism provides an alternative meaning beyond the original one, adding greater depth to a literary work through its use. Symbolism is a fundamental literary device that employs objects, characters, or events to represent abstract ideas or concepts beyond their literal meaning. Shaw in Fadaee (2011) stated that symbol is something used for, or regarded as, representing something else. More specifically, a symbol is any element intended as a symbol and has more meaning than what is displayed. A symbol is viewed as having values different from those of whatever is being symbolized (Fadaee: 2011). Meanwhile, Peirce in Settineri (2017) states that, a symbol is a sign that refers to the object. It represents by the operation of a law, usually an association of general ideas that causes the symbol to be regarded as referring to that item (Settineri: 2017). It can be concluded that a symbol is an object or idea that has a certain meaning that encourages people to think deeper than what they initially understood.

Symbolism is a literary element used in a work of literature to help the reader understand the work (Rizki: 2022). Such as understanding an object, character, or event that has a deeper meaning beyond its literal meaning. It functions within two levels: the signifier (the physical form of the symbol) and the signified (the meaning or idea that the symbol represents). In cinema, this duality allows filmmakers to use common objects or motifs to carry significant narrative weight. Symbols often emerge in patterns or recurring visual motifs, helping to underline the thematic messages of a film.

Symbols in film can serve multiple functions. According to Edgar-Hunt (2010), symbols can represent characters' emotions, foreshadow plot developments, or reflect societal concerns. In animated films, which are often created to engage both children and adults, symbolic elements are often designed to communicate simple ideas while conveying deeper meaning to the audience.

Meaning is a combination of semiotics from both theoretical and terminological sides. According to Pelc in Noth (1990) says that meaning is used semiotically when the term is associated with any kind of sign, not only words, sentences, texts, but also symptoms, signs, symbols, representative images or statues. According to Benny in Lubis (2024) as his understanding, semiotics is a science that examines the signs in people's lives. In simple method, semiotic is the science of signs. Semiotics study about the system, a rule that produce the signs meaning. In the beginning, the meaning does not exist prior to interaction. For each meaning, a symbol is needed to be interpreted together in a communication process. After that, an object or a 'symbol' becomes a certain symbol and has meaning.

2.2 Roland Barthes' Semiotic Theory

Barthes (1986) identifies semiology as the science studying ideas-in-form because the focus of the study is on significations away from the content. Yet, it is important to consider the unity of the interplay between form, and ideology “historical” explanation. Barthes adds that semiology is the correlation between the signifier, and the signified to form the sign, all in one process. In his theory, Barthes developed semiotics into 2 levels of signs, namely the degree of denotation and connotation. Denotation' tends to be described as the definitional, 'literal', 'obvious' or 'commonsense' meaning of a sign. The term 'connotation' is used to refer to the socio-cultural and 'personal' associations (ideological, emotional etc.) (Chandler: 1994)

Barthes continued this thinking by emphasizing the interaction between text and the personal and cultural experiences of its users, the interaction among conventions in the text and the conventions experienced and expected by its users. Barthes's idea is known as the "order of signification", which includes denotation (the actual meaning according to the dictionary) and connotation (a double meaning born of cultural and personal experience).

2.3 Symbolism of the Cave, Fire, and Sun

1. Symbolism of the Cave

Denotation: Caves are fundamental to human history. They are simultaneously places of shelter and places of deep, dark danger (Crane: 2015).

Connotation: In Plato's allegory of the cave, the cave represents a metaphor for ignorance and knowledge. In Plato's Republic, the light of universal truth exists outside the metaphorical cave, in which the majority of humans live. In the darkness of the cave, people cannot see the truth; therefore, they remain in the darkness of ignorance. It is only through abstract thinking that they may escape the cave and gain access to philosophical insight and self-liberation. Leaving the cave, then, means attaining enlightenment and truth (Georgiadou: 2005).

2. Symbolism of the Fire

Denotation: using fire as a source of protection from predators, as a source of light, and/or as a source of heat (Bellomo: 1994).

Connotation: Anything emanating heat, light or change (or for humans, passion) could be subsumed under the doctrine of a universal fire. The analogies to life were particularly powerful. That fire ate (feeding on pabulum ignis), grew, decayed, breathed and died seemed to emulate the cycle of living beings (Pyne: 2016).

3. Symbolism of the Sun

Denotation: The Sun gives out heat and light. Plants and animals need these things to stay alive. Without the Sun, nothing on Earth could survive. (Harman: 2015)

Connotation: "sun" symbolizes hope, renewal, and the promise of a new beginning. It represents light and guidance that the speaker eagerly anticipates, offering comfort and direction in times of darkness and confusion. (Vinh: 2024).