

Chapter I: Introduction

The first chapter of this research explains the introduction of study which consists of background of study, problem statement, the objective of research, scope of research, and the significances of research.

Background of Study

Literary field consists of three aspects, such as literary theory, history of literary and literary criticism, (Sarwadi, 2002). Each aspect has a dissimilarity purpose one another. Literary theory discusses things about literary works, meanwhile history of literary investigate the development and all aspects that influenced its development from the time to time. Moreover, the last aspect of literary field is literary criticism, which investigates the reader appreciation of a literary work.

It has been known that literary work comprise of some of its kind such as, fiction, poetry, and drama. Basically, literary work has an aim to instruct, entertain, and educate people. A different view is a literary work can be deeply investigated on its aspect, internal and external side of the literary work itself through some literary criticisms. From time to time, there are several literary criticisms that have been developed and created newer literary criticisms. The authors researched how a literary work look from different point of view does and then invented their thought to be a new literary criticism.

In this case, this research will be carried out by analyzing a movie; as the born of a literary work which actually can be categorized as fiction; also as believed it has some similarities with drama when the characters in a movie use script, plot and etc. to deliver its story to the viewers like drama, through the branch of semiotic criticism; symbol. According to Abrams (1999), symbol is anything that signifies something, which simply means symbol is a

term that represents something. The reason that urges the researcher conduct this research is there was no previous study that focused discussing on this topic in analyzing a movie. There are several studies in global investigated this topic but did not use the movie as the object. The previous studies which the movie as their object of study, that related to this topic were carried out through semiotic criticism and the myth theory, there were no researchers carried out the symbol (in this section and so on is the symbol theory of Pierce) as the theory to appreciate and investigate a literary work yet, especially in State University of Gorontalo.

Since the birth of literary works, there are so many authors that used of symbols in their literary works (novel, poetry, poem and others literary works). For instance as cited from Harball (2014) there is a poem titled “Red, Red Rose” from Robert Burns (1794) which used rose as the symbol in his literary work, the rose simply represented a deep love to the one’s lover. The use of symbol in their works caused by some reasons, for instance they probably wanted to make their works more beautiful, unique and mysterious. On the other hand, they probably wanted to say something implicitly through symbols instead of wrote directly what they meant.

Despite the use of symbol in the authors literary works, symbol already have been a part in real life. As cited from Lucy (2005, p. 5) “Every cultural reality is symbol; furthermore, symbol, sign or semiotic and cultural might be called as a whole way of life, we live in the full symbols world, we are part of those symbols”.

To illustrate the use of symbol, map can be the example. There are lots of symbols found in a map as the delineation of some places. Recently, as a part of semiotic, symbol is applied to appreciate and to criticize a literary work.

The symbol theory that will be used in this research is came from one of the semiotic developers, Pierce (1931) as cited in Cobley and Jansz (1997) and Chandler (2007). Thus, this

research in other word is the next research of Pierce theory, which carried out in order to investigate the symbol in the newer object The Eagle Movie.

The Eagle movie that has been chosen as the object of this research is produced based on the novel from Rosemary Sutcliff's "*The Eagle of the Ninth*" novel. The novel was landed on 1954, which believes as a historical adventure novel and published by Oxford University Press. The story of *The Eagle of the Ninth* as mentioned earlier then adapted to a movie "The Eagle" which directed by Kevin Macdonald and produced by Duncan Kenworthy in 2011. The movie starred by some actors as the main characters. They are Channing Tatum as Marcus Flavius Aquila, and Jamie Bell as Esca.

As mentioned above that a historical adventure novel, which is closed strictly to the history of the Roman and Britain war in 140 AD, adapts the movie. The story of novel is set in the era after the building of Hadrian's Wall. According to BBC (2014), Hadrian's Wall was a Roman Frontier that built by a Roman Emperor. At the time, after the Romans invaded southern Britain, they had to defend it. They built roads, so that soldiers could march quickly to deal with trouble. They also built three very large army forts, and lots of smaller camps, for soldiers to live in. At first these forts were built of wood, later they were built of stone. Scotland was not part of Roman Britain they also did not want to be a part of Roman so they kept attacking the Romans which had invaded their land, although in A.D. 84, the Romans won a big battle against the Picts (the ethnic tribes who lived in Scotland). In A.D. 122 the Roman Emperor Hadrian ordered his soldiers to build a wall between Roman Britain and Scotland. The wall ran from Wallsend in the east to Bowness on the Solway Firth. Thus, the setting of this movie is in 140 AD where the Romans were defending their territory from the native tribes (the Picts).

In Kevin Macdonald's movie, there are several symbols that will be discussed and investigated in this research. The brief plot of the movie is about Marcus as a young Roman helped by his loyalty slave, Esca in a journey. On their journey they both wanted to get back the honor of his father's legion by finding the legion symbol as the way of his desire.

For instance, in the Eagle Movie there is a scene shows that Marcus Flavious Aquilla is praying to their God, Mithras the Lord of Light, in the day he is placed in his duty to command his troops.



(Act 06:00)

Marcus: *"Please help me regain my family honor."*

Marcus is praying to his God and holding the pendant that his father gave him when he was young. The pendant shaped a small eagle. The scene shows that the action of Marcus and his pray indicate his desire to bring back his family's honor. The pendant small eagle is symbolizing the Eagle Legion his father led. By using Pierce theory of symbol it can be determined that the pendant which actually made based on Marcus' father Legion symbol is taken apart as the

Representament, where its Object is his father's legion symbol which created the interpretant is his will to regain his family's honor.

Another illustration is the utterance of Marcus to Esca;

Marcus : "The Eagle is not a piece of metal. The Eagle is Rome. It's a symbol of our honor. Every victory. Every achievement. Wherever the Eagle is, we can say that Rome did that. You wouldn't understand. How could you?"

From the dialogue above, Marcus clearly explains what make him really wants to look for the Eagle. He explains that the Eagle is the symbol of Romans glorious. When the Ninth Legion is still exist, whenever the Ninth Legion do the war, they won it. That is why the Eagle, as the symbol of the Ninth Legion mean so much to Romans, it symbolizes their dignity, their honor as the conqueror.

The movie version of the Eagle of the Ninth Legion has been chosen to be the object of this research. It is because it will be easier to investigate and figure out what the symbols' meaning by watching the movie. Thus there will be no deviations of understanding any symbol that may be found in the movie, instead of imagining the symbol by reading it. The second consideration of why I choose the movie instead of the novel version is, when the object of this research is movie, the readers can do the simple investigation by their own self if they curious about the symbol and its meaning based on this research. It is in line with watching movie is more simple than reading the novel. It also does not take much time to do.

The movie as the title has a main symbol "The Eagle" (which by the character and the story plot of the movie) means honor. As the thought of Ebert (2011) as one of the movie critic since 1967 in his official site stated that;

“It tells of an uneasy bond between a centurion named Marcus (Channing Tatum) and a slave named Esca (Jamie Bell), who join on a mission to discover what happened to the Ninth Legion and its proud symbol, a golden eagle.”

He emphasized that the Eagle as the symbol of the Ninth Legion carries its proud, it is pragmatically means that the eagle symbol of the Ninth means honor because it has its proud. Some movie reviewers also gave their thoughts of what the meaning of the eagle in this movie is, which similar with what the viewers assumption of the meaning of the Eagle in The Eagle Movie. As taken in online source, French (2011) stated that in this movie *The Eagle* admirably embraces certain unfashionable virtues of what might be considered a Roman brand – duty, honour, filial piety. He clearly said that the eagle carries out the honor of Roman glorious. Equally important, as cite in his site, Bowen (2011) stated that;

For Romans, the metal eagle attached to a pole was more than just a piece of military hardware that lead an army into war. The Eagle star Channing Tatum sums up concretely the emblem’s meaning: “There’s a saying in the book [The Eagle of the Ninth], “Eagle lost, honor lost; honor lost, all lost.” I think that is really how Rome felt. If you lost the Eagle then you sort of lost Rome.” For Tatum, his character Marcus Aquila is defined by the accusation that his father lost the eagle: “He has devoted his entire life to being the best soldier that he possibly can so he can rewrite his family’s name.”

Bowen’s idea of the meaning of The Eagle will also be emphasized more in the movie.

For this reason, the research will explain what makes the symbol means honor. By collecting the data, the researcher found several symbol that are interesting to be investigated that is why this research also will explain the others symbols that probably appear during the movie and their meaning. It will be explained by interpreting those symbols as the examples to the reader of how to determine symbol in a literary work using symbol theory from Pierce (1931) in semiotic approach.

Problem Statement

Based on the previous explanations above, the researcher formulates the problems statements of his research as follow:

1. What makes “*The Eagle*” in The Eagle Movie means honor?
2. What are the other symbols and their meaning that can be found in the movie?

Objective of Research

Based on the problem statements above the objective of this research will be two either. The first one is this research will give the explanations and the proof of why “*the eagle*” symbol means honor”. The second objective of this research is to give other examples of symbols and its meaning that may be found in the movie.

Scope of Research

The research is encompassing in the discussion of the Pierce’s theory of icon, index and especially symbols theory (1931), and its examples in Kevin Macdonald’s The Eagle Movie (2011).

Significances of Research

This research has several significances and it will be explaining in this sub-chapter. The first significance of this research is this research is expected to be the reference of the further researches in literary field. It is believed that semiotic approach has been chosen to be the approach of several researches that has been conducted in English Department on State University of Gorontalo, yet there still no research that conducted and used Semiotic and focusing in symbol theory which is delivered by C. S. Pierce, that is why Pierce’s theory of symbol is chosen as the approach on this research and it is expected to be one of the additional

resources for the next research in literary field. The second significance is; this research is expected to be a medium for obtaining additional knowledge in English. It has been known that in the movie that is chosen to be the object of this research there are new vocabularies, utterances, and English terms that may be found on it. The last significance of this research is; this research is expected to be an example of what and how the Pierce's symbol theory used in a movie. As a research that focusing on Pierce's semiotic; symbol theory, this research is expected to be the example of what is symbol and how it is used in a movie. Furthermore, this research has already been known as a research which is discussed a literary work is also expected to be a tool for the English teaching and learning process by look deeper from the link of literary and the English as a language. The link between them both is the use of English as a language, the structure, grammar, vocabularies and so on. Thus by the link of language is how this research will be implemented for further teaching and learning process.