**CHAPTER I**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Basic Consideration**

Literary work is a work that contains good value that written in beautiful languages. It uses language that has form and value. It also gives enjoyment to the reader. The beautiful language used in literary works have certain meanings, we cannot interpret with the usual meaning as well. However, this study prefers a novel because it makes the author can be free to describe the idea, imagination and the ability. It also deals with the human life and there are lot of words and phrases that have certain meaning, and maybe contain as a myth especially, novel *The Lost Symbol.*

This novel tells about the search of the missing symbol. In this novel Dan Brown invited us to find out the symbols of Masonry which spread out on the Capitol, Monument of Washington, and the USA historic buildings. It was published after *The DA Vinci Code* that continues the experience of the main character Robert Langdon. It revealed about the secret code or symbol, full of suspending and surprising. It also tells about the conspiracy theory of Washington DC. In fact, "all organizations in this novel exist, including the Freemason, Invisible College, Office of security, Smithsonian Museum Support Center, and the Institute of Neotic Sciences. And all the rituals, science, artwork, and monument in this novel are real"

(Brown, The Lost Symbol , 2009). This novel discusses about legends, myth, technology, and history of the Washington DC (Binekas, 2010).

In addition, in this novel, there are lots of signs for example *the hand of the mystery*. It is a symbol of history, the hand represents an invitation. In old time, it is a function as the most desired invitation in the world. "To receive this icon was a secret summon to join an elite group those who were said to guard the secret wisdom of all the ages. The invitations are not only a great honor, but also signified that a master believed you were worthy to receive this hidden wisdom" (The Lost Symbol, Chapter 13, p, 88).

Moreover, talking about sign, there are many questions about it, for example, what the sign is, how many kinds of sign, where the sign comes from, what the meaning of signs, and what the implication of signs in the human life. So, the special sciences that talk about the sign and symbol are called semiotic.

Mulyono (2014), said that "semiotic is the one of the gate keepers for the success in the field of linguistic study" (para, 1). It's commonly said, it is the study of sign and symbol. While, according to Danesi (2004) "a sign is anything like the color, gesture, a wink, an object, mathematical equation, etc. That stands for something other than itself"(p. 4).

This study uses the semiotic study of Roland Barthes theory to analyze the kind of signs and interpreted the meaning of sign and symbol in the novel. Semiotic

of Barthes explains about sign as a signified and signifier. He explains the sign with the "order signification" consist of denotation which is the true meaning, and connotation which are the second meaning of the cultural and personal experience of the reader (Sukmawijaya, 2008). Thus, this study prefers the theory of Barthes to disclose the myth and mystery about the signs of the novel *The Lost Symbol* written by Dan Brown.

**Problem of Study**

Based on the background of the study, the research questions of this study are:

1. What are the signs used in the novel *The Lost Symbol* written by Dan Brown?

2. What are the meanings of the signs in the novel *The Lost Symbol* written by Dan Brown?

**Objective of Study**

Based on the research question, the research objectives of this study are:

1. To identify the signs in the novel *The Lost Symbol* written by Dan Brown.

2. To determine the meaning of the signs in the novel *The Lost Symbol* written by Dan Brown.

**Limited of Study**

Problem limitation is intended to focus on the issue to be examined as well as to avoid confusion in this study. Based on the background and identify the problem describe above, it can be seen that the problem that arise in this study are quite diverse. However, these problems will not be revealed all in this study.

This study is limited in what the sign are used in the novel and what are the meaning of signs itself by describing the forms of the signs. This study focuses on the words and phrases that have relation with Freemason and classified the data as denotation and connotation. Thus, the sign related to the myth will be observed in the novel *The Lost Symbol*.

**Significances of Study**

There are two significances of this study; they are theoretical significance and practical significance.

1. Theoretical significances

This study is expected to give contribution to literature field. Besides that, this study can be useful to enrich the use of theories of literature with the technical analysis of literary works especially in English Letter.

2. Practical significance

This study is expected our knowledge about semiotic role in the novel and this study is significant in the teaching of semiotic study in the novel *The Lost Symbols*

written by Dan Brown. The writer hopes the readers knows the semiotic meaning of

signs. It is related to the ancient mysteries in the Washington DC.