

**A SEMIOTIC ANALYSIS OF NOVEL ILLUSTRATION *THE HOUND OF  
ROWAN TAPESTRY* BY HENRY H. NEFF (2007)**



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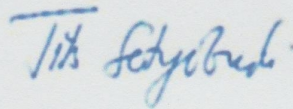
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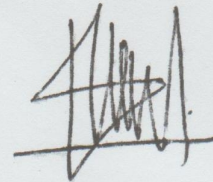
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# **A SEMIOTIC ANALYSIS OF NOVEL ILLUSTRATION *THE HOUND OF ROWAN TAPESTRY* BY HENRY H. NEFF (2007)**

## **Abstrak**

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menentukan dan mendeskripsikan symbol dan ilustrasi dalam novel *The Hound of Rowan: The Tapestry*. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kualitatif dengan sumber data utama dari novel *The Hound of Rowan: The Tapestry* karya Henry H. Neff (2007). Dalam penelitian ini berupaya mendiskusikan permasalahan 1) tipe dsymbol dan ilustrasi yang terdapat di novel. dan 2) makna symbol dan ilustrasi yang tergambar pada novel *The Hound of Rowan: The Tapestry*. Penelitian ini menggunakan tehnik dokumentasi untuk mengumpulkan data serta menggunakan teori analisis semiotic oleh Ferdinan d'Saussure (1959) dan Charles Sander Peirce (1839-1914) dalam menganalisa topic permasalahan. Berdasarkan hasil analisa, peneliti menemukan simbol dan ilustrasi beserta maksud dari simbol dan ilustrasi yang terdapat pada novel ini, yakni simbol kemarahan, kasih sayang yang tulus, dan kecemburuan, sedangkan penggambaran ilustrasi ditemukan pada ilustrasi kesedihan yang tergambar melalui pengilustrasian suasana didalam novel.

**Kata kunci:** Simbol, Ilustrasi, Semiotik, Permadani

## **Abstract**

The purpose of this research is to determine and describe the meaning of symbol and illustration in the novel *The Hound of Rowan: The Tapestry*. This research is a qualitative research and the data source is from the novel itself entitled *The Hound of Rowan: The Tapestry* by Henry H. Neff (2007). In this research is attempt to discussing the problems as 1) types of symbols and illustration used in the novel, and 2) the meaning of symbols and illustration used in the novel *The Hound of Rowan: The Tapestry*. This research is using a written document to collect the data and it is used a semiotic analysis by Ferdinan d'Saussure (1959) and Charles Sander Pierce (1839-1914) in analyzing the topics. Based on the analysis result, the researcher found the symbols and illustrations and it is meaning depicted in the novel, namely: symbol of anger, true love, jealousy, then the illustration is depicted of sadness illustration.

**Keywords:** Symbols, Illustration, Semiotic, The Tapestry

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

In today's modern era, the position of literature is increasing and more important. Literature does not only give inner pleasure and satisfaction but also as a means of delivering moral messages to the community. Literary work contains a good moral value and written in a beautiful language that has form and value. This beautiful language has a certain meaning, and maybe we cannot

interpret it with the usual meaning. One form of literary work is a novel. A novel is an imaginative story created by the author's imagination to entertain the readers.

Novel can be called a place to reveal work and fantasize about someone without limits in it. According to Nurgiyantoro(2009)in Sadili(2009), The term novel comes from the Italian novella which contains the literal meaning of a small new item, which is then interpreted as a short story in the form of prose. In this life, literary work and society are two things that can not be separated. Literary work will always be related to societies and socio-culture. In the process of creating literary works, the author writes their thinking and feeling based on reality found in society. The written work is still a product of the author's imaginations.

Semiotic is the study of sign, symbol, and signification. It refers to the study of how meaning is created not what it is. Everything that can be taken as a sign is called semiotics. Semiotics is the realization of everything human experience without exception. It's an interpretive structure mediated and sustained by a sign. By using semiotic theory, we will find out the author told to the readers. Thus the researcher attempts to observe the type and what the the meaning of symbols and illustrations in the novel *The Hound of The Rowan The Tapestry*.

In this research, the researcher is motivated to analyze one of the literary worksthat is the novel entitled *The Hound of The Rowan The Tapestry* ( Henry H Neff, 2007). The novel has interesting characters and epic stories. The storyline of the novel is known for combining various genres, including fantasy, history, mythology, folklore, and science fiction. (Henry H Neff, 2007)wrote and illustrated these books. This novel is the first in the five-part of the Tapestry series, the fantasy fictional novel. This novel interesting to analyze because contain action, friendship, myth and humor stories. Beside that, there are pictures and illustrations that help reader imagine the situation and condition in the story.

*The Hound of The Rowan Tapestry* by Henry H Neff (2007) tells about the adventure journey of a twelve-year-old boy named Max McDaniel, who finds a magical Celtic tapestry at the Chicago Art Institute. At that time Max is recruited to the Rowan Academy, a special magic abilities school for boys and girls. At the school, he meets many new friends who have special magic abilities and he learns how to control his special power. Nevertheless, he also must be faced with dark magic who stole priceless artwork and kidnap children around the world. When he tried to fight and reveal his identity he becomes caught in a dangerous situation of good and evil.

The story begins in Chicago when Max McDaniel was twelve-years-old traveling to the Chicago Art Institute with his father, Scott McDaniel. Max has tradition, he and his father always visit his mother on his mother's birthday. While on the train, he accidentally stares at a man with one pale eyeball and very creepy. Then, in the museum, he noticed the man again and hiding in a roped-off back room. In the backroom, he saw a colorful Celtic tapestry depicting an ancient battlefield, but no one else can see it. He begins to think something strange is occurring.

Then after a few minutes, suddenly he is pursued by a monster that took the form of a teacher named Mrs. Millan. Afterward, he knows if he has the potential and opportunity to study magic by attending classes at Rowan Academy. At first, he did not want to go to Rowan Academy. But, after he meets new friends and seeing the beauty of magic he became interested. Finally, he wants to learn and develop his potential. During Rowan Academy, Max takes some various courses and there is a rule that each student has a task to save a mystical creature. Nick, a sharp-clawed Black Forest Lymrill selects Max to be his guardian. Soon, he knows that the enemy is stealing priceless artwork and the one-eyed man named Peter Varga is one of the agents of the enemy. The enemy has plans to summon the demon Astaroth with Max as an intermediary. They also kidnap children around the world.

Astaroth is trapped inside a painting, David tries to find it. Besides that, Max and his friends try to defeat the evil forces but time is running out for them. During the climax, Max and Alex are kidnapped in Kestrel by Vye. The enemy will use Max's blood to resurrect Astaroth. Knowing that Max tries to escape and he is shocked when Varga helps him. Then they escape and save the children. When the chamber collapses, Alex is left buried underground with Astaroth. In the end, the teachers of Rowan Academy find Max as a hero. The world is temporarily saved.

The researcher wants to analyze the novel *The Hound of The Rowan Tapestry* by Henry H Neff(2007) based on semiotics theory. By using semiotics theoretical basis, the researcher aims symbol and illustration in sentences that implied a specific meaning.

## **2. METHOD**

In this study, researcher used a qualitative descriptive method, Bogdan & Biklen (1982) state that in descriptive qualitative research, the data collected in the form of words or images, not numbers. In collecting data, the researcher is use the documentation method to analyze document that have been obtained and then analyzed. This research is also used a library techniques in

completing research data. The purpose of this research is to examine the types and the meaning of illustration and symbol in the novel entitled *The Hound of Rowan Tapestry* using semiotic analysis.

The research object is the novel *The Hound of Rowan: The Tapestry* by Henry H. Neff published in 2007, this research decides to examine an issue about the existence of life reflected in the novel.

Primary and secondary data sources are taken as the type of the data of this research. The primary data source is the novel entitled *The Hound of Rowan: The Tapestry* written by Henry H. Neff. Then, the secondary data source are from several sources as references, namely the author's biography, articles, international journal, thesis as the previous studies, and the theories of semiotic in literature.

### **3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

The researcher is success in finding the types of symbol and illustration, there are (1) symbols of anger, (2) true love, (3) jealousy, and (4) sadness, whether the illustrations detailed as (1) temper, (2) face burning, (3) anger eyes flashing, (4) love' statement, (5) intonation, (6) grumble, (7) envy, and (8) sadness, namely cold, gray, and dark forest.

The symbol is temperament, which symbolizes high blood pressure from a personality that makes people irritable. So it is called an anger symbol. Based on the novel, Max does not indicate anger and adds a statement trying to control his anger. Based on previous research, researchers did not find an anger symbol through a temper in *The Hound of Rowan: The Tapestry*. According to Tafrate, R, & DiGiuseppe(2007), temperament is an expression of anger from negative emotions caused by a person's subjective experience through other people or situations, like uncomfortable conditions. So, it is a condition where a person commits awful actions due to bad experiences or disappointments. It makes people express in body language, such as angry facial expressions.

The correlation findings on the face symbol face burning and eyes flashing with anger are symbols of anger that use body parts to represent the symbol. Angry emotions are ineffective actions that arise because of wrong perceptions in the environment(Behave, 2009). Those are negative emotions that appear as a flare-up in the person. Anger as depicted the symbols burning and flashes with anger. Burning means fire that feels hot and can devour anything around it and is a symbol of negative emotion. The head is the upper part that protects the brain that



responsible for moving humans. It has an explicit correlation between the face burning and the eyes flashing with anger both, are parts of the body, eyes are part of the human face is related to the above discussion, which means that Max sees his father in a deep, fast, sharp gaze symbolizing anger. Symbols are figurative or symbolic; it has inherent power and takes part in the reality they experience to a certain level they represent. People also express anger in verbal forms as speak too much or grumble.

Grumble means a response to a negative emotion caused by an angry feeling without doing physical violence. In literature, emotional symbols are not directly explained or by defining them, but by suggests, ideas, emotions, and creating back into the reader's mind. In written literature, intonation can detect by the use of the words in the quotation. In the novel, *The Hound of Rowan: The Tapestry*, the sentence "he screams" in [THRTT, SR, 2007, p. 235] means to speak in a loud high tone as an anger symbol.

Memories and statement of love are the symbol of love in the novel *The Hound of Rowan: the Tapestry*. In the data [THRTT, SP, 2007, p. 240] the way Max's father puts his wife belonging to go home on holiday means that the husband loves his deceased wife very much. Expressions of love also symbolize love by paying attention to others, taking care of others, and saying love to friends, family members, or special loved ones. Based on the novel, means Max's father is deeply in love with his wife and family, and symbolized by the father is responsible but unable to differentiate the truth or imagination due to his lovely memories about his wife.

Envy comes from not accepting other people's benefits and trying to get another position. The character of society is implemented by religion, moral, intellectual, social, and emotional characters (Kenney, 1966). It discusses because Alex is jealous of Max, it means his emotions are unstable.

The first illustrations in the novel are cold and gray. It is a snow piles image. Snow is one of the seasons that occur in several countries with four seasons called winter. Based on the novel, cold illustrates by a pile of snow like its characters. Cold is an illustration of loneliness, sickness, and despair, that snow falls on the ground, trees, roofs, roads, lakes covered in snow and looks white without any other color and feels cold to the bone, the sun illustrates as not warm or does not arise. in the room, there is a little light from a candle. It is appropriate with the cold of snow and warm by the candle. It correlates to the cold and gray, represent the snow illustration of loneliness, sickness, and hopelessness. There is also a circle in the existence of life some

example, sometimes people feel happy, sad, hopeless, motivated, struggle, and so on. This illustration discusses that life is like the seasons. Summer represents feelings of happiness, and winter sadness and despair.

Dominantly, the leaves are green that represents a fresh and healthy condition. The darker the leaves, the worse it is. The dark forest depicts worse conditions, no light and warm, plus the dark forest covered in snow represents cold and hopeless conditions.

The underbrush with dark leaves on the windows depicts sadness; coldness is an attempt to find hope and warmth. Max is in a terrible condition on Christmas cannot spend time with his father at home. Max is not allowed to come home because of being targeted by enemies. Max's sadness because he cannot go home to get a holiday at Christmas illustrates in the cold and dark forest. Later, Max argues with Mr. Vincenti and Mr. Richter, looking for hope and warm feelings that a dark leafy bush is trying to get into the room. It represents people who in the worst, buried, and sad motivated to get the right position or better living conditions illustrated by the bushes entering the room. The discussion shows that symbols and illustrations are not only in the form of codes, objects, signs, or images, but also expressions, situations, or events. The study of semiotics holds two primary assumptions: first, that signs are omnipresent, and second, that humans acquire the skills to interpret a complex array of sensory clues, and thereby to understand the presented signs. How do people solve the problem when people in sad, motivated, struggle, looking for solutions or accept, become the worst, and then full of anger.

#### **4. CLOSING**

The research study of Henry H Neff's novel, *The Hound of Rowan: The Tapestry*: 2007, using semiotic analysis, concluded that feelings of love and being loved, sadness or madness, jealousy, and hopelessness are the existence of life that is symbolized and illustrated in the novel. Directed by the character Max, his senior colleagues do not support his wishes. Max becomes a strange child and targeted by the enemy. That causes his anger to get worse, becomes irritable and sad. In this study, several symbols and illustrations reflect life in the novel *The Hound of Rowan: The Tapestry*. There are namely: temper, face burning, eyes flashing with anger, grumble, intonation, memories, statements of love that symbolizes true love, and envy as a symbol of jealousy. Besides, the illustrations found in the novel are cold, gray, and dark forests depicting sadness. It supports by several figures such as Hoet, Schroeder, Kress, and Leeuwen. Bad temper shows when Max doesn't allow any holidays outside of Rowan, then face burning and eyes flashing with

anger are symbols of anger are shown by Max that he banged the door with a burning face because he was not allowed to go outside, then Mrs. Richter did not permit him to go home to take a rest, and Miss Boon grumbles at Max and Alex that fought at school. It is related to the next symbol called intonation of speaking. Max shouts that his wish is not allowed symbolizes angry emotions using a high tone of voice. The living existence depicted in the novel, complete by symbols of true love, is called memories and love statements. The memory comes as Max's father prepares his wife's belongings for the holidays, even though her wife is dead. Then Max's father clearly said that he loved his son very much and the reason why he did not allow Max to go outside is to protect his son from enemies. Also, Not accepting other people's luck because Alex fights with Max to show which one the best among them is called a symbol of jealousy. The cold, gray, and dark forest represent sadness and badness. The study of semiotics has two main assumptions: first, that signs are ubiquitous, and second, that humans acquire the skills to interpret a complex set of sensory clues and thus understand the presented signs. This novel shows a circle of life by the characters and supports by the settings previously discussed. The symbols and illustrations are not only in the form of codes, objects, signs, or images, but also expressions, situations, or events. Based on the theory put forward by several figures and the theory of semantic analysis, symbols, and illustrations that reveal people's behavior that needs to be protected and people's mindsets, how people motivate themselves and make sadness become goodness.

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