

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter will give explanation of the background of the study, statement of research problem, objectives of the study, and significances of the study, scope and limitation.

1.1 Background of The Study

Symbol always presents in our daily life. We can find it in any form, such as movement, sound, statement, color or even thing. One of symbol is literary work. Literary work is a picture of human life in written form. As a symbol, literary work has a function as a mirror of real world. It means literary work represent any activities and phenomena that happened in real world. Human in real world is represented by the character in literary work. Both human and character, they face conflicts. (Klarer, 1999)

In literature there are some literary works that include: Novel, short story, drama, and poetry. One type of literary work is novel. The term novel is a truncation of the Italian word novella (from the plural of Latin Novellus, a late variant of Novus, meaning “new”), so that what is now, in most languages, a diminutive denotes historically the parent form. (Novel, 2016) So, novel is a fictional prose narrative of considerable length, typically having a plot that is unfolded by the actions, speech and thoughts of the characters. The novel is a genre of fiction, and fiction may be defined as the art of craft of contriving, through the written word, representations of human life that instruct or divert or both.(Wellek, Warren. 1956)

Symbol is used to represent something else. The meaning of symbol depends on its place; it means there is different meaning of one symbol if we bring the same symbol into different place. It is grown by the society and adopted through generations. Symbol in literary

work also has its own meaning. It means that we can only find its meaning through the story of the novel. The meaning is built inside the story. That is why literary work has an authority to create its meaning.

Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* is a famous and controversial masterpiece. The *Da Vinci Code* gets much attention around the world because of the intriguing and brave theme that Dan Brown brings in this novel. Even there are some accusations that Brown tries to attack the church and holy bible as Dr. Erwin Lutzer, a theology expert says "The *Da Vinci Code* is the most serious attack to the Christianity I have ever found" (Roach). Moreover, Brown gives a brief and interesting theme with the touch of religious theme in his novel. He uses real names in naming the sects or organization, such as The Opus Dey, Knight Templar, The Massion, etc. He also uses the real places to support the reality effects in his novel, such as The Louvre Museum, The Depository Bank of Zurich, Saint-Sulpice Church, Temple Church, etc. Brown also gives a detail ritual of the secret sect on his novel like the Hieros Gamos ritual that is believed by many people as a real ritual of Pagan religion in which the followers of this ritual have a sex ritual to get closer to their God (Stewart). Brown's amazing skill in telling the story makes the novel very interesting and the readers' brain work when they read this novel.

Dan Brown, best-selling author of *The Da Vinci Code* was born on June 22, 1964. Dan Brown (born 1964) is one of the best-known present-day American writers. After Philips Exeter Academy, New Hampshire, he studied art history at the University of Seville, where he became deeply interested in Leonardo da Vinci's works. His first book was *Digital Fortress* which was inspired from Sidney Sheldon's *The Doomsday Conspiracy* and was published in 1998. Brown's next novel was *Angels and Demons* and *Deception Point*, released in 2000 and 2001 respectively, the former of which was the first to feature the lead character, Harvard symbology expert Robert Langdon. (Bookreport)

In 1994, Dan Brown started a research for his first novel, a techno-thriller, *Digital Fortress* (1996). The novels *Angle* and *Demons* (2000), in which Langdon made first appearance, and *Deception point* (2001) followed and sold well. His fourth novel, *The Da Vinci Code*, became a bestseller going to the top of the New York Times best seller list during its first week of release in 2003 and now credited with being one of the most popular books of all time. Its success has helped push sales of Brown's earlier books. Brown's third novel featuring Robert Langdon, *The Lost Symbol*, was release on September 15, 2009. *The Lost Symbol* also had a big success. The book's selling reached to the five million first printing. Brown has stated that he has ideas for about 12 future books featuring Robert Langdon. Characters in Brown's books are often named after real people in his life, for example Robert Langdon is named John Langdon, the artist who created the ambigrams used for *The Angles* and *Demons* CD and novel. (Brown, 2003)

Based on the great issues above, the writer uses Semiotic theory to analyze *The Da Vinci Code* novel, especially to analyze meaning of symbols. The writer chooses to analyze symbols because the novel contains a lot of symbols that can be explored.

1.2 Statement of Research Question

Connected with the background of the study, the statement of the problem as follow:
How are the meanings of symbols described in Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* ?

1.3 Objectives of The Study

Based on statement of the research problem above, this study is intended: To describe the meanings of symbols in Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*.

1.4 Significances of The Study

The significance of the study as follows:

Theoretically:

- a. This study can be the consideration for the student who takes literature as the concentration and the study will help of the next writer to develop this study.
- b. This study will give more understanding of semiotic particularly in novel “The Da Vinci Code”.

Practically:

- a. Give any information of the reader to identify symbol representations in human life through literary works.
- b. Give more understanding about the theory of Semiotic by Michael Riffaterre and add the knowledge of the reader.

1.5 The Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study uses semiotic theory by Michael Riffaterre to analyze the novel Dan Brown’s The Da Vinci Code. In order to help this study to be successful achieve the object of the study. The limitation of this study is limited on symbols; utterances of narrator’s narration which answer the research problems focused in The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown.