

Chapter 1

Introduction

This chapter presents sub chapters, namely background of the study, statement of the research problems, significances of the study, and the last was scope and limitation. All of the chapters were important to be discussed as the introduction of this study. The following is description of each sub chapter.

1.1 Background of the study

In literary works, usually there were a lot of symbols in the story which have certain meaning, it made the reader thinks about it. The author uses symbols to emphasis certain atmospheres and characteristic features of the players and places. A symbol was an object or image which stands for itself and also for something else. According to Hirschberg, Stuart and Terry (2004:75) most of the symbolic stories were taken from culture, knowledge, or imagination to reflect something that was going to be shown by the authors. It means that, the story can come from the life condition or imagination or feelings of the author. However, in literature a symbol can be thought of as an image that evokes a different aspect of reality in order to suggest another level of meaning. It was interesting to analyze the meaning behind symbols, because everyone has their own interpretation to interpret the meaning of those symbols.

Discussing about the symbols above, the writer tried to analyze one of Tennessee William's dramas entitled *A Streetcar Named Desire* which has a lot of symbols represent to Blanche as the first main character in the story that must be

interpreted or understood by the reader. These symbols should be construed or interpreted to give a better understanding of the intent or content of the drama, With that way the readers will be able to capture the message to be conveyed by the author. “*A Streetcar Named Desire*” talk much about Semiotics aspects because semiotics was science of sign, such as, name of Blanche DuBois, belle reve, and elysian field.

In this study, the writer chose Tennessee William’s drama entitled *A Streetcar Named Desire* as source of data, because this drama has won the Pulitzer Prize award in 1948. So that, this drama was very interesting to be analyzed.

In addition, Tennessee William was one of the greatest playwrights in the history of American drama and a master of playwright of the twentieth century. He was born in Columbus, Mississippi on March 26, 1911. His original name is Thomas Lanier Williams. He produced many dramas, such as *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1947), *The Glass Menagerie* (1944), *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone* (1950), *The Cat on The Hot Tin Roof* (1955).

Related to the illustration above, this study was going to be analyzed by using semiotics as the basic theory and will be focused on symbols of Roland Barthes.

I.2 Statements of the research problems

Based on the background of the study, this study focused on one question related to the theme “*The Barthes’ Five Narrative Codes in Tennessee William’s*

A Streetcar Named Desire”. The problems is formulated as follow:

1. What are of *The Barthes’ Five Narrative Codes in Tennessee William’s A Streetcar Named Desire*?

1.3 Objective of the study

Concerning with the problems above, this analysis was intended to achieve an objective:

1. To describe what are *The Barthes’ Five Narrative Codes in Tennessee William’s A Streetcar Named Desire*

1.4 Significance of the study

The study is surely answers the question that has been clarified in the statement of the problem. It was expected to provides theoretical and practical benefits. Theoretically, this study will give the reader an understanding especially in using semiotics theory particularly Roland Barthes’ five codes. Practically, this study hopefully can give more knowledge and explanation connected to the Barthes’ symbols, particularly for the students of English Study Program who taken literature as their major concentration. Furthermore, the writer hoped this thesis will be useful to enrich and improve them with knowledge that is related to literature.

1.5 Scope and limitation

This study discussed about the Barthes’ five narrative codes. Based on the theory which was applied to analyze this literary work, the scope focus of this

study was semiotic theory, particularly symbol. The limitation of this study was the characters' utterances and author's narration in the drama which were relevant with this study.