

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the explanations of some parts of introduction. Those are background of the study, statement of research problems, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of The Study

Klarer (2004: 1) stated “literature is referred to as the entirety of written document can be categorized as literature in the more exact sense of the word.” It means that literature is a phrase of human in the form of experiences, thoughts, feelings, ideas, spirit, and confidence in a form enchanting images with language tool, so literature has elements of mind, experience, idea, feeling, spirit, belief, expression, shape and languages.

Literature is one of the cultural elements of Indonesia, which are assessed during this live and thrive among the other cultures, while the literary works of which are familiar with some form of poetry, drama, short stories and novel. X-J Kennedy (2009: 226) stated “Novel is a picture of real life and manners and of the time in which it was written. He also explained that the meaning of novel is book-length story in prose whose author tries to create sense that while we read, we experience actual life”. It means that novel is a part of literary work which tells a

story about life, such as a social problem in a certain society where the author lives. In analyzing a literary work like novel, it is suggested to start the analysis with the intrinsic or extrinsic aspects of the novel. Novel is also usually called as world of words. Words in novel include as structure of signs which have the meaning. Thus, it is believed that signs are connected to semiotic.

In fact, novel is interesting literary work to get reader's critics and attention. One of them is novel entitled *The Maze runner* by James Dashner which published by Delacorte Press of New York in 2010. This novel is interesting to analyze by using semiotic theory because suspenseful story of an interesting history. This novel tells about Thomas wakes up in a box, but he doesn't remember who he is. He can only remember his name. Then, doors open above him and reveal that he's on some kind of farm surrounded by walls. The place is called the Glade. Outside the Glade are monsters known as Grievers that live in a massive Maze outside of it. Every month another boy arrives at the farm to live with Thomas and other boys there. Supplies for them come through an elevator every week from above ground level, where they're delivered by people who don't know what lies below ground level or even if anyone lives down there at all.

Thomas learns that outside the Maze are monsters called Grievers. If a Griever stings you, you will go through a process known as the Changing, which is quite traumatic. Thomas meets Alby and Newt who become his friends. Minho becomes jealous of Thomas' friendship with Newt but soon they become friends too.

The day after Thomas arrives, a girl is sent up into the Glade. Her name is Teresa. She tells everyone that everything will be different and then she falls into a coma. The next time anyone sees her, she's in the hospital wing of the Glade. Thomas feels connected to her as if he knows her from somewhere else or maybe even before he came to the Glade. He becomes infatuated with her but doesn't know why because they've never spoken before this moment when she arrived in his life. This feeling makes him want to become a Runner so he can go outside of the maze and find out who this girl really is and why he has such an intense connection with her but also what happened to him prior to arriving at the Maze/Glade – hence finding out who “he” truly was before all of this began (before being brought back). Shortly after deciding that becoming a runner would be good for him, Ben attacks Thomas by punching him in his stomach while saying something about knowing who “Thomas” really is and where they met previously, which causes Alby (leader) to banish Ben for trying murder on one of their own members.

While exploring the Maze, Alby is stung by a Griever. Minho attempts to get him back into the Glade before the walls close but they are not going to make it. Thomas sees them and races out into the Maze to help, breaking a cardinal rule that says never go outside of the Maze because you will get lost or worse, die. He finds himself trapped outside in the maze with them.

The Maze is dangerous at night because that's when the creatures in it are most active. Minho, despite being experienced, panics and runs away when they approach. Thomas refuses to leave Alby behind and manages to save his life as

well as his own by running back into the maze. The three survive the night in the maze which no one has ever done before. This makes Thomas a hero in some eyes while others think he's suspicious of knowing more about what goes on there than anyone else does.

The writer chooses *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner as the source of the data in this study because it was interesting to be discussed because this novel is content of the signs that can be analyzed. Therefore, the writer analyze this novel entitled *The Maze Runner* by using semiotic analysis inspired by Thomas, who is the main character, and Gladders as the group of teenagers who are trapped in the Glade. Gladders met on their way out from Maze and they can be free from Griever, the vicious monster who threatens their safety and didn't hesitate to pounce on anyone who still roaming in the Maze. The story described a life that happened in Thomas' life and some of them gave Thomas a lesson that Thomas understood about life in the Maze.

1.2 Statement of Research Problem

Based on the background of the study, the writer aimed to answer some questions:

1. What are the signs in *The Maze Runner* Novel?
2. What are the functions and meanings of the sign in *The Maze Runner* Novel?

1.3 Objective of The Study

Based on the statement of research problems, the objective of the study aimed to explore:

1. To describe what are the signs in James Dashner's Novel.
2. To describe what are the function and meaning of the sign in *The Maze Runner* novel.

1.4 Significance of The Study

Hopefully, this study is expected to give a contribution both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, the writer expected this study will give insight concerning semiotic in modern literary works. Meanwhile, practically by using the title "An Analysis of Icon, Index, and Symbol on *The Maze Runner Novel* by James Dashner" the writer hopes that the results will be useful to help the readers to an understanding of the signs found in the novel.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of The Study

Based on theory which is applied in analyzing the novel as the source of data, the scope of this study is Semiotic Theory which is contained with the sign in *The Maze Runner* novel by James Dashner that published in Delacorte Press of New York, 2010. The scope of this study is semiotic theory. The limitations of this study is words, utterances of the characters and author narration in *The Maze Runner* novel by James Dashner which relate to the focus of this study.