

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of five sub-chapters which will be presented thoroughly. Those are background of the study, statements of research problem, objectives of the study, significances of the study, and scopes and limitations of the study.

Background of the Study

Throughout history, many linguists, scientist and researchers have directed their work to discover the physiological and psychological mysteries of communication. Considering language as part of the symbols used in the human communication system. Humans are such complex creatures. They tend to do things that are awfully hard for common sense to understand. Take the way of communication for example. It is not an unusual sight anymore to find cases where people communicate through different ways just to convey a very simple intention as well as the opposite side who tries to digest the information received. This has been going on for ages and has become the most common knowledge about how interesting one can be when they are talking about things using either verbal or non-verbal languages.

When people ponder the word communication, they often think about the act of talking. We rely on verbal communication to exchange messages with one another and develop as individuals. The term verbal communication often evokes the idea of spoken communication, but written communication is also part of verbal communication. Reading this book you are decoding the authors' written verbal communication in order to learn more about communication. Let's explore the various components of our definition of verbal communication and examine how it functions in our lives.

Verbal communication is about language, both written and spoken. In general, verbal communication refers to our use of words while nonverbal communication refers to communication that occurs through means other than words, such as body language, gestures, and silence. Both verbal and nonverbal communication can be spoken and written. Many people

mistakenly assume that verbal communication refers only to spoken communication. However, you will learn that this is not the case. Let's say you tell a friend a joke and he or she laughs in response. Is the laughter verbal or nonverbal communication? Why? As laughter is not a word we would consider this vocal act as a form of nonverbal communication. For simplification, the box below highlights the kinds of communication that fall into the various categories. You can find many definitions of verbal communication in our literature, but for this text, we define verbal communication as *an agreed-upon and rule-governed system of symbols used to share meaning*. Let's examine each component of this definition in detail.

Verbal language can often be easily understood because it is uttered directly by using the ability to process words into different sets of informations. Non-verbal language on the other hand, relies on other types of communication rather than words. It occurs through body language, gestures, and silence. People often mistakenly consider verbal language as a spoken type of communication while this is not always the case. Both verbal and non-verbal language can either be in form of spoken or written. Considering this, Robert M Krauss acknowledges semanticity, generativity, and displacement, to be key properties of language that jointly separate it from other symbolic demonstrations and systems of communication detected in other species. According to Krauss (2002), verbal communication is the message expressed through words or spoken language that conveys meaning. Meanwhile, according to Anjali and Emmanuel (2015), nonverbal communication is the message that is delivered through action and expression rather than words.

Nonverbal communication refers to the ways in which beings convey information about their emotions, needs, intentions, attitudes, and thoughts without the use of verbal language. Usually, both type of communication require two or more living beings and at least one medium through which they try to communicate.

In this case, this study uses the theory of signs developed by Roland Barthes to help the writer comprehend the main protagonists' utterances, Lexi and Ava in CJ Omololu's *The Third Twin* novel. The term itself is called semiotics. Peirce (1931) states that, signs are the very basic element in communication. One does not simply communicate without giving and receiving signs. When people ponder the word communication, they often think about the act of talking. We rely on verbal communication to exchange messages with one another and develop as

individuals. The term verbal communication often evokes the idea of spoken communication, but written communication is also part of verbal communication. Reading this book you are decoding the authors' written verbal communication in order to learn more about communication. Let's explore the various components of our definition of verbal communication and examine how it functions in our lives.

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He believes that semiotics is the way signs represent ideas, situations, conditions, or emotions in form of words, images, sounds, odours, and flavours. However, those elements have no intrinsic meaning and can only become signs when we invest them with meaning. He gives the idea that meanings exist as the result of signs connected to one another. When there is smoke, that means there is a fire burning nearby. In other words, some signs become the start of other things that will likely happen after.

Furthermore, he argues that semiotics is based on logic, because that is how humans think, and to think, people interpret signs. These signs are what make us able to connect with our surroundings and to give meaning to what the world shows us. Therefore, there are various interpretations of what signs actually are since every human being has signs as a part of their life

aspect and it can be considered a communication tool that is very important in every second of life.

In CJ Omololu's *The Third Twin* for instant, the main protagonist is "indefinite". The story follows two identical twins and their "sister" who often date the same guys and one of them ends up murdering one of the guys they dated. Here, the readers are left to guess who is the good guy and who is the bad guy. They will be suspecting each sister throughout the novel until a certain point when the mystery is slightly revealed. Until then, they must keep an eye on the signs that are given by the three sisters and observe how each one of them acts during the entire story. Basically, the genre itself is thriller with a little cheesy teenage drama where triangle love is the "it" factor. Still, most parts of the story cover thrilling situations when the rising action finally hits. That is, when either Lexi, Ava, or Alicia murders one of the guys they went out with.

Knowing how a wolf runs loose among a herd of sheep, the story brings terrifying sequences in every chapter. Although there is no ghosts or supernatural beings, A crazy maniac is enough to send chills down every reader's spine. Throughout the story, the readers will be driven to assume their own culprit; who might be the one doing the nasty killing. This is when signs are critical in order to connect the clue pieces that are shown almost explicitly. Turns out that the suspect the readers might have had in mind is not exactly the one who has been doing the mess. This matter is very interesting particularly because not only the three main characters, the researcher as well as the readers also need to observe side characters and the situations as well. This issue is what interests the writer of this study to go further in analyzing signs that every character, every sequence, and everything around them shows because a murderer would not act like a normal person. Therefore, the writer uses Roland Barthes' five narrative codes where signs are the main focus among other things.

The codes of Barthes are classified into five kinds of narrative codes. Those are Hermeneutic Code or The Voice of Truth, Proairetic Code or The Code of Action, Cultural Code, Connotative Code, and Symbolic Code. The writer of this study thus uses this theory to analyze the five codes on every page of the *The Third Twin* by CJ Omololu because it seems to be appropriate with the problem itself like what is the meaning of every character like Alicia's, Lexi's, or Ava's gestures, motives of why the killer does such a crime, and why the triplets date many guys to begin with will then be explained in the next chapters of this study.

In addition, there are five reasearch studies that employ Roland Barthes' five narrative codes as a tool in analyzing the data which will be presented in the next chapter as a mean of comparison with this current study.

1.2 Statements of the research question

As pointed out in the background of the study, Barthes' five codes are used to deconstruct the deeper context of each utterance. This leads the writer to this question of :

How do the codesBarthes represent the main characters' struggle in seeking for justice?

Objectives of the study

In correlation with question of the study, the objective itself is :

To present the idea of the sentences said by the twins that they imply deeper meanings while working on the case to rid themselves of the situation.

Significances of the study

Hopefully, this study will give both theoritical and practical contributions toward the developement of not only English program students but also of those outside the field. Theoritically, this study will enrich the knowledge of its reader about Roland Barthes' five narrative codes. Practically, this study will help students, lecturers, or general reader as a reference of how stucturalism theory works.

Scope and limitation

This study takes Roland Barthes' five narrative codes to be discussed as a topic and is using CJ Omololu' s novel entitled *The Third Twin*. The writer focuses the analysis only on the five codes of Roland Barthes stated in the research problems. As of the limitation, the

writer limits the analysis on the words or utterances in the novel that has at least one of those codes.