

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of several parts that present a brief explanation of this study. Those are background of the study, the statement of research problem, the objective of the study, the significant of the study, and the scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Human has different way to improve her/his ability. Moreover, as a student is required to be more creative in expressing her/his capabilities. Everyone should be confident of the ability that her/himself can express knowledge. In self-expression, someone to vent his feels in writing or literary work. According to Gyasi (1973), literary work is anything that is written, while Rees (1973) on Ade & Akunoye (2008), literary work is writing which express feeling though and attitudes towards life.

According to the explanation's Gyasi & Akunoye above literary show a permanent expression in words of some thoughts or feeling in ideas about life. In Risdianto's journal literature has at least two different ways: *Informative literature* and *imaginative literature*. Informative tells about facts, explanations, etc (Jones, 1968:2). Its main purpose is to provide knowledge. While, imaginative tells the aims to arouse thoughts and feelings (Jones, 1968:2). Its author describes the ideas, feelings, attitude, etc.

Wellek and Warren (1963:22) also state that the term literature seems best that is to imaginative literature. Literature can create his/her own creation word of the imagination. Literature has three general genre, they are Drama, Poetry, and Prose. Drama is a literary work that express of human feeling. The structure of drama includes scenes, round, dialogue and prologue. Poetry is an express experience that evoked emotional response through meaning sound, and rhythmic language.

While prose is distinguished by the type of writing poetry because it has a greater rhythm. Edgar V. Roberts and Henry E. Jacobs (1995:2) classify pose into two, fiction prose and nonfiction prose. Fiction, originally meant stories based on the author's imagination or feeling though. It includes myths, romance, novel, and short stories. On the other hand, nonfiction is literary based on the interpret facts, opinions, and present judgments. It consists of essay, magazines, newspapers, and many other forms of communication.

Novel is one of the kind of fictional prose. The term of novel originated from Italian "*novella*" which means a piece of the story (Novel, 2016). Today is long narrative in literary prose. There are some kinds of novel that found in contemporary publishing, action-adventure, crime, detective, fantasy, horror, mystery, and romance. Novel continues being popularity in this day. For example, novel being popular to demonstrate some thesis.

House of Secrets is novel. It is a bestseller's novel in New York Times and it is novel of teen fantasy series and written by Chris Columbus (famed Hollywood director) & Ned Vizzini (bestselling author). That is why the writer

chooses this novel to analyze this study. This novel tells about three young children, Brendan, Eleanor, and Cordelia Walker who had everything, loving parents, a beautiful house in San Francisco, and all the electronic devices they could want. But everything disappeared changed when Dr. Walker (their father) lost his job in a mysterious incident. Now, the Walker's family must relocate to an old Victorian house that the homeowner was novelist Denver Kristoff. The house seems creepy and too good to be true.

By the time, the Walker realizes that one of their neighbors has sinister plans of them. After that, there are many strange and sinister events occur in their lives. Their parents (Mr. and Mrs. Walker) gone and the Wind Witch (their neighbor) banished the Walker to a primeval forest way off the grid. But they are not alone, there are many strange events appear alternately, start from bloodthirsty medieval warriors, a giant wolf, a colossus, supernatural pirates, and queen crazy for power (The Wind Witch). All of that happened because of old book with the eye symbol belongs Kristoff who possessed supernatural power.

Based on the synopsis above it can be concluded that there are many studies that can be analyzed using semiotics theory. According to Umberto Eco in Chandler (2007), semiotics is connected with everything that can be taken as a sign. Semiotics involves the study not only refer as 'sign' in everyday speech, but also of anything which 'stand for' something else. In semiotics sign take the form of words, images, sounds, gestures, and objects (Candler, 2007).

Pierce classified sign into three kinds. One of them is symbol. Symbol is something that used for represent of something. Based on the Pierce, symbol is a

sign whose relation to their objects. Symbol can found in literary work. Theories of sign (or 'symbols') in Chandler (2007) appear throughout the history of philosophy from ancient times on words (see Todorov 1982), the first a branch of philosophy appearing in John Locke's *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1690).

This study focused to analyze the title of the novel and using semiotics study and focused on symbolism theory. Studying semiotics can explore the reader's mind about anything of sign or symbol. That is why the writer chooses semiotics study to elaborate this study entitled "The Title's Meanings of Chris Columbus & Ned Vizzini's *House of Secrets*: Semiotics Approach".

In addition, the writer chooses to analyze the title for this study because analyzing title in the literary work, especially novel can improve the researcher's knowledge. The title in literature has many attracted meanings so that it can be interested to the readers. Wulick argues that teach about the title give the reader a sense of what they can expect to find within the pages of the book. At the same time, a title is usually declaring what is and is not important in the book. A title can reflect a work's theme or focus, pointing out the right frame of mind for reading (Title, 2016). Therefore, the title is a major point in each work, that is why the writer analyzing the title.

Based on the explanation above, the writer interested to analyze this study entitled "The Title's Meanings of Chris Columbus & Ned Vizzini's *House of Secrets*: Semiotics Approach."

1.2 Statement of Research Problem

Related to the background of the study, the questions that belong to the statement of research problem can be formulated as follows: What is the meaning of the title in Chris Columbus & Ned Vizzini's *House of Secrets*?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the previous research problem, this study intended: To reveal the true meaning of the title *House of Secrets* by Chris Columbus & Ned Vizzini based on the novel.

1.4 Significant of the Study

Related to the previous discussion, this research expected to give significance to the readers generally, such as:

Theoretically:

1. Giving knowledge in understanding deeper about the true meaning of the title based on literary work, especially novel.
2. Giving explanation to the readers about semiotics theory, such as sign or symbol.

Practically:

1. Helping the student of English Department to give reference.
2. To convey information that through the sentences, novel can give many lessons for society.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This research uses Chris Columbus & Ned Vizzini's novel which is entitled "*House of Secrets*" by using Semiotics approach. The scope of this study is the title of the novel. In addition this study limits on the author's narration, sentence utterances which show and reflect the true meaning of the title in this novel which relevant with this study.