



BUDDHI DHARMA UNIVERSITY

**SEMIOTICS ANALYSIS ON THE NOVEL NIGHT ON THE
GALACTIC RAILROAD BY MIYAZAWA KENJI USING
CHARLES SANDERS PEIRCE'S TRIADIC MODEL**

Presented as a partial fulfilment of the requirement of the Undergraduate program

ANANDA JAN WIYOGO

20170600014

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

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FINAL PROJECT APPROVAL

Final Project Titles :

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PEIRCE'S TRIADIC MODEL

Name : Ananda Jan Wiyogo

Student Number : 20170600014

Faculty : Faculty of Science and Humanities

Department : English Literature

The Thesis Proposal has been approved.

On August 22nd, 2022

Approved by,

Supervisor

Sonya Ayu Kumala, S.Hum., M.Hum.

NIDN: 0418128601

Acknowledged by,

Head of Department

Riris Mutiara P.S, S.Pd., M.Hum.

NIDN: 0427068703



THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS

Name : Ananda Jan Wiyogo
Student Number : 20170600014
Faculty : Faculty of Science and Humanities
Department : English Literature
Title of the Final Project : SEMIOTIC ANALYSIS ON THE NOVEL
NIGHT ON THE GALACTIC RAILROAD BY
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SANDERS PEIRCE'S THEORY

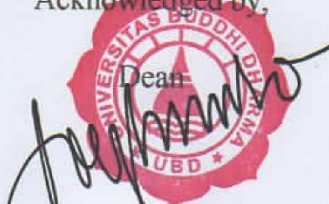
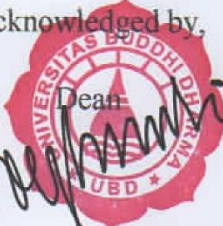
This Thesis has been examined by the Board of the Examiners

On August 22nd, 2022

Name of Examiners

1. Examiner I : Hot Saut Halomoan, S.Pd., M.Hum.
NIDN: 0320046101
2. Chair : Dr. Lilie Suratminto, M.A.
NIDN: 8875430017
3. Examiner III : Irpan Ali Rahman, S.S., M.Pd.
NIDN:0405027807

Acknowledged by,


Dean

Dr. Lilie Suratminto, M.A.
SOSIAL DAN HUMANIORA
NIDN: 8875430017

STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY

I honestly declare that this thesis is my own writing, and it is true that I do not take scholarly idea or work from others. Those all-cited works are quoted in accordance with the ethical code of academic writing.

Tangerang, August 22nd, 2000



Ananda Jan Wiyogo

20170600014



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ABSTRACT

This thesis contains author's research about the *semiotic analysis* in the novel "*Night on The Galactic Railroad*" written by Miyazawa Kenji in 1927. The writer wrote this thesis in order to find the sign inside the Novel and interpret the signs using Peirce's theory by using a *Triadic Model*. The author decided to further ease the process of interpreting the sign by using *Peirce's triadic model*. The writer decided to use qualitative method to find the result for this research. The writer used 2 objects for this research, formal and material object. The formal object being the *Charles Sanders Peirce's theory*. While the material object being the Novel *Night on The Galactic Railroad* by Miyazawa Kenji. The novel was written in 1927 and published by Bunpoudou in 1934. The writer used a note taking method in this research as an instrument. The writer used Peirce's theory to analyze the data. The writer found that there are 24 signs, which is 17 indexes, 5 symbols, and 2 icons. The writer concludes that the signs in the novel are mostly indexes.

Keywords: *Semiotic analysis, Triadic Model, Peirce's semiotic theory*

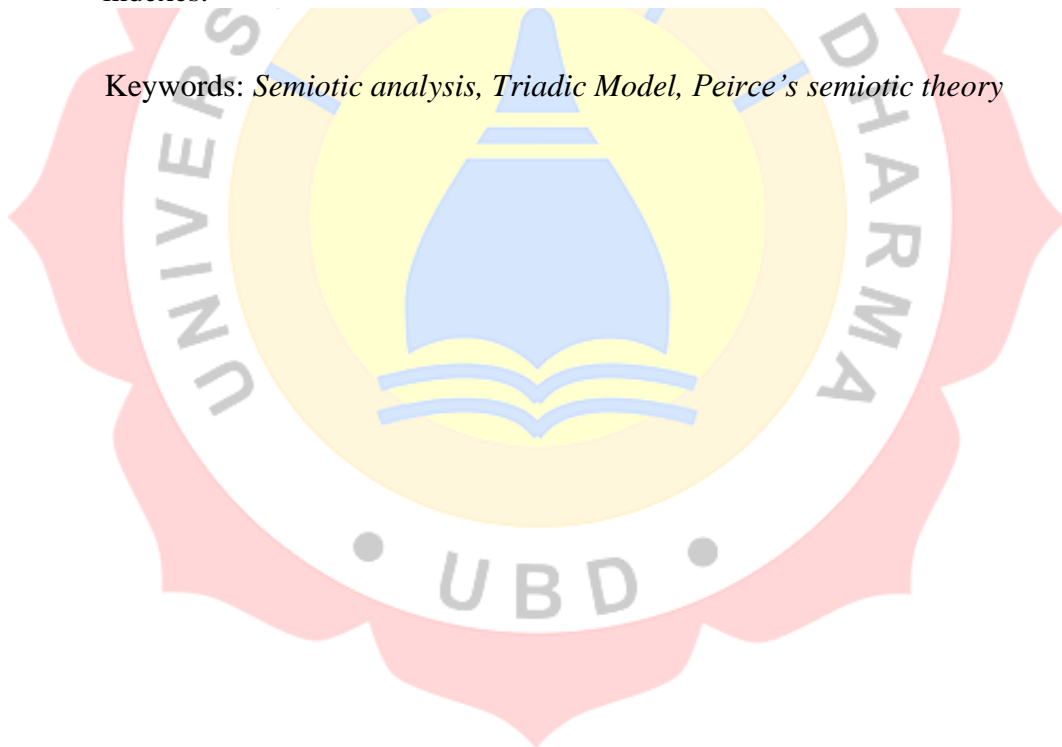
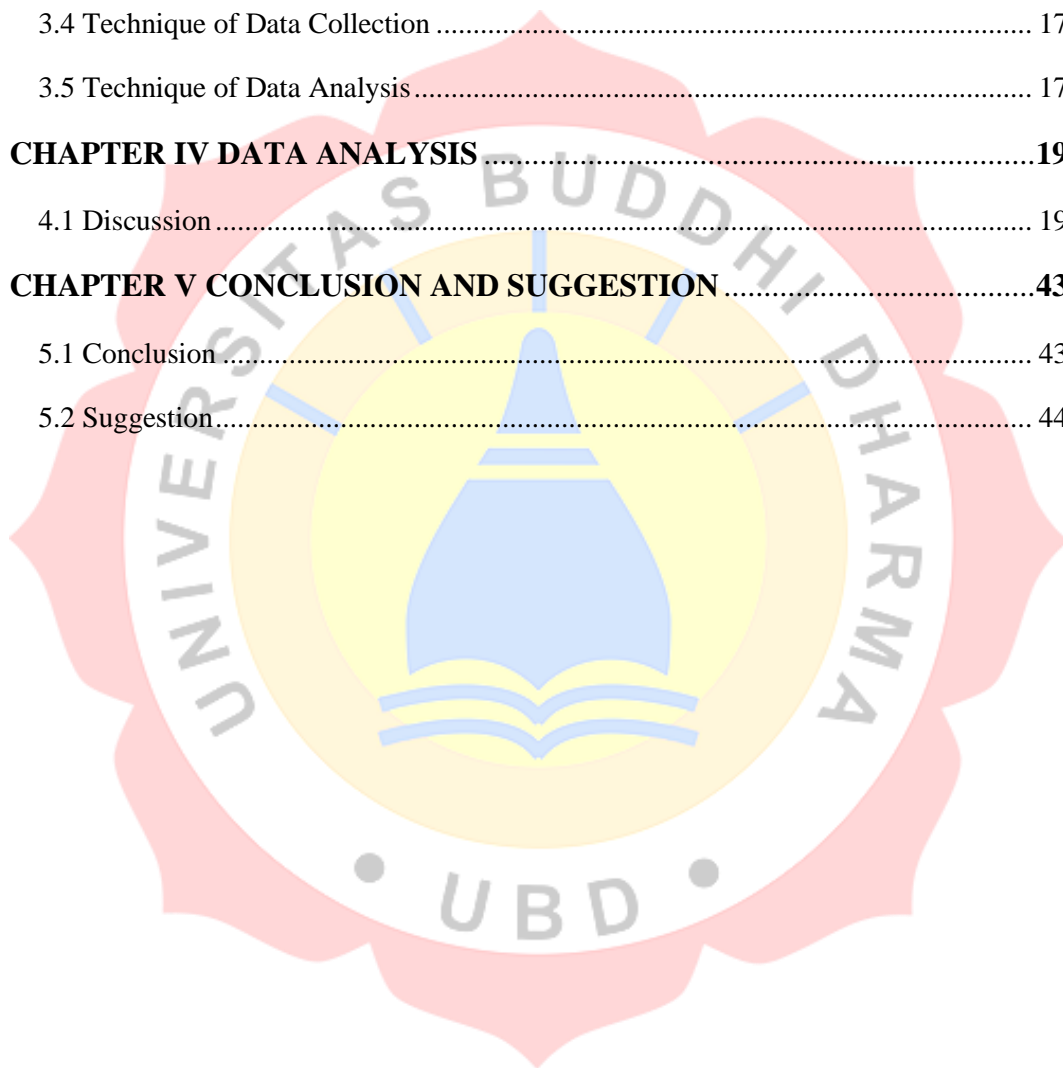


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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Semiotics is one of the branches of language study, that learn how a sign or meaning is created and realized. Sign or representamen can be defined to something that can stand for something else or anything that can convey a meaning of an object. Which mean, there is a lot of things that can be defined as a sign, words can be signs, drawings can be signs, photographs can be signs, even a graphic design can be signs. In short, Semiotic is study of signs and their meaning in society.

As mentioned by Halina Sendera Mohd (2014). In her research paper "*The Semiotic Perspective of Peirce and Saussure: A Brief Comparative Study*", In the study of semiotics, there is 2 ways to analyze the sign, Ferdinand de Saussure's (1916) theory, and Charles Sanders Peirce's (1902) theory. The things that differ Peirce's and Saussure's semiotic analysis is the aspect of reality as well as the discipline of epistemology.

Differs from Saussure where he thinks that reality has a bond with our physical or human minds, Peirce think that reality lies outside the internal structure of humans and not related to each other.

This might as well be affected by the difference in their discipline, Pierce is in the field of philosophy that queries the association between reality in total with the nature and the existence of the sign whereas Saussure stand in the field of linguistics,

which focuses on giving a review of the association between a sign which is considered as an aspect of word construction.

The theory that writer will use in this paper is Charles Sanders Peirce's theory (1931), by using the triadic model that is being applied in the theory, writer will try to find the sign, object, or interpretant in the novel of "Night on the Galactic Railroad". After finding the sign, object, and interpretant in this novel, writer will list writer's finding. Then writer will try to break down and analyze writer's finding in the novel.

There was some previous similar study that writer found about semiotic analysis, not all the object that was being analyzed is novel as in the paper "*A Semiotic Analysis on the Novel Paper Town by John Green*" by Wulan Rachmawati (2018), and "*Analysis Semiotic in the Novel Poison by Sara Poole*" by Irma Ningsih Ridwan (2013) that writer use as a reference, there is also a film like in the paper "*A Semiotic Analysis of the John Wick Film Using Charles Sanders Peirce's Theory*" by Alfan Asyraq Pauzan (2018), music video, magazine cover, previously mentioned drawings, photographs, street signs, etc. Most of the time, the result will be shown in a table in where the authors will break down the data they found into either dyadic model or triadic model depend on the research method that they use.

The writer picks up this Novel as a research subject because the writer found a lot of interesting point to compare in this novel. First of all, the writer found out that the structure of the sociolinguistic in this novel interesting, and the writer like to compare the difference of the language usage now and 50 years ago.

In this paper, the writer will try to analyze symbols that show up in the novel “Night on the Galactic Railroad” by Miyazawa Kenji. In brief, the novel tells us a story about the main protagonist Giovanni and his friend Campanella’s journey on the road of the Milky Way. This novel is highly appreciated in Japan, after 51 years of its publication, in 1985 a well-known animation director decides to adapt this story into an animation story with a duration of 113 minutes. Following the success of the animated film, a playwright called Sou Kitamura, decide to make a stage play based on the novel in 1986. The novel still well-received even until now, it’s widely played by high school drama clubs or even some big drama theatres in Japan.

The writer thinks that this novel has a great plot and a great message, the reason of why writer choose this novel as an object of research is because the writer found this story for the first time is when it is shortly depicted in a comic, and the way that the character in the comic plays the character of the story is really emotional and touching for the writer. It happens a long time ago, but the story still sticks in the writer’s memory.

1.2. Statement of problem

The writer aims to analyze the semiotic elements that the writer can found in the novel. The research will be focusing on finding down the information based on the signs that can be found, how is the sign being realized within the triadic model of Peirce’s method, then analyze the sign that writers can find within the Novel.

1.3. Research Question

Based on the problem on the sub chapter above, the writer would like to find and answer these questions:

1. What is the interpretation of the signs found in “Night on the Galactic Railroad” based on the Charles Sanders Peirce’s theory?

1.4. Goal and Function

By writing this research, the writer hopes that this research can enrich people’s knowledge about the semiotic signs that can be found in the novel “*Night on the Galactic Railroad*”

1.4.1. Goal

1. Finding the sign in the Novel and interpret it using Charles Sanders Peirce’s Theory.

1.4.2. Function

1. For the student

The writer wishes that this result can be used as a reference for the making of another research paper that is interested in making a semiotic analysis on a novel.

2. For the writer

The result of this study is expected to answer the questions that are being provided in this paper.

3. For the lecturer

The lecturer will be able to use this paper as a reference for the method of analyzing semiotics from any object based on Charles Sanders Peirce's theory

4. For the general reader

The general readers will be able to enrich their knowledge in the semiotics signs that can be founded on the novel "*Night on the Galactic Railroad*"

1.5.Scope and Limitation

In this paper, the writer focuses on using Charles Sanders Peirce's theory, Writer has arranged some scope and limitation. The scope of this study is to interpret the signs that are being shown in the novel "Night on the Galactic Railroad" from the first arc to the last one. The scope of this study will be presented in the form of qualitative in which the researcher uses Charles Sanders Peirce's theory of signs. The limitation of this research is due to this written piece being a short-written piece, The Writer got a hard time trying to find a sentence or data that contain a sign to analyze.

1.6. Conceptual Framework

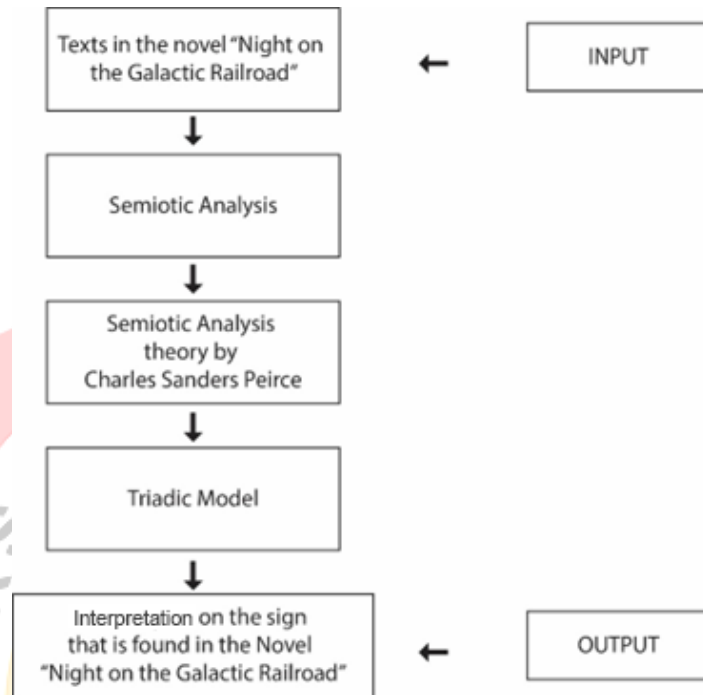


Figure.1.1 Conceptual framework

The conceptual framework shows that the writer use “Night on the Galactic Railroad” as an object of research. The process starts with the writer searching for data in this case a sentence, that consists of semiotic elements such as a sign, object, or interpretant. After that, the writer will list down all the data that the writer can found. The writer will break down the data into sign, object, and interpretant following Peirce’s theory. The writer will discuss the finding in the discussion chapter of this paper. In the end, the writer will present the result of the process to answer the research question that is being mentioned in this paper.

CHAPTER II

PREVIOUS STUDIES AND THEORITICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. Review of Previous Studies

There have been some studies about semantics analysis on a novel that the writer uses as a reference to make this paper. The first one, is a study by Irma Ningsih Ridwan (2013) with a title of *"Analysis semiotic in the novel Poison by Sara Poole"* same as the writer, the research object of this paper is a novel, the result that is being provided is also the same in a result of qualitative result, but it is delivered in a different kind of format, while writer use Peirce's theory to analyses the finding and break it down into sign, object, and interpretant, Ningsih used Saussure theory to analyses her object and delivered the result in the format of data, signifier, and signified.

The second study is a paper titled *"A semiotic Analysis on the Novel Paper Town by John Green"* written by Wulan Rachmawati (2018). Same with the writer, the research object of this paper is a novel. The result of Wulan's paper doesn't show any significant difference from writer's research since the method and the result that is provided in the paper isn't that much difference. Wulan used Peirce's theory to analyses her finding and breaking it down into sign, object, and interpretant, then further explained the process then provide her result in the form of qualitative result.

The third and the last study that the writer used for reference is *"A Semiotic Analysis of the John Wick 1 Film Using Charles Sanders' Peirce's Theory"* by Alfian Asyraq Pauzan (2018). The object that Alfian used is different with writer's writing,

in the study, Alfian used movie as an object of study while writer uses novel. While she used the same theory as writer's paper which is Peirce's theory, she broke down her finding into 3 kinds of Sign, Qualisign, Sinsign, and Legisign while writer breaks the finding into Sign, Object, and Interpretant. In term of the result presentation, writer's and Alfian's writing provide the result in the same format in which a qualitative result.

The similarity between the writer's study with the previous study that the writer mentioned above is that all of the studies are about semiotic analysis, while the difference is diverse for every study. With Wulan's study, the only difference is the data sources she uses both primary and secondary data sources, while the writer only uses secondary data sources. For Irma's study even if the object of the research is the same, but the method that she used is Saussure's theory instead of Peirce's theory, this will affect greatly how the finding result being provided in the paper. Lastly, for Alfian's study, there is a lot of difference that the writer can found, the object that Alfian use is a movie while the writer use novel as an object of research, even if the theory that is being used for the analyses is the same, Alfian provide her result in Qualisign, Singsign, and Legisign, while writer provide the data in the format of Sign, Object, and Interpretant.

2.2. Related theories

The concept in this study is the general idea about the definition of the title of this study. The concept in this study is divided into three concepts they are: Semiotics, Charles Sanders Peirce's theory of semiotic, and Novel Theory. First, writer will

explain the general meaning of Semiotics in brief, then compared 2 of the models that is commonly used to analyze a semiotic sign in a written piece which is Dyadic and Triadic, Peirce's theory of semiotic analysis which writer will use to analyze the data that the writer found in the novel "Night on The Galactic Railroad", then the theory of novel to further explain the object of the research in this paper.

2.2.1. Semiotics theory

Semiotic is a study of an object that can be used to define something, it is the study of how meaning is created, not what it is. Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2007) defines semiotics as the study of signs and symbols and their meaning and use. The term semiotics according to Encarta Encyclopaedia (2004) is the science of signs.

The two major founder of the semiotic theory are the American Philosopher Charles Sanders Peirce and the Swiss linguist Ferdinand de Saussure. Both of them base their theories on the fundamental distinction in the sign between the signifier and the signified, between the aural or written form of the sign and the meaning it embodies. Peirce termed these as signans and signatum, while Saussure termed it as significant and signified.

In his theory, Peirce classifies semiotic elements into sign or representamen, Object, and Interpretant, in which he presents the result in a form of the triadic model. On the other hand, Saussure classifies semiotic elements as signifiers and signified in which he presents the result in a form of Dyadic model.

Quoted from Halina Sendera Mohd.'s paper *The Semiotic Perspectives of Peirce and Saussure: A Brief Comparative Study* (2014) “The primary focus of Saussure’s theory is the principle that emphasized language as a system of sign. However, in his opinion the system of linguistic signs or language is the most superior sign system compared to other sign systems that exist because it plays an important role in constructing reality. Instead of focusing on the use of language (parole or speech), he focuses on the system of the language (langue) more. The basic concepts that Saussure used as a base is namely the two-dimensional system, the consensus or conventional system, the networking relationship between signs system and the arbitrary system.”

Other than Peirce, there is also 2 common theory of semiotic analysis that is being commonly used, it is Saussure's and Barthes's theory of semiotic. The most common characteristic of Barthes’s style is that he uses a lot of words to explain a few. He provides detailed analyses of short texts, passages and single images to explore how they work.

Another trait of his work is his constant systematization. He draws up schemes to categorize the signs and codes with which he used to divide a text, a narrative or a myth into different parts with different functions. He shows how the different parts hold together by drawing a blueprint-like schemes of the areas of discourse that he studied,

Instead of defining linguistic sign as a link between a thing and a name, Saussure think that it is a link between a concept and a sound pattern. The sound pattern is not actually a sound; for a sound is something physical. A sound pattern is the hearer’s psychological impression of a sound, as given to him by the evidence of his senses. This sound pattern may be called a ‘material’ element only in that it is the

representation of our sensory impressions. The sound pattern may thus be distinguished from the other element associated with it in a linguistic sign. This other element is generally of a more abstract kind: the concept.

2.2.2. Charles Sanders Peirce's Semiotic Theory

Charles Sanders Peirce (1839-1914), was a Harvard professor of mathematics and astronomy and, at the time, America's foremost mathematician, Sobur (2009: 39). A sign is defined by Peirce in Sobur (2009: 41) as "something which stands to somebody for something in some respect or capacity". These signs may include sounds, words, and everything that could give guidance as a process of communication. Studies of signs have become a serious field in linguistics and literature. Unlike the dyadic model offered by Ferdinand de Saussure, which consists of the signifier and signified, Charles Sanders Peirce offers a triadic model. Golden and Gerber (1994: 204) said that central to the process of semiosis is the triadic relationship involving the sign, the interpretant, and the object. Although Peirce published his work more than 10.000 pages but he never published the book that related to his study.

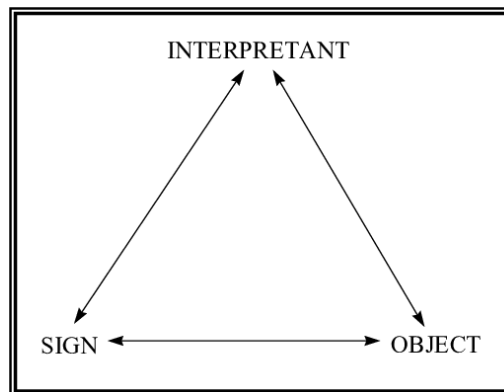


Fig.2.1 Peirce Triadic Model

Peirce, C. *Collected Writings* (8 Vols.). (1931–58). Ed. Charles Hartshorne, Paul Weiss & Arthur W Burks. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

The first element of the triadic model is The Sign. Sign is the element that represent something interpretable as saying something about a thing or the element "Object". The second element is object. The object is a fundamental tool in order to find an Interpretant of a Sign. "Object" can be anything discussable or thinkable including, a thing, event, relationship, or even an argument. The last element is interpretant. Interpretant is the "sign" clarified meaning, a kind of form or idea of the difference which the sign's being true. According to Sobur in his book titled "Semiotika Komunikasi" (2009:41), based on its representamen, Peirce divides signs into three, Qualisign, Sinsign, and Legisign.

1. A Qualisign is a quality which is in the sign. It cannot act as a sign until it is embodied. For example, peoples refer the colour white as clean or holy or black as dirty, dark, and gloomy.
2. A Sinsign is an actual event with a sign, for example, someone who is running with a terrified expression means that they are in a danger that they need to escape from. For example, the sound of a baby crying means that the baby is hungry.

3. A Legisign is a law that is in a sign. This law is usually established and agreed by a lot of people, such as traffic lights. For example, Nod means a confirmation or yes, while shaking head means Rejection or no.

Based on its object, a sign may be termed an icon, an index, or a symbol.

1. An icon is a sign that refers to the object that it denotes merely by virtue of characters of its own, and which it possesses, just the same, whether any such Object actually exists or not. For example, a picture of president Soekarno means the picture is an icon of president Soekarno.
2. An Index is a sign that show some sort of physical relationship with what is represents and point toward its meaning, but they will not be directly related to the signified. For example, smoke is an index of fire.
3. A symbol is a sign that refers to the object that it denotes by virtue of a law, usually an association of general ideas, which operates to cause the Symbol to be interpreted as referring to that Object. Such as traffic lights and national flags.

Based on its interpretation, signs consist of a rheme, a dicent, and an argument.

1. A rheme is a sign which is understood to represent its object in its characters merely such as red-nose which indicates that the person feels cold or was crying.
2. A dicent is a sign to describe the information of the interpretant. For example, the dangerous road in a city has a sign that indicates the road is dangerous because there are so many accidents happened on that road.

3. An argument is the logical reasoning of an interpretant. The example for Argument is the no smoking sign in gas station which indicates that the gas station is a place that easily flammable.

2.2.3. Novel theory

According to Merriam Webster (2022), a Novel is an invented prose narrative that is usually long and complex and deals especially with human experience through a usually connected sequence of events.

Novels are dedicated to narrating individual experiences of characters, creating a closer, more complex portrait of these characters and the world they live in. Inner feelings and thoughts and complex, even conflicting ideas or values are typically explored in the novel. It's not just the stories themselves that are more personal, but the experience of reading them as well.

According to Amanda Prah's (2019) writing "What is a novel? Definition and Characteristic", Traits that indicates a word to be considered as a Novel is: Written in prose, as opposed to verse. Narrators could have a different POV compared to the reader (first person versus third person and so on). While stylized novels such as epistolary novels do exist, the key distinction here is between prose and verse.

1. Of considerable length/word count. There is no specific word count that automatically makes a work a novel, a short novel would be considered a novella, and even a shorter one would be short fiction.

2. Fictional content. Semi-fictionalized novels (such as historical works inspired by true events or persons) exist, but a work of pure non-fiction would not be classified as a novel.

3. Individualism, both on the page and for the intended audience.

Most of the time, the novel is mostly associated with fiction, as opposed to nonfiction. Which birth the saying of “not all fiction is novels, but all novels are fiction”. A non-fiction prose work that is of the same length as a novel as historiography, biography, etc. wouldn't be considered as a novel.

Although in general, a novel is a work of fiction, many novels tell a story of real human history. This can range from full-fledged novels of historical fiction, focusing on a specific era in history or depicting semi-fictional narratives about real historical persons, to works of fiction that simply exist in the “real” world and carry that baggage and implications.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. Research Approach

In conducting research, there are two types of approaches in doing a research, quantitative, and qualitative approach. This research uses the approach of qualitative, where the qualitative approach will be used to explain all the symbols that the researcher found. The researcher chooses to use qualitative approaches because the researcher is trying to analyze thoroughly the symbol and the graph of the semiotic symbol that can be seen in the novel.

3.2. Data Type

Primary data is a type of data that is collected by researchers directly from a main source through interviews, surveys, experiments, etc. Primary data usually collected from the source where the data originally originates from and are regarded as the best kind of data in research. Whereas secondary data is a data that is compiled but not by the writer or data in the form of documents, for example, the articles, supporters, geographical data, and so on (Safi'I, 2005:141). In another word, secondary data are a data that already exists. In this research, the researcher is using secondary data because the researcher used a novel as a data source that already exists even before this research was made.

3.3. Data Source

The data source for this research is a novel written by Miyazawa Kenji titled “Night on the Galactic Railroad” The novel is being published on 1934 as a part of Complete Works of Kenji Miyazawa Vol. 3 by Bunpodou. Even though this particular work from Miyazawa Kenji never received any award, it has been adapted into several other entertainment form such as animated film, stage adaptations, and Illustrated e-book. The reason why the researcher chooses this novel as a source is that the researcher found a short segment in a comic that tells a story about this novel. The character in the novel is being portrayed really well in the comic, and it makes the writer really interested in the novel.

3.4. Technique of data collection

There are several steps that the researcher follows to collect the data from the movie which is:

1. The researcher read the novel “Night on the Galactic Railroad”.
2. The researcher lists the data that the researcher found in the novel based on the category of signs, objects, and interpretants.
3. The researcher takes note of what happens within each chapter of the novel.

3.5. Technique of Data Analysis

1. The researcher looks carefully for the semiotic elements that are being shown in the novel.
2. The researcher divides the data that the researcher found by using Charles Sanders Peirce's theory.
3. The researcher explains briefly about the data then breaks down the data that the researcher found based on its sign, object, or interpretant.

