

The Character-Values Reflected In The Poem “Im Nebel” By Herman Hesse, A Semiotic Analysis

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Abstract. The objective of this research is to analyse the poem Im Nebel written by Herman to find out the character-values, which are reflected in this poem. The analysis used the semiotic-approach, as one of the approaches of literature study, based on the semiotic theory of Charles Sanders Peirce. Peirce has claimed three terms of signs, those are ikon, index and symbol. The analysis is done to see, how the writer of this poem used these signs to express character-values. The result of this research shows, that the poem Im Nebel contains some character-values, such as honesty, emphaty, sincerity, faithful, solidarity, which are expressed through both the nature of the poem (theme, tone, feeling, purpose), and the methods of the poem (diction, imagery, rhyme, figurative language). Some certain words, phrases and sentences, which use in this poem, are in the same time be seen as the signs ikon, index or symbol, which reflected the character-values meant. The result of this research leads to the recommendation, that it is important to combine the literature teaching and the character building or character education, because literature work is basically rich in character values. The result implicates to the literary instruction that is to increase the quality of the literary instruction itself.

Keywords. index; symbol; character-values

1. Introduction

Literature work is a result of writer creativity, who use language as a tool to express ideas, which will be offered, according to the life experience of the writer. It can be noted, that the literature work can be both as the result of creativity and a the selection of the writers life experience. Strelka said " *ein literarischer text ist ein Kunstwerk, der sich in ein geschlossenes Ganzes, und zwar nicht nur in Form eines empirischen, sondern eines ästhetischen Phänomens darstellt* ". Eagleton said " literature is imaginative writing in the sense of fiction, a special kind of language in contrast to the ordinary language we commonly use".

This study aims to analyse and to describe about character-values, which is reflected in the poem Im Nebel written by Hermann Hesse, by using the semiotic approach as one of the approaches of literature study, based on the semiotic theory of Charles sanders Peirce. This study offers a combinaton of literature study and character building, which is an essential part of any education nowadays.

2. Literature Review

Klarer said, that poem is related to the word lyric, which from the word lyra (Greek), a kind of music instrument[1]. Poem is then be understood as words with music. Poem is also related to the words poieo and poiesis, which means to produce or to create. Poem is therefore means as a creation or a product of a writer. The different between poem and the other literature works (prose and drama) is that the poem use only limited and compacted words, but meaningful words. It can be said, that poem is the best words in the best order.

Eagleton claimed "Semiotic or semiology is the systematic study of signs"[2]. Sudjiman and Zoest said, that semiotic is a study of sign and all things that related to the study[3]. Ferdinand de Saussure and Charles Sanders Peirce are the pioneer of the semiotic theory. To see the relation of the sign with the thing that the sign refers to, de Saussure claimed two principal terms, those are signifier and signified. On the other side, Peirce introduced three prime terms, those are icon, index, symbol. In literature study, there are some approaches to be used. One of them is the semiotic approach. Pradopo said, that semiotic study in literature is an analysis of literature work as a sign system to establish the conventions, which makes the literature work has a meaning[4]. According to this semiotic approach point of view, the language (words, phrases, sentences), the punctuation, which are used in a literature work, must be understood as signs. All these signs reflected certain meaning. The meaning should be found and interpreted. This is the work of semiotic analysis, that is to find out the meaning behind the signs.

Kutha Ratna explained, that character comes from the word karakter (Greek), which first means a tool for carving, but later it is meant as one's characteristic, which make them different from the other[5]. Character is the mental and moral qualities distinctive to an individual. Character is the particular combination of qualities in a person or place that make them different from others (<https://dictionarycambridge.org>). Value is ideas, beliefs or understanding one has that guide and reflected in one's behavior. Character value is the core of ethical values that transcend cultural, religious and socioeconomic differences.

3. Method

The study uses the qualitatif approach. The prime data consist of words or text. The data are colleted through observation, interview, document[6]. The method is the qualitative content analysis, which used to analyze or to interpret a text, based on the semiotic approach of literature study. The poem Im Nebel as data is taken from the the book with the title Blauer Abend in Berlin, Zweisprachige Anthologie Deutscher Lyrik aus Achthundert Jahren, which translated by Ramadhan K.H

4. Discussion

This article is developed mainly based on secondary data of two previous studies conducted in Batur geotourism site followed by a focus group discussion (FGD) for verification of the perceived elements forming the geotourism product of Batur identified during the two earlier studies. The first research is qualitative study on geotourism products - a visitor perspective in Batur geosite. The second study is quantitative study assessing geotourism product that could be provided by the local community - a local perspective in the area of Batur geotourism site. Lastly, is discussion of geotourism product descriptions resulted from previous studies conducted through a focus group discussion (FGD) mechanism.

The purpose of the current research is to identify the geotourism produk packages needed by geotourist and available in Batur geotourism site. Geotourism product elements to be identified for geotourism packages include: geotourism attraction and supporting elements consisting of accommodation, food and drink, transportation.

The writer of the poem Im Nebel, Hermann Hesse, is a german famous writer. He was born on 02. July 1877 in Calw germany and was died on 09. August 1962 in Montagnola, Switzerland. He has got the Goethe price of Frankfurt in 1946. Hesse had already written the poem in 1905, but it is just published in 1908. At that time, he was almost thirty years old.

The poem *Im Nebel* consists of four verses and each verse consist of four lines. The complete text of the poem is as follows:

Im Nebel

Seltsam, im Nebel zu wandern!
 Einsam ist jeder Busch und Stein,
 Kein Baum sieht den andern,
 Jeder ist allein.

Voll von Frunden ar mir die Welt,
 Als noch mein Leben Licht war,
 Nun, da der Nebel fällt,
 Ist keiner mehr sichtbar.

Wahrlich, keiner ist weise,
 Der nicht das dunkel kennt,
 Das unentrinnbar und leise,
 Von allen ihn trennt.

Seltsam, im Nebel zu wandern,
 Leben ist einsamsein.
 Kein Mensch kennt den andern,
 Jeder ist allein.

In the mist

Strange, to wander in the mist
 Lonely, every bush and stone
 No tree sees the other
 Each one is alone.

Full of friend was my world
 When my life still was light
 Now that the mist falls,
 They no more in sight

Truely, no one is wise
 Who doesn't know the dark
 That unescapably, quietly
 Sets him apart.

Strange, to wander in the mist
 Life means to be your own
 No man knows the other
 Each one is alone.

The theme of this poem is loneliness. The writer feels forgotten and left behind. This loneliness is reflected clearly from the selected dictions like *einsam* (lonely), *allein* (alone), *dunkel* (dark), *Nebel* (mist). The title *Im Nebel* is a metaphor, that refers to a bad situation of the writer. The life of him has changed. This metaphor is also a sign, that is an index that reflects the life situation of the writer now. How and what kind of mist (*Nebel*) comes to the life of the writer is step by step revealed from verse 1 to verse 4.

The verse 1 explains, how the writer feels strange with the change in his life (Strange, to wander in the mist; verse 1, line 1). The dictions *bush*, *stone* (verse 1, line 2), are here metaphors but also signs, an iconic signs, that refer to the people, that have forgot and left him behind. So is the diction *tree* (line 3). It is a personification and also an iconic sign, that refer to the friends, who don't want to see and take care of him again. They left him alone.

Verse 2 explains clearer about the change in his life. *Voll von Freunden war mir die Welt, als noch mein Leben licht war* (Full of friend was my world, When my life still was light). The writer used the antithesis style to describe his previous life. The Phrase *voll von Freunden* and the word *licht* are here understood as a symbol of life prosperity. The word *voll* clarifies the meaning of the prosperity. Line 3 and 4 explain his life now. He has nobody anymore, because he has nothing anymore. It is very ironic situation.

In verse 3, the writer try to describe his idea or his conception of man and the life in the world. Line 1-4: *Wahrlich, keiner ist weise, Der nicht das Dunkel kennt, das unentrinnbar und leise, Von allen ihn trennt*. According to him, nobody is wise and don't know about the dark, which will separate him from the world. Nobody is wise and can be avoided from the dark. The phrase *das Dunkel* (dark) is a symbol, which refers to the meaning of the bad situation of life, like loneliness, disappointment, poverty, sickness and so on. The phrase *das Dunkel* has also another meaning association, that is the death. Nobody knows about the death, nobody can be avoided from the death. The death will separate man from the world (line 3,4: *Das unentrinnbar und leise, Von allen ihn trennt* – That unescapably quietly, set him apart).

Verse 4 has a parallel meaning with the verse 1. When the verse 1 use metaphor and personification, verse 4 use direct language (denotative). Verse 4 is the conclusion of this poem. What the writer want to say about the life can be seen here in verse 4. Life is *einsam* (alone), life is *Einsamsein* (loneliness).

No man knows the other, each one is alone. That is the mist, that comes to the life of the writer. This verse 4 has the function to clarify the meaning of the change that happen to the writer, like what is described in verse 1-3.

The semiotic analysis above leads to the finding of the character values reflected in this poem, through the words, the phrases and the sentences, which some of them in the same time are be seen as semiotic signs (icon, index and symbol) within this poem. The analysis shows, that this poem contains some character values. From this poem the reader of this poem can learn about the true friendship. The writer told, that he had formerly so many friend, as he had everything, but now they have gone, because he has nothing anymore. A true friendship needs faithful, solidarity, loyalty, sincerity. The friends of the writer are example for the man, who has bad character. They want to be friend with someone, who can give them pleasure. The poem teach the reader also about sympathy and empathy, teach about social sensitivity to take care of some one, who need help.

The FGD was attended by representatives of stakeholders of the Batur geotourism site namely: local communities, village leaders, related government offices in Bangli Regency (Tourism and Culture, Industry and Trade, Environment), Batur Global Geopark Manager, Center for conservation of natural resources, communities and tourism service providers community in Batur geotourism site. Input obtained from FGD participants was integrated into the results of the study to enrich and refine the results of the two earlier studies.

5. Conclusion

The poem Im Nebel written by Hermann Hesse reflected some character values, such as faithful, empathy, simphaty, solidarity, sincerity. In other words, the poem reflected character of social sensitivity, to make the reader aware to be a good man, a good friend, who never forget the good things he has ever received from someone. All these values are expressed through the words, phrases, sentences, with metaphors, personification, and antithesis language style. In the same time some of the selected dictions are be seen as semiotic signs (icon, index, symbol), which reflected the values meant.

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