

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of Study

Language is the expression of ideas by means of speech-sounds combined into words. Words are combined into sentences, this combination answering to that of ideas into thoughts. Language plays an important part in humans' life in term of communication in order to contribute their ideas.

There are many ways to express the ideas or thought and to convey a message experienced by someone. An author of a novel or a script writer of a film tend to convey what they have experienced through their literary works. In understanding the literary works there are some ways to be able to help people to understand the literary work. Some of the medias are allegorry, imagery, figure of speech, irony any symbols. Humans not only perceive or feeling something through their sense organs, learn through their consciousness, evaluate from the cognitive perspective and probe into the related links, objects and phenomena in the real world, but also update existing information, process, summarize, evaluate, filter, and practically use, thus creating a space of language symbols.

Symbol contains deeper meaning than the real meaning. It is pertinent to point out that language symbols (characters) are an indicator of ethnic-cultural and ethnic-cognitive system of a language. The content of symbols in a language supplement national characters and attributes. Symbol can be expressed in different shapes. Generally, symbol is an object that represent another object to give different meanings from the real meaning and contain deeper and more

significant meaning. This is the way of the authors to give more meanings and emotions towards the words in his/her literary works (Landy&Goldstone, 2007).

In literature, symbol basically carries the meaning of the literary device that the authors use to convey their message in directly by using symbol, whether for the sake of decorating the work in order to give artistic beauty or for other purpose (Landy&Goldstone, 2007). So, it can be said that a literary work without a symbolism in it, is just like a work of word on a paper or a picture documentary video and the symbol in a literary work not only make the novel, movie or a poetry look beautiful but also worth to watch because movie as a literary work, reflected or mirrored the real life of human being. Movie is included into literary works.

The migration of Batak people to the city began in 1910 but only after Indonesia's independence was the biggest migration in the 50's. Migration to cities has led to interactions with other ethnic groups in Indonesia, where the majority of the population is Muslim. In this multi-ethnic environment, many Batak people find a sense of Batak identity that becomes stronger against other tribes. But many Bataks also in the process of uniting themselves with Indonesian society left behind many aspects of their language, culture and tradition. On the other hand there are parts of the city Batak people who have become more aware of the interests of the Batak community's identity and are trying to emphasize their sense of Batak and provide funds for monument ceremonies and other celebrations in his village.

We all have to live in a modern world and have to face global media and advertising, whether we like it or not are increasingly influencing everyone's thoughts and tastes. We are not able to stay in the past and flee from progress. However, there is a threat that in this generation can eliminate the meaning in a symbol, which until recently was a manifestation of the Toba Batak culture which is very important both in the community and spiritual fields.

There are some previous studies that have examined the symbol and related to the author's research. Pasaribu (2007), carried out a research about function and Meaning of Umpasa in Toba Batak's traditional wedding ceremony. The results showed that the meanings and functions of the terms are also closely related to the wedding process of the Toba Batak society and also to Toba Batak's philosophy that usually used in Toba Batak's traditional wedding ceremony to refine and beautify the language. This shows a sense of mutual respect between hosts and invited guests, especially between hula-hula (the wife giver) and boru (the wife receiver). Of all the umpasa presented at the Toba Batak Traditional Wedding Ceremony, Meaning and Function is usually used to show: blessing, respecting, praising, advising, thanking, agreeing, expecting, opening and closing.

Situmorang (2009), conducted a research about analysis on color symbols in Tobanese Batak Ulos". The research method on the paper was a descriptive qualitative method and the theory where the meaning was elaborated by using Louis Hjelmslev semiotic theory. The result that he found, in Tobanese Batak culture, three colors are most dominant, they are white symbolizes the truth, red symbolizes bravery and black symbolizes mysticism. The writer has collected data from some books of Batak culture and Tobanese Ulos Batak.

Ichwana (2017) in her study, tried to find the symbolism in *Rob Marshall's Memoir of a Geisha* movie. The research method used in this paper was a documentary technique which is related to the grounded theory where the meaning are elaborated by using Ferdinand D Saussure semiotic theory. She found that, there were 21 symbols that appear in the movie. Those symbols were red, black, white, throwing salt, burn incense, kibiri, serving tea, snow dance, mizuage, tunnel, cherry blossom, maple leaves, water, fire, full coloured-lip, kimono, bell flower crest, obi, rice cake in red box, golden fish and tiger. The meaning for all the symbols were dangerous, joy, evil, formality, status, purify, good luck, honor, forbidden love, the practice, demarcation point, spring, autumn, adaptability, the character, the district, virginity, maturity, fearless, free and cruel.

Another one that finished her research, Tanduk (2015) tried to find the symbolization of meaning of *singgi tedongin* traditional ceremony at tana toraja. This study implemented a qualitative method. Analysis phase was done to identify image of the meaning of the symbol of ritual speech of each word uttered from the opening, the content, and the closing ceremony. Meaning of the symbols of *Singgi 'Tedong in Traditional Ceremony Merauk Rambu Tuka'* was to invoke a blessing from God, so that the family could establish close relationships; and explain a position, status, employment, education, or lineage.

In this study, the researcher is interested to analyze the cultural symbolization used in movie. The cultural symbolization is chosen in this study, it is because the symbolization relates with the message or meaning that is trying to be conveyed by the authors of the movie script and to get deeper understanding about cultural symbolization and cultural literary works.

The researcher chooses Toba Dreams movie as the object of this study because the movie tells the reader about the dream of Sergeant Major Tebe who wants to live in peace and peace in relying on retired army money and choosing to go home to build his hometown. But Ronggur refused, he wanted to prove that all this time his father had chosen the wrong way of life. With full tactics, Ronggur transformed into a drug mafia frontman and captured Andini from his parents who did not approve of their relationship. The researcher wants to give more information about Bataknese culture through the symbols used in this movie.

In this study, the researcher used Eco (2008) theory that divides symbols into seven parts, namely colour, nature, direction, animal, location, gesture and word. This language style will be analyzed in the data.

Based on observation by researcher after watching the movie, researcher found a conversation that shows the symbolization of culture. The conversation took place when the entire family of Sergeant Major TB returned to their village, Island of Samosir. The residents welcomed the TB major family warmly.

Residents: Long time no see, sir TB! **Horasss!!!!**

Major TB: **Horasss** baa!!!

This conversation appeared at 12.09 minutes. At that time, Sergeant Major TB was told that he had to return to his hometown on Lake Toba because he had retired from the army academy and brought his entire family back to his hometown. The local residents felt a little shocked by the return of the major Sergeant TB and immediately said "Horas". From the preliminary data, we can

conclude it into Word. Horas is a typical Batak greeting. The word "Horas" is an expression of joy and gratitude for the salvation and blessings for the almighty god. Horas is said when meeting or when going apart. Horas is also used as an opening and closing greeting in every Batak event.

Nowadays, many people of batak tribe do not have knowledge of the meaning contained in their culture because of the development of technology that is very rapid. Even though technology has developed very rapidly, they still lack knowledge in their culture.

### **B. Identification of Problem**

Based on the background of the study, some problems were identified as follows:

1. In this era, many teenagers do not know about culture of a tribe,
2. Many people begin to care less about their culture,
3. Many people do not understand about the meaning of a symbol in their culture,
4. Many people do not know about the interpreting of the symbols.

### **C. Problem of the Study**

Based on the problems that have been described in the background, the problems were formulated as forward:

1. What kinds of symbol that appears in *Toba Dreams* movie?
2. How are the symbols realized in *Toba Dreams* movie ?
3. Why the symbols has a meaning as the way they are?

#### **D. Objectives of the Study**

In relation to the problems, the objectives were:

1. to find out the types of symbols that used in the *Toba Dreams* movie,
2. to elaborate how the symbols realized in *Toba Dreams* movie,
3. to describe why the symbols has a meaning in *Toba Dreams* movie.

#### **E. Scope of the Study**

This study will be focused on the symbolism by Eco: colour, nature, direction, animal, location, gesture and word . This study specifically investigates the meaning and only focuses on *Toba Dreams* movie.

#### **F. Significants of the Study**

The Findings of this study were expected to give both theoretical and practical significant in symbolism study.

Theoretically, this study was expected to be useful for English and Literature students in order to enhance their knowledge about semiotics related to culture, especially bataknese culture which was concerned on *Toba Dreams* movie.

Practically, the findings was expected to be useful for the researchers who were interested in doing further study on semiotics in order to be a reference or comparison.



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