

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Literature is a social institution, using as its medium languages, a social creation. Literature is the background of real life. Through literature, we will come to know more about life. Based on its parts, literature is divided into three kinds namely: theory of literature, the history of literature and literary criticism. Literary criticism is a part of literature that consists of comprehension, interpretation and intellectual activity of literary works.

Literature is divided in three parts namely: prose, poetry and drama. This thesis focuses on prose in the form of novel. Understanding a novel requires strong motivation on the part of the reader to learn what is presented by the author.

In doing writing, most writers commonly have a challenge to win their readers. Readers' interest in consuming a writer's novel becomes part of important thing for the writer. In addition, the writer's style to arrange his/ her imagination through the novel becomes an important point for the readers. That is why some writers keep maintaining their style in writing to get closer to the readers by expressing their idea. The words that have been arranged by a writer attract a readers' interest, so that he/ she will read the novel.

Style is thus not a phenomenon that is restricted to literature. One of writing style that often be found in the novel is the use of symbolism. Language itself is a system of spoken or written symbols by which we communicate. Every

word is a symbol; the five letters that form the word 'chair' represent a sound as well as a physical object.

Symbolism in literature is the deepness and hidden meaning in a piece of work. It is often used to represent a moral or religious belief or value. Without symbolism literature is just a bunch of meaningless words on paper. By the reason above, many novels written in such of symbolism regarded as the language which is close to human daily communication.

A symbol has complex meaning; it has not only "literal" meaning, but also additional meaning(s) beyond the literal. Sometimes the literal meaning of a symbol is absurd, so that the symbolic meaning over-rides and cancels out the literal meaning. A symbol may have more than one meaning. In fact, the most significant symbols do convey an indefinite range of meanings.

Using such an image only aims at indirectly referring to the abstract idea of justice which exists outside of such a representation. On the other hand, the symbol has a syncretic value: it represents and signifies at the same time, it fuses the object and its secondary meaning.

In writing, symbolism is the use of a word, a phrase, or a description, which represents a deeper meaning than the words themselves. This kind of extension of meaning can transform the written word into a very powerful instrument. Symbols are techniques authors use to provide a rich under current to their theme and message. Symbols can express deeper meaning and richer import than straight explanations can because of the images symbols and associations evoke.

Lombardi states, in literature, symbolism is used to provide meaning to the writing beyond what is actually being described. The plot and action that take place in a story can be thought of as one level, while the symbolism of certain things in the writing acts on another level to enhance the story. The author uses an object or reference to add deeper meaning to a story. Symbolism in literature is one of the many tools that writers employ in order to generate not only interest in one's work but also to create another level of meaning. (http://classiclit.about.com/od/literaryterms/g/aa_whatisliter.htm)

Symbolism is the practice or art of using an object or a word to represent an abstract idea. An action, person, place, word, or object can all have a symbolic meaning. When an author wants to suggest a certain mood or emotion, he can also use symbolism to hint at it, rather than just blatantly saying it. Symbolism consists of using a single object within a story that stands for something else. A literary symbol is something that has greater meaning than its mere literal significance in a story or poem.

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Many authors embed subtle images into their work to make it deeper, richer, more meaningful and colorful. Authors may also use symbolism to allude to a mood or feeling without coming out and stating that particular emotion.

Authors often use symbolism to communicate a deeper idea than they actually write.

Symbolism is an object used by an author to open doors of meaning. They use objects, actions, and characters to give more meaning to the thing itself. In literature, characters can symbolize something of a deeper meaning. Symbolism helps readers connect the story to other main ideas.

(http://wiki.answers.com/Q/Why_do_authors_use_symbols#htm)

Authors insert symbols into their writing to allude to a feeling, mood or attitude without directly stating the perspective or mood intended. Symbolism is supplemental to the story. Some people believe that some symbols have a universal range of meaning; that is, like Jung in Cirlot (1971:51), they believe that some symbols occur with the same meaning across individual and cultural boundaries.

Symbols are techniques authors use to provide a rich undercurrent to their theme and message. Symbols can express deeper meaning and richer import than straight explanations can because of the images symbols and associations evoke. For example, the Alps evoke strong images of might, loftiness, purity, freedom, so a heroine who regularly wears a necklace with a pendant shaped as part of the Alps will be strongly associated with the qualities ascribed to the Alpine Mountains.

Therefore, Salinger used symbols in order to give a deeper, richer fabric of understanding to Holden's struggle with growing

up.(<http://www.enotes.com/catcher-in-the-rye/discuss/why-does-author-use-symbols-show-holdens-stru-htm>)

The most symbolic piece of work in American Literature is Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*. Hawthorne's use of symbolism in *The Scarlet Letter* is one of the most significant contributions to the rise of American Literature.

Much of Hawthorne's symbolism is very hard to find but several symbols are also obvious. Nathaniel Hawthorne's use of symbolism in *The Scarlet Letter* shows his greatness to produce a novel of the highest possible caliber

By analyzing the symbolic meaning in this novel, it will clarify the universal value of the story in the novel and the hidden value of the symbol is worth knowing because it concerns with the social life.

B. The Problems of the study

The problems, which will be analyzed in this study, are:

1. What are the kinds of symbolism in Nathaniel Hawthorne *Scarlet Letter* novel?
2. Why Authors Use Symbolism in Nathaniel Hawthorne *Scarlet Letter* novel?

C. The Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To find out the kinds of symbolism in Nathaniel Hawthorne *Scarlet Letter* Novel.

2. To find out the reason why the authors use symbols in Nathaniel Hawthorne *Scarlet Letter* novel.

D. The Scope of the study

The Scope of the study is focused on symbolic meaning which is presented by the characters and some places and the scarlet letter 'A' in the novel, to show humanity's attitude and the hidden value of the symbol which is worth knowing because it concerns with the social life.

E. The Significance of the study

By analyzing the symbols in *Scarlet Letter* novel, we will understand some symbols in it which have hidden meaning. The writer also expects that the finding of this study give some advantages for students of language who are interesting in study about symbolism, so they may understand easily about symbolism in novel. And also to the teachers or lecturers who are teaching prose.

