

**The Enigma of Five Codes in Mario Puzo's Omerta**

**A THESIS**

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**BY**

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## ABSTRAK

Penulis dalam penelitian ini membahas novel Omerta karya Mario Puzo. Penulis melihat bahwa novel ini perlu di analisa lebih lanjut karena didalamnya terdapat kode-kode yang tersembunyi di balik aksi- aksi, kata-kata dan penggambaran karakternya. Kode-kode tersebut memiliki makna-makna tersembunyi dan samar, sehingga perlu sebuah penelitian kesusasteraan untuk mengungkapnya. Kode-kode tersebut merupakan rangkaian struktur karya sastra yang saling terkait dan melengkapi satu sama lainnya, sehingga menjadikan karya sastra tersebut utuh dan mampu membuat makna tersendiri dari setiap pembacanya.

Dalam membahas karya tersebut, penulis menggunakan teori semiotik 'Lima Kode', yang ditemukan dan dikembangkan oleh Roland Barthes. Teori ini mengkatagorikan kode yang terdapat dalam sebuah karya sastra kedalam lima kategori, antara lain: *proairetic code*, *hermeneutic code*, *semic code*, *symbolic code* dan *culture code*. Sehingga pada akhirnya akan dapat disimpulkan apakah karya tersebut layak dianggap sebagai karya sastra yang menurut Roland Barthes *readerly* yaitu karya yang hanya untuk dibaca saja atau karya sastra *writerly*, yaitu karya tersebut mengundang pembacanya untuk menganalisa dan menginterpertasikan makna- makna yang tersembunyi didalam karya tersebut.

Dari hasil analisa lima kode, penulis menyimpulkan bahwa novel Omerta karya Mario Puzo sebagai karya *writerly* teks. Penulis menemukan banyak kode-kode yang bersifat mengundang pembaca untuk menginterpertasikannya. Hal ini terjadi karena karya tersebut menyembunyikan makna, jalan ceritanya yang rumit, serta banyaknya pertanyaan-pertanyaan yang tidak terjawab pada karya tersebut.

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. The Background of the Research

In essence, every literary work has particular structural patterns, one of those patterns that plays a very essential role in the world of literary criticism is so called five codes proposed by Roland Barthes. This research investigates the hidden five codes in Mario Puzo's Omerta. Omerta is the third novel in Mario Puzo's Mafia trilogy, published a year after his death in 1999. The term omerta itself actually refers to the Mafioso Sicilian code of silence, which has been the cornerstone of the Mafia's sense of honors for centuries. The story of this novel tells about A New York mob boss Don Raymond Aprile who has been assassinated. His adopted nephew, Astorre Viola, investigated the murder of his uncle. He reveals the mystery of the embellishment and finds the truth inside this mystery.

This research is conducted because various aspects of five codes in Mario Puzo's Omerta are very intricate, hidden and hard to decipher. Moreover, the writer chooses this novel as the object of the research because it implies many interesting aspects of five codes concerning on various symbols and codes that are very appropriate for this research.

Thus, the writer is challenged to analyze the novel by using Barthes' five codes. The writer wants to prove that there are many codes build a text. Furthermore, the core benefit of this research is to enrich the world of literary criticism in the Faculty of Letters, and to reveal the significances of five codes in critical values of literary works. The writer sees that there are not many students in the English Department of Andalas University who apply Roland Barthes' five codes. The students need more references to help them criticize the literary works. The writer entitles her research: "The Enigma of Five Codes in Mario Puzo's Omerta".

### **1.2. The Identification of the Problem**

The writer analyzes a novel by Mario Puzo entitled Omerta. Mario Puzo's Omerta actually implies various hidden aspects of proaretic code, hermeneutic code, semic code, symbolic code and cultural code, meanwhile those codes are remaining absurd, intricate and difficult to decipher. Those various codes cannot be seen from the surface of the works. Deep interpretation and a deep analysis are needed for this matter. These are the core problems in this research. The writer will explore all the codes one by one and clarify what lies behind that literary work in order to get a profound understanding of the novel.

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION

After analyzing novel, the writer finds all the five codes which refer to Roland Barthes's semiotic theory. The five major codes are proairetic code, hermeneutic code, symbolic code, semic code and cultural code.

Proairetic code talks about the indication of the action within the plot of the story, in Omerta, the actions are shown through the main character's actions. In this analysis the writer finds fifteen action codes in the novel. Thereby, the proairetic codes can give the readers explanation about what happen to the main character in his life, the are various action codes that found in this research, as follows : 'to adopt', 'to investigate', 'to trap', 'to ambush', 'to incarcerate', 'to interrogate', 'to threaten', 'to kill', 'to escape', 'to search', 'to collusion', 'to imprison', 'to agitate', 'to save', 'to revenge', 'to return'. The second code is hermeneutic code. Hermeneutic code is associated with mystery, enigma, or interesting question in a literary work. The enigma occurs in reader's mind. In this analysis, the writer finds several questions that appear in the text, and make the reader feel confused to understand it. The main mystery questions that appear are, will Astorre Viola be the next mafia when he was brought up by Don Aprile? The second question is How Astorre takes his revenge of Don's embellishment? The third code is semic code it focuses on character that affects narrative. In this analysis the writer finds the semic code through the main character. There are Don Aprilee and Astoree Viola, the conntation of Don Aprile are 'power', 'leadership',

and 'generous', while the connotation of Astorice character are 'great', 'courage', and 'loyalty'. The fourth code is symbolic codes, it focuses on binary opposition that influences the text. The writer finds five symbolic codes or opposition that appear in the text, as follows; murdered and murderer, hunter and huntee, betrayals and loyalty, lovers and enemies, Sicily and America. The last code is cultural code, also called the voice of science or knowledge. It is aspects outside the work, but it is significant and gives effect on that work. There are cultural codes found in the novel, as follows; the Mafioso code of omerta, and the value of mafia's life.

After analyzing the novel, the writer concludes that this novel is considered as writerly literary work, it is because text has invited the reader to analyze what is going on with the story, and the novel also takes the readers to interpret them in order to get the meaning.

In conclusion, five codes theory by Roland Barthes helps the readers to get better understanding and interpretations about what is actually available inside. It can help the readers to realize the information or meaning which is contained in the work, and can give reality that all narrative has structure and there are many codes build a text in literary work.

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