ARCHETYPAL IMAGES AND SYMBOLS IN DAN BROWN'S

THE DA VINCI CODE

A THESIS

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of Requirement
of the Degree of Sarjana Sastra

MIRA UTAMI
04 185 117

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT-FACULTY OF LETTERS

ANDALAS UNIVERSITY

PADANG

2010

ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini membahas tentang simbol Arketip yang muncul dalam novel The Da Vinci Code karya Dan Brown. Dalam menemukan dan membahas simbol yang muncul, penulis menyesuaikan dengan simbol-simbol kolektif yang sesuai dengan simbol-simbol Arketip, karena pendekatan Arketip sudah cocok digunakan untuk memahami simbol-simbol tersebut.

Dalam melakukan penelitian ini, penulis merujuk kepada simbol-simbol Arketip yang terangkum di dalam buku A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature karangan Wilfred L. Guerin et. Al. Sementara sebagai metode pengumpulan data, penulis menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif (qualitative research method). Dengan metode ini, penulis menemukan simbol-simbol yang digunakan oleh pengarang didalam novelnya lalu menganalisa simbol tersebut sesuai dengan simbol kolektif Arketip. Setelah mendapatkan hasil yang sesuai, hasil tersebut kemudian dijabarkan secara deskriptif agar simbol-simbol Arketip yang muncul dapat lebih mudah dipahami. Untuk menganalisa novel ini, penulis tidak hanya menggunakan buku itu sendiri sebagai sumber utama tetapi juga sumber-sumber lainnya seperti artikel, internet dan sumber lain yang menunjang analisa penulis.

Setelah melakukan analisis terhadap novel ini, penulis menemukan beberapa simbol yang bisa dikategorikan sebagai simbol yang termasuk dalam kategori Arketip. Oleh karena itu penulis mencoba untuk memberi penjelasan yang lebih detil pada analisis simbol Arketip karena penulis menemukan bahwa simbol-simbol tersebut sangat berkaitan erat dengan cerita pada novel. Selain itu simbol-simbol Arketip tersebut juga erperan penting untuk memperkuat jalan cerita dan mempunyai pengaruh yang sangat besar terhadap isi novel itu sendiri.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. THE BACKGROUND OF THE RESEARCH

Life is full of images and symbols. Thus, the writer wants to reveal the meaning behind images and symbols in literary works because when studying about archetypal literary criticism, it could be found that the symbols influence the people and the society deeply. There are many symbols appears in different cultures or groups of people, but they have the same meaning. It is great because archetypal symbol and images came from human's collective unconsciousness which means that there would be some mystery behind it. How some different cultures could have had similar symbols which appears on their custom without any agreements between them? They just know and believe in the meaning of the symbols no matter other group's perception about it, while there are similarities about the symbols they don't realize. Pursuant to these questions, the writer is interested in studying some archetypal symbols which appears in Dan Brown's novel The Da Vinci Code. The writer wants to reveal the implied meaning behind the symbols and images which appears in the novel clearly, but can't be understood easily without doing some research. Moreover, this research is significant as it is to reveal the visible images and symbols related to human's life in the novel but unresolved immediately while the novel is read.

1.2. THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE PROBLEM

This novel is a bestseller novel as the story reveals the mystery behind Da Vinci's phenomenal painting, "Monalisa". In this novel, the writer finds many images and symbols which later classifiable into semiotic and archetypal symbols. There are various images and symbol in this novel that are very intricate and hard to decipher. Consequently the most potent approach to reveals the meaning is archetypal criticism because this approach has covered the scope of images and symbols which is found in the novel.

Through this research, the writer hope it will be easier to get the meaning of the images and symbols which appears in the novel as parts of Archetypal images and symbols.

1.3. THE SCOPE OF THE RESEARCH

This research focuses on the investigation of the images and symbols which appears in the novel as Archetypal symbols not the Semiotic classification. It is because Archetypal criticism is sufficient to reveal the symbols which appears in the novel. The semiotic symbol as the comparison is to reveal the meaning of archetypal images and symbols in the novel, because these symbols built the story as important as Archetypal images and symbols. They are different but intertwined as they are related to the novel. Thus, instead of discussing about semiotic symbols briefly, the writer will put these symbols just as the examples and the comparison to Archetypal symbols because the writer limits the research on Archetypal images and symbols.

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

We know that there are two kinds of symbols which represent the significance of human's life. One of them is unconsciously acquired, while the other is based on group or society conventions. Carl G. Jung divides human's unconscious into personal unconscious and collective unconscious. Archetypal symbols are emerged by human's collective unconsciousness. The fact makes the Archetypal symbol is comprehended and known by every person from different cultures and customs, from every belief and faith and from every education and background. Different with Archetypal symbols, Semiotic symbols are comprehended after some agreements of a group of certain people. The comprehension of a symbol will be different between a group and the other based on the agreement. The thin line between Archetypal symbol and Semiotic symbol is when Archetypal symbols are comprehended universally without agreement, then the Semiotic symbols are universally comprehended after agreement. For example is the form of Lucifer which is acknowledged by Christian as the fallen angel with the symbol 666 while Islam identifies the fallen angel in form of person known as Dajjal. The comparison between these two religions is used because Islam and Christian are trusted as Divine or Heavenly religion or in Islam term is called *samawi religion*.

Furthermore, the use of some Archetypal symbols in the novel The Da Vinci Code strengthens the power of human's collective unconsciousness. It is proved by the appearance of Archetypal symbols in some important parts of the story. For example is the use of ancient Greek word SOFIA which is written as Sophia as the keyword on the

cryptex made by Saunière to represent the presence of Sophie as Jesus pure bloodline. Beyond the acknowledgement of Jesus pure bloodline in Christianity, the word Sophia is known as the symbol of soulmate character in Archetypal woman images. It strengthens the presence of Sophie as a soulmate character because at the end of the story, she finally builds romantic relationship with Langdon who is the hero in this novel.

The novel also shows how a literary work can affect societies. I can conclude that literary works are closely related with societies, culture, belief and every part of humanity. If we refer to the analysis, of course Dan Brown as the writer will be automatically affected with the unconsciousness although he has done researches before writing his book. He does not only put many symbols which are well known or somewhat known, but he also puts some archetypal symbols over his knowledge about it.

The main point that is important for us to know is that a literary work can be created in any form, it can be controversial or extremely strange and illogical, but a literary work stands for itself. In order to understand this kind of work, it depends how we understand the meaning, not persisting with the plots and not acknowledging it as everything even the contents are the real facts. It is because a literary work is something fictive and we cannot live in it.