

**ROLAND BARTHES'S FIVE CODES IN CHARLES DICKENS**

**A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

**ATHESIS**

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## ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini membahas tentang novel A Christmas Carol karya Charles Dicken (London, 1843). Penulis melihat bahwa karya sastra tersebut perlu dianalisis lebih lanjut karena di dalamnya terdapat kode-kode yang tersembunyi di balik aksi, kata-kata dan penggambaran karakternya. Kode-kode tersebut dianalisis untuk mendapatkan maknanya, karena makna yang terdapat di dalam novel ini disamarkan dalam penyajiannya.

Dalam membahas karya A Christmas Carol, penulis menggunakan teori semiotic 'Lima Kode', yang ditemukan dan dikembangkan oleh Roland Barthes (1915-1979). Roland Barthes adalah seorang pemikir strukturalis terkemuka pada abad ke 20. Beliau menguraikan bahwa analisa sastra harus berdasarkan penelitian suatu cabang ilmu pengetahuan. Teori tersebut mengategorikan kode yang terdapat dalam sebuah karya sastra ke dalam lima macam kode yaitu kode aksi, kode teka-teki, kode budaya, kode konotasi, dan kode symbol. Pada akhirnya akan disimpulkan apakah karya A Christmas Carol layak dianggap sebagai karya sastra yang Readerly (hanya untuk dibaca saja, karena pengarang sudah menjelaskan semua makna yang terkandung dalam cerita tersebut) atau Writerly (mengundang pembaca untuk menganalisis lebih lanjut makna-makna yang tersembunyi didalamnya)

Dari hasil analisa Lima kode pada novel A Christmas Carol yang ditulis oleh Charles Dicken, penulis menyimpulkan A Christmas Carol layak dianggap sebagai karya sastra 'Readerly'. Hal ini terjadi karna dilihat dari alur cerita serta sudut pandang novel itu yang konvensional.

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### I. 1 The Background of the Research

Literary work is a work that produces communication between authors and their readers. It is extremely important in life, because it reflects the feelings, thoughts, imagination, and emotions of the author through language. Language consists of signs and sign have their unique, individual meanings. From the senses mentioned, we can conclude and find out the meaning of the literary works. In studying the signs, we will learn and understand how meaning is created. When reading a literary work many readers neglect to catch the meaning or theme of the literary work because they do not study the signs.

In order to analyze the signs of a literary work, we should know and understand the theory related to the sign in order to get the correct meaning. The writer regards the study of signs or semiotics as a good method to analyze the work. By studying the signs, we will easily realize the meaning and understand the story.

Roland Barthes (1915 – 1979) has established a theory that uses five codes to analyze a literary work. These codes will be used to evaluate Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. After examining the five codes developed by Roland Barthes within the novel, we will determine whether A Christmas Carol can be regarded as 'Writerly' literary work or 'Readerly' literary work. "Writerly" text is associated with the meaning of the story, where the reader takes part in the development of the meaning of the work. "Readerly" text is when the readers

already know about the plot and does not require further analysis, because the writer already has given a specific meaning to the work.

Charles Dickens (1812-1870) is one of the most famous English writers of his time. He began his career as a political journalist, which led to the creation of his first novel, The Pickwick Paper (1837). One of his greatest novels, however, is A Christmas Carol (1843).

A Christmas Carol is a Victorian morality tale of an old and bitter miser, Ebenezer Scrooge who believes that Christmas is just an excuse for people to expect handouts. Mr. Scrooge is a financier who has devoted his life to the accumulation of wealth. He holds anything other than money in contempt, including friendship, love and the Christmas season. Scrooge is visited by the ghost of his former business associate, Jacob Marley, a man who was as greedy and cold as Scrooge is. Marley warns Scrooge that if he continues to live so selfishly, he will spend eternity wearing the chains that his greed has built. Three ghosts visited Scrooge successively, the ghost of Christmas Past, the ghost of Christmas Present, and the ghost of Christmas Yet to Come. They had shown Scrooge his error in valuing money over people. The bleak picture of his life and frightens Scrooge. Scrooge felt fear of his bleak picture of his life past, and promised to transform him self. Scrooge awakes on Christmas morning and become new man. He becomes jolly and charitable, and truly turns into the man he promised the ghosts he would become. From then, he carries the spirit of Christmas with him all the year round.

The writer presents results of her analysis as a contribution to the English Department of Andalas University in order to increase the department's materials

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION

The analysis of the writer related to the five codes that appear in Charles Dickens A Christmas Carol. After analyzing that novel, the writer has finds all the five codes which refer to Roland Barthes's semiotic theory. The codes are the Proairetic Code which determines the indication of the importance of the action, the hermeneutic code which has the questions, the cultural code which is related to the reference or knowledge, the semic code which let the readers label the character and the symbolic code which shows the opposition in the novel. Therefore, after analyzing it, the writer must judge whether the literary work is considered as a 'Writerly' literary work or a 'Readerly' literary work

In A Christmas Carol, the meaning of the work mostly can be concluded from the proairetic code and cultural code. The Proairetic Code give the readers' explanation about what happen to the main character during his life and his spiritual's journey that make himself to be changes. These actions provide the reader with the understanding of the whole story by supporting the semic and the hermeneutic code. This helps us understand why Scrooge to be tight fistted and why Marley has come to warn Scrooge in Christmas Eve seven years after Marley's death. The cultural codes give the readers the explanation about the tradition of Christmas in London and tradition of charity with the coming of a Christmas day. The semic code explains about the connotation of character of the main character that occurred due to changes in the character of a good character into an evil character or on the contrary. Lastly, there is the symbolic code; that

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