
**THE ANALYSIS OF ANIMAL TRAITS IN PHILIP PULLMAN'S
CHARACTERIZATION IN THE GOLDEN COMPASS**



A Thesis

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ABSTRAK

Dalam penelitian ini penulis mengambil novel The Golden Compass karya Philip Pullman sebagai objek penelitian. Penulis melakukan analisis terhadap karakterisasi yang digambarkan oleh Philip Pullman dengan menggunakan sifat - sifat hewan. Penulis menganalisis tanda - tanda berdasarkan hubungan antara penanda dan petandanya. Selain itu, penulis juga mencocokkan hasil dari penanda hewan tersebut dengan karakter yang ada di novel ini. Dalam menganalisis novel ini, penulis menggunakan teori *order of signification* yang berada dalam ruang lingkup kajian *semiotic*. Penulis membatasi penelitian ini dengan membahas sifat - sifat hewan yang muncul di dalam novel ini dengan karakter yang digambarkan dengan hewan tersebut, dan menganalisis sifat - sifat yang berlawanan antara hewan dan tokoh tersebut. Dalam penelitian ini penulis menemukan bahwa simbolisasi hewan yang digunakan di dalam novel sangat mendukung karakter tokoh tokoh yang dicerminkan oleh hewan tersebut, ia menggunakannya untuk mendeskripsikan dan memperkuat karakter - karakter yang ada pada novel. Selain itu penulis menemukan sifat - sifat yang saling bertentangan antara hewan dan karakter yang digambarkannya menunjukkan bahwa Philip Pullman menggunakan hewan tersebut sebagai pelengkap dari karakter.

Keywords: semiotic, order of signification, signifier, signified, binary opposition, dæmons, human, characterization

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Research

The Golden Compass is a novel which written by Philip Pullman in 1995, as first part of his trilogy His Dark Materials. In this novel, the story center is Lyra, a young girl who lived in a world where everyone is accompanied by a dæmon, a physical representation of their soul in animal form. Dæmons have human's capabilities, they are able to act like human whatever the form they take and usually behave in respects although they are independent of their humans. One day, Lyra's school Master gives her a strange instrument called an *Alethiometer*. He tells her that it able to tells the truth but it is depends on her to read it.

The most well known work of Philip Pullman's the trilogy His Dark Materials began with Northern Lights (The Golden Compass in the USA) in 1995, continued with The Subtle Knife in 1997, and concluded with The Amber Spyglass in 2000. Those books have been honored by several awards, they are the Carnegie Medal, the Guardian Children's Book Award, and (for The Amber Spyglass) the Whitbread Book of the Year Award, it is the first time in the history that this award is awarded to a children's book. Northern Lights or The Golden Compass won the Carnegie Medal in 1996, and then ten years later it won the Carnegie of Carnegies, chosen by readers from all the books that have won this medal in the 70 years since it was first awarded.

Pullman's His Dark Materials makes a controversy, especially in Christian's community. Christians and other religious have claimed that these books have anti-Christian religious ideas and push atheistic agenda. This statement is supported by the

fact that Philip Pullman is an atheist. It is proved by the fact that animal imagery has negative meaning in Christianity, like stated by Melanie Barker's article entitled The Divine Interpretation: A Study of Metaphor in Dante's Inferno, "The Animal Symbolism in Canto I of *Inferno* emulates the negative connotation within animal imagery assumed by Christianity" (Barker 2011). But in Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials*, the animal is part of human's soul. In Christianity the word daemon has meaning as an evil, but as stated in article by Melpriestley entitled Northern Lights, Chapters 1 and 2 (I can turn anything into a discussion about wine): Chapter 1: All Things Dæmon, "Pullman uses the Latin variant, as opposed to the Judeo-Christian "demon." (Melpriestley 2011). So in Pullman's world, the daemon is good things. It is something which uses to guards and accompanies people. That is why Pullman makes dæmons which have opposite meaning with daemon. In Pullman's novel insisted that the guardian of human dæmons not God. As seen in the last trilogy of *His Dark Materials*, "You must help them and guide them and encourage them toward wisdom. That's' what dæmons are for." (Pullman, 2000:424)

There are two reasons why the writer chooses semiotic study in analyzing The Golden Compass. The first is the dæmons aspect in this book is one of the things that the writer interested in. The reader must question what "dæmon" actually is. As stated by Melpriestley in readingpullman.wordpress.com below:

Pullman uses the Latin variant, as opposed to the Judeo-Christian "demon." Given the central theme of *His Dark Materials*, it is fairly obvious that Pullman's choice aligns with the religious references of each word – a "daemon" is an entity from classical mythology, usually

aligned with good, whereas a “demon” is invariably an evil creature or spirit. (Melpriestley 2011).

Therefore, Philip Pullman used Latin variant (æ), so that the reader not misunderstands between his dæmon and demon or daemon which has negative meaning, since his dæmon has positive meaning which means the reflection of person’s soul in this novel. It is why Philip Pullman uses the grapheme “æ” to differentiate his dæmon with demon or daemon.

In Pullman’s *His Dark Materials*, dæmons was known as the outer soul of human in the world of novel. Although humans are physically separated from their dæmons, they are metaphysically connected, and most human-dæmon pairs cannot bear to be distanced by more than several yards. As taken from scottishbooktrust.com, an article by Angela Verity entitled Worth His Weight in Gold - A Class Perspective on Philip Pullman, “Philip Pullman claims he got the idea of the animal spirits/daemons from paintings by Leonardo da Vinci "The Lady with the Ermine", Holbein "The Lady and the Squirrel" & Tiepolo "Young Woman with a Macaw". There seems to be a psychological link between person and creature” (Verity 2010). Sally Vincent, writing in *The Guardian* says:

Your daemon...is the creature of your deepest essence; a bird, reptile, insect or animal, attached to you by an inevitable thread, like an externalized soul. It is your guardian angel, your confidante, your conscience, your representative. In childhood, while you make the choices that form your character, your daemon changes; when you become an adult, it is what you have created, and it stays like that until you die. A slimy snake, a sly monkey, a fierce tiger, an obedient dog, a

pussy cat: it's yours. It's you. You're never alone with a daemon (qtd in. Watkins 2002).

So, the function of dæmons is not only as the guardian or representative of human, but they are overlapped each other, the human will be complete if there is dæmon. The dæmons also as the identity of human like Pullman state in *The Golden Compass*:

knowing what kind of person you are. Take old Belisaria. She's a seagull, and that means I'm a kind of seagull too. I'm not grand and splendid nor beautiful, but I'm a tough old thing and I can survive anywhere and always find a bit of food and company. That's worth knowing, that is, and when your dæmon settles, you'll know the sort of person you are. (Pullman, 1995:167)

The dæmons of children can change their form because they have not yet achieved individuation. When childhood, human still looking for their identity through their experience in life. However, at puberty when dæmons take on a settled form, we can surmise that a certain degree of selfhood has been achieved. Like Pullman state in *Amber Spyglass*:

usually they end up something that fits. I mean something like your real nature. Like if your dæmon's dog, that means you like doing what you're told, and knowing who's boss, and following orders, and pleasing people who are in charge. A lot of servants are people whose dæmons are dogs. So it helps to know what you're like and to find what you'd be good at. (Pullman, 2000:483).

So, if we are simplifying the word “dæmon”, it is equal to our consciousness part, a voice which comes to our head, when we done something, like Kris states in article entitled Introduction in Short: æ:

You have likely ‘heard’ your dæmon many times before without thinking anything of it. They’re the voice in your head that chides when you do wrong (“How could you be so friggin’ stupid?”), is rational when you’re lost (“Okay, calm down, just calm down”), laughs when you do something silly, or spills out your honest emotions while we stand silent (such as mentally yelling “I hate you” or “I love you”). They’re the part of you that’ll agree when you’re being level-headed and play Devil’s advocate when you’re too biased” (Kris 2003).

But in Pullman’s His Dark Materials they are visible, and separate from human’s body.

In the story, it is explained that dæmons have an opposite sex with human. It appropriates with Jung’s theory which he called as animus/anima. Jung state that a man’s soul image consisted of a feminine anima, while a woman’s soul image was a masculine animus. It can be that dæmons have function as complement of the unconscious to the ego. This could be the reason that, when the dæmon is removed, only the shell of the person is left. If one soul not complete, the ability for the human to think, communicates, feel is lost and the human can no longer experience any relationship.

Dæmons which are described as animal form have similar characters with their human. Every human in this novel has different form of animal as their dæmons and there are several factors of author’s decision to uses certain animals to be the soul of characters in this novel.

The second reason is the writer is interested to analyze Philip Pullman's way to put the animal traits for the characterization in this novel. In this case the writer will use the concept of signifier and signified which focuses on defining the traits of each animal in the novel and relates to all the things about human's characters. It is why the writer uses semiotics studies and sees what kind of results that will be generated.

For those reasons, the writer entitles her research: The analysis of Animal Traits in Philip Pullman's Characterization in The Golden Compass

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

In describing his characters, Philip Pullman as the author of The Golden Compass uses animal's traits. After the writer took the information about some animals which appeared in this novel, there are resemblances between animal's behavior and animal's symbolization with the human character in this novel.

In solving the problems the writer uses semiotic theory to support the analysis. The writer explains the signified of each animal in this novel. In looking for the signified of each animal, the writer divides them into denotative and connotative meaning. In the other word, besides looking for animal's behavior, the writer also looking for some legend, myth, or folklore.

After all, the writer compares the signifier and signified of each animal into the character of the novel. The writer puts the signification of animal to the human character. The writer not only compares the traits of animal with Philip Pullman's characters, but also shows and analyzes binary opposition between the animal (dæmons) and the human character.

Dæmons	Characters
Pantalaimon : Cowardice Anxiousness Prudence	Lyra : Bravery Confident Thoughtlessness
Ratter : Awareness	Tony Makarios : Ignorance
Stelmaria : Gentleness Modesty	Lord Asriel : Fierceness Ambitiousness
Golden monkey : Aggressiveness	Marisa Coulter : Mildness

Crow	: Observer	John Faa	: Expressiveness
Sophonax	: Health	Fader Coram	: Sickness

For some minor characters which are not shown through the novel the interaction between the dæmons and the characters, the writer analyze how the form of dæmons support the character. The character of Lee Scoresby who has hare as his dæmon support his character who as trickster and has esoteric knowledge. The Master of Jordan College introduced as the evil character but the purpose of his act is for protection, it is why he has raven as his dæmon. Serafina Pekkala as the queen of witches' clan who has goose as her dæmon to symbolizes how good she is in teamwork, so that she chosen as the queen.

For the other characters, Philip Pullman uses some form of animal to describe the characters at a glance, like what their job or what they are good in. Dog chosen for the servant and butler characters to describe their job that needs loyalty and obedience. Hawk to describe the character who is skilled fighter and protector. Lemur used to describe mysterious characters. Then wolverine had chosen to describe the hunters, also wolf for the soldier. The last is butterfly who describes the journalist.

The writer finds that Philip Pullman shows the dæmons as the lack of human characters. He used dæmons as the complement of the human characters. The writer also found that the dæmons is the sign of the human's *desire* and through the dæmons, this the inner desire kept privately. Dæmons are often visualized in the form of animals. The writer thinks, Philip Pullman as the author of this novel chose animal as the image of dæmons, because the animal form allows for symbolism and representation.

Philip Pullman uses the concept of animal guardian to reflect his opposition toward Christian doctrine, where animal guardian has negative meaning in Christianity but he used them as the guardian of human. As have already stated before, Philip Pullman's His Dark Materials have controversy in Christian circle because his anti Christian religious and atheistic agenda.

Actually, there are several lacks in this research. Since this novel is trilogy, it will be better if the writer take the data from the entire of trilogy. In this research the writer only use the first trilogy Philip Pullman's His Dark Materials, and only take the data based on information which the writer gets in the novel The Golden Compass. Another lack is the writer cannot find the data about how and where Philip Pullman gets the data about animal and its traits. For the lack of this research the writer apologize, and the writer hope this research will be useful in the future.

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