

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Literature is one form of creative and productive activity in producing a work that has aesthetic value and reflects social empirics. the word literature is used to refer to cultural phenomena that can be found in all peoples even though social existence, economics, and beliefs are not universal facts (Soeratno in Jabrohim, 2003: 9). one type of literary work is the novel. Novels are commonly interpreted to be a reflection of life or everything that we find in concrete life. Novels are also a reflection of the author's thoughts, feelings, and hopes. This may seem like using the reality we find in everyday life, but a novel is still a product of a novelist's imagination.

Semiotics or semiology means the study of the discourse of indications, symbols, and symbols. Semiotics is the study of the discourse of how meaning is created, not what meaning is (Barthes, 1999: 187) Semiotics is concerned with everything that can be considered a sign. Semiotics means a science that not only refers to everyday dialog, but also everything that refers to other forms such as words, images, sounds, gestures and objects.

Heidegger said that semiotics means the realization that all human experience, without exception, is an interpretive structure mediated and sustained by signs. So it is perhaps not surprising that much of the original semiotic development of our time has taken place along the lines of classical idealism in its most recent sense, an environment and climate of thought in which structuralist analysis of text and narrative is very comfortable (John Deely, 1990:6).

Novel means a story in the form of prose in the long form, this long form means Determined to avenge the loss of her father's life, Francesca Giordano goes against the grain to secure for herself the position of the poisoned Cardinal Rodrigo

Borgia, head of the most popular and dangerous family in Italy. She become Lucrezia Borgia's confidante and Cesare Borgia's lover. At the same time, she is drawn to a rebellious young monk who wants to save her life and soul. A novel consists of 2 elements that build it. These elements are intrinsic elements and extrinsic elements. Intrinsic elements are the elements that create literary works which include characterization, plot, setting, theme, and language style. Extrinsic elements are elements that hypnotize literary works from outside, such as author biography, socio-economic, culture, religion, and so on.

Novels become an imitation of the concrete global sometimes present using unusual terms. The author tries to explore his imagination by using some language styles. This is necessary to cause an aesthetic influence or artistic effect for the reader to be part of the stylistic elements. Sara Poole's *A Novel of Poison* is an online best seller (Poole 2010). This novel is very interesting not only to read but also to analyze, because there are many things needed, such as beautiful characters, good chemistry and a blend of romance with the story. In addition, the author also explores the meaning, interpretation, signifiers and signs in the novel *Poison* by Sara Poole.

1.2 Limitation of the Problem

In accordance with the above background, the author would like to present several cases that are contained an important aspect in human's life. Therefore, and other side this thesis can be reference for the next writing about interpretation and meaning of semiotic Roland Barthes theory in novel *Poison* by Sara Poole. This research contained an important aspect in human's life.

1.3 Research Question

1. How is the interpretation of signifier and signified in the novel *Poison* by Sara Poole?
2. What is the meaning contained in the novel *Poison* with a semiotic approach?

1.4 Objective of the Research

This research contains crucial aspects of human life. therefore, on the other hand, this thesis can be a reference for further writing regarding the interpretation and meaning of Rolland Barthes' semiotic theory in the novel Poison by Sara Poole.

1.5 Scope of Research

The author only focuses her analysis on the exploration of Rolland Barthes' semiotic theory in the novel Poison by Sara Poole.

