



## **Semiotic Analysis of Roland Barthes' Theory in the Poem "*Cinta yang Agung*" by Kahlil Gibran**

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**Abstract:** This study aims to examine semiotics using Roland Barthes' theory in one of Kahlil Gibran's poems entitled "*Cinta yang Agung*". The research method used is a qualitative approach using semiotic analysis as an analytical tool. The poem "Love the Great" was chosen as the object of research because it contains deep and complex meanings, and involves the use of signs in forming hidden meanings and messages. The research that will be discussed, namely regarding the five Roland Barthes codes and analyzing each sign contained in the data. It is hoped that the results of this study can provide a deeper understanding of the meaning and messages contained in the poem "*Cinta yang Agung*" by Kahlil Gibran through Roland Barthes' semiotic analysis.

**Keywords:** semiotic studies, Roland Barthes theory, poetry.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The poem "Great Love" is one of Kahlil Gibran's works. This writer was born in Lebanon, January 6 1883. Gibran is an artist, poet and writer from Lebanese America. The works that Gibran created are very famous among the public, not only famous in Indonesia but throughout the world. This is proven by the fact that the works Gibran created have been translated into 20 world languages. Kahlil Gibran had a special position not only in Arab society but also in Lebanon. This is because he was the inspiration for the formation of Lebanon as a united and unified country.

Kahlil Gibran and his works became known in Indonesia in 1920, precisely during the Dutch colonial era. Then in 1949 Gibran's works in the form of books began to be translated into Indonesian, approximately 24 books, namely the books *The Prophet*, *Broken Wings*, *Sand and Foam*, *The Voice of the Teacher*, and so on. The works written by Gibran in the form of prose, poetry or pearls of wisdom have inspired many literature lovers in various aspects of life, so it is not surprising that his works are very famous and have been included in a collection of pearls of wisdom.

This poem tells the story of a person who really loves his lover but cannot have him and also a sacrifice of someone who really loves sincerely and always wants to see the person he loves happy with his choice. This poem which has the meaning of love and sacrifice as described by Kahlil Gibran is very worthy of research. Apart from being interesting to readers, this poem also uses simple diction so that it is easy for readers to understand. Therefore, the author is interested in researching this poetry using Roland Barthes' semiotic theory.

### **Poetry**

According to Jakob's opinion (Sumardjo and Saini K.M, 1991:16) literature is grouped into 2 types, namely imaginative and non-imaginative literature. Imaginative poetry is poetry that uses imagination as the main element in its creation. These poems often contain rich imagery and metaphor, as well as highly descriptive and colorful

language. Imaginative poetry invites readers to appreciate and visualize the experiences or concepts described by the poet through the use of strong and imaginative images. Meanwhile, non-imaginative poetry is poetry that is more descriptive and focuses on expressing the poet's ideas, thoughts or feelings in a more direct way and using less imagination. This poem may be more oriented towards the use of concrete language and does not contain complicated images or metaphors. Non-imaginative poetry can express the poet's ideas, beliefs, or worldview in a clearer and simpler way.

Poetry is a form of literature that uses language and words in a special way to convey messages, emotions or experiences in a beautiful and rhythmic form. Poetry usually has a regular structure, such as the use of rhyme, rhythm, and unique arrangement of words. Poetry can express feelings, ideas, or images in different styles, such as love, nature, social, political, or spiritual. Poetry is also often used to describe the poet's personal and inner experiences, as well as being a means of expression and creativity in conveying messages to readers or listeners. Poetry can be found in many cultures and traditions, and is a very diverse and inspiring art form.

### **Roland Barthes' Semiotics**

Semiotics comes from the Greek "Semeion" which means sign. In English, semiotics means a sign system of all forms of communication that have signs, language meanings, films, body gestures, facial expressions and literary works in the form of music or human culture itself.

Semiotics is a social science that studies the world as a system of "sign" relationships with a basic unity (Sobur, 2006: 87). Semiotics and semiology have the same terms and meanings. The term "semiotics" was first introduced by a Swiss philosopher, Ferdinand de Saussure, at the beginning of the 20th century. According to Saussure, signs consist of two components: signifier (meaning carrier) and signified (meaning carried). Semiotics also studies how these signs are used in cultural, social, and linguistic contexts to convey messages, meanings, and values.

Semiotics also involves the analysis and interpretation of signs in various contexts, such as in art, literature, media, advertising, or signs in everyday life. The study of semiotics involves understanding how signs are formed, used, and understood by society, as well as how they can be used to understand culture, identity, and human understanding of the world.

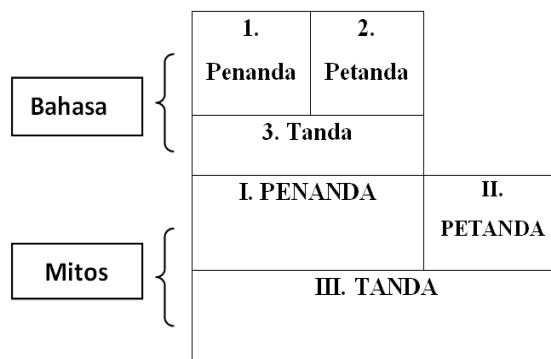
In semiotics, there are several important concepts, such as denotation (literal meaning of a sign), connotation (conceptual meaning or based on personal interpretation), and the relationship between signs in a semiotic system. Semiotics also studies language structure, representation, and interpretation of signs in various cultures and communication contexts. Thus, semiotics is a scientific discipline that helps us understand how signs and meanings are created, understood and used in communication. As a scientific discipline, semiotics is used in various fields, such as linguistics, literature, art, media, anthropology, and communication to analyze and understand the process of human communication in its various forms. Semiotics can also help in exploring hidden or hidden meanings in the signs we encounter in everyday life. Semiotics can help us understand how signs shape our understanding of the world and how signs can be used to convey messages, values, and cultural identity.

## Roland Barthes Code

There are five Roland Barthes codes that are used to find lexia which is used as a sign. First, the puzzle code (The Hermeneutic Code) is a code that shows the text in the form of a puzzle aimed at finding a truth. This code can provide problem solving or answers to existing problems. The two connotative codes (The Code of Semes or Signifiers) are sign codes in a text that have a figurative meaning and are usually related to a certain name. Third, the symbolic code (The Symbolic Code) is a code that provides "contrast" in the text, such as long-short, male-female, and day-night. The term symbolic code can also be interpreted as a symbol or symbol of human personification in understanding the meaning of life. Fourth, the action code is a person's action or action code. This code is the most important addition to the text for the reader. The reality is in the form of a narrative that is sequential in action or story and is fictional. Fifth, the cultural code (The Cultural Code or Reference Code) is a code that is related to cultural reality, this is because the background of a literary work has ties to previous cultures.

### ▪ METHOD

Researchers analyzed this poetry using descriptive research methods. Research that is factual without general conclusions and is obtained from the results of analysts and contains descriptions or depictions of the characteristics of the data is the definition of descriptive research (Sugiyono, 2014). The data and data source used is a poem entitled "Great Love" written by Kahlil Gibran. Apart from that, in this research the author uses previous research data related to material according to the title that will be discussed as a reference. The author analyzes this poem by determining Roland Barthes' five codes and signs and markers. Below is a chart that the author used in this research.



### ▪ RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### Roland Barthes Code Analysis

The poem "Great Love" by Kahlil Gibran will be analyzed using the Barthes code to find the lexias or meanings contained in the poem. There are several codes that the author found in analyzing this poem, namely:

#### *Connotative Code*

"Let your heart spread its wings again and fly into the wild again" Based on the quote above, there is a connotative code in it, namely there is figurative language in the sentence which can be interpreted as someone who must free their heart and rise from adversity.

## *Symbolic Code*

"Remember...that you may find love and lose it" Based on the quote above, it shows that there is a symbolic code in the words "Find and lose" which is a symbol of human life, namely that someone can find their love but can also lose it.

### *Action Code*

"and you can still smile while saying 'I'm happy for you.'" Based on the quote above, there is a code that shows someone's action or actions, namely when someone smiles and says. Shows an action that a person takes when he is happy to see the person he loves is also happy.

## Roland Barthes Chart Analysis

"Is when he doesn't care about you and you still wait for him faithfully"

1. *Adalah ketika dia tidak mempedulikanmu dan kamu masih menunggunya dengan setia.*

*III. Cinta bukan hanya tentang ketulusan hati saja, tapi cinta juga merupakan sebuah pengorbanan dan kebahagiaan seseorang yang dicintai.*

Marker (1) is a denotative marker. This sign explains the loyalty of a person's heart, when he continues to wait even though the person he loves doesn't care about him. This marker (1) produces a denotative marker, namely, "Sincerity". Sign (2) describes someone who really loves his idol. This very deep feeling of love makes anyone want to do anything to see the person they love continue to be happy even though they are not with them. The markers (1) and (2) produce the sign (3) which is the meaning in the realm of denotation, namely "Happiness of love". This sign comes from the signifier and signified which produces a sign in the connotative realm, namely "Sacrifice of love". In loving someone there must be a sacrifice made in order to see him happy with his choice. Then sign (III) was formed, namely "Love is not only about sincerity, but love is also a sacrifice and happiness for someone who is loved".

Then on the array: "Let your heart spread its wings again and fly into the wild again"

1. Biarkan hatimu kembali melebarkan sayapnya dan terbang ke alam bebas lagi.

2. Kebebasan hati.

3/I. Usaha bangkit dari kegagalan.

II. Keikhlasan cinta.

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*III. Jika gagal dalam cinta, maka iklaskanlah dan bebaskan hati untuk  
melanjutkan hidup dengan orang yang tepat.*

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Marker (1) is a denotative marker. Sign (1) describes someone who must not be lost in sadness because of a deep heartbreak, must be sincere and forget the love that has failed and move on with a new life. This signifier (1) produces a denotative signifier, namely, "Freedom of the heart". This sign (2) explains about someone who is freeing his heart so as not to feel the pain again because he cannot have someone he loves. Markers (1) and (2) produce sign (3) which is the meaning in the realm of denotation, namely "Efforts rise from failure". This sign is formed from the presence of signifiers and signifieds in the connotative realm, namely "Sincerity of love". In an effort to rise from failure and free your heart, what you need to do is be sincere. Be sincere and make it a lesson not to repeat past events. Then sign (III) is formed, namely "If you fail in love, then let it go and free your heart to continue your life with the right person".

#### ▪ CONCLUSION

After studying in more depth the semiotics of the poem "Great Love" by Kahlil Gibran using Roland Barthes' semiotic theory, the author discovered that there are three codes contained in the poem such as the connotative code (The code of semes or signifiers), the symbolic code (The symbolic code), and action code. There is also a meaning that includes denotation and connotation. The denotational meaning of the poem "Great Love" is that when we love someone we must also be prepared if we have to lose them and a form of loyalty in a person's heart, when he continues to wait even though the person he loves doesn't care about him and the connotative meaning of the poem "Great Love" is that we we must not get lost in sadness because our heart is so deeply broken, but let our heart let go of that love and look for another life that can make us happy.

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