ICONS SYMBOLS AND INDICES IN WEBTOON COMICS 'TOWER OF GOD' SEASON ONE BY LEE JONG-HUI (C.S PIERCE'S TEORY)

Helmi Syukur
Putri Nilam sari
Alauddin Islamic State University Makassar-Indonesia
helmi.syukur@uin-alauddin.ac.id

Abstrack

This reseach aim to find out the types of visual sign on the form of symbols, icons, indexes, try to explore the meaning of webtoon comic 'Tower og God' season 1 and related these sign with the story and applied qualitative descrtive method to get the valid data. The researcher found 12 visual sign consisting of 5 symbols, 3 icons, and 4 indexes which each sign classified into 3 groups of sign, they were representatement, or sign (symbol, icon, and index), object, and interpretant which from division contained sign and relationship between the sign and the storyline on this comic. The researcher believed that this research provide more detailed explained of the symbols, icons, and indexes that existed in the comics so that the readers be better understand the intent and the story of this comic and it also provided references for English and Literature studentsabout semiotic.
Key words: Comic, Semiotic, Pierce Theory,English Literature students.

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui jenis-jenis tanda visual pada bentuk simbol, ikon, indeks, mencoba untuk mengeksplorasi makna komik webtoon 'Tower og God' season 1 dan terkait tanda ini dengan cerita dan menerapkan metode kualitatif deskriptif untuk mendapatkan data yang valid. Peneliti menemukan 12 tanda visual yang terdiri dari 5 simbol, 3 ikon, dan 4 indeks yang masing-masing tanda diklasifikasikan menjadi 3 kelompok tanda, yaitu representasi, atau tanda (simbol, ikon, dan indeks), objek, dan interpretan yang dari divisi yang terkandung tanda dan hubungan antara tanda dan alur cerita pada komik ini. Peneliti percaya bahwa penelitian ini memberikan penjelasan lebih rinci tentang simbol, ikon, dan indeks yang ada di komik sehingga para pembaca lebih memahami maksud dan kisah komik ini dan itu juga memberikan referensi untuk siswa Bahasa Inggris dan Sastra tentang semiotik.
Kata Kunci: *Komik, Semiotik, Teori Pierce, siswa Sastra Inggris.*

INTRODUCTION

Comic is one of the popular forms of reading in the society consisted of drawings and filled with stories that match the image. Comics are often regarded by the public as light and non-educational, while in fact the comic is one of the most valuable works

of modern literature with the design of unique drawings and quality stories. As McCloud and Will Eisner says :

"The potential of comics as literary works as other literary forms such as novels, poetry, dramas, and so forth can produce a collection of works worthy of study, which display the meaning of life, time, and world view to the world through authors. Comic is a medium with great freedom and control for authors, intimate and unique relationship with their reading, and enormous potential (McCloud,2000:10) and Will Eisner says that Comics are legitimate forms of literature and art (Will Eisner, 1985:5-6). "

Comics also have a diverse type, some of them are :

1.Cartoon : a comic which the contents are a short display of illustrations and have stories of contents of criticism, satire, or jokes. It is often appeared in newspapers and other media.
2.Strip comic : a comic that presents snippet of images and is compiled into a story, but the story of the comic is mostly concatenated and usually consists of 3-4 panels even more. These types of comics are usually published in magazines or newspapers with various genres and published daily or weekly.
3.Online comic : this comic is the most profitable comic of all kind of comics because of its cheap cost and easy access. Now, it is available in certain websites then people can read it. One of the most popular online comic is Webtoon. Webtoon is provided by Line which consists of many comics with various genres and episodes, can be published everyday and it is also published weekly.

One of the comics that will be analyzed by the researcher in this research is a kind of online comic Webtoon titled Tower of God following the synopsis of the story of the comic Tower of God Season 1 :

"Tower of God is a story about a boy named Bam 25th, who has spent his life trapped under a mysterious tower. By chasing his friend, he manages to open the entrance to the tower, and now has to face the challenge on each floor of this tower as he tries to find his friend."

A lot of visual elements in comic use many signs that require deeper interpretation therefore the researcher chooses semiotics study to analyze this comic by using Charles Sanders Peirce's theory. He believes that semiotics has three sides. He calls them as sign itself (representament), object and interpretant. Peirce calls these three subject as semiosis (C.S. Peirce : 1905).

Based on the background preceding this research, the researcher formulates research questions to get the main purpose of this research, following the formulation of the problems :

1. What are the icons, symbols, and indices in the comic Tower of God Season 1 based on Peirce theory?

2. How do the icons, symbols, and indices represent in the comic Tower of God Season 1?

LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Previous Related Studies

Previous studies in term of analysis semiotics using theory of Charles Sanders Peirce (Icon, Index, and Symbol) are as follows :

Audia (2015) has stated in her thesis under the title of Pierce's Semiotics Analysis of Icon and Symbol on Perfume Advertisement. The objective of this study is to find out the meaning of signs on perfume advertisements and to explain the semiosis process. This study applied descriptive analysis method. Through this method Audia tries to describe, explain, and analyze the meaning of the signs and investigate its semiosis process using Charles Sander Peirce's theory.

Alfian (2012) has stated in his thesis under the title of Interpretation of Image Advertising by Using Peirce Semiotic Approach. The objective of this study is to find out kind of visual signs in image advertising and the connotative meanings of those images advertising. In analysing of the data which were collected, the writer of this study used Peirce semiotic approach. The approach is utilized to analyze visual sign in image advertising. The result of semiotics investigate is depicted by utilizing descriptive method. It described about the visual sign and connotative meaning which are based on the three elements, they are representament (sign), object (kinds), and interpretant (mean), with this method he tries to explain and analyze the symbols, icons, and indices in the images advertising.

Andri (2010) has stated in his thesis under the title of A Semiotic on Kim Addonizio's Poems Based on C.S. Peirce's Theory. The objective of this study are to discover out the utilize of symbol within the Kim Addonizio's poem. This study applied library inquire and the compiled information were analyzed through descriptive analysis method. This method tries to depict, clarify, and analyze the utilizing of symbol using semiotic theory by Charles Sanders Peirce.

2. Definition of Semiotics

The word semiotics is from Greek : semiotikos, an interpreter of sign. Semiotics is the study of sign and symbol and their meaning and the use, especially in the writing, or method to analyze the sign. In modern usage the concept of semiotics refers to a theory of signification (Felizitas R, 2000: 21). The term semiotic is utilize in numerous implications, depending on whether it is assigned (A) any showed substance under study (B) an object of information, because it shows up amid and after its depiction (C) the set of ways that make information about this object conceivable (J. Courtes, 1979: 27). Semiotics tries to explain combination of sign systematically explains the essential, character, and form of sign, and process of signification.

Charles Sanders Peirce characterize what he named "semiotic" (which he some of the time spelled as "semeiotic") as the "quasi-necessary, or formal tenet of signs", which abstracts "what must be the characters of all signs used by an intelligence capable of learning by experience", and which is philosophical rationale

sought in terms of signs and sign forms. Peirce distinguished between the interpretant and the interpreter. The interpretant is the inner, mental representation that intervenes between the object and its sign. The interpreter or mediator is the human who is making the interpretant.

Semiotics includes the study about not as it were of what we alludes to as 'sign' in regular discourse, but of moreover anything which 'stands for' something else. In a semiotic sense, signs take the frame of words, pictures, sounds, body language, and objects. modern semioticians study not in segregation but as portion of semiotic 'sign-system' (such as a medium or sort). They study of how implications are made and how reality is represented. Semiotic is concerned with meaning-making and representation in numerous shapes, maybe most clearly within the frame of 'text' and 'media' (Daniel Chandler, 2000:02).

3. The Field of Semiotic

These are the field of semiotics :

Analytic Semiotic : This is semiotic which analyzes the system of data. Peirce explains that semiotic has an object of the sign and analysis becoming idea, object, and meaning.
Description Semiotics : It alluded to the framework of the sign that is depicted the genuine thing.
Zoo Semiotics : It alluded to the framework of sign on the conduct or of non human.
Cultural Semiotics : Semiotic studies approximately the framework of sign within culture of the society.
Social Semiotics : It alluded to the framework of sign, created by the human who have being the frame of symbol.
Narrative Semiotics : It alluded to the framework of sign on the mythology and legends narrative.
Natural Semiotics : Semiotics studies about the framework of sign from the nature.
Normative Semiotics : It alluded to the framework of sign made by the human being, which have the shapes of the standards.
Structural Semiotics : This is semiotic studying about the system of sign through the language structure.

4. Charles Sanders Peirce's Semiotic Theory

Peirce has stated that the signs are independent to influence somebody in some respect or capacity. Therefore signs have some characteristics to be called as a sign. Those are :

A sign must be viewed or seen to function as a sign.
A sign refers to the other which connects something this is as representative.
A sign is an interpretative.

Peirce formulated his own model of sign, of 'semiotic' and of the taxonomies of signs in a triadic (three-part) model :

The Representament : the form which the sign takes.
An Object : to which the sign refers.
An Interpretant : not an interpreter but rather the sense made of the sign.

What usually goes for a sign for regular conversation Peirce called a representament. Peirce did so, in order to recognize the representament from the other two signs components, that as we might note, can ended up signs in their claim right. The representament is something that enters into connection with its object, the second component of the sign. The third component of the sign is the interpretant. It is generally talking and adequate for our reason, near to what we would as a rule take as the sign's meaning (Floyd Merrel, 2005:28).

In Peirce's own words :

"A sign . . . [in the form of representament] is something which stands to somebody for something in some respect or capacity. It addresses somebody, that is, creates in the mind of that person an equivalent sign, or perhaps a more developed sign. That sign which it creates I call the interpretant of the first sign. The sign stands for something, its object, not in all respects, but in reference to a sort of idea, which I have sometimes called the ground of the representament."
(Peirce 1931- 58, 2.228).

The interaction between the representament, the object and the interpretant is referred to by Peirce as 'semeiosis'. A good explanation of how Peirce's model works is offered by Roderick Munday :
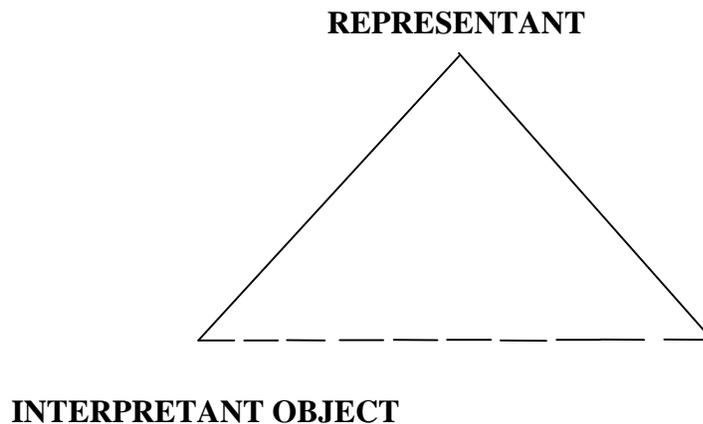
REPRESENTANT

INTERPRETANT OBJECT

Figure 1 : Peirce's semiotic triangel

Symbols : Peirce's definition of symbol rests upon the conventionality or arbitrariness of the relationship between the sign and its signification. A symbol is a sign that denotes its object solely by virtue of the fact that it will be interpreted to do so. So, that this relationship must be agreed upon and learned : e.g. language in general (plus

specific languages, alphabetical letters, punctuation marks, words, phrases and sentences), numbers, morse code, traffic lights, and national flags.

Icon : Icon also called resemblance and similarity is a sign that signifies its subject by ideals of a quality which is shared by them but which the icon has independently of the object. A mode in which the signifier is seen as taking after or copying the signified (recognizably looking, sounding, feeling, tasting, or noticing like it) being comparable in having a few of its qualities : e.g a portrait, a cartoon, a scale-model, onomatopoeia, metaphors, reasonable sounds in 'programme music', sound impact in radio show, a dubbed film soundtrack, imitative gestures (Daniel Chandler, 2007:36).

Index : Peirce's third main category of signs is even more heterogeneous than the other two. An index is a sign which would, at once, lose the character which makes it a sign on the off chance that its object were evacuated, but would not lose that character in case there was no interpretant. Index is a sign that signifies its object by ethicalness of an genuine association including them, one that he moreover calls a genuine connection in ethicalness of its being independent of interpretation. This interface can be watched or deduced : e.g. 'natural signs' (smoke, thunder, impressions, echoes, non-synthetic scents and flavours), restorative side effect (torment, a hasty, pulse-rate), measuring rebellious (weathercock, thermometer, clock, spirit-level), 'signals' (a thump on a entryway, a phone ringing), pointers (a indicating 'index' finger, a directional signpost), recordings (a photo, a movie, video or TV shot, an audio recorder voice) individual 'trademarks'(handwriting catch-phrases) (Daniel Chandler, 2007: 37).

Tower of God Season 1

Tower of God is an online comic that can be accessed in webtoon application by Line, this comic has combined of any genres there are action, adventure, fantasy, and mystery. Written and drawn by a famous comic artist from South Korea his name is Lee Jong-Hui better known by his pen name is SIU (Slave.In.Utero). Tower of God season 1 was first released on June 10th 2010 and ends on January 9th 2012 it contains 80 chapters/episodes (including the preview and review), 78 of which are split into 11 arcs and an epilogue and Now comes season 2 and is still ongoing.

RESEARCH METHOD

In this research, the researcher appliedmixed method research design. Thequantitative data wascollected through questionnaire which was aimed to identify students' language learning strategies. The SILL questionnaire (Strategies Inventory of Language Learning) developed by Rebecca Oxford was used in this research. The questionnaire was distributed to the fourth semester students of English Literature Department of Adab and Humanities Faculty at UIN Alauddin Makassar, academic year 2016/2017. The researcher usedtotal sampling technique,so all students were participants in this research. The qualitative data was collected through think aloud

which was aimed to support the data that the researcher got from questionnaires about students' language learning strategies.

In this research, the researcher usedthree instruments they are questionnaire, think aloudand documentation. Questionnaire was used to get quantitative data about students' learning strategies. Think aloud was used to get students' learning strategies in four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) qualitatively and to support the data that the researcher got from questionnaires. Documentation was used to get students' grade point average.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

After reading the comic and analyzing the visual signs, the researcher has found the data, the visual signs in this comic that will be discussed include symbols, icons, and indices as described in this table below such as:
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SYMBOLS	EPISODES
1. Ranker Symbol (The Test Administrator) *Picture.4.Symbol.1a* *Picture.4.Symbol.1b*	9, 10, 14 and every episodes that shown the rankers especially for Lero-Ro and Quant

2. Khun Family Symbol *Picture.4.Symbol.2a* *Picture.4.Symbol.2b* *Picture.4.Symbol.2c*	23, 28 and everyepisodes that shownKhunAguero Agnes

ICONS	EPISODES
1. Clock *Picture.4.Icon.1a*	11 and 12
2. The Timer Pocket *Picture.4.Icon.2a* *Picture.4.Icon.2b*	9, 12 and every episodes that shown the process of test in this tower.

INDICES	EPISODES
1. Bam is an Irregular *Picture.4.Index.1a* 	10, 58 and every episodes that shown Bam *the main character*

Picture.4.Index.1b *Picture.4.Index.1c*	
2. Blood *Picture.4.Index.2a* *Picture.4.Index.2b*	6, 10, and 11

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis focused on discussed "Tower of God Season 1" the researcher has founded 5 symbols, 3 icons, and 4 indices. Here is the conclusion of some signs (Symbols, Icons, and Indices):

1.Symbol is sign that has a certain meaning which has generally been agree upon beforehand in a community. Generally a symbol is a kind of code that needs to be interpreted deeper, in this comic the researcher get 5 types of symbols.

2. Icon is a sign that has a resemblance to the thing that refers to it, a sign that it commonly known by the people. In this comic only three icons can be found by the researcher.

3. Index is a sign that appears due to a causal relationship or cause-and-effect. The determination of the index itself depends on the context of the sign whether the sign is a cause of something or an effect of something. In this comic the researcher found.

4.Types of indices consisting of 3 sign in the form of effect and 1 sign in form of cause from occurrence of something, all of the signs have causal relation which become cause of its emergence, some of them are :

Overall the symbols, icons, and indices that have founded by the researcher in this comic, which most often appears in this comic is symbol, because symbols in this comic have an important position to supporting the story, most of the main story in this comic shows as a sign of symbol. A comic is symbols of representation of human everyday life, that showing into the paper which contain of the pictures, that is why there are many symbols in the comic. The fewest sign that appear in this comic is icon, because in general the icons are more often appear in the real life, and the icon in the comic does not have detail explain because most of the icon does not support the story in the comic, that is why the icon is unusual appear in the comic.

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