

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### I. 1. BACKGROUND

Democracy is believed as the symbols of freedom. In America there are some monumental buildings to symbolize democracy, for example: Liberty statue and the White House. Liberty statue is considered as the symbols of democracy where freedom of each society is preserved. The White House represents the place of democracy where the current president lives. Thus in Ghana, (Arthur and Rowe, 2001) the symbol of a single egg represents the delicacy of political power, fragility of democracy, and restraint. Arthur and Rowe (2001) explain that power is as fragile as an egg. When it is held too tightly, it might break; and if it is held too loosely, it might fall and break. The symbol points out the fragile nature of political power.

Democracy derives from Greek that is *demos* and *cratein*. Syaffiie (2001) states that democracy is a circumstance where a government of a nation is of the people, for the people; and the highest decision is voted by the people. Democracy is the ideology where a nation sets freedom as its background governmental system. Almost every nation in this world assumes that their governmental systems are democracy.

The term democracy is such a complicated matter which has no edge. People discuss this term to explore the philosophy of a nation or even a movement, which employs democracy, in order to reveal the forces that have not

been pulled out yet, whether it is the strengths or weaknesses. Some researchers believe that democracy is the most perfect system to put in a particular nation due to its power to preserve freedom and equality in all age.

Democracy is not only symbolized by the monumental or political buildings, but can be also in the form of written media. One of the examples of written media is novels where the issues of democracy are often discussed. Today novel is defined mostly by its ability to become the object of literary criticism demanding artistic values and specific literary styles. 'The Sax', a novel by Sujiwo Tejo, is one of the novels which discusses the issue of democracy and becomes one of the options (novels) to be analyzed by using semiotics analysis for its constructive values and full of symbols. Here is a datum sample from the text in the novel (Tejo, 2003): "*Ketika langit menjadi jingga dan orang-orang sudah mulai bosan dengan demokrasi.*" He metaphorically describes the sentence concerning democracy, more likely as a sinister. The sentence means, "*When the sun turns red and people have been bored with democracy.*" It feels like symbolizing how people see democracy has been *stagnant* with its idealism. The sun may represent the source of living of people and red denotes the time to end the day to the night. So it may represent the people who have been fed up with the realization of democracy which is clearly regressive.

When we talk about symbols, signs, and representation of a thing to be something else, it surely has a relationship to the term of Semiotics. Semiotics is often employed to analyze novels, movies, and even paintings. Most studies concerning semiotics are used to figure out the symbols which are represented in

the text. One of the examples is an analysis in the research paper of Antaresty. She employed Semiotics to discover the characteristics of a daughter of a President of the U. S. in the novel *The First Daughter*. Chandler (2002) explains that semiotics is concerned with meaning-making and representation in many forms, perhaps most obviously in the form of texts and media. Leaning on Chandler's theory of semiotics, we may conclude that semiotics is the study of sign in the form of texts or media. The texts or media mentioned can be the message that has been recorded, for instance: Novels, Books, Articles, Lyrics, Movies, Pictures, Paintings, and so on. One example of the media that is mentioned above is novel. Hawthorn (2001) explains that a novel is a fictitious (fiction) prose narrative or tale of a certain length. Bain, Beaty, and Hunter (1970) describe the purposes of fiction as: (1) To make reading something other than a passive, mindless experience, (2) To see more, anticipate and participate more, and (3) To become engaged intellectually and emotionally. They mention that by reading novel we may see the world, and even create the world beyond the story in the novel.

## **I. 2. SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

This research will be focused on the description of democracy in the novel "the Sax". The description may be taken from the dialogues and the interactions among its characters. In addition, the study uses semiotics as an instrument to analyze the novel. However the researcher only concentrates on the sentences that are considered to symbolize democracy.

### **I. 3. QUESTIONS OF THE PROBLEM**

This research is conducted to answer these following questions:

1. What are the symbols of democracy used by the author in the text?
2. How does the novel represent democracy?
3. How do the characters make meanings of democracy?
4. What form of democracy is represented in the novel?

### **I. 4. THE AIMS OF THE STUDY**

Based on the above questions of the problem, the primary aims of this study are in the following:

- a. To analyze the symbols of democracy in the novel 'The Sax'.
- b. To figure out the significance of the symbols in the novel 'The Sax'.
- c. To find out the meaning that can be made out of the symbols in the novel 'The Sax'.
- d. To define the representation of kind of democracy in the novel 'The Sax'.

### **I. 5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

This research hopefully would contribute to the importance of semiotics analysis as a tool to figure out the hidden symbols or signs in novels.

## I. 6. RESEARCH METHOD

The researcher employs qualitative research method. Strauss and Corbin (in Neill, 2006) explains qualitative research as any kind of research that produces findings not arrived at by means of statistical procedures or other means of quantification. Neill (2006) states that qualitative studies are tools used in understanding and describing the world of human experience. One of the research approaches in qualitative research is Interpretivism. The interpretive research focuses on identifying, documenting, and “knowing”, -through interpretation- the world views, values, meanings, beliefs, thoughts and general characteristics of life events, situations, ceremonies, and specific phenomena under investigation, with the goal being to the document and interpret as fully as possible the total of whatever is being studied in particular context from the people’s viewpoint of frame of reference.

The data themselves are taken from the text in the novel. Then the data are analyzed by using Pierce’s semiotic process so that we can figure out the *representamen*, *the interpretant*, and *the object* of the data. The next step is describing and explaining the meaning of the data based on the semiosis process. In analyzing the data, the researcher uses Pierce’s semiotic theory especially the theory of the triadic (three-part) model. They are *representamen*, *interpretant*, and *object*.

## **I. 7. CLARIFICATION OF TERMS**

- a. **Novel** (Hawthorn, 2001) is a fictitious (fiction) prose narrative or tale of a certain length.
- b. **Democracy** (Syaffiie, 2001) is a circumstance where a government of a nation is of the people, for the people; and the highest decision is voted by the people.
- c. **Semiotics** (Chandler, 2002) is concerned with meaning-making and representation in many forms, perhaps most obviously in the form of text and media.
- d. **Representamen** (Chandler, 2002) as the form which the sign takes (not necessarily material).
- e. **Interpretant** (Chandler, 2002) not as an interpreter but rather the sense made of the sign.
- f. **Object** (Chandler, 2002) as something to which the sign refers.

## **I. 8. ORGANIZATION OF THE PAPER**

### **a. Chapter I is an Introduction.**

The 1<sup>st</sup> chapter deals with the background that explains the literary works.

### **b. Chapter II is the Theoretical Foundation.**

In this chapter the researcher provides some theoretical frameworks related to the present study.

**c. Chapter III is the Research Method.**

It discusses about the research method, research question, research subject, the data collection technique, steps of the research and it presents the data presentation.

**d. Chapter IV is Findings and Discussions.**

The data obtained is discussed in this chapter, also explaining the Findings of the Study.

**e. Chapter V is for Conclusion and Suggestion.**

In this chapter, the researcher draws some conclusion and suggestion on the basis of the findings of the study.

The research is closed with the bibliography and is completed by Appendixes of the textual evidence from the novel about the symbols of democracy in the novel.

