

ABSTRACT

Utari, Valentina Yulita Dyah. "A Study on the Use of Vladimir Propp's Functions in Pramoedya Ananta Toer's Child of All Nations (A Syntagmatic Semiotic Analysis)". A thesis submitted as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Sarjana degree of the English Department Faculty of Letters Airlangga University, 2000.

Language can not be separated from the existence of human beings. It is used so that human beings can communicate to each other. Human beings tend to format most of their communication in narrative form. There are many kinds of narrative forms such as short stories, folk tales, parables, poems, dramas, novels and many more. Those kinds of narrative forms can be included into text.

Semiotics is the study of signs and it is often employed in the analysis of text. Signs that are analyzed through theory of semiotics include words, images, sounds, gestures, objects, or anything named a signifying system. Semiotics gives a new perspective in understanding linguistics. It looks at language as a system or structure. A syntagmatic relation is the most important kind of relation between units in signifying system. A syntagmatic semiotic analysis looks at a text as a sequence of events that forms some kind of a narrative.

Novel, as an example of narrative text, is used in this study. The writer decided to use a novel as her object of research because she wants to give more attention to a literary work and apply a linguistic theory on it. Recent developments in and around linguistics have shown that contemporary linguistics has extended its scope beyond the traditional domain of the sentence to take in the structure of whole text.

The writer wants to analyze the narrative structure of a novel entitled *Child of All Nations* through Vladimir Propp's theory function. Vladimir Propp is a Russian folklorist working in narrative field. He analyzed more than one hundred Russian folk tales in order to describe the format of those folk tales. His theory can be used as a means to perform a syntagmatic semiotic analysis. Russian Formalists, in their research, broke sentence structures down into analyzable elements – morphemes. Propp used this method by analogy to analyze the Russian folk tales. He broke the folk tales into their important parts and studied the way the parts construct the folk tales. In his research, Vladimir Propp worked with classifications of verbs and nouns. For him, nouns or *dramatis personae* are types of characters of Russian folk tales and verbs or functions are types of kinds of actions of the characters. Vladimir Propp concluded that there are seven kinds of *dramatis personae* and 31 kinds of functions. He found a universal pattern that can be applied to any kinds of texts.

The writer analyzes *Child of All Nations*, a work of Pramoedya Ananta Toer, because she likes the story very much and she admires the author of it. The data of this study are the events of the novel. There are 32 events that are related to the development of the character's way of thinking. From those events, the writer aims to find out functions of the story. The writer intends to find out which of Propp's functions can be applied to *Child of All Nations*. The writer tries to find

out functions that emerge in the events of the novel. Then, she describes the way the functions develop the story. The writer uses qualitative descriptive method. The way the functions develop the story is described then.

The result of the study shows that 26 functions are used in the story. Special things tend to appear. This story does not use **Initial Situation** as usually found in other stories. It may happen because this novel is the second volume of *The Buru Quartet*. It is a series of novels written by Pramoedya Ananta Toer. **Lack**, the only function that has to appear in any kind of texts, emerges in the novel. Unclear ending is present here. It may happen because there are two volumes following it. Generally the functions signify Minke's attempt's in finding his self-identity

The writer hopes that this study would bring new perspective analyzing narrative text, especially novel, and bring another perspective in analyzing literary work linguistically. The writer hopes that this study would give a better understanding about semiotic analysis, especially syntagmatic semiotic analysis.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION