

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter the writer presents the discussion on the background of the study, the research questions, the definitions of key terms, the objectives of the study, the significances of the study, and the organization of the thesis.

A. Background of the Study

The study of these signs, codes and conventions in film is called semiotics or semiotic analysis. Semiotic analysis is a way to explain how an audience makes meaning from codes. Peirce in Manoon de Reeper (1997: 20).

American philosopher Charles Sanders Peirce (1839). He wrote that a sign “is something which stands to somebody for something in some respect or capacity”. Zeman (1977: 24). All meaning is encoded in that which creates the meaning. No object or word is without meaning one cannot read or see something without associating it to a certain idea. Everyone has been taught how to decode what they see, read and hear. We have all learned to decode meaning. It is how we make sense of our surroundings, essentially, of the world. Semiotic analysis is used to “read” a film and its text. It’s mostly used in academic study of film.

Peirce proposes several typologies and definitions of the signs. More than 76 definitions of what a sign is have been collected throughout Peirce's work. Some canonical typologies can nonetheless be observed, one crucial one being the distinction between "iconix", "indexical" and "symbolic". The icon,

index and symbol sign typology is chronologically the first but structurally the second of three that fit together as a trio of three-valued parameters in regular scheme of nine kinds of sign. The three "parameters" are not independent of one another, and the result is a system of ten classes of signs Lady Welby (1908: 90). which are shown further in this thesis.

Furthermore, the writer take a script from the Dangerous Minds movie for her design to three aspects above, Dangerous Minds is a 1995 American drama film directed by John N. Smith, and produced by Don Simpson and Jerry Bruckheimer. The writer choose the Dangerous Minds movie because on the Dangerous Minds movie is a potentially in three aspects of sign Peirce's theory their is: iconic, indexical and symbolic sign. The writer chooses a word that is only used by the main character *Louanne Johnson*. The main character is retired U.S. Marine Louanne Johnson is an American writer, she is teacher and retired United States Marine. She is best known for the book *My Posse Don't Do Homework*, which was adapted as the film *Dangerous Minds* in 1995, and a TV series in 1996. She was portrayed by Michelle Pfeiffer in the film, and by Annie Potts in the TV series. Ms. Johnson is an ex-marine who wrote about her experiences teaching English at Carlmont High School in Belmont, California, in 1989, where most of her students were African-American and Latino teenagers from East Palo Alto, a poverty-stricken, racially segregated, economically deprived city. [http://www.Maslin,Janet\(August11,1995\).\"MovieReview-DangerousMinds\"FILMREVIEW.movies.nytimes.com](http://www.Maslin,Janet(August11,1995).\).(Access on 30 May 2018).

In this thesis, the writer intended to show the used of movies in understanding on analyzing sign system, their is: iconic, indexical and symbolic based on explores how words and other signs system make meaning on the movie “Dangerous Minds”. The writer propose the title “Analysis of Sign System by the Main Character *Louanne Johnson* on the Movie “Dangerous Mind””.

B. Research Question

Based on the explanation on the background of the study above, the research question of this thesis can be formulated as: How is sign system realized in the movie “Dangerous Minds”?

C. Definition of the Key Terms

To make the title easily understood by the readers, the writer will like to give the definition and explanation of the key term as follows:

1. Semiotics

According to Peirce in Zoest (1978: 1) says the notion of semiotics is a branch of knowledge that deals with the examination of signs and everything related to signs, such as the sign and process system that applies to the use of signs. Charles Sanders Peirce began writing on semiotics, which he also called semeiotics, meaning the philosophical study of signs, in the 1860s. During the 20th century, the term "semiotics" was adopted to cover all tendencies of sign researches, including Ferdinand de Saussure's semiology, which began in linguistics as a completely separate tradition.

2. Signs System

A signs system is a key concept in semiotics and is used to refer to any system of signs and relations between signs. The term language is frequently used as a synonym for a sign-system. However, the term sign-system is preferable to the term language for a number of reasons. The use

of the term language tends to carry with it connotations of human language, particularly human spoken language. Human spoken language is only one example of a sign-system, albeit probably one of the most complex sign systems known Davies Beinon (2010: 185).

3. Sign

According to Peirce (1908: 80-81) a definition of the term "sign" as: "A sign, or representamen, is something which stands to somebody for something in some respect or capacity". Peirce focused on three aspects of signs system. Their is; iconic, indexical, and symbolic sign. The explanation as bellow:

a. Icon

is a sign, which is linked to its object by qualitative characteristics.

For example, a map is an icon because it shares some quality with its object.

b. Index is an index denotes its object by being physically linked to it, or affected by it. For example, smoke is an index of fire, and a knock at the door is an index of someone is presence on the other side.

c. Symbols is a symbol has no qualitative or physical link to its object. It is "conventional", that is to say that it is defined by social convention.

Most words are symbols. For example, if the word "dog" was replaced in English by the word "cat" and vice versa, there would be no change to the meanings we could convey. However it would be impossible to use a photograph of a dog to mean "cat".

4. Movie

Movie is a type of visual communication which use moving pictures and sound to tell stories or inform (help people to learn). People in every part of the world watch movies as a type of entertainment, a way to

have fun. For some people, fun movies can mean movies that make them laugh, while for others it can mean movies that make them cry, or feel afraid Kyeoung (2013: 46).

5. Dangerous Minds

Dangerous Minds is an American movie released in 1995. The movie is dramatized on the basis of the autobiography *My Posse Don't Do Homework* written by Louanne Johnson. Johnson grew up in Youngsville, Pennsylvania. After high school, she enrolled at Indiana University of Pennsylvania but dropped out after a few weeks and enlisted in the Navy in 1971, serving at Clark Air Base in the Philippines. Louanne Johnson also a veteran of US Marine and has a degree in education. When she begins her new occupation as a novice teacher at an urban school in California, she soon realizes that it takes more than teaching just reading and writing. Most of her students in the school were African-American and Hispanic teenagers with socio-economically disadvantaged family setting. Most parents showed little interests and enthusiasm in educating their children. The students in her class actually have serious social problems and no interest in education. Even though her African-American and Latino students make fun of Louanne at first, she eventually leads them to open up their mind and to find their track to learning and understanding literature. In the meanwhile, she tries to make rapport with her students through a combination of bribery (candy bars) and intimidation (her karate training from the Marines). Among the students, particular students draw Louanne's attention for their individual problems. To motivate the students, Louanne

says that she will give them all an A grade from the beginning of the semester. She also says that the only thing required of them is that they try to maintain the grade A. She challenges the students saying, “It’s up to you to keep it.” Lou Anne is maybe the first teacher who confronts the students to take more responsible role in their own study if they want to succeed.

D. Objectives of the Study

Based on the formulate above, this study is aimed to find out the number of signs in the movie “Dangerous Minds” to see which type of sign is dominantly used by the movie, to see that three aspects of sign by Peirce’s theory, their is: iconic, indexical and symbolic signs.

E. Significances of the Study

This thesis would bring three significances of the study: theoretically, practically, pedagogically.

1. Theoretically

This thesis can be useful for further research about semiotic analysis. Especially, signs systems according to Peirce’s theory.

2. Practically

This thesis can aid to improve writing skill of the writer and get knowledge of academic writing. Especially on linguistic course.

3. Pedagogically

The result of this thesis can help the lecturer to teaching the theory about semiotic analysis. The study will have an example of semiotic analysis sign system for supporting the lecturers and students on the teaching room.

F. Organization of the Thesis

This writer divides this thesis into five chapters, which are. Chapter I is introduction which consists of background of the study, research questions, definition of the key terms, objectives of the study, significance of study and organization of the thesis. Chapter II is review of related literature which

consists of theoretical study, previous studies and theoretical framework. Chapter III is methods of investigation which consists of research design, source of data, technique data collection, and technique data analysis. Chapter IV describes findings and interpretation. Chapter V with consist conclusion and suggestions.