SYMBOLS THAT REFLECT ELIZABETH’S LIFE IN CECELIA
AHERN’S IF YOU COULD SEE ME NOW

AN UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Sarjana Sastra
in English Letters

By
Nimastama Chrisshanti
Student Number: 134214079

ENGLISH LETTERS STUDY PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LETTERS
FACULTY OF LETTERS
SANATA DHARMA UNIVERSITY
YOGYAKARTA
2017
SYMBOLS THAT REFLECT ELIZABETH’S LIFE IN CECELIA AHERN’S IF YOU COULD SEE ME NOW

AN UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Sarjana Sastra in English Letters

By

Nimastama Chrisshanti
Student Number: 134214079

ENGLISH LETTERS STUDY PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LETTERS
FACULTY OF LETTERS
SANATA DHARMA UNIVERSITY
YOGYAKARTA
2017
A Sarjana Sastra Undergraduate Thesis

SYMBOLS THAT REFLECT ELIZABETH'S LIFE IN CECELIA AHERN'S IF YOU COULD SEE ME NOW

By

Nimastama Chrissanti
Student Number: 134214079

Approved by

Theresa Enny Anggraini, M.A., Ph.D.
Advisor
August 22, 2017

A.B. Sri Mulyani, M.A., Ph.D
Co-Advisor
August 22, 2017
SYMBOLS THAT REFLECT ELIZABETH’S LIFE IN CECILIA AHERN’S *IF YOU COULD SEE ME NOW*
LEMBAR PERNYATAAN PERSETUJUAN PUBLIKASI KARYA ILMIAH UNTUK KEPENTINGAN AKADEMIS

Yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini, saya mahasiswa Universitas Sanata Dharma

Nama : Nimastama Chrisshanti
Nomor Mahasiswa : 134214079

Demi pengembangan ilmu pengetahuan, saya memberikan kepada Perpustakaan Universitas Sanata Dharma karya ilmiah saya yang berjudul

SYMBOLS THAT REFLECT ELIZABETH’S LIFE IN CECELIA AHERN IF YOU COULD SEE ME NOW

Beserta perangkat yang diperlukan (bila ada). Dengan demikian saya memberikan kepada Perpustakaan Universitas Sanata Dharma hak untuk menyimpan, mengalihkan dalam bentuk media lain, mengelolanya dalam bentuk pangkalan data, mendistribusikan secara terbatas, dan mempublikasikannya di internet atau media lain untuk kepentingan akademis tanpa perlu meminta ijin kepada saya maupun memberikan royalti kepada saya selama tetap mencantumkan nama saya sebagai penulis.

Demikian pernyataan ini saya buat dengan sebenarnya.

Dibuat di Yogyakarta
Pada tanggal 18 Agustus 2017

Yang menyatakan,

[Signature]
Nimastama Chrisshanti
STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

I certify that this undergraduate thesis contains no material which has been previously submitted for the award of any other degree at any university, and that, to the best of my knowledge, this undergraduate thesis contains no material previously written by any other person except where due reference is made in the text of undergraduate thesis.

Yogyakarta, August 22, 2017

Nimastama Chrissanti
“It seems to me we can never give up longing and wishing while we are still alive. There are certain things we feel to be beautiful and good, and we must hunger for them.”

— George Elliot
This undergraduate thesis is dedicated to my beloved family.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, my greatest gratitude goes to Allah SWT. Because of Allah I finished my undergraduate thesis. I also want to say gratitude to my advisor, Theresia Enny Anggraini, M.A., Ph.D. for her time, help and guidance to finish my undergraduate thesis. I would like say thank to my co-advisor A.B. Sri Mulyani, M.A., Ph.D for the corrections and advices.

I also thank my beloved family who become my motivation to do this undergraduate thesis and always support me. Especially for my beloved parents, Suyanto and Siti Harini and also my brother’s family, Makitiy, Mbak Risa, and my niece Hapica Maya for their greatest love, encouragement, and trust.

I am thankful for my college friends, Arum Sri Utami, Angela M. Yuca, M. A Lolita, Cicilia Dwi Saputri, Dewi Retno Wulandari, Intan Kurniawati, Sandra Yulidar and all my friends who cannot be mentioned here for their friendship and togetherness.

Nimastama Chrishanti
TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE PAGE .................................................................................................................. ii
APPROVAL PAGE ......................................................................................................... iii
ACCEPTANCE PAGE ..................................................................................................... iv
LEMBAR PERNYATAAN PERSETUJUAN PUBLIKASI KARYA ILMIAH ... v
STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY ................................................................................... vi
MOTTO PAGE ............................................................................................................... vii
DEDICATION PAGE ....................................................................................................... viii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ............................................................................................... ix
TABLE OF CONTENTS ................................................................................................. x
ABSTRACT ..................................................................................................................... xii
ABSTRAK ....................................................................................................................... xiii

CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION ......................................................................................... 1
A. Background of the Study ......................................................................................... 1
B. Problem Formulation ............................................................................................. 3
C. Objectives of the Study ......................................................................................... 3
D. Definition of Terms ............................................................................................... 4

CHAPTER II : REVIEW OF LITERATURE ........................................................................... 5
A. Review of Related Studies .................................................................................... 5
B. Review of Related Theories ................................................................................. 8
   1. Theory of Plot .................................................................................................... 8
   2. Theory of Character and Characterization ..................................................... 10
   3. Theory of Symbol ........................................................................................... 12
C. Theoretical Framework ......................................................................................... 14

CHAPTER III : METHODOLOGY ..................................................................................... 15
A. Object of the Study ............................................................................................... 15
B. Approach of the Study ......................................................................................... 16
C. Method of the Study ............................................................................................ 17

CHAPTER IV : ANALYSIS ............................................................................................... 18
A. The events organization through the plot in If You Could See Me Now ..... 18
   1. Exposition ....................................................................................................... 18
   2. Rising Action .................................................................................................. 23
   3. Climax ............................................................................................................. 26
   4. Falling Action ................................................................................................ 29
   5. Resolution ...................................................................................................... 32
B. The Symbols that Reflect Elizabeth’s Life which are Found through The Plot .......................................................... 34
   1. Elizabeth’s clothes colors: Grey, Brown, and Black ...................................... 34
   2. The Curtains Open ......................................................................................... 37
   3. The Bridge ..................................................................................................... 39
   4. Dandelion and Jinny Joes .............................................................................. 41
ABSTRACT

CHRISSHANTI, NIMASTAMA. Symbols that Reflect Elizabeth’s Life in Cecelia Ahern’s If You Could See Me Now. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University, 2017.

This study aims to reveal the symbols which are found through the plot symbolize the events in Elizabeth’s life, the main character of the novel. The writer is interested in this topic because symbols can be related to other intrinsic elements in the novel which is the events in the story.

This study has two problems formulation that the writer uses to analyze the novel. First is about the arrangement of the events through the plot in the novel. Second is analyzing the symbols which can be found in the plot and describing those symbols that reflect Elizabeth’s life.

The method used in this study is library research. Cecelia Ahern’s If You Could See Me Now is the primary source of this study. The writer uses some theories to support this study which are theory of plot, theory of character and characterization, and theory of symbol. New criticism is used as the approach of the study because the writer analyzes intrinsic elements of novel which are symbol, plot, and character.

The results of this study are; firstly, some of the plot in the novel are flashbacks. The flashbacks in several chapters describe Elizabeth’s past life that affect Elizabeth’s life and her characteristic in the present time. In the present time she meets an imaginary friend named Ivan. Ivan cannot be seen by ordinary people. After Elizabeth meets Ivan, there are some changes in Elizabeth’s life. Secondly, the writer finds five symbols which symbolize some events in Elizabeth’s life. The first symbol, Elizabeth’s clothes colors which symbolize Elizabeth’s sad and boring life before she meets Ivan. The second symbol, the curtains open symbolize Elizabeth is waiting someone to help her. The third symbol, the bridge symbolizes the changes of Elizabeth’s characteristic and Elizabeth’s life after she meets Ivan. The fourth symbol, dandelion symbolize the event when Elizabeth gets happiness. The last symbol, Jinny Joes symbolize Elizabeth’s new life after she meets Ivan.
ABSTRAK


Skripsi ini bertujuan untuk membuktikan bahwa simbol-simbol yang ditemukan penulis di dalam plot menyimbolkan kejadian di kehidupan tokoh utama, bernama Elizabeth. Penulis tertarik untuk menganalisis simbol-simbol tersebut karena simbol-simbol tersebut dapat behubungan dengan unsur intrinsik yang lain di dalam novel seperti menggambarkan kejadian di cerita.

Skripsi ini memiliki dua rumusan masalah yang akan penulis jabarkan. Pertama adalah menganalisis susunan kejadian melalui plot di dalam novel. Kedua, menganalisis simbol-simbol yang sudah ditemukan di dalam plot dan mendeskripsikan simbol-simbol tersebut dapat menggambarkan kejadian di kehidupan Elizabeth.


CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

There have been various attempts to define literature. Literature commonly can be seen as the imaginative thought that written in the form of fiction. However, it can be reflection of the people commonly include the habit and the condition among people in the real life. A story usually consists of some elements, one of them is character. Character is one of elements in a novel that has big important role in the story line. Without a character a story cannot develop. Through characters, readers can find out how a story can be formed, it can be seen from the characters action, the plot of the story and other elements of the novel that makes the story complete. There are two types of character in the story, Welch in Boyd defines two types of characters in a story. They are major character and minor character, major character is a character that becomes the center of the story, meanwhile minor characters usually become the supporting characters in the story. (2013:1).

Furthermore, aside from the characters in the novel, there are some other elements that important in the story. For example, symbol and plot. Some of novels have symbol to represent something or in the other words symbol have another meaning. Symbol can be a person, a place or things. M.J Murphy says in his book that sometimes an author creates symbol quite consciously and it might be quite an unconscious process (1972:176). Sometimes an author creates symbol intentionally
and then reader can find the meaning of symbol by looking at the hint in the text. However, sometimes an author just creates symbol without knowing it can be a symbol in the story. It can be said as the unconscious process of an author.

Sandalamli K. P. S. says among the major literary devices, symbols take reader’s attention, because the readers have extensive ability of their thinking capacity (2015:125). People have the wide ability of thinking, so that the symbol grab reader’s attention to think beyond the written words. The readers have to think hard to find symbol in the story, because symbol is not easy to find especially the meaning of the symbol itself. The author of the novel uses symbol to show the depth of literary creation to express the author idea.

The other element of a novel is plot. Thomas R. Arp and Greg Johnson say, plot is the structure of incidents or events through which an author creates a story, the authors are careful to present the arrangement of events in a significant order (2006:104). Plot represents the story or the sequence that show what happen in the story next. Plot has an important role in the story. It shows the development of the story and the characters. Furthermore, there are several changes in the story that can make the story more interesting to read.

The writer uses one novel written by an Irish novelist, Cecelia Ahern. She has written many novels, her first novel entitled *P.S I Love You* is published in 2004, it becomes bestseller in Ireland and several countries in Europe and United States. *P.S I Love You* had been adapted into a movie in 2007 then in 2014 her second novel entitled *When Rainbow Comes or Love Rosie* has been adapted into a movie.
Ahern’s third novel entitled *If You Could See Me Now* is the one that the writer uses for this study, it is published in 2005. The story is about a thirty four year old woman named Elizabeth Egan. She has to look after her nephew named Luke because Luke’s mother and also Elizabeth’s sister named Saoirse leaves her responsibility to look after Luke to Elizabeth. Saoirse wants to free life, as the result she leaves her son to Elizabeth. One day, Ivan comes to Elizabeth’s house. In the story Ivan is described as an imaginary friend who can be seen only by some people. Children usually can see Ivan, he has the job of making friends. Ivan meets Luke and they become friend and then In the middle of story Elizabeth can see Ivan. Elizabeth feels that her life changes after she meets Ivan. In this study the writer tries to analyze the symbols that has connection to the events of the story. In the story the symbols can reflect Elizabeth’s life.

**B. Problem Formulation**

There are two questions to analyze symbols in the novel *If You Could See Me Now* that reflect Elizabeth’s life. The questions are:

1. How are the events organized through the plot in *If You Could See Me Now*?

2. How are the symbols reflect Elizabeth’s life found through the plot in *If You Could See Me Now*?

**C. Objectives of the Study**

Based on the problem formulation above. Firstly, the writer aims to describe the plot in the novel. Secondly, analyzing the symbols which can be found in the plot and describing those symbols that reflect Elizabeth’s life.
D. Definition of Terms

According to M.H Abrams, “symbol is anything which signifies something. Symbol is applied only to a word or phrase that signifies an object or an event which in its turn signifies something, or has a range of reference, beyond itself.” (1999:311). Symbol usually has another significance from it is stated in the novel or written in the text, it is implied another object. Sometimes the meaning of the symbol can be found by readers in the text or readers have to find the meaning by understanding the symbols deeper and search the references in the novel.
CHAPTER II
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A. Review of Related Studies

*If You Could See Me Now* is a modern novel which genre is fantasy. According to Russell fantasy is a story of something unreal, but it is presented as if it is real (http://www2.nkfust.edu.tw,n.d). The novel is categorized as fantasy because it is a story about Elizabeth who meets Ivan. Ivan is an imaginary friend who cannot be seen by ordinary people. An imaginary friend is something unreal because not many people can see an imaginary friend. Some people who cannot see an imaginary friend think that imaginary friend just imaginative thing. Since the novel is new, as the result there are not many people use this novel for the research. However, the writer has found one undergraduate thesis that uses this novel as the object of study and the other researchers use other Cecelia Ahern’s novels.

The first undergraduate thesis has been done by Putri Lubna Tari from English Letters Department of State Islamic University Jakarta. The undergraduate thesis entitled “A Figure of Speech Analysis on Cecelia Ahern’s *If You Could See Me Now*”. In Tari’s undergraduate thesis, she collects some figures of speech in the novel such as simile, metaphor, personification, overstatement, understatement, alliteration, allusion, and metonymy. For example the personification in the sentence *A fresh summer breeze bringing excitement and hope*. The meaning of that figure of speech is the enthusiasm of Elizabeth to find love she needs, Tari Says:

Those Figures of speech contribute in discovering and stating the theme in the novel *If You Could See Me Now*. One of many ways to discover the
theme is to explore the figure of speech sentences. Because figure of speech will provide important clues in discovering the theme (2008:115).

Tari says the figures speech that she has found in the novel can give contribution in discovering the theme. The conclusion of Tari’s undergraduate thesis for the theme of the novel is everybody needs to love and to be loved. Her undergraduate thesis shows that theme of the story can be seen from the figurative speech in the novel.

The writer also finds other study that use the same topic but different object. The study has been done by F. Jati Adi Nugroho from Sanata Dharma University entitled “Plot as Symbol of the Spiritual Quest of the Main Character in Herman Hesse’s Siddhartha”. In his study, Nugroho explains how the plot arrange in the novel and then he collects each title in the novel that represents Siddhartha’s experience to get spiritual quest by using theory of individuation. For example, the concept of individuation acquires persona. Persona is the individual relation between social consciousness and society. Siddhartha achieves persona is symbolized by Siddhartha is leaving his life as a merchant. Nugroho’s undergraduate thesis shows that plot symbolize hidden thing or another plot that it is not directly mention in the story. Nugroho says:

A symbol is something that represent something else. As we can see that the plot does not stand for itself but also for something else. We can claim that the plot of the novel Siddhartha is a symbol of another plot or have hidden thing (2010:73).

The other study which has same topic but different object has been done by Ucca Manggalagita from Sanata Dharma University entitled, “The Significance of the symbols to the characterization of Sarah O’Rourke in Chris Cleave’s The Other
"Hand." Manggalagita chooses to study symbol in the Cleave’s novel because she thinks that the beauty of the novel can be seen from the symbols. The symbols in the novel show a complex idea of an object that make the story more interesting. She finds that symbols in the novel have important role in character development of Sarah O’Rourke.

The symbols that are in the novel show that they have an impact on the development of O’Rourke throughout her characterization in the story. There were many changes that O’Rourke had faced and this is why she is a dynamic character. The symbols that were analyze had a connection to the problem that O’Rourke faced and that made her characterization change (2015:57).

Manggalagita finds two significant symbols that represent the character development of O’Rourke, which are the finger and Little Bee. The finger represent the death of Little Bee’s sister that makes O’Rourke cannot move on from what has happened in Nigeria. Little Bee symbolize love for O’Rourke that make her continue her life without looking back to the past. It shows development of Sarah O’Rourke characteristic, she changes from a person who sticks in the past time to be a person who can move on from past life.

The writer also finds another study which uses Ahern’s novel entitled P.S I Love You. The research has been done by Hafsyah from Sanata Dharma University, her study entitled, “The Influence of Family and Best Friend to Overcome Holly’s depression in Cecelia Ahern’s P.S I Love You.” Hafsyah analyzes the contribution of Holly’s family and her best friends to help Holly from her depression since her husband dies. Hafsyah analyzes the characteristic of Holly, Holly’s family, and Holly’s best friends. After that she concludes, “The influence of family and her best friends are proved through their support to Holly. These support are derived from
the characteristic of Holly’s family and best friends.” (2011:47). The characteristic of Holly’s family and her best friends help Holly to overcome her depression. They also give support to Holly to continue her life and never looking back to the past.

Putri’s study is revealing the theme of the novel by collecting figure of speech in the novel *If You Could See Me Now*. Whereas, Nugroho’s study is plot that symbolize something else. Manggalagita’s study is the symbols that can represent the character development of Sarah O’Rourke and then Hafsyah’s study shows the influence of Holly’s family and her best friends can help Holly overcome her depression. This study is different from four other studies because the writer focuses on the symbols that symbolize the events in the plot, which can represent Elizabeth’s life in the novel.

**B. Review of Related Theories**

1. Theory of Plot

M. J. Murphy says in his book that, “plot is an idea or plan of the story that author create in which all the events, the actions and reaction of the characters, contribute toward the next movement of the story” (1972:134). The story then moves on, and changes in several part from the beginning until the end, reaches the climax of the story and everything is resolved, in purpose to make reader satisfied. Literary work, especially novel has different plot of each work.

Stanton states in his book that plot is “entire sequence of event that exist in the story. It also has linked in events of story, events that directly cause or result from other events and cannot be omitted without breaking the line of action.” (1965:14). An author usually creates the plot that consists of several events and
those events connect each other. The important element in the plot is conflict. Every literary work, especially novel or fiction have two kinds of conflict. First is internal conflict, it is the conflict between two desires within a character. Second is external conflict, it is the conflict between characters or between a character and her or his environment (2002:90). Plot is an important element in the story because from the plot the author can create the sequence of story.

Frank Madden divides the stage of plot into five stages, which are exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. First exposition, it is the introduction of the background, characteristics, and the circumstances of characters. It describes the basic elements of the story that bring important information in the story. Second rising action, it is the beginning section when a part of the conflict builds, and the emotion of character involvement intensifies. This stage is marked by the tension or conflict between characters or something else as cause of conflict. Third, climax is the moment of truth, the turning point of the conflict. In this stage the conflict or tension is at very highest point. Fourth, falling action is the moment when the conflict begins to be overcome and the tension gradually decrease. The last, resolution is the section when conflict is resolved and it brings the story to the conclusion it can be called the final of the story (2002:91).

According to Russell, there are four types of plot in a story which are dramatic or progressive plot, episodic plot, parallel plot and flashbacks. Dramatic or progressive plot is a chronological structure which first begins with the introduction, like the background of the story, conflict, then follows the rising action, continue with a climax and the last is a denouement. Episodic plot also can
be called a chronological structure, but it contains of a sequence relates to event in the story, each chapter usually consists of different themes or characters. Episodic plot is best for an author who wants to explore the characteristic and the existence of the character in a story. Parallel plot is a story which has two or more dramatic plots that are usually related by a common character and has a similar theme. The last is flashbacks, this plot deliver information about events that occurs earlier. The author starts the story by focus on the action but later follows by events that happens before the story begin, in order to make the reader more understand about present events. Flashbacks can occur more than once in different parts of a story (http://www2.nkfust.edu.tw,n.d)

2. Theory Character and Characterization

According to M.H. Abrams, characters are the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it by the dialogue or from what they do (1999:32-33).

The readers can know the characteristic of the characters through the explanations of the writer by action or description of other characters. There are two kinds of character in the story. First, major characters that become the center of the story or main focus of the story. Second, minor characters that appear in the certain part of story to support the story especially the major character.

Furthermore, Forster divides characters into two kinds of characters which are flat characters and round characters. “Flat characters presented without much individualizing detail or throughout the story, the character will not have any
development. Moreover, round character is a complex character in temperament and motivation and is represented with subtle particularity” (1974:46-51). Flat characters usually do not have much description and never have any change of their characteristic. Besides, round characters have change their characteristic, most of the characters in the story are round character because they usually develop.

In addition, Murphy also says that there are nine ways how an author presents the character in the story. Those are: personal description, character as seen by another, speech, past life, conversation, reaction, direct comment, thought, mannerism. Personal description is an author describes a person’s appearance by the clothes or the description of the skin, the face. Character as seen by another is a character is described by the other character perspective or opinions. Speech is an author gives depiction of the character in the book through what the person says or the ways the person says. Past life, letting the reader learn something about a person’s past life, an author gives us a sign from the events that has shaped a person’s character, this can be done by direct comment, by the author thought, and the person’s thoughts. Conversation of other, giving the clues of a person’s character through the conversation of other people and the things they say about her or him. In the story people talk about other people from that conversation can be found the characteristic of the person. Reactions, a character is depicted by give clue to a person’s character by letting the readers know how a person reacts to various situations and events. Direct comment, a character is described by comments or a person’s character directly. Thought, giving the readers direct knowledge of what a person is thinking about. The last is mannerism, an author
describes a person’s mannerism, habits or idiosyncrasies which also tell us something about her or his character (1972:161-173).

3. Theory of Symbol

According to Shaw in Fadaee, “Symbol is something used for, or regarded as, representing something else. More specifically, a symbol is a word, phrase, or other expression having a complex of associated meaning.” (2010: 20). Based on the statement above a symbol has different values from those that are written in the text. In other words, symbols have broader meaning than the actual meaning of the words itself. It also supports by evidences in the story that can be shown from the description that are written in the story or it can be found by the reader by guessing. However, the reader still has to find the supporting evidence that explain the meaning of the symbol which is beyond its literal meaning.

Forster also states that, “A literary symbol is something that means more than what it is. It can be an object, a person, a situation, an action, or some other item that has a literal meaning in the story, but suggests or represents other meanings as well.” (1974:211). Symbol also might be a character. For example, the character that has brief appearance in the novel is Emily in Rose for Emily, she symbolizes the old. People around her changes but she still in her old tradition or her old habit. Major or minor character in the story can be the symbol, they represent something beyond them, and they can carry aspect or other value. For example, Aslan in The Chronicles of Narnia symbolize Christ figure that has some values in his action. In the Christianity Christ describes as a savior and has some values in his action.
Furthermore, Barnet explains that a symbol is an image associated to the significance that is not simply literal, and it does not associate to something else. It can be a kind of sign of something and it too complex or too indefinable to reveal the meaning (1963:344). Sometimes to find the meaning of the symbol in the story can be difficult but sometime the meaning of symbol in the story or in the novel can be obtained from the narrative explanation.

Moreover, Stanton defines several methods of interpreting symbols. “The first method is by remarking the symbol’s references and comparing it to its context” (1965:33). Stanton also states that the important technique to find symbol by reading more than one times until notice something. If it is a symbol, it must be related to the story’s purpose.

According to Arp and Johnson in Ghiotto and Wijanarka’s journal, “Readers should always be alert for symbolic meanings but, at the same time, should observe some cautions. Firstly, the story itself must finish a clue that a detail is to be taken symbolically. The clue can be seen from the emphasis, repetition, or position of the word. Secondly, the meaning of the literature symbol must be established and supported by the entire context of the story.” (2016: 56). Based on the quotation above, the important thing to find symbol is the readers should finish reading the story then the readers find hint that can be categorized as a symbol, the readers must be conscientious in decide whether it is symbol or not. The hint can be seen from reiteration or the position of the words. The readers also should know that the symbol which is found has connection to the context of the story.
C. Theoretical Framework

The writer uses some theories to analyze the symbols in the novel. The first theory is the theory of plot by Murphy, Stanton, and Frank Madden. The theory of plot uses to describe the plot in the novel, since the first problem formulation focuses on the plot in the novel. The writer explains the plot in the story to analyze the sequences of time and the events in the story because the symbols that are found through the plot symbolize the events in the story. The plot in the story is divided into five stages. The second theory is the theory of character and characterization by Abrams, Forster and Murphy. Since, this study is about the main character life, theory of character and characterization are needed to understand the characteristic of the main character. The third is the theory of symbol which is used to find out the symbols in the novel by understanding the meaning of symbols, it also to analyze symbols that has found in the plot can be related to some events in the plot as the reflection of Elizabeth’s life.
CHAPTER III
METHODOLOGY

A. Object of the Study

The object of study in this thesis is written by Cecelia Ahern entitled *If You Could See Me Now*. The novel is first published by Harper in 2005. *If You Could See Me Now* consist of 43 chapter and 409 pages. This novel has two points of view that author uses to tell the story, there are first point view that focus on Ivan and third point of view. Cecelia Ahern is also the writer of *P.S. I Love You* which is published in 2004. It is her debut novel and it becomes the bestselling novel in 2004. *P.S I Love You* is also printed in forty seven countries and it is adapted into a movie in 2007. Cecelia Ahern also has won several awards, which are Irish Post Award for Literature and Corine Award in 2005 for her second book *Where Rainbows End*.

*If You Could See Me Now* is Ahern’s third novel. It also becomes the international bestseller in several countries such as Ireland, United Kingdom and United States. *If You Could See Me Now* is the story about Elizabeth Egan, a thirty four year old woman who lives with her nephew, Luke. Elizabeth has to look after her father and her sister since she was sixteen year old because her mother leaves her family and she has to become the figure of mother in her family. Since Elizabeth has to look after her family, her family is the center of her life. So that, she does not have time socializing with people around her. It also gives effect to Elizabeth characteristic in the present time.

One day, Luke meets Ivan. Ivan is not an ordinary man, he is an imaginary friend whom only special people can see him. In the beginning of story Elizabeth
cannot see Ivan, but in the middle of the story Elizabeth can see Ivan and they become friend. Ivan help Elizabeth to change her perspective about her life.

B. Approach of the Study

The writer uses new criticism as the approach for this study. Lois Tyson says in his book, new criticism is a literary criticism that uses the authorial purpose to define the meaning of a literary work, the intentional fallacy or the fact in an author's intentional meaning, new criticism focuses on the text itself to find out the meaning (2011:38-39). In other words, new criticism focuses on the author purposes to understand the meaning from a literary work, deliberate mistakes that author does or untrue fact in a literary work are neglected because new criticism only focuses on the text itself to understand the meaning. The readers only look at the text to find out the meaning of a literary work, they only focus on the words in the literary work.

The writer aims to find out the symbols related to the events in the plot that can represent Elizabeth’s life. Abrams says the principles of the New Criticism are basically verbal. That is, Literature is conceived to be a special kind of language whose attributes are defined by systematic opposition to the language of science and of practical and logical discourse, and the explicative procedure is to analyze the meanings and interactions of words, figures of speech, and symbols. (1999:181).

The plot has function to know the events that happen in the story. As Lois Tyson states above that new criticism focuses on the text itself, it is the only thing or the source to find the meaning. Another way is by looking at the words in the literary work. The writer needs to understand the complex meaning by looking to
the unique combination of words and other literary devices such as symbol and plot. To find out the symbol in the novel, close reading is needed. Thus, the writer uses that method to find out the symbol and the meaning of the symbol in some events which are constructed in the plot of the story. The writer can find the evidence to support the analysis about symbols by reading the novel closely. The symbols can be connected with the plot in the story and shows that those symbols reflect Elizabeth’s life.

C. Method of the Study

A library research method is used in this study. The primary source of this study is If You Could See Me Now by Cecelia Ahern. The secondary source is from books, articles, journal, and internet sources. The secondary sources are Murphy’s Understanding Unseens An introduction to English Poetry and English Novel for Overseas Students, Abrams’ Glossary of Literary Terms Seventh Edition, Forster’s Aspects of the Novel and Related Writing, Barnet’s An Introduction to Literature: Fiction, Poetry, Drama 2nd edition, Stanton’s An Introduction to Fiction, Tyson’s Using Critical Theory: How to Read and Write about Literature 2nd edition, Frank Madden’s Exploring Fiction: Writing and Thinking about Fiction.

There are several steps to conduct this study. The first step is by reading the primary source. The second step was collecting the data or information about the topic that is analyzed by the writer from books and internet sources. The third step was analyzing the events through the plot in the novel. The forth was analyzing symbols which symbolize the events in the story. The final step was drawing conclusion from the analysis.
CHAPTER IV
ANALYSIS

A. The events organization through the plot in *If You Could See Me Now*

As the writer states in previous discussion, this part discuss the plot in the novel *If You Could See Me Now* in order to know the events of the story. The types of plot in this story is flashbacks. There are some flashbacks in the story which explain Elizabeth’s past life. For example, when Elizabeth in her office she is remembering her childhood and then the story goes back to the past time when Elizabeth was child, there is a flashback in Elizabeth’s childhood, she is waiting her mother comes back home as she has promised to Elizabeth, in order to celebrate Elizabeth’s tenth birthday. It states, “She had no doubt that her mother would be back tonight because she had promised her. And she just had to keep that promise because it was Elizabeth’s tenth birthday the next day.” (p.118). The quotation shows that the story backs to the past time, one day before Elizabeth tenth birthday in Elizabeth’s childhood time,

This study aims to reveal that symbols are found through the plot can symbolize the events in Elizabeth’s life. First of all, to know the events in the story the writer analyzes the plot. According to Frank Madden, there are five stages of plot. Those are exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.

1. Exposition

Exposition is the introduction of the background, characteristics, and the circumstances of characters. It describes the basic elements of the story that bring important information in the story. The first chapter of the story begins with Ivan’s
point of view. Ivan is an invisible man whose job is to help people to regain their happiness. It states, “We exist only to serve the needs of those who need us.” (p. 409). That statement proves Ivan exist in order to help people who need him. Ivan also have friends who are invisible like him, they are Opal, Olivia, Calendula, Bobby, Tommy, and Jimmy-Lynn. They also have job to make friends and help people who need them. The story begins with Ivan who walks to Luke’s house for the first time, it is located in a town named Baile na gCroithe. He comes there to do his job to make friend with Luke. Luke is six year old boy who lives with her aunt. Ivan states, “And making friends is my favorite part by far. That’s probably why I was offered the job.” (p.1). Ivan enjoys his job to make friend with people who need him. His next job is he has to be friend with Luke.

Furthermore, Ivan describes the condition and the atmosphere of Luke’s house and his environment. Luke lives in a house estate named Fuchsia Lane in Ireland. The setting of the scene create cheerful atmosphere. It can be seen from the way Ivan describes the activities of people in Fuchsia Lane.

The cul-de-sac was really busy with lots of people buzzing about. It was Friday morning, remember, and June too, everyone was in good mood. Well, not everyone. There were a lots of children playing on the road, cycling, chasing, and enjoying hopscotch. You could hear the sound of delegated screams and laughter coming from them. A man was cutting the grass in front of garden, and woman tending to flowerbed with big mucky gloves on her hands. There was a lovely smell of freshly cut grass and the sound of the lady snipping, clipping, cropping and pruning was like music in the air (p.2-3).

Ivan describes people in Fuchsia Lane as busy people. They busy on their own activities and the situation looks crowded. For example, the sounds come from people activities, such as screams and laughter from children and a man who cutting
the grass. Children laughter show that the atmosphere is cheerful. Even though the situation looks crowded, Ivan feels that he is not disturbed. In the sentence “There was a lovely smell of freshly cut grass and the sound of the lady snipping, clipping, cropping and pruning was like music in the air.” Which shows that Ivan enjoys the atmosphere which is created by people activities in Fuchsia Lane during the crowded situation.

Ivan meets Luke in which he introduces himself to Luke. Ivan also sees Luke’s Aunt named Elizabeth Egan but Elizabeth cannot see Ivan. Elizabeth says, “There’s no one else but you and me in this room.” (p.25). Elizabeth’s statement shows that she cannot see Ivan and only Luke who can see Ivan. Furthermore, Ivan says “For the record, I’m six foot tall and we don’t really do the ‘age’ thing where I’m from: we come into existence as we are and grow spiritually rather than physically. It’s our brains that do the growing.” (p.30). From Ivan’s statement above shows that he is not an ordinary man. Due to the fact that he does not grow up and does not have age. The only thing that develops in Ivan is his brain and he exists spiritually, which means he is different from other people because he exist spiritually. There is no explanation where Ivan comes from, Ivan just says he comes from people who believe in him.

After that the point of view change to third point of view which describes about Elizabeth. Elizabeth has a work as an interior designer in Baile na gCroíthe. She is described as an independent woman who believes in her own ability to her life. It states:

Her hard work meant that she was the only member of the family capable of providing a good life for Luke. She had reached her goals by being
control, maintaining order, not losing sight of herself, always being realistic, believing in fact and not dreams (p.22)

She believes that she can reach her target in her life with her own skill and effort by arranging and scheduling her activities. She also never believes in dreams but only the fact. Elizabeth lives with her conviction to give the best for her and Luke’s life. The reason why she does that because since Elizabeth was child, she has difficult life. Elizabeth’s mother named Gráinne, she leaves Elizabeth to take care of herself and her father named Brendan when she was child. She is growing up without mother’s affection. It states, “Elizabeth, at twelve years of age, looked after herself and her silent, brooding father and didn’t ask when her mother would be home because she knew in her heart that she would eventually return.” (p.18). The quotation shows Elizabeth looks after herself and her father because Gráinne has gone. Elizabeth never asks Brendan about Gráinne because she believes her mother comes back someday. After several times, Gráinne comes back and she becomes pregnant. Furthermore, Elizabeth has sister named Saoirse. Elizabeth mother still craves her freedom then she decides to take another journey, so that she leaves Elizabeth again and she never returns until Elizabeth adult. It also shows Elizabeth’s responsibility increase, because she has to take care both of her father and sister. It states, “Soon Elizabeth’s heart grew weary of awaiting her mother’s return and Saoirse became Elizabeth responsibility.” (p.19). From that sentence, it can be seen that Elizabeth is waiting her mother but then she feels tired to wait her mother return.

When Saoirse is an adult, she is described as a free woman, it states, “She was fiery, independent, wild and free. She followed the pattern of the mother she
could not remember, so much that Elizabeth almost felt as though she were watching her mother.” (p.21). Saoirse grows up as independent woman who wants to live free like her mother, Elizabeth feels like she is watching her mother inside of Saoirse. In the age of twenty eight Elizabeth has to look after Saoirse’s son. Saoirse does not care about her son even gives him a name, so that Elizabeth gives Saoirse’s son named, Luke and take cares of him.

Once she had the baby she didn’t care much for naming him but eventually took to calling him luck. Another wish. So Elizabeth named him Luke. And once again, at the age of twenty eight Elizabeth took responsibility for a child (p.21)

The story continues when Elizabeth is crying at the night because she hates her life. She complains her life revolves by many problems comes from her sister, then Ivan comes. In this stage Elizabeth start seeing Ivan but Elizabeth thinks Ivan is Sam’s father. Sam is Luke’s friend. Luke often spends his time to play with Sam. Furthermore, Elizabeth asks Ivan name and then Ivan gives his name that makes Elizabeth surprise because Ivan has same name as Luke imaginary friend. Ivan never expects that Elizabeth can see him because it is not usual an adult can see Ivan. Ivan says, “Of course it’s common to be seen by more than one person on a job, but never by an adult.” (p.129). The quotation reveals that Ivan usually can be seen only by children but he never be seen by an adult before. So that, Elizabeth who can see Ivan is not common. After that Elizabeth meets Benjamin. Benjamin is Elizabeth’s client who want Elizabeth to design the interior of new hotel in Baile na gCroithe.
2. Rising Action

Rising action is a part when the conflict builds, and the character emotions intensify. The rising action in the story is Elizabeth and Ivan’s relationship. Elizabeth has to look after her family since she was young. It makes she cannot enjoy her life and gets happiness. She has very difficult childhood because of that she can see Ivan. It has been mentioned in exposition that Ivan cannot be seen by an adult before and Ivan exists only to help children who need him. However, Elizabeth can see Ivan, even though she is an adult which means Elizabeth needs Ivan’s help.

In the story Elizabeth has difficult life since her mother leaves her. She has to take care her sister and her father. Elizabeth feels worries toward Saoirse because Saoirse always makes problems. On the other hand, Brendan makes Elizabeth replaces the role of her mother in her family. For example, in the present time, when Saoirse makes problem. Saoirse is arrested because She has stolen Elizabeth’s car and she is driving under influence of alcohol even though she does not have any driving license. However, Elizabeth wants the police to set Saoirse free. Elizabeth asks the police permission to give Saoirse a chance. After several days the police releases Saoirse from jail.

Then one day Saoirse makes another problem for Elizabeth, she comes to Elizabeth’s office and asks Elizabeth for some money to buy alcohol, Elizabeth tries to talk about the police who has arrested Saoirse. Elizabeth gives suggestion to Saoirse to be more careful but Saoirse refuses and then both of them have fight. Saoirse says,
‘Look,’ Saoirse said, getting angry, ‘I’m twenty-two years old and I’m doing exactly the same thing that everyone else my age is doing—going out and having fun.’ Her tone turned nasty. ‘Well, just because you had no life at my age it doesn’t mean that I can’t have one.’ her wings were fluttering wildly as if she was trapped in a jar and was running out of air. (p.112)

The statement above shows that Saoirse wants to do something that makes her life feels happy. Saoirse also states that Elizabeth does not have any life, because she does not have any moment to have fun and enjoy her life. However, in defense Elizabeth talks to herself, “That’s because I was busy rising you, Elizabeth thought angrily. And obviously doing a terrible job of it too.”(p.112). The quotation shows the reason why Elizabeth does not have life as Saoirse means is Elizabeth busy to look after Saoirse. When Elizabeth in same age like Saoirse, she does not have time to have fun as Saoirse is doing now because Elizabeth has responsibility to look after Saoirse. In the present time Saoirse can have fun and do whatever she wants because she does not have anything to look after or something that make her busy. She has left her responsibility to look after Luke to Elizabeth. Once again Elizabeth busy to raise Luke up, while actually it should be Saoirse responsibility to look after him. Then, Brendan also has become one of the major reasons that make Elizabeth cannot enjoy her life. It is stated that,

He craved attention, always demanding to be the only person in his daughters’ lives, as though that would prevent them from moving away from him. Well, he almost succeeded and certainly was part of his reason for Elizabeth’s lack of a social life or circle of friend. (p.20)

The statement above reveals that Elizabeth’s life revolves around Brendan. Brendan always wants Elizabeth to give all of her attentions for him and claims that he is the most important person in her life. The reason why Brendan does that, it because he wants to prevent Elizabeth from leaving him as his wife has done. It makes
Elizabeth does not have time to enjoy her social life or has any friend. It states, “Brendan accused her being like her mother.” (p.20). The quotation shows Brendan has regarded Elizabeth as the mother in the family.

What is happening to Elizabeth’s family leads her to see Ivan. At one point when Elizabeth cries in the night Ivan comes to her, it is stated, “You must be Sam’s dad.” (p.146). From the quotation, it shows Elizabeth thinks Ivan is Sam’s father. Furthermore, Elizabeth and Ivan have conversation, Ivan asks Elizabeth, “Are you alright?” (p.152). Then it states, “She thought about it and came the conclusion that if the last time she had heard those words uttered by anyone was more than a few years ago then she supposed the answer was no. She was not alright.” (p.152). The quotation reveals that Elizabeth is not fine.

She looked at the kind stranger with the blue eyes watching her and saw more care in those eyes than she had in anyone she knew. She wanted to tell him how she felt, she wanted to hear him say it would be OK, that she wasn’t alone and that they would all live happily after and that—.(p. 152)

The statement above shows Elizabeth is still not alright, she finds more care than anyone in her life from Ivan’s eyes. She has desire to tell Ivan what she feels and wants Ivan says, OK. The statement also shows Elizabeth needs Ivan to give courage that she is ok and she is not alone. Elizabeth answers, “Yes, thank you, Ivan, I’m alright.” (p.153). However, Elizabeth answer is not appropriate to her real conditions because she cries and curses her life. It is stated, “Damn Saoirse. Damn her and her hatred of life” (p.145). The quotation shows that Elizabeth is not fine because she hates her life and she is crying, it proves that she feels sad about her life.
3. Climax

Climax is the moment of truth, the turning point of the conflict that changes the character. The climax in this story is when Elizabeth and Ivan are getting closer, it affects the development or the changes in Elizabeth’s characteristic. However, Ivan has to leave Elizabeth. As in the rising action stage, the condition of Elizabeth’s family affects Elizabeth’s characteristic in the present time. One of the affect, it has been mentioned in Exposition that Elizabeth is an independent woman but lack of social interaction and lack of friendship before she meets Ivan. It states,

On the other hand, his aunt never slept, ate very little, was constantly surrounded by silence so loud that it was deafening, she had nobody close to her to talk to, that I had seen yet anyway, and she didn’t say far more than she did actually say. (p.62)

The statement above shows Elizabeth often spends her time in solitude, she does not have someone close to her who can have conversation with her. Elizabeth does not say more than she wants to say, in other word she just says something that she thinks it is important. However, after Elizabeth meets Ivan, she changes to be a better person who shares what she thinks.

One day, Elizabeth comes to meet Ivan then she says, “Ivan, I’ve come to give you piece of mind. I spoke to Benjamin today after you left and he told me you were a partner in the company. He also accused me of something else but I won’t even get into that.”(p.196). That quotation reveals Elizabeth wants to talk about her mind to Ivan. She tells Ivan about her job, Elizabeth’s job is an interior designer. Then one of her acquaintances, Benjamin, asks Elizabeth to design a room for children. However, Elizabeth never designs any room for children. As the result Benjamin asks Elizabeth to explore more about children so she can understand what
her client wants. After that to make her job easy Elizabeth asks Ivan’s help. Ivan helps Elizabeth to get an inspiration, Ivan asks Elizabeth about what she wants if she is a child. Furthermore, Elizabeth tells Ivan about her mother’s promise to lay on the field at night then make wishes upon many falling stars together but they never do that, because her mother leaves her before fulfilling her promise. Elizabeth tells Ivan about her mother and some of Elizabeth’s childhood memories with Saoirse. Elizabeth says, “Ivan, I’ve never spoken to anyone about what I said before.” (p.201). That quotation proves Elizabeth never speaks about her feeling and her past life to anybody but she tells Ivan, it also reveals that Elizabeth starts to accept someone to enter her life and she starts to open her feeling for others.

Another Elizabeth’s characteristic that change is believing in something that unrealistic. While actually Elizabeth is a person who believes in fact. However, it changes at the moment she meets Ivan. It has been mentioned in the exposition stage that Elizabeth believes in realistic and never believe in dreams. For example, after several weeks Elizabeth talks to Ivan, he invites Elizabeth and Luke to go to dandelion field to catch Jinny Joes. Ivan tells Elizabeth and Luke that Jinny Joes are dandelion seeds but those are not ordinary seeds. He tells Elizabeth and Luke to wish upon Jinny Joes. Elizabeth says, “I think it’s ridiculous that you fill his head with these lies. What are you going to tell him when absolutely nothing he wishes for come true?” (p.213). That quotation reveals that Elizabeth does not believe in wishing upon Jinny Joes because she realizes that it is useless to wish upon something and she believes that the wishes never be come true.
Furthermore, Elizabeth decides to stay in the car and let Ivan and Luke to catch Jinny Joes. However, Elizabeth decides to go out from her car and joins Luke to catch Jinny Joes, after Elizabeth sees Luke wishes upon Jinny Joes. He wishes upon Jinny Joes to make Elizabeth joins him to catch Jinny Joes. At the same time, Benjamin is driving near the field and he sees Elizabeth is dancing with Luke in Dandelion filed. It states, “His face broke into smile as he spotted Elizabeth Egan dancing with a young boy in a field filled with dandelions.” (p.220). The quotation shows that Elizabeth joins with Luke to catch Jinny Joes. The next day Ivan invites Elizabeth to see stars at the night. Elizabeth says, “I’m still waiting for my Jinny Joes wish come true.” (p.297). Elizabeth’s statements reveals that she is waiting her wish upon Jinny Joes come true, it also means Elizabeth believes to wish upon Jinny Joes and her wish come true.

From the moments that Elizabeth and Ivan spend together shows their relationship are getting closer. Elizabeth says, “I’d like to spend more time with you.” (p.338). From that statement it can be seen Elizabeth wants together with Ivan but they cannot be together because Ivan is different from Elizabeth. One day, Opal takes Ivan to Geoffrey’s house, Geoffrey is someone who Opal loves but Geoffrey cannot see Opal anymore. It states, “Having to leave my best friends is all part of my job.” (p.1). The phases of Ivan and Opal job are meeting and parting. They have to make friend with someone then help them to get what they need. After their friend have got what they need then Oval and Ivan become invisible again. Their friends cannot see them anymore. It is same with Opal and Geoffrey. Opal takes Ivan to
meet Geoffrey in order to show Ivan that they are different from other people and
she makes Ivan to understand that he cannot live together with Elizabeth.

4. Falling Action

Falling action is a stage when conflict begins to be overcome and the tension
gradually decrease. Falling action in the story starts when Elizabeth stops seeing
Ivan. It means Ivan has to leave Elizabeth and Luke because they already have not
seen Ivan. The tension also decrease among Elizabeth, Saoirse and Brendan. After
Elizabeth’s birthday party Ivan comes to Elizabeth to say goodbye to her in the
night when Elizabeth sleeps. Ivan says, “Something like that. You don’t need me
anymore, Elizabeth. You’re going to stop seeing me now. Someone else will need
me.” (p.381). From that quotation means Elizabeth has got what she needs, so that
Elizabeth does not need Ivan anymore. That is also the reason why Elizabeth stops
seeing Ivan because she does not need Ivan anymore and Elizabeth’s life is better
now as the purpose Ivan is sent to meet Elizabeth. Ivan states,

Opals always tell me. I suppose what had changed in Elizabeth’s life was
her mind, the way she was thinking. All I had done was plant the seed of
hope; she alone could help it grow. And because she was starting to lose
sight of me, perhaps that seed was being cultivated (p.378)

Ivan has changed Elizabeth mind in her live. Ivan comes to Elizabeth’s life to
change Elizabeth perspective by giving her seed of hope. It means Ivan gives hope
to Elizabeth by teaching her in many ways to enjoy Elizabeth’s life. For example,
Ivan has taught Elizabeth to enjoy her life by doing something simple like catch
Jinny Joes. Furthermore, Ivan lets Elizabeth to do other things that makes her happy
by herself. It means Ivan lets Elizabeth to express her way to enjoy her life.
One day, Elizabeth realizes that she never meets Ivan again. She tries to look for Ivan by asking Luke. Luke tells Elizabeth that Ivan has said goodbye to her. Luke says, “After the party in the garden, he came to the house and he told me that his job with us was finished, that he was going to be invisible again like he used to be but he would still be around and that meant that we were OK.” (p.387). It means Ivan’s job with Elizabeth and Luke has done, so that Elizabeth and Luke cannot see Ivan again. However, Ivan is still around Luke and Elizabeth even though they cannot see Ivan, they can continue their life without Ivan, it means they are fine. Elizabeth also asks Fiona, Luke’s friend mother about Ivan but Fiona thinks that Ivan just an imaginary friend who is created by Luke and Sam. Furthermore, Elizabeth realizes that Ivan is an imaginary friend whom she thinks is not real and never exist before. However, Elizabeth has spent her times with Ivan, so she believes that Ivan exists now.

‘Ekam Eveileb.’ Was all she could say
‘Yep,’ Luke giggled, ‘it’s backwards language. Cool, isn’t it?’
It took Elizabeth seconds to work it out.
Make Believe (p.395)

Ivan has told Elizabeth before that he comes from a place which is called ‘Ekam Eveilb’, Elizabeth thinks it is a place in Russia but after she is searching in the Google, she cannot find where it is, then Elizabeth asks Luke about where Ivan comes from. The statement above shows Elizabeth knows the answer after Luke says that it is a backward language, which is ‘Make Believe’. It means that Ivan comes from people who believe. People can see Ivan if they believe that Ivan exists.

The next falling action is the tension among Elizabeth and her family decrease. One day, Saoirse visits Luke to say goodbye to him. Luke says to
Elizabeth, “She said because it was best for her and you and Granddad and me because she kept doing the wrong things and making everyone mad. She said she was doing what you always told her to do. She said she was flaying away.” (p.348). From that quotation it can be seen Saoirse has realized that she makes Elizabeth’s life in trouble and makes her mad then Saoirse thinks the best way to herself is to leave her family. So that, she decides to go away. She does not tell Luke where she goes and she does not know for how long. Elizabeth hugs Luke and says, “Well, don’t worry. Because it’s my job to look after you, OK.” (p.349). From Elizabeth’s statement shows that she starts to give more attention to Luke. She decides to start more give attention to Luke because she realizes, it is something that she has to do but she often avoids it.

Elizabeth relationship with her father is also getting better after she knows that her father actually cares to her. Brendan has hidden the truth that he knows about Gráinne is an alcoholic, in order to make Elizabeth does not have bad perspective on her mother. It has been mentioned in the rising action that Brendan has role for Elizabeth characteristic because he makes Elizabeth takes her mother’s responsibility to take care her family, it affect Elizabeth lack of social interaction. It is stated, “She was surrounded by a father who could barely look at her in the eye for fear remembering his wife.” (p. 145). Brendan never looks at Elizabeth as his daughter before because he afraid to remember his wife if he looks at Elizabeth’s eye. As the result they do not have good relationship. However, Brendan is not bad as Elizabeth thinks.
One day, Elizabeth comes to Brendan house, she runs toward him and then hugs her father. She is crying and calling her father ‘Daddy’. Brendan thinks she is his wife but he realizes that it is impossible to his wife to call him ‘Daddy’. He notices that she is his daughter, Elizabeth. Then, he says “I’m here, don’t worry.” (p.368). It means Brendan tries to calm down her daughter and he starts see Elizabeth as her daughter, it also shows that Brendan cares to Elizabeth. He states that he with Elizabeth, it also means he wants to tell Elizabeth that Elizabeth is not alone because he with him. From that moment the relationship between Elizabeth and Brendan are getting better.

5. Resolution

Resolution is the stage when the conflict is resolved and it brings the story to the conclusion. In this section Elizabeth asks another person about Ivan, the person is Benjamin. Elizabeth asks him because Benjamin has been together with Elizabeth and Ivan in the same place, but Benjamin answer is not like Elizabeth hopes. He says, “I assumed you were joking about him.” (p.400). Benjamin thinks Elizabeth just joking about Ivan. Benjamin also thinks that Ivan just an imaginary friend who is created by Elizabeth. Then Elizabeth accepts that Ivan is an imaginary friend like Luke says before. It is stated,

‘I just believe so much…’ she trailed off. ‘He’s really helped me over the past few months.’ She looked around at the view for another moment in silence, ‘I used to hate this town, Benjamin,’ a tear rolled down her cheek. ‘I used to hate every single blade of grass on every hill, but he taught me so much. He taught me that it’s not Baile na gCroithe’s fault that I don’t feel I fit in. it doesn’t matter where you are in the world because it’s about where you are up here,’ (p.402)
The statement above proves that Elizabeth changes her perspective after she meets Ivan. She just believes in a fact. However, after she meets Ivan she believes everything that she has to believe. From the statement above also shows, Elizabeth tells Benjamin that Ivan has helped her. Elizabeth hates the town where she lives, before she meets Ivan which is Baile na gCroithe’s. She hates every single place in the Baile na gCroithe’s but Ivan teaches her to not simply hate something. Ivan teaches Elizabeth that it is not Baile na gCroithe’s mistake which makes Elizabeth does not feel comfortable to live there. The important thing is no matter where you are in this world she is still connected to the place where she come from, the place where she lives. It also shows that meeting with Ivan has changed Elizabeth’s life.

Then Elizabeth says, “She touched the side of her head lightly. ‘It’s about the other world I inhabit. The world of dreams, hope, imagination and memories. I’m happy up here,’ she tapped her temple again and smiled, ‘and because of that I’m happy up here too.’ She held out her arms and displayed the countryside around her.” (p.402). The quotation reveals that Elizabeth feels happier now. She feels happy after realizes that she can get happiness from a place where she lives and everything inside there such as dreams, hope, imagination, and memories.

In the next morning, Elizabeth shows her work to children and people who visit the hotel. It has been mentioned in the climax that Elizabeth has a job to design a room for children. As the result the walls in the room are painted in full colors huge murals, each walls has different scenes. One of the scenes is a field full of dandelion and Jinny Joes which fly in the air. Children are satisfied with Elizabeth’s work. It states, “Suddenly one child let out a ‘Wow!’ and one by one, the huse and
stunned children gradually began calling excitedly to one another: ‘Look at that!’,
‘Look over there!’ The children looked at the room in awe.” (p.405). The quotation
proves children are happy and excited to play in the room. After that Benjamin
looks at Elizabeth. It states, “She was beaming, her face alight from the visitors’
reaction to the room.”(p.406). The quotation proves Elizabeth happy and satisfied
sees children give good reaction to Elizabeth’s work.

B. The Symbols that Reflect Elizabeth’s Life which are Found through The
Plot

The writer knows the symbols that are found through the plot by notice that
those symbols have been mentioned many times, and then the writer searches some
references to find out the meaning of the symbols. After that the meaning of the
symbols are connected to some events in the the story. In pervious discussion has
purpose to know the arrangement of events in the story through the plot. In this part
the discussion focuses on the symbols that symbolize some events in Elizabeth life.

1. Elizabeth’s clothes colors: Grey, Brown, and Black

According to Zettl in Ghiotto and Wijanarka a color can represent more than
visual substance. It has a deeper meaning beyond the color (2016:52). It means a
color is not only visual thing but it has another meaning than itself. In the novel,
Elizabeth often wears clothes in grey, brown, and black colors. Those colors
symbolize Elizabeth’s life and characteristics. It has been mentioned in exposition,
Elizabeth has difficult life because she has to take care of her sister and her father
since she was young. Murphy states, one way author present character in the story
is past life. Elizabeth past life has shaped hers characteristic because of the events which are happening to her.

In the present time when Ivan sees Elizabeth for the first time he says, “She wore a smart grey trouser suit.” (p.9). Grey means sad and boring (http://www.incredibleart.org.n.d). Grey color shows monotonous because it is not attractive color. The grey color symbolizes Elizabeth’s sad life. Elizabeth’s life is sad because her life is surrounded by her family that lack of love. It states,

And the more she wished the more she cried because she realized she was surrounded by a father who could barely look at her in the eye for fear of remembering his wife, a sister who had forgotten her own son, and a nephew who looked to her every day with big hopeful blue eyes, just asking to be loved and cuddled. Emotions that she felt she was never given enough to be able to share. (p.145)

Elizabeth wishes something that she never has before in her family which is love. In the previous discussion in the exposition and rising action stages, Elizabeth cries because she realizes that she has difficult life and her life revolves around her father and her sister. The statement above reveals that Brendan never looks at Elizabeth as his daughter. It is difficult for Elizabeth to live with a father who does not want to look at Elizabeth’s eyes because he is afraid to remember her wife. After that, she has to take care Luke who always looks at her with big hope since Saoirse leaves him, Elizabeth is the one whom Luke’s hope to give affection as a family. However, Elizabeth cannot give affection because she never gets it from her own family. It shows Elizabeth has sad life because she lack of family affection.

He noticed she always surrounded by silence. There was never any music or sound in the background like most people had, a radio blaring, the window open to allow in the sounds of summer-the birdsong and the lawn mowers (p.56)
It has been mentioned in the climax that Elizabeth is bounded by solitude. The statement above shows that Elizabeth’s life is boring, she never plays music in her home. The only sound that comes to Elizabeth house is the natural sound which are bird song and the lawn mowers in the summer. It has been mentioned in rising action that Elizabeth does not have time to have fun or enjoy her life. It Shows Elizabeth’s life is boring. Since the meaning of grey color is boring, it is symbolize Elizabeth’s life is boring.

The next color is brown. It is mentioned first time by Ivan, “I noticed she’d changed into a chocolate-brown tracksuit to match her hair and complement her skin.” (p.32). Elizabeth changes her clothes into brown color which means stability. (http://www.incredibleart.org.n.d). It shows in exposition, Elizabeth is an independent woman who always organizes and plans everything. The brown color is appropriate to symbolize Elizabeth characteristic who wants everything stable. It also has been shown in exposition that Elizabeth always arranges her activities. It states, “She had reached her goals by being control, maintaining order.” (p.22). She wants everything stable, so she controls herself and maintain everything to reaches her goals. It is written, “She liked stability and routine.” (p.310). That quotation reveals Elizabeth like stability and everything is scheduled. It sates,

Friday’s meeting had been vital. She had spent weeks planning for it, updating her portfolio, creating a slide show, gathering magazine cuttings and newspaper write-ups of the places she had designed. Her whole life’s work had been condensed into a folder book in order to convince these people to hire her (p.49)

That statement explains Elizabeth always prepares the best for her life’s work. Elizabeth has an important meeting at the time when Ivan comes to Elizabeth’s
home and the same time when Saoirse takes Elizabeth’s car. She has spent many weeks to prepare everything for the meeting.

Ivan mentions again about Elizabeth’s clothes. It states, “As far as he could see, that was all she seemed to wear. Black, brown, and grey. So restrained and so boring, boring, boring.” (p.99). That statement shows Elizabeth usually wears clothes in black, brown, and grey color. Ivan thinks those colors are dull because Elizabeth never tries to wear clothes in another colors, which has attractive colors such as blue or red. Black, brown, and grey are not attractive color. The black color means death and mystery. (http://www.incredbleart.org,n.d). Mystery is appropriate to symbolize Elizabeth’s life is a mystery. It states,

He craved attention, always demanding to be the only person in his daughters’ lives, as though that would prevent them from moving away from him. Well, he almost succeeded and certainly was part of his reason for Elizabeth’s lack of a social life or circle of friend. (p.20)

It has been explained in rising action that Elizabeth has to looks after her father who is accused her of being like her mother. She has grown without complete family and lack of father’s and mother’s attention. Elizabeth’s father always makes Elizabeth to keep her attention to him, it makes Elizabeth lack of social life interaction. She does not have close friends to share any story. It also reveals that Elizabeth’s life is a mystery because nobody knows about Elizabeth. She does not have time to share story or talk to other people about her life.

2. The Curtains Open

According to Perrine a symbol can be an object (1974:211). The second symbol that appears in the beginning of the story is the curtains open. The curtains open symbolize Elizabeth is waiting someone to help her. It has been mentioned in
exposition that Elizabeth feels tired waiting her mother. It means she is always waiting her mother then she feels tired. Elizabeth is letting the curtains in her room open to help her notice Gráinne comes. It shows she is waiting her mother comes back home with letting the curtains open. In everyday life curtains have some function such as curtains open have function to control the radiance from outside at daylight and curtains close have function as privacy for people in the house or room when the night is coming. In the novel, Elizabeth is described that she always letting her curtains open when she sleeps at the night in her bed room. The first reason Elizabeth letting the curtains open is because she does not want to miss the time when her mother comes back to home after her journey in her childhood time. As the explanation in exposition that Elizabeth’s mother often leaves Elizabeth at home to do her journey. She is waiting her mother to come back and letting the curtains open. The curtains open help her to see the outside of her bed room.

She always slept with curtains open. It had steamed from growing up on a farm. Lying in her bed she could see through the bungalow window, down the garden path and out of the front gate. Beyond that was a country road that led straight from farm, stretching on for a mile. Elizabeth could see her mother returning from adventures, walking down the road for at least twenty minutes before she reach home. She could recognize the half-hop, half skip from miles away. (p.64)

The statement above shows, Elizabeth is growing up with her habits to let the curtains open in order to give a sign when her mother comes back home. When Elizabeth is lying on the bed, she can see through the window when her mother returns. She can see her mother is walking down the road before she arrives to the home. Elizabeth also can recognize the sound of Gráinne’s steps, even though Gráinne is still miles away from home. It states, “Elizabeth had annoyed college
room-mates and lovers with her insistence on keeping the curtains open.” (p.65). The quotation shows Elizabeth keeps her habits until she is a college student and her habits make her room-mates feel bothered. It states, “But now in her adulthood, the open curtains acted like alarm clock; with them open she knew the light would never allow her to fall back into deep sleep.” (p.65). The quotation proves in Elizabeth adulthood, the function of curtains open is not only help her to notice her mother returns, but also it is an alarm for Elizabeth to wake up in the morning when the light is shining through the window. However, the curtains open still show that Elizabeth is waiting for someone who is not only her mother. In the previous discussion in exposition states, one day at the night Elizabeth sits down on the chair in the kitchen, she is thinking about her difficult life. It states, “Elizabeth’s hurt was screaming at her tonight. ‘Oh, help,’ she cried softly, covering her face in her hands. ‘Help, help, help…’ she whispered through her sob.” (p.146). Elizabeth is crying when she thinks about her life, she says those words for the help. It explains that Elizabeth is waiting for someone to help her. She wishes that someone can help her. Then Ivan comes to Elizabeth’s life. The curtains open can symbolize the event when Elizabeth is waiting someone to help her before she meets Ivan.

3. The Bridge

The bridge has function to connect one place to other place. In the novel there is a bridge which is connected Baile na gCroifthe to the other town. According to J.C. Cirlot, the bridge symbolizes a transition, in which he says that, “The bridge always symbolic of a transition from one state to another—of change or the desire for change.” (2001:33). In the story, Elizabeth sees the bridge when she is driving
to her father farmhouse and her office. It states, “The bridge, oddly, was easier to drive over from outside the town. It curved in an unusual shape, making driving out of the village difficult. It disturbed Elizabeth every time.” (p.82). Elizabeth thinks that it is easier to drive from the outside of the town to enter Baile na gCroíthe than drive from Baile na gCroíthe to go outside. It is because when she drives outside of the town, she leaves everything in her town, especially her family. It states, “But something about the town kept dragging her back and she had spent years trying to fight it.” (p.82). Something that bring her back is her family because it is the only thing that she has in the town.

The bridge symbolize the conflict in Elizabeth as it states in the rising action when she knows that Saoirse is arrested. Elizabeth tries to ask the police to set Saoirse free, even though she has tired for everything about Saoirse that makes Elizabeth in a problem. She is supposed to hate her sister but she still helps Saoirse. She does not want to help Saoirse but the fact she still tries to help her. She is still tied by her family, even though she does not have any attention from her family but she still cares of them. The bridge symbolize the event when Elizabeth still helps Saoirse.

The bridge also can symbolize the transition in Elizabeth after she meets Ivan. As states in the previous discussion in climax, Elizabeth’s life changes after she knows Ivan. One day, Elisabeth and Ivan have conversation. It states, “Elizabeth wanted the extras he spoke about. She wanted the sparkle and the excitement of life.” (p.158). The quotation proves that Elizabeth wants Ivan to speak more when they have conversation. She wants to see the sparkle and the excitement when Ivan
is talking about life. It also shows the desire of Elizabeth to change her life. It states in rising action that Elizabeth is surrounded by solitude before she meets Ivan. She chooses to be alone and likes silence but after she has conversation with Ivan, she feels comfortable and wants to talk more with Ivan. It proves the bridge symbolizes the transition in Elizabeth’s life as in climax when she changes from someone who likes silence to be more talk active.

4. Dandelion and Jinny Joes

Jinny Joes is often mentioned in the story than dandelion flower. Jinny Joes are still part of dandelion, because those are dandelion seeds. Jinny Joes symbolize Elizabeth’s new life, meanwhile a dandelion flower symbolizes happiness (http://www.flowerinfo.org.n.d). Dandelion symbolizes the events when Elizabeth gets her happiness. It show in the climax when Elizabeth catches Jinny Joes, in the same time Benjamin sees Elizabeth and Luke are dancing in dandelion field, Benjamin thinks Elizabeth looks happy at that time. It states, “On Elizabeth’s face was expression of pure happiness.” (p.221). It proves that Elizabeth gets happiness when she catches Jinny Joes and makes wishes upon Jinny Joes with Luke and Ivan. Before Elizabeth meets Ivan, she does not believe in fairy tale but when Elizabeth decides to join Luke and Ivan catch Jinny Joe, it reveals that she believes in makes wishes upon dandelion seeds.

In the next story after Ivan has gone. Elizabeth has painted a room for children with dandelion flowers and Jinny Joes. It has been mentioned in resolution that the children who come to look the room feel happy and satisfied with Elizabeth’s work. Elizabeth also satisfied sees the children enjoy play in the room.
It states, “It was the face of someone who had let go and was truly happy.” (p.407). That quotation proves that Elizabeth feels happy now. So that, dandelion symbolizes the event when Elizabeth gets her happiness. Since the meaning of dandelion is happiness, dandelion is appropriate to symbolize the events when Elizabeth gets her happiness.

The next symbol is Jinny Joes. Ivan first time mentions about Jinny Joes in climax when he goes to dandelion field with Elizabeth and Luke. It states,

‘Luke,‘ Ivan turned to him, ‘they’re also known as the Irish Daisy but they’re not only dandelion seeds, they are what most normal people,’ he threw Elizabeth nasty look, ‘call Jinny Joes. They carry wishes in the wind and you’re supposed to catch them in your hand, make your wish and then let them go so they can deliver them.’ (p.214)

Ivan says that normal people call Jinny Joes as dandelion seed and think that dandelion seed is only a seed. However, in Ivan’s opinion he calls it Jinny Joes and it is not an ordinary seed. Ivan believes that Jinny Joes can deliver people’s wish by catch the dandelion then makes a wish, after that blows the seed into the wind and letting the wind carry the wishes.

According to Mary Lougee, “Dandelion seeds or Jinny Joes have a parachute-type structure on the tip, allowing the wind to blow them around for many miles for seed dispersal. The seeds land and begin a new germination cycle in warm, moist soil.” (www.hunker.com, n.d). Jinny Joes symbolize new life as the quotation above Jinny Joes which fly to the air start to grow up to be dandelion flower in another place, it shows new life for Jinny Joes to be dandelion. In the novel Jinny Joes which Elizabeth blows symbolize Elizabeth’s new life. It starts, in the climax when Ivan invites Elizabeth and Luke to catch Jinny Joes, at the first time Elizabeth
does not follow Ivan and Luke to catch the Jinny Joes, but then she decides to join with Ivan and Luke to catch Jinny Joes. In the resolution Elizabeth says, “But he taught me so much.” (p.402). The quotation proves after the event in the dandelion field, Ivan has taught Elizabeth many things and it has changed Elizabeth’s perspective about her life as it mentions in resolution. Jinny Joes are mentioned again in the resolution when children see Elizabeth’s work, Jinny Joes are painted on the wall symbolize new life for Elizabeth. She continues her life with new perspective after Ivan has gone. Elizabeth says, “To hell with you I do believe.” (p.402). It proves Elizabeth’s perspective changes, she start believing in something that she does not believe before.
CHAPTER V
CONCLUSION

In this chapter the writer concludes the analysis from previous chapter. First analysis is about the plot to know the events in the novel If You Could See Me Now. The plot is divided into five stages. The first stage is exposition, it begins with Ivan who comes to Fuchsia Lane, a place where Luke and Elizabeth live. However, Luke is the only person who can see Ivan in the beginning of the story. In this stage, Elizabeth is described that she has problem with her family. The second stage is rising action, it starts with Elizabeth problem and her family matter that shaped Elizabeth’s characteristic. She also has difficult childhood. In this stage Elizabeth starts seeing Ivan, it is also a sign that Elizabeth needs Ivan. She is crying and looking for help at the night when she sees Ivan for the first time. It can be seen that actually she is waiting someone to help her.

The third stage is climax, it starts with the relationship between Elizabeth and Ivan are getting closer. Their relationship also affect Elizabeth’s characteristic development. Elizabeth spends her time in solitude before she meets Ivan then after she meets Ivan, he makes Elizabeth wants to share her mind to someone that never she does before. Elizabeth's characteristic also changing from a person who does not believe in wishing upon Jinny Joes to the person believe in it. The fourth stage is falling action, it begins with Ivan has to leave Elizabeth and Luke because his job has finished. In this stage Elizabeth and Luke also cannot see him anymore. Furthermore, Elizabeth knows that Ivan is an imaginary friend. This stage also shows that Elizabeth relationship with Saoirse and Brendan are getting better. The
final stage is resolution, it starts with Elizabeth gets her happiness. She realizes that she must not hate her life and the town where she lives, Ivan has taught her to get her happiness and changed her perspective about life. It also can be seen from Elizabeth who looks happy to see children satisfied with her works.

Furthermore, from those plot stages the writer finds symbols that can reflect Elizabeth’s life. They are Elizabeth clothes’ colors: grey, brown, and black, the curtains open, the bridge, dandelion and Jinny Joes. Those symbols symbolize the events that have been analyzed in plot stages.

The colors of Elizabeth’s clothes are not only symbolize Elizabeth’s life but also her characteristic. Grey symbolizes Elizabeth’s life that full of sadness. It shows in exposition that Elizabeth has problem with her family, she grows up in an incomplete family and lack of love from her family. It proves that Elizabeth’s has miserable life because she does not get family affection since she was child. Elizabeth’s life is boring, it proves in rising action and climax that Elizabeth is bounded in solitude. The next color is brown, it symbolizes Elizabeth’s characteristic who wants everything stable. It is mentioned in exposition that Elizabeth arranges and schedules everything properly. The last color is black, it symbolize Elizabeth’s life full of mystery. In the rising action it is explained that the condition in Elizabeth’s family makes she does not have any friend to talk to, it means people around her do not know about her because she lacks of social life.

The next symbol is curtains open, it symbolizes Elizabeth is waiting someone to help her. Elizabeth is waiting for someone to help her by letting the curtains in her bedroom open. Elizabeth opens the curtains to know if someone can
help her, as in rising action when Elizabeth is crying and looking for help then Ivan comes to Elizabeth’s life. The other symbol is the bridge, it symbolizes transition in Elizabeth’s life. In the rising action shows Elizabeth still helps her sister, even though she hates her. It shows there is no transition in Elizabeth. However, after Elizabeth meets Ivan, there are some transitions or changes that happened to Elizabeth. For example, in the beginning of the novel she is surrounded in solitude but, after meeting Ivan in the climax she changes to become talk active. The last symbols are dandelion and Jinny Joes. Dandelion symbolizes happiness in Elizabeth’s life. It shows in the last stage of resolution, Elizabeth says she is happy. The events that show Elizabeth gets her happiness can be seen in the climax and resolution, which are when she catches Jinny Joes and when she sees children enjoy her works. Jinny Joes symbolize Elizabeth’s new life. In resolution Elizabeth continues her life with her new perspective after Ivan has gone, it shows in the event when Elizabeth is painting the room for children. She still continues her life even though Ivan has gone from her life.

The writer concludes the symbols that are found through the plot of the story symbolize some events in the Elizabeth’s life. The writer analyzes the plot to know the events in the story. It also shows that symbols can be related to other intrinsic elements of novel. In this study the symbols symbolize the events that have been organized through the plot stages in the story.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


Manggalagita, Ucca. “The Significance of the symbols to the characterization of Sarah O’Rourke in Chris Cleave’s The Other Hand.” Yogyakarta: Sanata Dharma University, 2014.


Nugroho, F. Jati Adi. “Plot as Symbol of the Spiritual Quest of Main Character in Herman Hesse’s Siddhartha.” Yogyakarta: Sanata Dharma University, 2010.


Tari, Putri Lubina. “A Figure Speech Analysis on Cecelia Ahern’s If You Could See Me Now.” Jakarta: Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah, 2008.