

ABSTRACT

MARTHA DANI HESTIANAWATI (2010). **The Symbols and Allegory as Crucial Keys to Reveal the Theme in Edgar Allan Poe's "The Masque of the Red Death"**. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University.

This study analyzes the symbols and allegory that reveal the theme in Edgar Allan Poe's short story entitled "The Masque of the Red Death". There are three problems discussed in this study, namely what symbols exist in the story, what allegory exists in the story, and how the symbols and allegory reveal the theme in the story.

This study uses theories by, Harmon, Perrine, and Stanton to analyze the symbols in the story, theories by Carrez, Literary dictionary, and Jacobs to analyze the allegory in the story, and theories by Jaffe, Scott and Stanton to analyze how the theme is revealed.

Library research method is used as the method of this study, because the data are obtained from written sources. Formalistic approach is used as the approach of this study because this approach focuses on recurring elements in many literary works, including symbols, allegory, theme, actions, and characters. This approach is suitable because the elements analyzed in this story, such as symbols and theme related to death, have recurred in other literary works.

There are three findings in this study. Firstly, this story contains some symbols, namely Prince Prospero, the Red Death, the revellers, the chambers in the castle, and the clock. Prince Prospero symbolizes prosperity or wealth, The Red Death symbolizes death, the revellers symbolize human feelings, The chambers symbolize life progression, and the clock symbolizes human's limited time. Secondly, the symbols in this story form some allegories, namely the allegory of human life and death and the allegory of humans' powerlessness to evade death. These allegories are presented in two levels of meaning, the literal and allegorical. In the literal level, Prince Prospero and the revellers move from the eastern chamber to the western chamber in the end. They fear the last chamber, including the chimes from the clock in that chamber. They try to avoid or fight the Red Death, and believe they can avoid the Red Death with their advantaged position. In the allegorical level, humans with all their possessions and characteristics make a journey from birth, or the dawn of their life, to death, or the dusk of their life. They fear death, including thoughts or discussions about death. They try to avoid or fight against death and believe they can avoid death through wealth, technology, science, and so on.

Thirdly, as the prominent literary devices, the symbols and allegory reveal the theme in the story in relation to the elements, such as characters, setting, plot, and conflict. The symbols are strongly related to the characters and setting, while the allegory is strongly related to the plot and conflict. The symbols provide the main concept of death, while the allegory assigns the nature or quality to the concept, namely the inevitable and indiscriminate nature of death. Together, the symbols and allegory reveal the theme of the story, namely that "Death is inevitable and indiscriminate".

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Studi ini menganalisa simbol dan alegori yang mengungkapkan tema dari cerita pendek karya Edgar Allan Poe berjudul "The Masque of the Red Death". Tiga permasalahan dibahas dalam studi ini, yaitu simbol-simbol apa yang terdapat dalam cerita ini, alegori apa yang terdapat dalam cerita ini, dan bagaimana simbol dan alegori tersebut mengungkap tema cerita ini.

Studi ini menggunakan teori dari Harmon, Perrine, dan Stanton untuk menganalisa simbol-simbol dalam cerita ini, teori dari Carrez, *Literary dictionary*, dan Jacobs untuk menganalisa alegori, serta teori dari Jaffe, Scott dan Stanton untuk menganalisa bagaimana terbentuknya tema cerita.

Metode riset pustaka digunakan dalam studi ini, karena data diperoleh dari sumber-sumber tertulis. Pendekatan *Formalistic* digunakan dalam studi ini, mengingat pendekatan ini berpusat pada unsur-unsur yang kerap muncul dalam berbagai karya sastra, termasuk simbol, alegori, tema, tindakan, dan tokoh. Pendekatan ini sesuai karena unsur-unsur yang dianalisa dalam cerita ini, misalnya simbol dan tema yang berkaitan dengan kematian, telah sering muncul dalam karya-karya sastra sebelumnya.

Studi ini menghasilkan tiga jawaban. Pertama, terdapat beberapa simbol dalam cerita ini, yaitu Prince Prospero, Red Death, para pengunjung pesta, ruang-ruang di kastil, dan jam besar. Prince Prospero melambangkan kemakmuran atau kekayaan, Red Death melambangkan kematian, pengunjung pesta melambangkan perasaan manusia, ruang-ruang di kastil melambangkan perjalanan hidup, dan jam melambangkan waktu manusia yang terbatas. Kedua, simbol-simbol dalam cerita ini membentuk alegori, yakni alegori tentang hidup-mati manusia dan alegori tentang ketidakberdayaan manusia dalam menghadapi kematian. Alegori-alegori tersebut ditampilkan dalam dua tingkatan makna, yakni tingkatan harafiah atau makna yang ditampilkan simbol-simbol di atas, dan tingkatan *allegorical* atau makna yang tercermin dari interaksi simbol-simbol tersebut. Ketiga, simbol dan alegori mengungkap tema cerita ini tak lepas dari unsur-unsur lain seperti tokoh, setting, plot, dan konflik yang terkandung dalam unsur simbol dan alegori. Simbol dalam cerita ini erat berhubungan dengan unsur tokoh dan setting, sedangkan alegori erat berhubungan dengan unsur plot dan konflik. Simbol tersebut memunculkan konsep utama yakni kematian, sedangkan alegori memberikan sifat pada konsep tersebut, yakni sifat kematian yang tidak pandang bulu dan tak dapat dihindari. Simbol dan alegori bekerja bersama dalam mengungkap tema cerita ini, yaitu "Kematian adalah tidak pandang bulu dan tak dapat dihindari."