ABSTRACT


*The Bridges of Madison County* is a novel that deals with man-and-woman’s love affair. Both are unhappy in love and need somebody that can make their life cheerful. Here the author, Robert James Waller, wants to present a natural story that is very human and might happen in everybody’s life. By the use of several symbols as devices, he tries to wrap an ordinary story to become a romantic and touching story. Because of those symbols also, the writer is interested to analyze the novel and finds out its significance toward the main characters.

There are some objectives that the writer wants to deliver through this thesis. The objectives are (1) to find out the functions and meanings of several symbols that appear in the story based on Frye’s theory of symbolism, (2) to discover the significance of the symbol of the covered bridges toward the main characters, and (3) to observe the contribution of the symbol of the covered bridges toward the character development of the main characters.

In order to analyze the problems, the writer is employing the exponential approach, which sometimes is well known as symbolic approach. It does not only discuss several meanings of symbol, but also several meanings of motif, image, and archetype.

The answers to the problem formulation are shown through the analysis. The symbols that function as motifs and signs are ‘the highway and the peregrine’ which points to Robert’s characterization, ‘room to dance again’ which suggests the possibility for Francesca to fall in love again and to have a love that she longs for, and ‘covered bridges’ which suggests love. The symbol of ‘Aengus’ functions as an image and implies Robert’s characterization. The symbol of ‘summer’ functions as archetype and means the adventure of the main characters to find the real love. The next discussion is the significance of the symbols toward main characters. ‘The highway and the peregrine’ is significant for Francesca to decide whether she should let Robert go or not, ‘room to dance again’ helps Francesca to realize the possibility of a new different life between her boring and dispassionate life, ‘Aengus’ is important as a mediator for the main characters’ relationship, and ‘summer’ is having a meaning of Robert and Francesca’s relationship which is hot, cheerful and pleasing as the summer season. ‘Covered bridges’ suggest many important things such as the place where main characters are falling in love, unique relationship, secret love, adultery, and a place that unites main characters again after they separated. Those symbols also play a great role in turning the main characters’ life from unhappy and empty to be cheerful and contested.
ABSTRAK


Ada beberapa tujuan yang ingin penulis sampaikan melalui skripsi ini, yaitu (1) menemukan fungsi dan arti dari beberapa simbol yang terdapat di dalam cerita berdasarkan teori simbolisme milik Frye, (2) untuk mengetahui arti simbol ‘covered bridges’ terhadap tokoh-tokoh utama, dan (3) untuk mengamati hubungan apakah yang diberikan oleh simbol ‘covered bridges’ terhadap perkembangan karakter dari tokoh-tokoh utama.

Untuk menganalisa masalah, penulis menggunakan pendekatan eksposensial yang seringkali disebut juga pendekatan simbolik. Pendekatan eksposensial ini tidak hanya membahas arti-arti simbol, tetapi juga arti-arti motif, citra, dan arketip.

'covered bridges' mengarah pada banyak hal penting seperti tempat di mana tokoh-tokoh utama jatuh cinta, hubungan yang unik, cinta rahasia, perzinahan, dan tempat yang menggabungkan kembali tokoh-tokoh utama setelah mereka berpisah. Simbol-simbol tersebut juga mempunyai peran besar di dalam mengubah kehidupan para tokoh utama, dari kehidupan yang tidak bahagia dan hampa berubah menjadi kehidupan yang menggembirakan dan memuaskan.