

ABSTRACT

Indrawan, Gregorius E.A. (2020). *The Symbols in At the Mountains of Madness by H.P. Lovecraft that Help Shaping the World of “Cthulhu Mythos”*. Yogyakarta: English Language Education Study Program, Sanata Dharma University.

Writing has been around since the dawn of human civilization. Writings are supposed to exist to convey messages. Paradoxically, many prodigious writers eruditely hid their message through the use of symbolism. H.P. Lovecraft, master of eldritch horror, is one of them. Through his writings he created a world that revolves around the theme of cosmic horror, the “Cthulhu Mythos”. Thus, the aim of this research paper is to find symbols in one of his works, *At the Mountains of Madness*, and reveal how those symbols help him create the world of “Cthulhu Mythos”.

There are two research questions posed in this research paper. They are: (1) “What are the meanings behind the symbols found in *At the Mountains of Madness*?”, and (2) “How do the symbols found in *At the Mountains of Madness* help shaping the world of “Cthulhu Mythos”?”

To answer those research questions, the researcher conducted a study on the novel *At the Mountains of Madness* written by H.P. Lovecraft. This is a library research. The novel is the primary data of this study.

The researcher finds there is three significant information that the researcher considered them as symbols. They are the Miskatonic University, the Necronomicon, and the Elder Things. The researcher regards that the three symbols symbolize, respectively; the University that Lovecraft desired to attend, Lovecraft’s fear of death, and Lovecraft’s untreated depression. The creation of the world of “Cthulhu Mythos” cannot be separated from those three symbols. Lovecraft would not write a book that is a part of the “Cthulhu Mythos” without the existence of those three symbols. In other words, those three symbols connected the world of “Cthulhu Mythos” by existing in many of his works.

It is recommended for future researcher to dig deeper on this novel as it is rich of symbols. It is also suggested for lecturers to include this novel as a material in Prose in ELT and Literature course.

Keywords: symbol, symbolism, cthulhu mythos

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Tulisan sudah ada sejak awal peradaban manusia. Tulisan ada untuk menyampaikan pesan. Tapi sebaliknya, banyak penulis hebat menyembunyikan pesan mereka melalui simbolisme. H.P. Lovecraft, si ahli horror, adalah salah satu dari mereka. Melalui tulisannya dia menciptakan dunia yang berputar mengitari kisah horror kosmik, yaitu "Cthulhu Mythos". Maka dari itu, tujuan dari makalah penelitian ini adalah untuk mencari simbol-simbol yang ada dalam salah satu bukunya, *At the Mountains of Madness*, dan mengungkap bagaimana simbol-simbol tersebut membantunya membuat dunia "Cthulhu Mythos".

Di makalah penelitian ini terdapat dua rumusan masalah. Rumusan masalah tersebut adalah (1) "Apa makna dari simbol-simbol yang ditemukan dalam *At the Mountains of Madness*?" dan (2) "Bagaimanakah simbol-simbol yang ditemukan dalam *At the Mountains of Madness* membantu terbentuknya dunia "Cthulhu Mythos"?"

Untuk menjawab rumusan masalah tersebut, peneliti melaksanakan penelitian pada novel *At the Mountains of Madness* karya H.P. Lovecraft. Ini adalah penelitian pustaka. Data penelitian ini diambil dari mengamati buku *At the Mountains of Madness*.

Peneliti menemukan bahwa terdapat tiga informasi penting yang peneliti anggap sebagai simbol. Yang mana adalah Universitas Miskatonic, Necronomicon, dan Elder Things. Secara kontekstual ketiga simbol tersebut secara urut menyimbolkan Universitas yang ingin Lovecraft masuki, rasa takut Lovecraft terhadap kematian, dan depresi Lovecraft yang tidak diobati. Lovecraft tidak akan menulis novel yang menjadi bagian dari dunia "Cthulhu Mythos" tanpa melibatkan ketiga simbol tersebut. Dalam kata lain, keberadaan ketiga simbol tersebut menghubungkan dunia "Cthulhu Mythos".

Direkomendasikan kepada peneliti di masa depan untuk menggali novel ini lebih dalam karena novel ini sangatlah kaya akan simbol. Dianjurkan juga kepada dosen untuk menyertakan novel ini sebagai materi kuliah di kelas Prose in ELT dan Literature.

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