

Iconity in *Haji Backpacker* Novel by Aguk Irawan MN

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Abstract—The aim of this research was to describe iconity of *Haji Backpacker* novel by Aguk Irawan MN by using theory of Charles Sanders Peirce (Piercean). this research used qualitative descriptive method. Collecting data used documentary technique. The problem that would be solved in this research was iconity in *Haji Backpacker* novel by Aguk Irawan MN. Data analysis which were done as follow (1) reading thenovel intensively (2) taking note/underline texts which contented the icons (3) classifying the icons (4) analyzing data that contented the icons, (5) classifying data that contented icons of topology, diagrammatic and metaphorical. Based on the result of the research, it showed that *Haji Backpacker* novel had: (1) topology/image icon which illustrated iconity of the main character, onomatopoeia icon and spatiality icon; (2) diagrammatic icon, it illustrated gradation ascendante collocation and gradation descendante collocation icons; and (3) metaphorical icon.

Keywords—iconity, novel, semiotic.

I. INTRODUCTION

Literary works are enjoyed by various circles because of the writers who put the ideas, thought, imagination and creativity in their works. Literary works will be developed as long as human civilization. Basically, literary work is the real depiction about what happen in society and it is the element of the culture. One of the products of literary works is novel. Waluyo in [1] revealed, “Novel is one of literary works of prose that tells fiction but it also uses novelist’s intellectual and the writer studies and researches aspect of life and good and bad values (moral) in life”.

There are many things which are interested to discuss in literary work of novel. For example, describing the novel is not necessarily the same for one another. It is because the different perspective in interpreting the content of the novel. As it is explained by Suyitno in [1], novel is expressive text that appears the response over concept world and regulated idea of the language. The expertise of the writer in revealing the ideas, imaginations and creativity make the literary work become meaningful.

The writer in revealing the work is full of beauty value in the language she/he uses. Through language, reader can imagine from literary texts. This is because literature as principles that must be possessed in literary work. The principles according to Pradopo in [2] that plausibility, unity, balance, novelty, utile and dulce. Besides, literature is called by language medium that the meaning is determined by literary convention [2]. the better language use in creating literary works, the better and the more interesting the result. The writer uses straightforward language and sometimes uses

semiotic elements. Semiotic is science about the sign. Science/knowledge about sign can be used in any disciplinary including literature. It is because the ‘sign’ is basic of all communication. Author, observer, or reader are suggested to study semiotic science. It is because literary work can be interpreted by observer and people through sign, symbol or emblem [3].

The benefit can be obtained from the understanding of semiotic toward literary work. For example for author, literary work is generated through language by implementing semiotic so it adds aesthetics value from the work. For the reader, semiotic understanding is useful to understand the content in literary work. Literary work does not only use express language but it also uses implicit language. The meaning is not revealed directly but it can understood clearly in understanding semiotic element. Semiotic element is the ‘sign’ that can represent a thing to another from the side of thing or from the side of capacity. Thus, semiotic is representative so individual can think through signs that enable to communicate each other and gives meaning in the environment [4].

From the explanations above, it makes the writer to conduct the research toward *Haji Backpacker* novel by Aguk Irawan by using semiotic. Theory used in this research is Piercean Theory. The founder of this theory is Charles Sanders Peirce. He is American philosopher who is expert in reasoning and synonymizing system of ‘sign’ with the logic. Semiotic is the science about sign that can represent something with something else. Revealing information with sign can make a communication become more communicative. The ways of working of Peirce work is called triangle meaning concept. Basic trichonemics about the relation of three elements were sign, object and interpreten [5]. Peirce divides simple signs and important from all sign becomes icon, index and symbol [6]. However, this research emphasizes about iconity in *Haji Backpacker* novel. The aim of this research is to describe semiotic element of icon in *Haji Backpacker* novel by Aguk Irawan. In addition, researcher wants to prove that semiotic understanding is useful for the reader in understanding deeply about the content in literary work such as novel.

Consciously or not, in daily life or in novel, there are many iconic sign. It makes iconity becomes important. Icon related to ‘sign’ has similarity with the represented object. Icon is divided in three types which are topology/image, diagrammatic and metaphorical.

“Topology icon is the relation based on form similarity such as map and realist painting. Diagrammatic icon is the relation based on similarity in stages such as diagram. For

example, the relation between military rank sign with military position which are represented by sign of the rank. Metaphorical icon is the relation based similarity even though it is partial similarity such as rose with a girl that has similarity (beauty, freshness). However, the similarity is not total [5].”

Topology icon or it is usually called image is simple iconic direct sign and the marker is similar to referred reality. According to Zoest in [7] icon also covers meaning of “spatiality” (profile or form line). sign of picture, portrait and statue. House picture (sign) is the same as house which is signed (signer) or house picture that mark house in real. In addition, topology icon of onomatopoeia that means imitation of natural sound or sound generated by different certain things.

Second type of icon is diagrammatic icon. This icon based on stage of diagram such as sign of military rank with the position of rank with the rank which is represented by the sign/rank [5]. in diagrammatic icon, it usually uses collocation icon of gradation descend and collocation of gradation ascendante.

Third type of icon is metaphorical icon based on similarity even though it is partial similarity and it is not total. The way to determine is by describing ‘if the term covers spatiality area so it is in topology icon. If it is in regional or structural area, it is including diagrammatic icon. Whereas if it requires metaphor in description between two objects, so it includes in metaphorical icon.

The rest of this paper is organized as follow: Section II describes proposed research method. Section III presents the obtained results and following by discussion. Finally, Section IV concludes this work.

II. RESEARCH METHOD

A research certainly requires a method of achieving goals. Without the right method, research will not be as expected. Therefore it is important to determine the right method. The research used qualitative descriptive to describe iconity. Moleong in [8] revealed “the data used in the descriptive method is in the form of words, image, but not numbers. Research data were text quotes which contented iconity in *Haji Backpacker* novel by Aguk Irawan MN. Data source used in this research was *Haji Backpacker* novel by Aguk Irawan MN of 309 pages, published by PT. Maleo Creative, first print in 2014 in Jakarta.

Collecting data was carried out with documentary technique by way of categorization and classification related to the problems that will be discussed [9, 10]. The following steps are: (1) reading the novel for many times intensively to find icon in *Haji Backpacker* novel, (2) taking note or underline text that had iconity in *Haji Backpacker* novel, (3) classifying iconity in *Haji Backpacker* novel based on semiotic theory of Charles Sanders Peirce; (4) classifies data was then analyzed based on research problem; (5) classifying all data that had topology/image icon, diagram icon and metaphorical icon in *Haji Backpacker* novel by Aguk Irawan MN.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the research which had done about iconity in *Haji Backpacker* novel, there were three icons such as topology icon, diagrammatic icon and metaphorical icon. (1) topology/image icon described iconity of the main character, onomatopoeic icons, and icons with passivity; (2) diagrammatic icon described collocation icon of *gradation ascendante* and *gradation descendante* collocation and (3) metaphorical icon.

The research about iconity can give understanding to the reader through sign which was shown by author. This is the discussion about iconity in *Haji Backpacker* novel.

A. Topology/Image Icon in *Haji Backpacker* Novel by Aguk Irawan MN

Topology or image icon is sign that is iconic with the marker that resembles referred reality. Based on the research of the author, there were three topology icons including character icon, onomatopoeia icon and icon of place. It could be seen in quotes in novel as follow;

Quote (1) character icon

“in the passport page, it is written ‘Hamada Suryadiningrat’ that is full of scribble of immigration officers from different countries Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, China, Tibet, India and Pakistan”(Aguk Irawan MN, 2014:3).

The quote above was topology/image icon because it had represented the main character in words ‘Hamada Suryadiningrat’ in ‘passport’. furthermore, in the sentences of ‘scribble of immigration officers from different countries’ represented countries that she had visited. The signs described main character icon as backpacker that had been in many countries. Reader could engage signs element in quote with tittle given by the author which was *Haji Backpacker*. So through the signs, the story in the novel had been imaged in reader’s mind.

The quote in the novel described about Mada (main character) who was forcibly dismissed by soldiers serving at border posts. There was tension when one of soldiers checked Mada’s passport because it was full of stamp from immigration of other countries in each page. It made officers though that Mada was part of terrorist in Pakistan.

Quote (2) character icon

“Mada dated a few women in prostitution in massage parlors. But Mada is more often dating brown-skinned women from one country with him, named Marbel” (Aguk Irawan MN, 2014: 12).

Topology icon in the above quotation is "Marbel". Marbel is an character iconi in the novel *Haji Backpacker* by Aguk Irawan MN. Marbel is a migrant worker (Labor Women) from Subang Indonesia. His real name is Maryati. A former hotel student at one of the most famous colleges in Subang.

She has brown skin and attractive appearance. Besides, it is also smart and good communication. marble's work as a massage parlor and sex worker was something she had never imaged. Previously he was promised to be employed in a five-star hotel that has a golf course as a shot caddy. When she arrived in Thailand, she was sold and made prostitute without being paid her employer.

Topology/image icon was also onomatopoeia. It is imitation of natural sound generated by certain things. In *Haji Backpacker* novel, topology icon of onomatopoeia can be seen as follow

Quote (1) icon of onomatopoeia

“Bruk!!”.

Mada fell over under the bar table. The blood come out from her left ear”(Aguk Irawan MN, 2014:16).

Quote (2) icon of onomatopoeia

“Wow! Gorgeous Babe! Wow, so beautiful! Says Glen (Aguk Irawan MN, 2014:21).

The second quote above, it was topology icon of onomatopoeia of “Bruk!!” and ‘wow’. Those words were imitation sound generated by certain things. Onomatopoeia of “Bruk!!” was similarity form of sound that showed the hit for other person, whereas onomatopoeia of “wow” was sound similarity form that showed adore toward individual. If the reader understood onomatopoeia meaning, so the reader seemed like listening directly the sound. So the reader could enjoy the sensation of the story.

In topology icon, beside onomatopoeia, this icon could cover meaning area of spatiality (place, profile, and form line). it can be seen in quote below;

Quote (1) icon of spatiality

“These house and bar design are like in Dolly Surabaya, or settlement in Pasar Kembang Yogyakarta” (Aguk Irawan MN, 2014:32).

The quote above covered spatiality meaning because it had given icon that could represent a certain place. The similarity of place which was represented by certain place gave a depiction to the reader about the place that had been visited. So by representing other places, it could give the depiction to the reader for the certain place. In *Haji Backpacker* novel by Aguk Irawan MN, it explains the similarity between Sagoe settlement in Thailand with Dolly Surabaya or settlement of Pasar Kembang Yogyakarta. Sagoe is in area in the city that was ten in the shade. In the settlement, there were perhaps 7 complex located extensively and quite broadly with the number of houses, bars, massage parlors, more than six hundred. In addition, the similarity between Sagoe and Dolly Surabaya or settlement of Pasar Kembang Yogyakarta is that the locations then were prostitution.

Quote (2) icon of spatiality

“A truly eccentric atmosphere was felt more when the two young men entered the bar. The light were dim,dusty and a messy impression that was usully a very legendary feature in Bangkok ”(Aguk Irawan MN, 2014: 14).

The quote is an icon of spatiality that shows characteristics legendary in Bangkok. In the novel *Haji Backpacker* by Aguk Irawan MN, Mada and his friendentered an eccentric bar according to them. Because the bar very messy with dust everywhere and dim light that lit the bar makes the impressiom of being a very characteristic in Bangkok Thailand. So, the impression of a mess with dim light becomes the iconic legendary place in Bangkok.

B. Diagrammatic Icons Haji Backpacker Novel by Aguk irawan MN

Diagrammatic icon is the relation based on similarity stage, such as diagram. Determining icon in describing was is describing included in relational or structural area. For example, the sequence of events shown in the order of words such as “vini, vidi, vici” spoken by Julius Caesar in 47 BC. These words means “ I come, I see , and I Conquer”. In a sentence English it can also be exemplified in a sentences containing a diagram, which is in in the sentence “he fell down”. So it showed diagrammatic icon. In addition, this icon represented the similarity of relation between object or action. Diagrammatic icons have two types, namely diagrammatic icon with collocation of gradation ascendante and diagrammatic icon with collocation of gradation descende. Diagrammatic icons can be seen in quotes below;

Quote (1) diagrammatic icon with collocation of gradation ascendante

“In his opinion, if the payer and hope in house, mushola and mosque is not granted..., father hopes that in holy land, the prayer and hope can be granted even though in sick condition, I try to be healthy. (Aguk Irawan MN, 2014:63).

Quote (1) was diagrammatic icon with collocation of gradation ascendante (enhancement gradation) because the last stage had high position than initial stage. The quote described pray stage “pray in house, mushola dan mosque and in holy land.” in *Haji Backpacker* novel by Aguk Irawan MN, Mada's father prayed to God to grant his hope. He prayed in house, mushola and mosque and the most holy place , Mekkah. He prayed to God that Mada could forgive him because he approves Mada and Sofia but then Sofia run away avoiding the wedding. Mada was really mad at him. So he run away from home leaving his family and he rebel God.

Quote (2) diagrammatic icon with collocation of gradation ascendante

“Life is turns out not only moring, with gentle wind, caressing the tops of leaves and washng dew. But every evening there is not always a tinge like being shoered with gold. The sun is like grilled and then sink” (Aguk Irawan MN, 2014:69).

Diagrammatic icons are relationships based on the similarity of stages, such as diagrams. Determining the diagrammatic icon is a by way of a description that shows its appearance, if it belongs to the relational region. This indicates that there is diagrammatic icon or it can be called a relational or structural icon. The above quote is a diagrammatic icon because it describes the stages of the morning time is marked by “caressing the tops of leaves and washing away the dew”. Then to the stage of dusk, twilight is the time the sun is half the dark is marked with the phrase “there is not always a tinge like being showering the earth with gold”. After dusk, the sun starts to fall, this is indicated by the phrase “the sun is like grilled and charred and then sink. So the conclusion is that the quote is the stage of time starting at dusk and evening.

Quote (1) diagrammatic icon with collocation of gradation descend

“After she chooses the life in running and keep running. Running from where she was from, from her family, from the unlucky of her love story, in the country of white elephant, she becomes thugs and does not want to know God” (Aguk Irawan MN: 2014:69).

Quote (1), it was diagrammatic icon of gradation descendante collocation (decrease gradation). the quote described about “escape” done by Mada (main character). the problem or conflict took turns. It seemed that the problem never ended. What made him really sad was he saw his mother dead in front of him when his mother were going to cross the bridge. Then his wedding was a mess so he thought that life was not fair. So Mada blamed the family even God.

Quote (2) diagrammatic icon with collocation of gradation descend

“The love we have now only result in longing, which sometimes leaves traces of sadness. Sadness that fills my days. Like a cloud that spoils the dusk, like an eclipse that covers the perfect moonlight and sun” (Aguk Irawan MN: 2014:146).

The icon in the quote is “Like an eclipse that covers the perfect moonlight and sun. Eclipse is an astronomical phenomenon that occurs in a celestial body in the shadow of another celestial body. In the novel *Haji Back Packer* by Aguk Irawan MN., the sadness experienced by Suchun is described as an eclipse that covers the perfect moon and sun light. This is because when Suchun’s mother was still alive, happiness was still felt. But after the departure of mother who was loved by Suchun forever made Suchun not enthusiastic in facing life. So the happiness that once existed is now just gone like an eclipse that covers the beauty of the moon and the sun.

The above has been explained that in a novel quote there are diagrammatic icon with collocation of gradation ascendante and diagrammatic icon with collocation of gradation descend. But please note that both icons can appear in one text. The quote can be seen as follows.

“Suchun, a stretch of green rice fields stretched in front of us. Didn’t the rice seeds grow because of rain, and the river water flowed there? I want to be the trunk. Later I will turn yellow and the person who will harvest me. But my whole body is not separated from the water which gives me the root of the vitamins needed. If only the soil is dry I will not turn yellow and people will fail crops” (Aguk Irawan MN: 2014:144).

The quote contain diagrammatic icon with collocation of gradation ascendante and descend. This proves that in one quote there can be two diagrammatic icons at once. The quotes explains that first Mada wanted to be like rice that thrives with rain water so that the leaves can turn yellow and can be harvested. This shows that is diagrammatic icon with collocation of gradation ascendante. After that it continues diagrammatic icon with collocation of gradation descend which was shown by farmers’s failure caused by rice stems which were not covered with water thus making rice unable to turn yellow and crop failure occurs.

C. *Metaphorical Icon of Haji Backpacker Novel by Aguk Irawan MN*

The last iconity was metaphorical icon. It is the relation based on similarity even though it is just similar partial, such as rose and a girl that are considered having similarity (beauty). However, it was not total. Determining the icon is by describing and seeing referred marker of similar reference. If the description requires metaphor as the term between two objects (reference) represented by signs, it means metaphor icon. This is quote that revealed metaphorical icon

Quote (1) Metaphorical Icon

“like mosquito that flies and sneaking around the wall and the sharp sight as raven while lurking something. Few minutes later, Mada feels that he are free from chasers. His heart is not beat so fast as the beginning, he feels relieved” (Aguk Irawan MN, 2014:27).

Icon in the quote above was “like mosquito that flies and sneaking around the wall and the sharp sight as raven while lurking something.” in *Haji Backpacker* novel by Aguk Irawan MN, Mada was equated with a mosquito because he sneaked out to “red lamp/ localization” which it was considered safe to hide. Mada was also equated with raven that had sharp sight in lurking. It was done to avoid chasers or men of Klaten who revenge because of their boss’ death. It occurred in Bangkok Thailand. At that time Klahan took Mada’s wallet that was fall on bridge. So there was fight and Klahan dead.

Quote (2) Metaphorical Icon

“The storm had not yet passed because every time Marbel reveals the feeling for him, he remembers his bad past that was like stab him in the dark. He was like suctioned and rolled into a storm of memories that never finished then blew before his eyes” (Aguk Irawan MN, 2014: 46).

Icon in this quote was He was like suctioned and rolled into a storm of memories that never finished then blew before his eyes". In *Haji Backpacker* novel by Aguk Irawan MN, the author took a problem faced by Mada when Marbel revealed her feeling. The problem was Mada remembered his past or the happy and bad memory he had. That memory took turns. It was like the bad memory could not been faded from his life. It made the low quality of life because it always came.

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the result of the research toward *Haji Backpacker* novel by Aguk Irawan MN, it is concluded that Charles Sanders Peirce theory about sign science especially icon sign can give more understanding to the reader and the function to beautify the language used by the author. So the readers can enjoy the novel. The icons are topology/image icon, diagram icon, metaphorical icon. In topology icon, reader can understand the story in large in novel with the way of relating a sign to others. As discussed in discussion, signs icon that appear in text can give description in reader's thought. So it can represent the fight of main character in searching God who had been lost from him. In addition, there was topology/image icon of onomatopoeia. It is imitation of natural sound or sound generated by certain things. In topology icon, it can cover meaning area of spatiality (place, profile and form line).

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