

Visual semiotics: a study of egyptian symbols in movie “god of egypt”

Alfagitya Surya Muhamad Bimantara
SMK Pancasila
alfagityabimantara666@gmail.com

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to determine how interpretation and meaning is contained in the Egyptian symbol seen in the movie "God of Egypt". Data were collected with a semiotic analysis of the documentation, such as how is interpretation of a symbol to determine the meaning of a sign and a qualitative approach where the research instrument is human instrument. The results of this study are the symbols of god used the ancient Egyptians as the interpretation of the phenomena of society and has the meaning of the signs of the phenomenon, the symbol of the beast was interpreted as a sign for the activities of their day-to-day, the symbol of nature is interpreted as a sign for their neighborhood, a symbol of equipment is interpreted as a sign to show their daily activities and a symbol of human interpretation for the interpretation for a famous person in their life that is written in the historical record.

Keywords: Sign, Egyptian symbols, God of Egypt..

INTRODUCTION

Literature, in its broadest sense, is one of the papers recorders of the history or phenomenon of the society. More limited, literature is writing which is considered as an art form, or one the text of which has artistic or intellectual value to some connoisseurs of literature, often due to applying the language in a different way from regular use.

"Literature is used to describe anything from creative writing to more technical or scientific works, but it is most often used to refer to works of creativity imagination, including works of poetry, drama, fiction and non-fiction" (Klarer2004 ;3)

Even think the written medium is the main focus consists in the study of literature or text, this field investigation also linked closely with other media such as stage, painting, film, music, or even computer network. Semiotics can be analyzed from the literature. It is not only a concern in the sense or signs, but also any anything that stands for something else. In a semiotic sense, signs take the form of words, images, sounds, gestures and objects (chandler. 2007:2). Or in other words, learn about the signs that have a meaning in the words. The symbol is one of the styles of semiotics which have some of the signs and represent something in it.

"The symbol is a system that reflects a specific cultural logic, and every symbol functions to communicate information among members of the culture how to." (Barthes 1967:41)

An example of a man using a plain clothes stand in front of a house with car Lamborgini it means that person is a marker and the house with the car in front is signified that means he is a rich man. However, behind the many symbols that is spread in the community. The symbol of the ancient Egyptian society we often encounter in many places in the environment around us, including in a work of cinema.

A symbol of the nation of Egypt or the secret writings is made by the ancient Egyptians in antiquity. People-ancient Egyptians used many symbols and signs to present the story of their nation and their lives. Because there are more than 2000 gods of ancient Egypt, it is important for Egyptians to be able to recognize the depictions of the gods they followed with the symbolism of the phenomenon of community they. Many of the gods they perceived as 'human hybrids' depicted with human bodies with the heads of animals and this also became a symbol for Egypt for the phenomenon of community. The ancient Egyptians did worship the worship of the objects around them such as animals. These symbols are used as identifier and the tools to visually convey the powers, identity and the nature of the gods and goddesses that they worship. A lot of films that presented the symbols of Egypt as a decoration in the works of their production, one of which is the God of Egypt by Alex Proyas. Based on the explanation above, the researchers chose this film as the object of research because this movie displays various symbols of the Egyptian nation with many variations and meanings, which is displayed visually in some plot of the story. In addition, the symbol displayed is one of the symbols that we often encounter in the environment around us. the researcher interested to analyze the Egyptian symbols that showed in this movie with aim to know how are Egyptian symbols interpreted and what the meanings of each symbol. In this research, the researchers used Roland Barthes semiotics theory with explained through signifier, signified, signification and value that formulated by him. This research has purpose in this researcher that is to know the way of Egyptian symbols interpreted and the meaning of each symbol.

METHOD

Design

In this design method, research used qualitative research because researcher wants to find out interpretation and meaning from Egyptian symbols that showed in this movie using documentation. In addition, researchers used the god of Egyptian film as the object research. This means that the study is exploration or only builds an understanding based on symbols. This study uses the human as a research instrument for observation, documentation and analyzer every data that will be analyzed in this study.

The approach that researchers use in analyzing the film "God of Egypt" is an approach to semiotics which departs from the assumption that literary works have a system of his own that has his own world, as a reality that is present or was presented in a symbol in front of the reader contained the communicative potential as well as the marked presence of the emblems of the contained noble values of the culture, because in this research using documentary and analyze the meaning of this symbol. Researcher's documentation is the movie and scene.

Finding and Discussion

Finding

The results of this study contain about the interpretation of the symbols that are listed in the setting of the film "God of Egypt" and the meaning contained therein based on historical records, important documents archaeologists and the use of signs in the community the ancient Egyptians. In this study, to determine how the symbol was created and the meaning of a sign, the researchers used theory approach to the semiotics of Roland Barthes consisting of: signifier, signified, meaning and value. After researching it based on the theory of semiotics Roland Barthes with historical record and reference books, the researchers found four categories of symbols are listed, among others: the Lord of symbols, Animal symbols, Nature symbols, Tools, symbols, and a symbol of Human.

Discussion

In accordance with the title of this study, the subject performed the Analysis view visual symbol of Egypt in the film God of Egypt. In the film, there is a sign, the signified, signification and value. Of sign and signified exist in the film successfully identified and then analyzed and have a purpose, significance and meaning of the value of the symbol as well as hidden meaning and depth using the theory of semiotics Roland Barthes. Here is the discussion:

First, the symbol of the god is a type of sign used the ancient Egyptians to know who is creating by them. However, in the form of this symbol, the figure of god the Egyptians depicted a half human half animal with an amount exceeding one and symbolizes the phenomenon of the community who happen, among others: death, family, the war, love and so on.

Second, the animal symbol by the people of ancient Egypt used as a type of symbol of the mention of the letters of the alphabet by taking the form of animals as a marker for signs of food.

Third, a symbol of the natural is a type of sign that is used to refer to the form or records of natural phenomena. Fourth, the symbol of equipment is a type of sign used by the ancient Egyptians as the instructions said work in writing. And the last sign of humanity is a sign that is used for the sign of the human in the authorship of them.

So we can take a great line, that Sign is something physical, can be perceived our senses visually, a sign refers to something outside the sign itself which means the significance of a sign, and rely on the introduction by its users so it is called a sign. the marker is the embodiment of signs, in the form of a real form of sign and if combined then will be the significance of the sign. the significance of the sign is the classification of a sign according to the historical record and understanding of a culture of sign and signified, so that from the significance of the sign we can draw a value contained therein. so, in this study it is appropriate to use theoretical roland barthes, because in the formula semiotikanya he applied mythology as the main object in the study of semiotics.

CONCLUSION

After done the analysis of the semiotics of symbols-details on the movie god of Egypt regarding the interpretation of and the search for its meaning uses the Semiotics theory of Roland Barthes, the theory, then some conclusions can be drawn in this study, that is The symbols shown have four classifications, namely the symbol of the god, animal symbols, symbols of nature, symbols of equipment and a symbol of man. Each symbol has a background in interpretation and purport the activities of the ancient Egyptians and each of the symbols adapted from the surrounding environment as recording the history of the life of the nation of Egypt. And within the framework of Barthes, the signifier is a sign which is indicated in the symbol mark a symbol, the signified is a sign that the pointer meaning in the signifier, significant is an explanation for historical for that symbol based on the historical record and the value is the content indicated on the sign. Usually the moral values held in that symbol.

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