

Symbols and Its Functions in Nobara Short Story by Ogawa Mimei

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Abstract. Children's literature has a role as a medium for character education. Children's literature has simple characteristics in terms of vocabulary, structure, and expressions to suit the child's cognitive and appreciation level. As a literary work, the element of beauty in children's literature can be seen from the use of simple figurative symbols. This study aimed to describe and analyze the symbols and their functions in the short story Nobara by Ogawa Mimei. The main data is the short story Nobara written by Ogawa Mimei in 1924. The research method uses descriptive analysis with a semiotic approach. The results show that the symbols used in Nobara's short stories include blank symbols, natural symbols, and private symbols which function to provide beauty in literary works but are still well understood by child readers.

1. Introduction

Character formation can be fostered from an early age through children's literature. Literature is a work of art that has a role as a medium for the development of national character (engineering and nation building) [1]. This is in line with Nurgiyantoro's opinion which states that if used correctly and carried out with the right strategy, literature is believed to be able to play a role in the development of a complete human being in a fun way [2]. Children's literature is literature that emotionally and psychologically can be responded to and understood because it contains concrete facts and is easily imagined by children. The content of children's literature is limited by the experience and knowledge of children, experiences and knowledge that can be reached by children and in accordance with their emotional and psychological development [3]. So children's literature is essentially literature intended for children, where the values contained in it support the development of children, both cognitive and moral development. In addition, children's literature is in accordance with children's psychology, such as the conflicts offered, the plots used, and the values contained [4]. However, unlike adult literature, children's literature has simple characteristics in terms of vocabulary, structure, and expression. Storytelling techniques must also be simple, easy to understand and imagine, uncomplicated and uncomplicated. The characters are made simple and familiar so that children also feel close and already recognize. The relationship between the

plot and characters, characters with various actions and events, is seen directly and clearly and is easy to identify cause and effect relationships [3].

As a literary work, in writing children's literature beauty and emotion are presented but in a meaning that can be easily understood by children as readers, one of which is the use of symbols. Pierce stated that the symbol is the relationship between a sign and its reference which is conventionally related. The symbol displays the relationship between the signifier and the signified in an arbitrary nature. The interpreter is required to find the relationship of the signifier creatively and dynamically. Signs that turn into symbols will automatically be affixed with cultural, situational and conditional characteristics [5]. Furthermore, Pierce stated that the symbol is one type of sign that is arbitrary and conventional. Symbols as elements of language are also arbitrary in this case, meaning that a symbol is a type of sign that is very likely to have more than one interpretation or meaning, so the interpretation of the audience or reviewer from one another may be different, such as the word "black" can mean grief, night, darkness, death, and so on [6]. Ricoeur added that symbols are expressions that contain a double meaning, namely the first layer meaning called referential or denotative meaning. This first layer of meaning must be referred to the second layer of meaning, namely connotative and suggestive meanings hidden behind the first layer of meaning. Symbols in literary works can be found in objects, characters or figures, or colors as representations of abstract ideas or concepts [7].

One of the quality works in the world of children's literature in Japan is Nobara or Wild Rose written by Ogawa Mimei. Ogawa Mimei is known to uphold the values of truth, justice, and peace in her works. Ogawa Mimei established himself as an author of children's stories since 1926. Through the Nobara he wrote in 1924, Ogawa tried to convey a message to children's readers that war only causes sadness. According to the author, Nobara's short stories contain symbols in the form of diction that are appropriate to the level of understanding for children's readers. Diction is a means for writers or poets to express expression and beauty with a very careful selection process. [8]. Therefore, this study aims to describe and analyze the symbols and their functions in the short story Nobara by Ogawa Mimei.

2. Method

This research is a type of library research. The research method used is descriptive qualitative, namely describing the facts which are then followed by analysis [9]. The approach used is semiotic. The research data is the short story Nobara by Ogawa Mimei which was written in 1924 in the Children's Story Collection by Ogawa Mimei 2.

3. Results and Discussion

Table. 1 Symbols in Nobara

Symbols	Meaning
□□□□	Big Country
□□□□	Little Country
□□	Old Man
□□	Young Man
□□	Shogi
□□□□	Profit Problem
□□□	Wild Rose

大 (big country) and 小 (small country)

大 (big country) and 小 (small country) (paragraph 1)

"There are big countries and small countries coexist".

“Big country “ and “small countries “are symbols or symbols in the form of objects. As a symbol of a large country, it means a country with a large area. A small country means a country with a small area. In this case, and can be classified into blank symbols where the meaning reference is general so that it is easily understood by children's readers.

大 (old man) and 小 (young man)

大 (old man) and 小 (young man) (paragraph 2)

"Soldier of a big country is an old man and a soldier of a small country is a young man".

“Old man” and “young man” are symbols or symbols in the form of objects. "Parents" refers to the meaning of people who must be respected, have had a lot of life experience and whose behavior can be an example. Youth refers to the meaning of people who are immature, enthusiastic, still have a lot to learn. The words and can also be classified into blank symbols because they contain general meanings so that they are easily understood by children's readers.

将 (Shogi)

“Shogi” is a Japanese chess game. The game of shogi requires good strategy skills. Shogi is a symbol or symbol in the form of objects. Shogi refers to the meaning that old man/soldier and young man/soldier are intelligent and energetic people. is also a blank symbol because it refers to a meaning that has a general meaning so that it is easily understood by the reader.

大 (profit problem)

大 (profit problem) (paragraph 15)

"The two countries are at war triggered by economic problems".

“Profit problem” is a symbol of a state or atmosphere that refers to the meaning of economic conditions. can be classified as a private symbol. Private symbol is symbol whose language use is specifically created and used by the author. In this case, is used so that child readers can more easily understand it.

大 (nobara)

大 (nobara) (paragraph 22)

"After a month has passed, the wild roses finally dry up and fall".

“Nobara” is a symbol of objects that refers to the meaning that no matter how beautiful and strong living things are, they will end, not eternal. However, a new one will grow as a replacement. Nobara is a natural symbol in the form of elements of natural objects that can be easily understood by children's readers.

4. Conclusion

The symbols in Nobara short story are classified as blank symbols, private symbols and natural symbols which contain indirect metaphorical or figurative meanings. The use of symbols aims to provide an element of beauty in literature but is still well understood by child readers. Symbols in the form of simple diction that are easy to understand so that the message to be conveyed in a literary work can be well received by the reader.

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