

THE GOODNESS SYMBOLS OF CICERO'S POLITICAL VIEW IN ROBERT HARRIS'S *CONSPIRATA*

(Judul Artikel, Sekitar 15 Kata, Memberi Gambaran Penelitian yang Telah Dilakukan, Times
New Roman 11, spasi 1, *spacing after 6 pt*)

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Abstrak (Times New Roman 10, Bold, spasi 1, spacing before 12 pt, after 2 pt)

Kajian ini adalah untuk menyingkap lambang-lambang kebaikan pada diri Cicero dalam pandangan politiknya yang di gunakan Robert Harris untuk menjelaskan arti tersembunyi di dalam novel tersebut. Lambang-lambang kebaikan tersebut muncul untuk menguatkan arti sebenarnya dengan melalui karakter dan latar tempat. Arti dari lambang-lambang kebaikan itu sendiri berhubungan dengan banyaknya persoalan dalam pandangan dunia politik dari novel tersebut. Arti dari lambang-lambang itu saling berkaitan untuk mendukung karakter Cicero sebagai contoh sifat kebaikan dilihat dari sisi politik dalam dirinya. Kebaikan tersebut muncul dari arti lambang-lambang tersebut dan membuktikan apa yang sebenarnya disebut sebagai hal baik dalam dunia politik. Hal ini saling berhubungan antara arti dari lambang-lambang tersebut dan kebaikan yang dimaksudkan sebagai eksistensi atas karakteristik pemikiran seseorang dan praktik politik sebagai pemimpin bangsa. Teori lambing-lambang dari Frye, Ilmu Bahasa, dan konsep politik membantu kajian ini dalam menganalisa dan menjelaskan bagaimana lambang-lambang tersebut dapat menjadi lebih bermakna didalam pengartian itu sendiri. Ilmu bahasa mendukung analisa dari lambang-lambang tentang bagaimana sebuah bahasa dari hasil percakapan memunculkan arti yang ada dalam novel tersebut. Konsep politik menyingkap apa sebenarnya hal baik yang ada dalam praktik politik dari novel tersebut. Kajian ini menunjukkan bahwa lambang-lambang kebaikan di dalam pembahasan ini menuntun orang-orang dan para politikus besar tentang bagaimana politik itu seharusnya dijalankan. Lambang-lambang dan kebaikan (hal baik) di dalam politik kembali diulas di Roma beberapa tahun yang lalu dan bagaimana hal ini dapat mempengaruhi praktik politik yang ada di barat.

Kata Kunci: Lambang-lambang, Kebaikan, dan Konsep Politik

Abstract

This study is to reveal the goodness symbols of Cicero's political view that Robert Harris used to explain the hidden meaning in his novel, *Conspirata*. The goodness symbols appear to emphasize the real meaning with the characters and settings. The meaning of goodness symbols itself connected with many issues in political views from the novel. The symbols meaning is closely related to support Cicero's goodness character in political point of view. The goodness thing come from meaning of the symbols and proof what is exactly called as goodness in politics. It is correlation between meaning of symbols and goodness signify the existence of people's mind characteristic and people's practice in politics as a leader of nation. Theory of symbols of Frye, semiotics and concept of politics help the study to analyze and explain how the symbol can be significant in meaning. Semiotics supports the analysis of symbol in how the language from the conversation reveals the deep meaning. Concept of politics signifies what is exactly the goodness thing in political practice from the novel. The study shows that goodness symbols in the study lead people and other great politicians how the politic should be. Symbols and the goodness in politic reviewed Rome in many years ago and how it can influence many politic practices in west.

Keywords: *The Symbols, Goodness, and Concept of Politic*

**INTRODUCTION (TIMES NEW ROMAN 10, BOLD, SPASI 1,
SPACING BEFORE 12 PT, AFTER 2 PT)**

Conspirata is one of literary works which bring the ancient history to the modern literature. Literary, *Conspirata* gives many interesting and fresh imagination,

many famous characters in Rome such as Julius Caesar, Pompey, and Cicero are the main character. Cicero is a consul from middle class and he is politician. It makes his life change and all of his thought is used to answer the clue that hidden from the fact. Manipulation that has come from his opponent becomes the puzzle to be solved.

Nature, people, feeling, situation, action and conversation can give ambiguous meaning for himself, because in politic people cannot see what and who is the good or bad person. The novel takes the reader to deep perception through social conflict in the novel. Literature can be said as a social constitution by using language as its medium (Wellek & Warren, 1949). The study will reveal Cicero as good new consul in how he lead society and maintain right rule as politician in Rome by using his experiences and see the symptoms from people, situation, nature.

Conspirata is a good choice to learn about Rome political history and also to be entertained by the story. This novel gives description about the corruption, exile, conspiracy, and politics in Rome with familiar character in the story. The play was written in 2010 (in England about 2009, the novel is known as *Lustrum* and in America it was known as *Conspirata*) by Robert Harris. The novel is a trilogy after his first novel *Pompeii* in 2003 and second novel *Imperium* published in 2006. Many of his masterpieces become so popular in that time, such as *Fatherland* in 1992 nominated as Whitbread First Novel Award, *The Ghost* in 2008 to be claimed as British Book Awards Popular Fiction Award and *Lustrum* (*Conspirata*) as Walter Scott Prize in 2010. Many of his works has been translated into thirty-seven languages.

Conspirata is a freshly compelling novel centred on political power struggle of ancient Rome. The novel is praised for the sensational thriller of Robert Harris. It describes about the live of Cicero as a consul in Rome but his tribute and his consulship was full of conspiracy of his enemy. The tribute for Cicero sent him fear rippling through a city already wracked by unreal situation from a body death of young boy in the night before his inauguration. The young boy has been felled by hammer, apparently like a human sacrifice.

The symbol sometimes gives ambiguity because symbol has more than one meaning. It can be subjective or objective, depending on what can be conveyed and while the interpretation may be insightful for some purposes. It is always less than the set of the meaning in social setting itself. Term of symbol is often a figure of speech in which a person, object or setting. There is statement from Perrine stated that the symbol "Generally symbol is an object, a person, a situation, an action, or some other item which has literal meaning in the story but suggest or represent other meaning as well (<http://www.wikipedia.com>)".

Here, the symbol does not always appear as a sign. It is because the author and reader have different perception to reveal the system of symbol. In many ways, many experts put conventional or modern symbol interpretation to support the meaning by limiting the system. This system is limited by ethnic, religious, national or society. *Conspirata* is meaningful history which produces experience of man's (Cicero) live, feeling, and symbolic thing from the story itself. The

concept itself is to reveal what the symbol is that the author uses to state interpretation of something by using the intrinsic element of symbol. Robert Harris repeats many words and it identified as a symbol. He used conventional symbol such as door and gate; natural symbol are like snow and sea; literary symbol temple and chair. The study will explain the meaning of the symbol and reveal correlation between goodness of Cicero's character with the meaning of symbol. In example symbol of the door represent hope; opportunity; in Roman the door is Janus which symbolize the power.

Here, the author always repeat the word "door" to give deep understanding and represent something hidden from the text. Robert Harris always mentioned the door and Cicero at the same time. In literature comprehension, the door is the important element of the house to access with other rooms in the house. When the door give an access to other part in the house, it means that the door itself as a media, communication or something else. Even though meaning of the door can be negative such as imprisonment or isolation. Here, the author unconsciously emphasize that Cicero is the object and the door is the media to communicate to other part of live.

Besides symbol, there is a sign to signify the concept of a thing in *Conspirata*. Theory of symbols can be supported by semiotic theory. The study concern on meaning of the sign and one of an expert in semiotic is Charles Sanders Pierce or it is known as Pierce's theory of sign. The function of the symbol can be more useful if it is elaborated with semiotic. Most interpretation became ambiguous because the limitation of the reader has different expression in how to give meaning in symbol. It is not only used as an image, setting, or character to show what the author will tell to reader but also conversation can be used as a semiotic part. Pierce state that sign is:

"I define a sign as anything which is so determined by something else, called its Object, and so determines an effect upon a person, which effect I call its interpretant, that the later is thereby mediately determined by the former. (EP2, 478)."

Furthermore, this study uses Cicero as the main symbol to reveal every meaning from his experience when he became good consulship. To signify the real substance of the sign, the reader must read the novel carefully. There are three aspects of sign: a sign, an object and an interpretant. It also strengthen with signified and signifier if the author appear textually and contextually. Commonly the distinction between signifier and signified has sometimes been equated to the familiar dualism of 'form and content.

Conspirata is a political story, Cicero can be a good one and many characters are bad side. Rome and Cicero is equivalent and powerful in that era as politician, however Cicero is father of Rome which keep secrets inside. Politicians always give tricks and sacrifices; it is

the same with something in Cicero's sense to read what will happen from every tragedy. An old politic as always use nature, or event to guess the meaning of next event and here Cicero can be nominated as good side from all the members in senate. It is affirmed with the argument about goodness is a strong leader, "In other conservatives assert that in the name of 'national greatness', people need a 'strong national government' that will be a 'sharper' of citizens and help them cope with the weaker angles of their nature (Amitai Etzioni, Brooks/Kristal 1997: 90)". Politic gives a power to control and lead society, Niccolò Machiavelli (1469–1527) sees power as "a complex strategic situation in a given society social setting".

In Europe, power is the one key concept of tradition thought about political phenomenon. Cicero represented politic power in Rome; he used power as his tactic in controlling society. In many view politics, authorization, negotiation, bargaining are about tactic that politician always do to be trusted by society. While in the past, issues of political obligation and authority were predominant among political philosophers, because the state was still perceived as a supreme political institution primarily providing security and stability. In recent literature, British Journal of Political Science vol.1 (1971): 291-305; political value has typically been ascribed to distributive justice, to the safeguarding of individual autonomy, to fostering a sense of community, to forms of deliberative democracy, to beneficial kinds of pluralism, and to preserving a sustainable environment.

The objective form is the leader or politic community bring liberty to society and give benefit in every ways. As Hannah Arendt pointed out, governments and politics are based on opinion, not factual truth. For her, factual truth was an essential component of the freedom of thought that political thinking required. But the truth of the philosophers was rational truth, involving axioms and theories. That truth was singular and hence apolitical (Arendt, 1968: 231-238; 242-246). In approaches such as these, the non-political status of truth rests on the assumption that it is knowable, and often on ostensibly unassailable foundationalist assumptions regarding human nature, whereas politics is assumed to involve fundamental contests over both the good and the right.

In short, through this study, it is expected that the study gives different view in understanding Cicero as goodness symbol in political eyes in Rome in that era. By exploring and finding the symbol and interpret it, the ideas of the author can be permitted. Especially the study is going to analyze that the novel filed many symbols that still unanswered. Through the study of symbols then the meaning of goodness in political view is underlined.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Results of the Study

There are two statements of the problem in this study, there are: 1. What are the goodness symbols in Robert Harris' *Conspirata*? 2. How do the goodness symbols in Robert Harris' *Conspirata* reveal Cicero as goodness on his political view?

In first problem of the statement symbols which is used in the novel, there are three kinds of goodness symbols in *Conspirata*: natural, conventional and literary symbols. The natural symbols are, snow, spring, Tiber River, star, sun and sky. The conventional symbols are, house, Jupiter, toga purple, temple, flag, and gate. The last is literary symbols such as light, curule chair, and Macedonia. All the symbols represent goodness in Cicero's character as politician. All the symbols also supported with the semiotic theory. It helps to analyze the component of language which the author used in the novel. Other symbols also help to analyze the body language of the main character. It has been analyzed with semiotic theory.

Besides the meaning of symbols, the revelation of Cicero's goodness in political view through the goodness symbols is to find parts of goodness from the analysis of the symbol and concept of politics. Politic in Rome is the oldest form and influence west political practice in government. Cicero is the one politician who occupied as consul for several time and as the influential man. Actually, in politic there is good and bad thing, but those two things is not always certain being good or bad. It depends on the society condition and the government itself. The goodness in political view is definite in fifteen symbols from the novel. Each symbol has a portion in explaining what exactly goodness through character from the novel. One symbol represents one good meaning in literary context to relate with the main topic of the story about politics. In politic, leader must have dignity and power to make progression in their dominion regional place. Leader must bring society to liberty and know the potential thing from his public. In this case, Cicero knows what his limitation and his portion in government. He brings freedom in a choice for every people in Rome. The politician must know his function for public and government. It is needed good skill, faithful and wide experience in every single aspect.

Good states must bring his people to good living; Cicero has in intellectual mind and his good leadership. There is formation from darkness to the light, he bring a hope, people wishes about their freedom and humanity in Rome. Good state and leader take his responsibility and the risk, they realize that the transformation give many sacrifices in his practice. The action of great leader will bring a new life and good passion for new people changing's standard of live. Not all freedom give bad impact because of the regulation is too free to be obeyed. Freedom will work so good if the truth and necessity is

followed. There is a guide to be followed, protection and safety to guarantee it. In other, if the freedom does not work in the portion, it brings the leader into big problem. The law is the power of all these things. Punishment and law are the weapon to fight conspiracy, good leader also bring his worthy in punishing people.

The punishment implies high supreme in government, Cicero has this and his voice is absolute in Senate. His identity as consul signifies his high autonomy, make pleasure for his people. Actually, good leader must have faith, good knowledge, good leadership, bring hope, power, and can protect his society. Not only these things, is good state better to have identity of their nation, vision, quality live and spiritual. As leader, the nation must have their identity to save their own region. It will valuable if there is an easy access to move on to the next step. After the identity is accepted in world, the opportunities will wide open after all. The possibility in good progress indicates their success in how the leader led their nation. Other goodness is when the leader brings their hope to better future; imply the social contract and government are give good feedback.

Other goodness in political view is when the nation admit, the leader's progression indicate the good thing. Every step in live for nation and their needs are fulfilled in stable movement. In every part, not only for living but also for dead people, in Cicero's leadership there is respect manner in how he treats dead people (young boy in the river). This is will be their worthy as government worker; society will give their faith and honor to live happily with the politician actor. They commit and promise to achieves every their progression, and society also consciously realize about their function in public. Public will fastened with the law from where they lived. The diversity of people in how they obey the rule always evokes pros and cons about the good and bad. Society value how they work in giving punishment for guilty people. Not all society agreed with the terms, sometimes they disagree and built bad perception in society about the government.

Politic is always gray, it can be good if there admittance from their society and can be bad if this admit bring them into the war. It depends on the social contract between governor and their society. The good communication is needed, the leader must know well the problem is, always evaluate their capability. The strong character of politician is the key, their unshakable knowledge never denied. There must be balancing between the action and punishment/responsibility. Because great authority will brings great responsibility and great changes for the nation. The important thing for the last goodness in political view is, the ideology of the nation will not lost, the distinction of people is always being watched, and balancing between progress and sacrifices or between law and punishment.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

The study has been to analyze the novel of Robert Harris's, *Conspirata* and reveal the meaning of symbols in the novel. The symbolism theory is used to explain the meaning and correlate it with the truly significance of goodness in political view. The novel uses many symbols to represent any things through the character. The study is to find out the deeper analysis and concern in political element. The author explains one by one the symbols and explores the political practice in Rome. In the previous chapter, it is revealed that the symbols reflect how the goodness correlates with Cicero's character as politician.

Within the analysis, the study signifies what is the goodness thing in political practice through the meaning of symbols itself. There are two conclusions from the problem statements what kind of symbols and how does the symbols reflect goodness in Cicero's political view. The natural, conventional and literary symbols imply what kind of the symbols which support the goodness in Cicero's political view. From the first problem statement, the analysis has answered it well. Natural symbols, such as sun, star, spring, Tiber River, snow and sky can be conclude that all the terms proof how is Cicero's character. He is a father of Nation, it also can be seen from conventional symbols of gate, house, Jupiter, purple toga, temple, flag. Every analysis emphasizes how his thought is very wide as new politician. This part, he tries to take big responsibility in his action. The symbols in the novel draw how politic work. All the symbols which are mentioned in the analysis mention good thing. In Cicero's political view, people is good if they have responsibility, in previous analysis symbols explanation support the idea of goodness in politic.

Next conclusion is gotten in second problem statement; the symbols take part in how process of the meaning is correlated with good thing in politic act. Good things are when people do their job in government without take any advantages from Roman people. Cicero is the symbol which mentioned in the previous chapter and the symbols of the novel explain it very well. Cicero is the reflection of Roman politician, his point of view lead people to judge him as good people even there was something trouble in his consulship. The entire goodness of Cicero's thought is more about how he does his job such as in the one of symbols explanation. Means that his character, thought, and life are the symbols itself and what can be called as goodness is the meaning of symbols from the novel.

Politician in their practice always do everything to reach their first position in government. With the unfair act from politician such press lower people to get their highest authority give Cicero's proof how big his quality. Even, the problem always comes, it looks from color of red, gray and many sign, Cicero try to do his best to solve it. He use his high power with high pride because he realize that his power affect to Rome. His reflection of his goodness follows his existence in government as politician. It is why he becomes different from other

leaders; because he has different thought about what is the goodness for him, Rome and world.

In conclusion, the two problems are being answered by describing one by one the meaning of the symbols and correlate it with goodness in Cicero's political view. All the proofs about what is the good thing which is needed in politics are clearly viewed in the novel through Cicero. Many things of goodness is being answered, Cicero is the one of example of good politician. It is because he has good tactics to retain his vision when he reached his position in Senate. His vision and act is showed for reader to decide that Cicero has good thought in his view of politic.

And from now, many philosophers symbolize him as Father of Nation in Roman era. Not all symbols in the novel can depict easily, it only depend on the fact from the novel. Politic works not only in good but also bad, it only about view and coincidentally Cicero is good side and his opponent, Caesar is the bad man. Goodness is not about always help without evaluating the whole problem. Goodness in Cicero's politics view is about balance between what we do and what we get in life, doing something fairly and always in the right way even it is hard to do or takes many risks.

Suggestion

The study is fiction but the main character is fact, Cicero is the most influential person in the world. In literature, philosophy, politics and other claimed that he is the greatest man or famous as Father of Rome. It impact people to be low profile and uses their thought efficiently in every time. As people who has very great intelligence such Cicero, better to use it in better way. But the great honor is when people always remember about good thing in their life; it is same with Cicero's point of view when he became consul in that era.

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