

A SEMIOTIC ANALYSIS ON ICON, INDEX, AND SYMBOL IN *GET OUT* MOVIE

Norman Baharsyah; Ardayati; Agus Triyogo

STKIP-PGRI Lubuklingau; STKIP-PGRI Lubuklingau; STKIP-PGRI Lubuklingau
normanbaharsyahdraw@gmail.com; ardayati470@yahoo.com;
agustriyogo@gmail.com

Abstract

The problem of this study was "What are the icons, indexes, and symbols in *Get Out* movie?". There were primary sources and secondary sources in this study. The primary source that used in this study was *Get Out* movie while the secondary sources were several books, journals, and articles to support this study. The objective of this study was to describe the icons, indexes, and symbols in *Get Out* Movie by using Charles Peirce theory. This study used descriptive qualitative research. In collecting the data, the writer used library research, in which the writer went to find desirable references consisted on books, journals, and articles. In analyzing the data, the writer identified and classified the data first, then the writer did some reduction to the data. The writer only chose relevant data in several key scenes in the movie which were contributive to the plot, and removed the redundant and the unnecessary ones. After conducting the study, the writer found out that there were thirty signs in *Get Out* movie. The result showed that the thirty signs found in the movie were classified into three icons, twenty indexes, and seven symbols.

Keywords: *Semiotics, signs, movie*

Introduction

Language held a pivotal role in people's lives, due to their needs to communicate and to depend on each other. People live in a society, and in order to form some kinds of relationship, they should interact with each other, language enables those people to do just that (Tiyogo, 2016:1). However, sometimes, the language variety makes it difficult for people to communicate, when people from different areas, regions, or even countries want to communicate, they need to acquire an international language, one of the well-known international languages is English. Reddy (2016:179) claimed that there are 375 million people who use English as their first language, and there are 750 million people who use English as a second language. Most of the information around the world is served in English.

Therefore, in order to keep up with the advancement of technology nowadays, English needs to be learned. There are many fields of studies in English, including semiotics. Chandler (2007:2) states that semiotics studies the signs on what people say and all of the things that may represent more than one

meaning. Sign can be found everywhere, including movie. Movie is one of great entertainments for people around the world, also as a media to study other people's culture. According to Mahmood (2013:77), movie (or cinema) is a form of art that can be enjoyed visually, it contains sound, script, characters which blend together to tell a story that portrays everyday life, and it might be inspired by real-life events, be it as action movies, adventure or romance. Ardayati (2018:181) mentioned that movie (or film) has the ability to immerse the people who watch it into a magical journey which the movie scenes take place.

The writer is interested to do semiotic analysis in a movie. Usually movie is made as a media of entertainment, however, some directors also often add hidden messages in their movies, thus sometimes it can be difficult to capture the meaning of the hidden signs and messages while simultaneously trying to enjoy a movie. Reeper (2013:8) claims that there are so much going on in a movie, and it might be overwhelming to try to understand many signs in the movie scenes in one viewing. Thus, thoroughly watch the movie and study it is necessary in order to understand the sign that might contain hidden meaning.

The writer chose *Get Out* movie, over several considerations. It was released in 2017, It was a rare attempt to subverts audience's expectation when it comes to a horror movie with a racial subtext. This movie received numerous good receptions, especially because it was able to tackle racism issue with nice subtlety. The Caucasians (especially the Armitages) in the movie considered African-American people as great beings with great physical prowess, rather than demean them. Thus the Armitages frequently perform odd and twisted body operation on African-American people in order to harness their organs and bodies for the highest bidder.

Method

Qualitative approach was applied in this research. This approach tended to be wrestling with interpretation, which is so many. Subana & Sudrajat (2005:17) mentioned that qualitative approach tended to be focused on descriptive analysis, instead of accepting and declining a hypothesis. Subana & Sudradjat (2005:89-91) claimed that the study must be designed to follow these steps, such as formulating the problem of the study, deciding the kind of information that is served, deciding the procedure of data collecting, deciding the procedure of data processing, and making the conclusion of study. *Get Out* movie was the subject of the study; it was released in 2017. Meanwhile, icons, indexes and symbols were the objects of the study. The writer was the instrument for this study, who engaged in data collection and data analysis. The primary source for this study was the *Get Out* movie. The writer chose the secondary data from various books, articles, and journals that had the relevancy with the primary data.

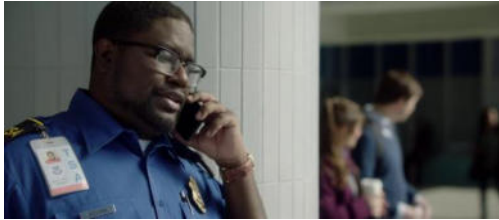

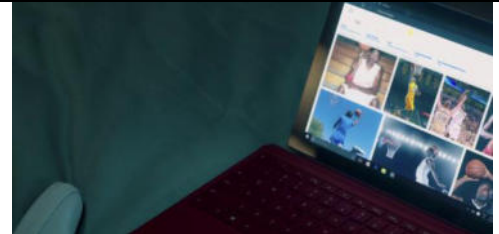
Discussion

The writer found and chose 30 pictures based on screenshots in the movie, there were 3 icons, 20 indexes, and 7 symbols in this chapter. The writer used Charles Peirce's theory on icon, index, and symbol to analyze the data.

Icon

The following table contained icon analysis result which was analyzed by the writer in Get Out movie.



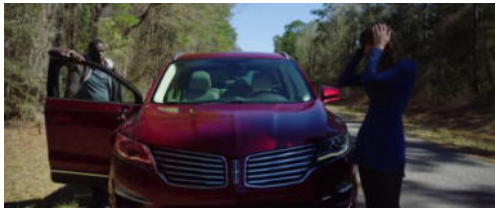

Table 1. The Result of Icon Analysis

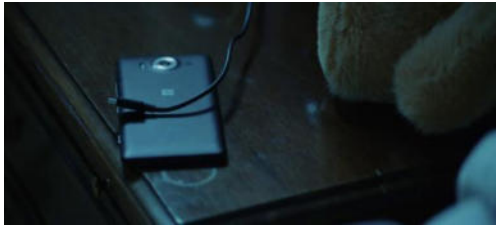
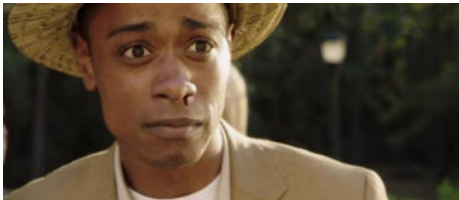


No	Picture	Description and Discussion
1	 <p><i>Picture 1: Rod's picture on his ID card (time: 09:22)</i></p>	In the picture, Rod was having a conversation with Chris, and he appeared to wear his identification card on his TSA (Transportation security Administration) uniform. On Rod's ID card, there was a small picture or photograph of him. Rod's picture represented what exactly he looked like in person.
2	 <p><i>Picture 2: Armitage's vintage family photo (time: 16:35)</i></p>	In the picture, there was a vintage family picture of the Armitage, this photo was taken years ago. There were Rose, Jeremy, their parents Missy and Dean. The family picture depicted what the Armitage look like in the past.
3	 <p><i>Picture 5: Pictures of African-American Athletes (time: 1:32:41)</i></p>	In the picture, Rose browsed through several African-American athletes in a website. Under the impression that she succeeded in luring Chris and harvesting his organs, she tried to find possible victims for her next mission. On the webpage, there were several black athlete pictures on display, which look exactly like the real life counterparts.

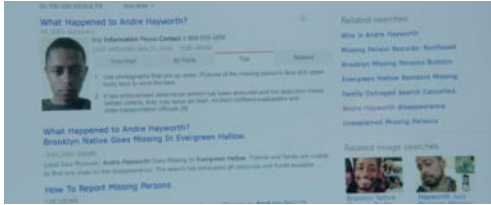



Index






The following table contained index analysis result which was analyzed by the writer in Get Out movie.




Table 2. The Result of Index Analysis

No	Picture	Description
1	 <p><i>Picture 1: Opened car door at midnight (time: 02:41)</i></p>	In the picture, there was a person named Andre, who walks alone in the night. Meanwhile, not far from the place he walked, there was a white car parking on the side of the street. Strangely, the car door was opened and the owner was nowhere to be seen. Moreover, the lights on the car were on. The opened car door implied the owner got out of the car not long ago, the car owner might be a kidnapper and Andre who happened to be near it might be in danger.
2	 <p><i>Picture 2: Traffic sign to go left (time: 10:41)</i></p>	In the picture, there was a traffic sign on the side of the road; a sign of an arrow pointing at the left. There was a sign contained an arrow pointing at the left, this indicated the next direction that people take on the road would be the left side.
3	 <p><i>Picture 3: Rose's car mirror broke and blood was on the headlight (time: 10:53)</i></p>	In the picture, Chris and his girlfriend Rose got out of a car, only to find out that the car had a minor damage, the right mirror was broken, and there was blood splattered on the right headlights. Chris and Rose were visibly upset by this unfortunate occurrence. The writer claimed the broken mirror and the blood as indexes. The car mirror broke because Rose accidentally hit a deer that came out of nowhere full speed crossing the street, the impact also left the deer's blood sticking on the headlight.
4		In the picture, there was a dying deer that lied on the ground near a forest. It can be seen that there was a blood coming out of its abdomen. The deer was bleeding because it was trying to cross the road at full speed while Chris and Rose was there with her car, and

	<i>Picture 4: Blood on a dying deer's stomach (time: 12:05)</i>	then the car hit the deer.
5	 <p><i>Picture 5: Chris' unplugged phone (time: 37:04)</i></p>	In the picture, there was a phone, owned by Chris that lied on a drawer, and also, there was a phone charger above it, however, the phone was unplugged to the charger, while previously, the phone was plugged. The charger plug was laid above the phone, this indicated that the phone was being charged before, but then someone unplugged it.
6	 <p><i>Picture 6: blood on Logan (Andre)'s nose (time: 55:41)</i></p>	In the picture, a person who claimed himself as Logan, stared blankly into Chris, not only that, but his nose was also bleeding. The blood came out after Chris tried to take Logan's picture using his phone, but he forgot that the flash on his phone was on. The flash caused Logan to freeze for several seconds and then strangely, blood was coming out of his nose.
7	 <p><i>Picture 7: Unsynchronized handshake between Logan (Andre) and Chris (time: 45:59)</i></p>	In the picture, Chris tried to do a fist bump as a form of hospitality to the only black man he met on the Armitage's gathering, Logan King (Andre). However, Logan answers Chris' fist bump with a formal handshake, which made it weird and awkward. Fist bump often associated with informal interaction, which was frequently found in sport event or in African-American society. The weird exchange implied that Logan was not being himself, he was not in control, and something ominous might happen to him before, that he no longer acted like he was supposed to be, like Caucasian (the current host of the body) took control of African-American (the original host).
8	 <p><i>Picture 8: Series of Rose's pictures with black people</i></p>	In the picture, Chris was looking at Rose's pictures in her closet, however, she was not alone in some of them, many of those pictures depicting Rose posing with other men, and all of them were African-American. Chris' discovery about those pictures indicated that Rose was in interracial relationship with many people before

	(time:1:06:00)	and Chris was not her first black boyfriend, and also there might be an ulterior motive on Rose's part about her dating Chris.
9	 <p>Picture 9: A webpage contained information of Andre's disappearance (time: 1:12:12)</p>	In the picture, there was a webpage informing that someone named Andre Hayworth went missing. Andre looked exactly like someone named Logan that Chris met earlier, and also the person who was kidnapped at the beginning of the movie. This indicated that Andre was kidnapped, brainwashed and unwillingly became Logan.
10	 <p>Picture 10: Rose's grandfather telling about the Armitage's backstory (time: 1:13:51)</p>	In the picture, there was a video on a TV screen with Rose's grandfather on it. This video showed that he explained about the back story of the Armitage and vision of the family's business, which was body transplantation, and just by watching this short video, Chris knew that he would end up being their victim if he did not leave as soon as possible.
11	 <p>Picture 11: Video call of Jim, Armitage's client (time: 1:22:31)</p>	In the picture, there was a video call on a TV screen that displayed Jim's picture, he was a client of the Armitage. In the video call, Jim told Chris that he wanted Chris' eyes, and they both were going to undergo an operation to accomplish it. This realization solidified Chris' fear that he might not survive his captivity.
12	 <p>Picture 12: Cotton stuffing in a sofa being pulled out (time: 1:25:43)</p>	In the picture, it can be seen that Chris was strapped to a chair in a room, he was being held hostage by the Armitages. And also there was cotton stuffing of the chair, it looked like that it was being pulled out by Chris. The cotton was pulled out by Chris because he was in state of panic, he tried to get out of his captivity but unable to do so, and Chris showed a sign of struggle by scratching the side of the chair, pulling out the cotton in the process.
13		In the picture, there was Jeremy lying on the floor, and blood came out of his head. The bleeding happened because Chris stealthily hit Jeremy's head with a tennis ball when Jeremy wanted to deliver Chris to the operation room.





	 <p><i>Picture 13: Blood came out of Jeremy's head (time: 1:28:48)</i></p>	
14	 <p><i>Picture 14: Jim's blood from his brain and detached scalp (time: 1:28:57)</i></p>	In the picture, there was Jim's head on display, Dean was doing an operation on Jim, he removed Jim's scalp off his head and his brain and blood coming out of his head can be seen there. The bleeding happened because Dean performed an operation on Jim by cutting his head open with a surgery shiv, and this was a part of a brain and body transplantation with Chris as the unwilling donor.
15	 <p><i>Picture 15: Blood came out of Dean's mouth and neck (time: 1:29:26)</i></p>	In the picture, Chris ran towards Dean and caught him by surprise with a deer horn, the horn stabbed Dean's neck, then blood came out of his neck and mouth. The blood came out because Chris stabbed Dean, and this was a form of retaliation from Chris after escaping Jeremy earlier.
16	 <p><i>Picture 16: Fire in Armitage's operation room (time: 1:29:49)</i></p>	In the picture, there was fire in the operation room. The room was on fire because after being stabbed by Chris, Dean was in a brink of death and he touched a candle holder, which fell and burned a fabric nearby, leaving both Dean and Jim died in there.
17	 <p><i>Picture 17: Blood on Chris's shirt (time: 1:30:11)</i></p>	In the picture, there was Chris who tried to assess the situation after escaping his ordeal. There was also blood on his shirt and face. The blood on Chris was from his previous encounter with Jeremy and Dean, and it was their blood.

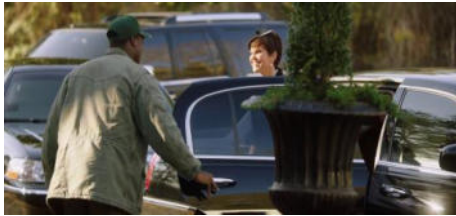


18	 <p><i>Picture 18: Georgina's blood and scar on her forehead (time: 1:34:46)</i></p>	<p>In the picture, there was a car accident, with Georgina and Chris as the victims; she died, while he survived. There was blood coming out of Georgina's head, there was also something resembled stitches or scar on her forehead. The bleeding on Georgina's head was because of the impact of the car accident, while the scar indicating that she was a victim of Armitage's shady operation.</p>
19	 <p><i>Picture 19: Blood on Rose's stomach (time: 1:36:08)</i></p>	<p>In the picture, Rose was bleeding on her stomach, she was shot by Walter. Rose was bleeding because Walter shot her in the stomach. Walter was initially tried to capture Chris by Rose's order, however, Chris managed to use the flash on his phone like he did with Andre to free Walter. Thus, he was able to gain consciousness, then he helped Chris and shot her.</p>
20	 <p><i>Picture 20: Walter's scar on his forehead (time: 1:36:18)</i></p>	<p>In the picture, there was Walter, blood coming out his nose, and also, there was a scar on his forehead. The blood on Walter's nose implied that he was free because previously Chris used flash on his phone to free him when he attacked Chris. The scar on his forehead implied that Walter was yet another Armitage's victim.</p>

Symbol

The following table contained symbol analysis result which was analyzed by the writer in *Get Out* movie.

Table 3. The Result of Symbol Analysis

No	Picture	Description and Discussion
1	 <p>Picture 1: Badge and attributes on Rod's TSA uniform (time: 09:22)</p>	In the picture, Rod was seen talking on the phone. There was also a TSA (Transportation Security Administration) badge located on his uniform. Badge can be found on people's clothes, which may give a hint that they are part of something, it is usually a small picture or word designed on a piece of cloth or metal (Hornby, 1995:76). The badge identified him as a TSA officer, as a person who serves and protects society, particularly in an airport, to make sure people in there will have a save flight.
2	 <p>Picture 2: Chris' Microsoft phone (time: 09:33)</p>	In the picture, there was a Microsoft logo located on a phone that Chris used to call Rod. The window logo of Microsoft represented an entrance to advanced technology.
3	 <p>Picture 3: Badge on a police officer's uniform (time: 13:00)</p>	In the picture, there was a police officer who wanted to hear Rose's and Chris's statement after she accidentally hit a deer on the road. Also, there was a badge on the officer's uniform. The badge identified the cop as a police officer, as a person who served and protected society.
4	 <p>Picture 4: The sunken place (time: 36:39)</p>	In the picture, Chris appeared to be falling into the sunken place, it was a bottomless void, and he was so desperate to break free. This happened because of the therapy session between him and Missy. Missy helped Chris to get rid of his smoking addiction, and Missy used hypnosis. This paralyzed Chris, he cannot do anything, and as visualized on the scene, based on Chris' experience, it felt like continuously fell into dark void. Chris' experience represented helplessness, people's life controlled

		by other people. It also represented the suffering people went through every day to get rid of their addiction, it is so painful because the addiction is part of their life, and it is difficult to separate their life with it.
5	 <p><i>Picture 5: Black limousines arriving at Armitage's mansion (time: 42:09)</i></p>	In the picture, there were many black limousines that arrived at Armitage's mansion. All of it driven by Caucasians. The scene contained hidden subtext, all of those limousine represented African-American people, and Caucasian people being the owners of those cars represented the meaning of Caucasian owning Africa-American as their properties, all of the Armitage's clients were desired to be inside of the black people's head and being in control of their body and organs.
6	 <p><i>Picture 6: Chris' picture being displayed at an auction (time: 59:41)</i></p>	In the picture, there was Dean holding an auction at the mansion's backyard. In the middle of the auction, a photo of Chris can be seen beside Dean, implying that Chris was being auctioned. This represents the dark time where white people frequently do transaction involving black people as property of slavery.
7	 <p><i>Picture 7: Symbol of Coagula (time: 1:15:15)</i></p>	In the picture, there was a logo of Coagula, organization owned by the Armitages, at the right bottom corner of the screen, on that logo there were pictures resembling winged animals like bird and butterfly, and also, the logo's color was blue. The motif of winged animals like butterfly on the logo related to the meaning of freedom and evolution. Considering the Armitage's backstory on doing body transplantation for people who want to live longer, they provide to their clients a feeling that they were under the impression of being free from death and evolving into more powerful being in someone's younger body. Meanwhile, the blue color was also associated with 'blue blood' or people with vast possession of wealth. This implied that only rich people can afford the treatment.

Conclusion

Based on the result of the study, a conclusion can be made that sign is a color, a gesture, a wink, an object, a mathematical equation, etc. Sign can be classified into icon (something that tells the exact meaning of a sign), index (a sign that might imply possible connection with other things), and symbol (a sign which its meaning is determined by popular words or sentences that people frequently use time after time). There were thirty signs found in *Get Out* movie. There were three icons, twenty indexes, and seven symbols in this study.

References

- Ardayati. (2018). Film as a media used by teachers to teach writing for tertiary level students. *Linguistics, English Education and Art (LEEA) Journal*, 1(2), 180-192.
- Chandler, D. (2007). *Semiotics the basic* (2nd ed.). New York: Routledge.
- Mahmood, I. (2013). Influence and importance of cinema on the lifestyle of educated youth: A study on university students of bangladesh. *IOSR Journal of Humanities And Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)*, 17(6), 77-80.
- Reddy, M. S. (2016). Importance of English language in today's world. *International Journal of Academic Research*, 3(4), 179-184.
- Reeper, M. D. (2013). *How to Analyse Movies #2: Signs, Codes & Conventions*. Accessed on October 3rd 2019, retrieved from <https://www.filminquiry.com/analyse-movie-signs/>
- Subana, M. & Sudrajat. (2005). *Dasar-dasar penelitian ilmiah*. Bandung: Pustaka Setia.
- Triyogo, A. (2016). An analysis of language code that used by people at blackberry messenger's status. *Jurnal Perspektif Pendidikan*, 10(1), 1-13.