

**BARTHES' SEMIOTIC ON THE GIANT COCKROACH
IN "THE METAMORPHOSIS" BY FRANZ KAFKA**

THESIS

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ABSTRACT

Rahman, Maufiqur. 2014. *Barthes' Semiotic on the Giant Cockroach in "The Metamorphosis" by Franz Kafka*. Study Program of English, Department of Languages and Literature, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya. Supervisor: Henny Indarwaty; Co-Supervisor: Ni Wayan Swardhani W.

Keyword: Barthes, Semiotic, cockroach.

This research is aimed to know the significations behind the giant cockroach in "The Metamorphosis" by Franz Kafka based on Barthes' semiotic perspective. In Barthes' semiotic, the signification does not stop at the signifier and signified meaning but it continues to the meta-language meaning; myth. Then, this signification is called as the second order of signification. Cockroach is signifier and disgusting animal is the signified. In the first order of signification, cockroach denotes a disgusting animal. In this case, cockroach is not only viewed as a disgusting animal but beyond that, because Gregor's transformed into disgusting animal which leads to him to be avoided by his family and society. His family avoids him because he cannot work again. Gregor isolated from the other after the transformation is the second order of signification.

This research finds many clues in the novella that Gregor's transformation symbolizes something else. As cockroach, Gregor dislikes milk and prefers to eat spoiled food means he can survive in in different way. Gregor dislikes what people usually like and Gregor needs what usually people do not need. It means the tolerance is important thing in real life because the difference is a certainty. Gregor sleeps under the chair means his father's pressure for a long time makes him weak. His weakness relates to the sofa or chair that also means power. Indeed, Gregor's conflict with his father makes him lose his power in his family. This behavior also means that Gregor has closed-personality and feelings, which Gregor always hides under it. Crawling all over the room means that he cannot be stagnant and he entertains himself to forget his nightmare and his suffering for a moment. Then, the impact of the transformation makes Gregor to be isolated from his job, his family, and even from his own thought. Gregor's death is a way to escape from his strangeness and suffering.

ABSTRAK

Rahman, Maufiqur. 2014. *Kecoa Besar dalam Perspektif Semiotika Barthes di Novella 'The Metamorphosis' Karya Franz Kafka*. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Brawijaya. Pembimbing: (I) Henny Indarwaty (II) Ni Wayan Swardhani W.

Keyword: Barthes, semiotika, kecoa.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui makna di balik kecoa besar dalam perspektif semiotika Barthes pada novella “*The Metamorphosis*” karya Franz Kafka. Dalam semiotika Barthes, penandaan tidak hanya berhenti pada level makna penanda dan petanda saja tapi berlanjut hingga pemaknaan meta-bahasa atau mitos. Penandaan tersebut disebut penandaan tingkat kedua. Kecoa menjadi penanda dan hewan yang menjijikkan menjadi petanda. Dalam konteks ini, kecoa tidak hanya dilihat sebagai hewan yang kotor saja, akan tetapi melampaui hal itu. Gregor berubah jadi hewan yang kotor karena itu dia dijauhi oleh keluarganya dan masyarakat. Gregor dijauhi oleh keluarganya karena dia tidak lagi bisa bekerja dan juga di lingkungan pekerjaannya, dia tidak lagi diterima karena penampilannya yang mengerikan. Gregor terisolasi dari dunia luar setelah dia mengalami transformasi adalah penandaan tingkat kedua.

Penelitian ini menemukan beberapa petunjuk tentang makna lain dari transformasi Gregor menjadi kecoa. Setelah menjadi kecoa, Gregor yang tidak suka minum susu dan lebih menyukai makanan yang sudah busuk bermakna bahwa Gregor mampu bertahan hidup dengan cara yang berbeda. Gregor menyukai dan membutuhkan sesuatu yang orang lain tidak sukai dan tidak butuhkan. Ini menunjukkan bahwa dalam kehidupan toleransi antar sesama itu sangat penting karena perbedaan itu tidak bisa dihindarkan. Gregor tidur di bawah sofa bermakna dia menjadi sangat lemah setelah sekian lama ditekan oleh ayahnya. Kelemahaan itu mengacu pada simbol kursi sebagai kekuasaan. Memang, konflik antara Gregor dan ayahnya membuat dirinya kehilangan pengaruh di keluarganya. Perilaku itu juga bermakna bahwa Gregor personal yang tertutup terbukti dia sering bersembunyi. Merayap di penjuru dinding kamar bermakna Gregor tidak bisa diam karena dia butuh bergerak dan dinamis juga bermakna Gregor menghibur dirinya sendiri dari semua penderitaan yang dialami. Kemudian, adapun dampak dari transformasi ini adalah Gregor terisolasi dari keluarganya, pekerjaannya, masyarakat bahkan dari pikirannya sendiri. Gregor merasa asing dengan wujud dan tingkah lakunya. Kematian adalah satu-satunya cara untuk mengakhiri penderitaan dan keterasingan Gregor.

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