

A SEMIOTIC C.S PIERCE ANALYSIS OF THE FEMINIST REPRESENTATION IN ENOLA HOLMES MOVIE (2020)

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Abstract

A movie is a mass media that is closest to people's lives. The movie serves as a medium that is entertaining and interesting to watch. In a movie, there is usually a hidden sign or message to be conveyed to the audience. This study aims to describe the representation of feminism that appears in the movie entitled Enola Holmes. The movie was released in 2020 and based on the novel Sherlock Holmes by Nancy Springer. This study applied a descriptive qualitative method that describes information in the form of text or transcripts and images from movies as objects of research. This research used C.S Peirce's semiotic theory to analyze data and the feminism approach as an analysis method. The results of this study indicated that there are 15 data classified in the part of triangle meaning to support the representation of feminism found in the Enola Holmes movie. The existence of signs is projected through the appearance of signs in the form of 14 qualisigns and 1 legisign. The existence of the Object in the form 14 indexes and 1 symbol, and the presence of the Interpretant in the form of 14 arguments and 1 dicent sign resulting in 4 types of representation of Enola Holmes' feminism as the main character in the movie, namely intelligent woman, brave woman, independent woman, and tough woman.

Key words : *Enola Holmes, Movie, Representation of Feminism, Semiotics.*

Abstrak

Film adalah sebuah media massa yang keadaannya paling dekat dengan kehidupan masyarakat. Film berfungsi sebagai media yang menghibur dan menarik untuk ditonton. Dalam sebuah film biasanya terdapat tanda atau pesan tersembunyi yang ingin disampaikan kepada penonton. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan representasi feminisme yang muncul dalam film berjudul Enola Holmes. Film ini dirilis pada tahun 2020 dan diangkat dari novel Sherlock Holmes karya Nancy Springer. Kajian ini menerapkan metode kualitatif deskriptif yang menguraikan informasi dalam bentuk teks atau transkrip dan gambar dari film sebagai objek penelitian. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori semiotika C.S Peirce untuk menganalisis data dan pendekatan feminisme sebagai metode analisis. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa keberadaan tanda diproyeksikan melalui kemunculan sign yang dominan yaitu qualisign. Keberadaan object dominan dalam bentuk index, dan kehadiran Interpretant dalam bentuk argument dominan yang menghasilkan representasi feminisme Enola Holmes sebagai karakter utama dalam film, yaitu wanita cerdas, wanita pemberani, wanita mandiri, dan wanita tangguh.

Kata Kunci : *Enola Holmes, Film, Representasi Feminisme, Semiotika.*

A. Introduction

Wellek (2016, p.20) means that literary work is a person's creativity towards their ideas, thoughts, and feelings which means that literary work is the result of human imagination that takes human life as a source of inspiration, and usually literary language has different characteristics from scientific language or everyday language, where literary language is full of ambiguity and homonym, and has irregular and irrational categories such as gender. There are several types of literature, namely poetry, prose, and drama. However, along with the development of the times, literary works have a new way to be enjoyed by the public, namely through movies.

The movie is an art that is often packaged as a commercial commodity because a movie is a portrait of the society in which a movie is usually made. There are many movies that have been produced by producers, one of which is the Enola Holmes movie.

Enola Holmes movie as an object is a mystery movie based on the first book in the young adult fiction series of the same name by Nancy Springer and produced in the United States in 2020, where the movie told the background of England in the 19th century. In modern times, the spectacle that comes from classic Victorian Era movies is one thing that is boring to enjoy, especially if it is packaged with a monotonous presentation. Gillett (2012, p.174) says that movie made has signs that want to be conveyed to the audience through the images displayed, starting from the way of dress, culture, customs, political system, society, and so on. Therefore these signs are emphasized by representation.

Danesi (2004, p.34) states that representation is something that illustrates an object means that representation is something related to the assessment of objects such as images, culture, sounds, and human life can reproduce something that is seen or felt in physical form. This study focuses on the character in the Enola Holmes movie and the representation of feminism.

Tong (2018, p.6) feminism is divided into four groups namely liberal, radical, Marxist, and socialist. In this study uses C.S Peirce's Semiotics theory to analyze how is the dominant sign, object, and interpretant in feminist representation from the Enola Holmes movie 2020. Besides that C.S Peirce's theory is strong enough to support this study because it includes two previous semiotic theories proposed by Ferdinand. De Saussure and Roland Barthes. From the point above, it has shown a significant relationship between the semiotics of C.S Peirce and Feminism that the signs are able to represent women as social beings who have a strong character in representation and the surrounding environment.

Chandler (2007, p.156) says that etymologically, the term semiotics comes from the Greek *semeion* which means sign. The term semiotics has been used since the 18th century by a German philosopher named Lember, but the study of signs formally began in Europe and America in the mid-19th century. Semiotic analysis is a science or analytical method for assessing signs, where the sign itself is a device used by humans in life to interpret something that exists. A sign can be found anywhere, such as a sign that appears in the form of words, a sign in human movement, a sign in a traffic lane, an entry sign the national flag and any object containing meaning that can be determined as a sign.

The semiotic model proposed by C.S Peirce is a theory about the meaning of a triangle consisting of a sign, object, and interpretant. This study includes the process of analysis, identification and classification of signs, therefore the writer can understand the types of feminism signs contained in the *Enola Holmes* movie through Peirce's semiotic theory. Peirce divides semiotics into three elements, namely the sign (representamen), the sign reference (object), and the use of the sign (interpretant) or the called triangle theory of meaning. Based on Robingah (2020, p.88) triangle meaning Peirce explains that each point is connected by a line in two directions which means that each term can only be understood in relation to one another.

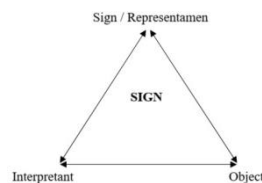


Diagram 1. Triangle Meaning Semiotics

Charles Sander Peirce's semiotic theory is a trichotomy consisting of three levels and nine subtypes of signs. Starting from the first level trichotomy is a representamen or sign consisting of qualisign, sinsign, and legisign then the second level trichotomy is an object consisting of icon, index, and symbols then the third or last level trichotomy is an interpretant consisting of rheme, dicent sign or dicisign, and arguments.

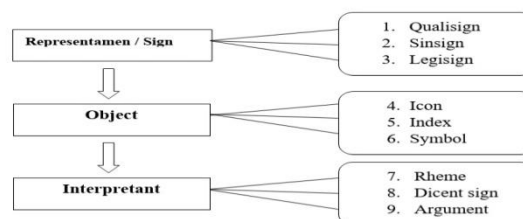


Diagram 2. Part of trichotomy

Representamen or Sign is something in a physical form that can be seen by the five human senses and is something that refers or represents something other than the sign itself, consisting of :

1. Qualisign is a sign that appears based on the properties possessed. For example, white means holy, clock means time.
2. Sinsign is a sign that appears based on the appearance of the sign in reality. For example, a rooster crowing means it is morning, and laughter means happiness.
3. Legisign is a sign that appears based on basic rules, or generally accepted codes. For example a red light means stop, and a nod means approval.

Object is the social context that is the reference of the sign or something that the sign refers to. Peirce distinguish object based on characteristics into three type consisting of :

1. Icon is a sign that bears a resemblance to it is a reference which then creates a relationship between the representamen and the object. For example is a map
2. Index is a sign related to things that are causal, or cause and effect. In this case, the sign has a causal relationship with the object. For example is eating as a sign of hunger.
3. Symbol is a sign that corresponds to a general sign used in society which generally arises because of an agreement.

Interpretant is a concept of thought that uses a sign that produces a certain meaning or that is in one's mind about the object that is referred to by a sign. Peirce distinguish interpretant based on characteristics into three type consisting of:

1. Rheme is a sign that allows the interpretation of different meanings. For example, a person whose eyes are puffy, may be sleep deprived, or may have sore eyes, have finished crying or may even be drunk.
2. Dicent sign or dicisign is a sign that is in accordance with the facts and reality. For example, on a road that is prone to accidents, there will be a warning sign that is prone to accidents.
3. Argument is a sign that contains reasons about something. For example, a sign prohibiting littering is because the garbage that accumulates will cause flooding.

It can be concluded that Sign and interpretant are connected or appear from one's perception. The interpretant and object are connected or appear through one's experience. Sign and object are connected or appear through the agreement, culture, and social group to which the person belongs. The triangle meaning is the main focus in this study. In addition to looking for representations of signs that appear, this study also describes the meanings of signs that emerge from the object of this study.

B. Research Method

This study applies the qualitative method with a descriptive approach. Based on Creswell (2009, p.22), qualitative research is used to investigate and comprehend the meaning of individuals or groups in relation to a human or society problem, and one part of literature that is close to society is a movie. Enola Holmes movie as the object of the study aims to determine the representation of the sign of feminism through situations and events in the scene through the roles and interactions of the main character, and this study must describe how the results of the scene that are considered to represent the sign of feminism will be in line with the theory.

In collecting the data, the first step Downloading movies with the title "Enola Holmes" through Netflix official. Then, watching Enola Holmes movie repeatedly. Next, Identifying transcript and scene that only focuses on the character of Enola Holmes which contains feminist values. Furthermore, data from other characters such as Mycroft, Sherlock, Tewkesbury is only as supporting data for data analysis. After that, Selecting all transcript and scene in the Enola Holmes movie because not all data can be taken as analysis data. Continue, Understanding the transcripts and screenshots of scenes of the Enola Holmes character in the movie. Last, Collecting all the data when they have been found.

After collecting the data, it continued by processing the data collected. First, grouping the conclusion of data collection above based on Peirce's part of trichotomy, which consists of three types, namely Sign, Object, and Interpretant, and nine subtypes. Then, starting from the first type, trichotomy is a sign consisting of qualisign, sinsign, and legisign, and then second type trichotomy is an object consisting of icon, index, and symbol. The last type of trichotomy is interpretant consisting of rheme, dicent sign, and argument. Analyzing the selected transcripts based on Peirce's part of trichotomy to find representations of feminism

in the Enola Holmes movie. Last step, discussing and concluding findings with the concept of semiotics C.S Peirce.

C. Discussion

Data 01



Picture 3 . Scene at 00:13:55 -

[Mycroft Holmes] : You are a young woman now, Enola. You need an education.

[Enola] : Test me on anything you think I need to know to be sufficient for this world.

Based on the scene above, the type of **Sign** used is **Qualisign**, namely resistance. Enola Holmes made a stronghold of resistance against her two brothers, stating that she could face all the tests that would be tested. In the type qualisign that appears in the data above, people who try to make resist have signs about intelligence. When Enola tries to persuade her brother Mycroft and Sherlock Holmes that without going to Miss Harrison's school Enola already knows everything she has to learn, Enola does not like to have to leave home and live in a school with strict rules where they will be educated to be elegant and educated women.

The type of **Object** used is **Index**, namely resistance. Since childhood, Enola has learned a lot from her mother. Every day Enola spends in the library, in the laboratory to study all branches of science. Thus when Enola is a teenager, she did not want to go to school anymore to study because she had learned all of it at home with her mother. However, her two brothers still had a firm stance that a woman must have a good education and must go to school. In the index that appears in the data above, people who are trying to make resistance have signs of a causal relationship which is a reason why they have to resist with things they do not want.

The type of **Interpretant** used is **Argument**. This scene is interpreted Enola Holmes Holmes who has a high intelligence. In the argument that appears in the data above have sign about the reason why Enola Holmes does not want to go to Miss Harrison's school and tries to resistance her self because Enola Holmes has had enough with all the knowledge that has been given and taught by her mother, even though she did not experience education and schooling like most women in the Victorian era, she spent her time studying at home with her mother. This does not make Enola Holmes a person who does not have the knowledge.

This data has a sign of resistance which has an interpretation of intelligence to defend what it thinks is true and this sentence above relates to the interpretant and Enola's words that this situation represents a woman who has a high intellect which is one of the representations of feminism, *"Test me on anything you think"*.

Data 02



Picture 7 . Scene at 00:54:08 - 00:55:09

[Enola] : When I was a child, I cut my knee open trying to save sheep from the cliff edge.[sheep bleating][chuckles] I almost died, in truth.Mother was angry.[inaudible][inaudible]Very angry

[Eudoria] : It is good to care for the vulnerable but not if it means risking your life.Sometimes you have to let nature....take its course.Do your hear me?[inhales sharply]

[Enola] : The truth is, I did not ask for Viscount Tewkesbury Marquess of Basilwether in my life.I did not want the Viscount Tewkesbury Marquess of Basilwether in my life.So why do I feel responsibility for the Viscount Tewkesbury Marques of Basilwether?Because....there are those that want to hurt him.and he has not strength to stop them.[yells]... and I do have that strength.

Based on the scene above, the type of **Sign** used is **Qualisign**, namely empathy. When Enola Holmes was in her lodging room alone and talking to herself about the story from her childhood that saved a sheep that nearly fell and hurt her knee, it made her mother very angry because Enola Holmes's mother thinks when you want to save someone, you do not have to sacrifice yourself. Enola Holmes' great empathy made her think of planning to find Viscount Tewkesbury and save him from the one trying to kill him. In the type qualisign that appears in the data above, empathy have signed about a form of bravery which is about feeling sad and knowing what other people are feeling when in that situation even if they have to sacrifice themselves.

The type of **Object** used is **Index**, namely empathy. Enola Holmes thought of saving Viscount Tewkesbury, but Enola's first step was to find the whereabouts of Viscount Tewkesbury in London. In the index that appears in the data above, Enola Holmes has feelings of empathy have signs of a causal relationship Enola Holmes wanted to save

Viscount Tewkesbury from people who wanted to kill him because Enola Holmes thinks, Viscount Tewkesbury did not have the power to protect himself.

The type of **Interpretant** used is **Argument**. This scene is interpreted Enola Holmes Holmes as a brave woman. The argument that appears in the data above has signed about the reason why Enola Holmes has empathy for Viscount Tewkesbury who is a nobleman because, since childhood, Enola Holmes was educated by a great mother who taught her about many things, therefore when she grew up, the courage that Enola Holmes had received since childhood was still attached. Until she meets a nobleman who is in danger, and Enola Holmes tries to save the nobleman without having to see what danger she will face. A great sense of empathy made Enola Holmes brave to save Viscount Tewkesbury who she thought did not have the power to protect himself.

This data has a sign about empathy has an interpretant that Enola Holmes has the bravery to save Viscount Tewkesbury and this sentence above relates to the interpretant and Enola's words that this situation represents a woman who has brave which is one of the representations of feminism, "*I do have that strength.*"

Data 03



Picture8 . Scene at 01:16:32- 01:16:49

[Enola] : *See that window over there? It leads onto a roof*

[Viscount] : *I need you to climb out and take off into nowhere. And leave you?*

[Enola] : *I need to hold this door!*

[Viscount] : *But you need to get away too!* [Lestrade grunts]

[Enola] : *If he catches you, your life will be in danger.*

If he catches me, it's simply a life I do not want. Now go.

Based on the scene above, the type of **Sign** used is **Qualisign**, namely, protection. When Enola and Viscount Tewkesbury were at the lodging, Lestrade, Mycroft Holmes's hired man, was sent to find Enola Holmes. After doing a seeking, Lestrade found the lodging Enola Holmes who was with Viscount Tewkesbury. Lestrade tried to catch them both, but Enola Holmes managed to avoid Lestrade and hide in a room and held the door with a table so Lestrade could not come in. The type qualisign that appears in the data above is protection has sign as a form of bravery to sacrifice one self to defense others.

The type of **Object** used is **Index**, namely protection. She held the door with a table for Lestrade, who could not come in, Viscount Tewkesbury just stood behind Enola. In the index that appears in the data above, Enola Holmes has self-sacrifice to protect Viscount Tewkesbury has signs of a causal relationship Enola Holmes gave instructions to Viscount Tewkesbury to leave this lodging because if he was caught too, Viscount Tewkesbury's life would be in danger, whereas if she is caught then she will only live a life that she does not want.

The type of **Interpretant** used is **Argument**. This scene is interpreted by Enola Holmes Holmes as brave to make a decision. The argument that appears in the data above has signs about the reason why Enola Holmes do protection to Viscount Tewkesbury, and Enola Holmes had the brave to make a decision because if Viscount Tewkesbury was arrested he would be in danger, but if it was Enola Holmes she would just have to live a life she did not want and she feels she can go through and live it.

This data has a sign about protection has an interpretant that Enola Holmes has the bravery and this sentence above relates to the interpretant and Enola's words that this situation represents a woman who has brave made a decision which is one of the representations of feminism, *“If he catches you, your life will be in danger. If he catches me, it's simply a life I do not want. Now go.”*

Data 04



[Viscount] : Shall we, um, stick together ?

If you like. [slight chuckle]

[Enola] : No. We'll get to London and go our separate ways. Understood? [inhales deeply]

Picture Scene at 00:33:58 - 00:34:11

[Viscount] : Understood. [clears throat].

Based on the scene above, the type of **Sign** used is **Qualisign**, namely, rejection. When Enola was talking to Viscount Tewkesbury at night in the woods after they jumped off the train together. They decided to spend the night and hide until morning and would continue their journey to London the next day. In the type qualisign that appears in the data above, rejection signs about someone who does not need anything because they feel they can do everything on their own or independently, in their conversation, the Viscount invited Enola to stick together but she refuse Viscount Tewkesbury's invitation to go with her firmly because Enola wanted to be alone in continuing her journey to London to find her mother without Viscount Tewkesbury's help.

The type of **Object** used is **Index**, namely rejection because when since childhood, Enola has been accustomed to doing what she wants according to her wishes. In the index that appears in the data above, refuse have signs of a causal relationship namely Enola Holmes when she grew up, it became a habit for Enola Holmes, to be an independent person thus when Viscount Tewkesbury offered to be with Enola, she immediately refused the invitation, because she did not want to involve other people in her life.

The type of **Interpretant** used is **Argument**. This scene is interpreted as Enola Holmes as an independent woman. The argument that appears in the data above has sign about the reason why Enola Holmes rejection the invitation to Viscount Tewkesbury because when they arrived in London Enola Holmes and Viscount Tewkesbury would separate. Enola Holmes will solve the problem and so also Viscount Tewkesbury, Enola Holmes does not want Viscount Tewkesbury to be involved in her mother's finding.

This data has a sign about rejection as an interpretant that Enola Holmes has the independence in her life and this sentence above relates to the interpretant, Enola Holmes is an independent woman which is one of the representations of feminism, "No."

Data 05



[Viscount] : Why do you keep all these old newspapers, EnolaHolmes?

[Enola] : My mother I'm waiting for her to leave me a message. She hasn't yet.

Picture 15 . Scene at 01:13:34- 01:14:30

[Viscount] : "message"? What....

[Enola] : She likes ciphers.Coded messages that need to be deciphered.

[Viscount] : And why would she leave you a message? Because she left me.

[Enola] : And I thought she meant for me to find her, but I'm not sure she did now.So I left her a message, and I'm hopeful of a reply.I keep the newspapers to check.

[Enola] : I got it.[Enola chuckles] [Tewkesbury chuckles]

[Enola] : Don't look at me like that.

[Viscount] : I'm sorry.

[Enola] : I don't want your pity, Tewkesbury.

Based on the scene above, the type of **Sign** used is **Qualisign**, namely power. When Enola and Viscount Tewkesbury arrived in London they parted ways. Enola begins to find her mother by buying a new dress and renting lodging, but one day Enola suddenly thinks of Viscount Tewkesbury's safety from someone who wants to kill him. Enola decided to first find Viscount Tewkesbury. It does not take long for Enola Holmes succeeds to find Viscount Tewkesbury with a different look. Enola Holmes invited him to visit the lodging, after arriving Enola Holmes told him why she had gone to London to found her mother, hearing this reason Viscount Tewkesbury seemed to feel pity for Enola Holmes. The type qualisign that appears in the data above, power shows about people who do not want to be pitied and do not want to be considered weak by others.

The type of **Object** used is **Index**, namely power. When Enola Holmes was traveling around London she finally found Viscount Tewkesbury who was selling flowers in the market in a different style in order to hide his true identity. When they met Enola was overjoyed as was Viscount Tewkesbury and Enola asked him to hide in the lodging. In the index that appears in the data above power has signs of a causal relationship namely Enola Holmes seeks Viscount Tewkesbury with the purpose to protect and hide from the pursuit of bad people who want to kill him.

The type of **Interpretant** used is **Argument**. This scene is interpreted as Enola Holmes as a tough woman. The argument that appears in the data above has sign about the reason why Enola Holmes is tough because when she started trusting Viscount Tewkesbury to tell him about her mother when hearing the story, Viscount Tewkesbury looks pity on Enola Holmes left by her mother without reason, it makes Enola Holmes dislike and

uncomfortable because she does not want to be pitiful and she does not want to be seen as a weak woman in living life.

This data has a sign about power who has an interpretant that Enola Holmes has tough, she did not want to look pitiful in front of Viscount Tewkesbury with what she was going through, for Enola Holmes was sure she could get through this and this sentence above relates to the interpretant and Enola's words that this situation represents a woman who has a strong which is one of the representations of feminism, *"I don't want your pity ."*

D. Conclusions

The type of sign that appears dominantly is qualisign because in the data there are many signs that appear based on the nature of a word supported by transcripts and scene descriptions in the data. The type of object that appears dominantly is the index because in the data used many signs appear based on causal relationships, that are felt by the main character in the movie based on the storyline used and the type of interpretant that appears dominantly is an argument because in the data using the sign that appears always gives a reason about an interpretation of the sign why it appears. After finding the type of sign from each data that will help support the representation of feminism in the Enola Holmes movie. Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that Enola Holmes is portrayed as a woman who lived in the Victorian era and experienced injustice in her life. The representations of the signs of feminism that appear in the Enola Holmes movie, namely *intelligent woman, brave woman, independent woman, and tough woman* in her life.

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