

# ANALYSIS OF THE SEMIOTIC MEANING OF THE POEM "GRAY FOREST IN THE FOREST" BY SAPARDI DJOKO DAMONO

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#### ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyze the semiotic meaning of one of Sapardi Djoko Damono's poems entitled "Gray Forest in the Rain." In this poem, many meanings or symbols are difficult for the reader to understand. Therefore, the reader analyzes this poem. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative. Descriptive qualitative is a method that can describe, analyze, explain, interpret, and reveal the meaning and facts of scientific logic. The stages carried out by researchers in analyzing semiotic meaning are reading and understanding the entire content of the poem. Furthermore, the signs and markers found will be analyzed using Ferdinand De Saussure's theory, because in semiotic studies Ferdinand De Saussure's theory is considered the most important to analyze the signs, symbols, and symbols conveyed by the poet in his work. The result of the poem 'Gray forest in the rain' depicts silence, darkness, and deep sadness. Each stanza and line in the poem depicts sadness as if the rain is falling and the forest reveals the real silence in endless sadness. Weeping is always enveloped in all the humming that is said.

**Keywords**: Poetry analysis, Gray forest in the rain, Semiotics

#### **ABSTRAK**

Penelitian ini bertujuan menganalisis makna semiotika dari salah satu puisi Sapardi Djoko Damono yang berjudul "Hutan kelabu dalam hujan." Dalam puisi ini ada banyak makna atau simbol yang sulit dipahami oleh pembaca. Oleh sebab itu pembaca menganasis puisi ini. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini yaitu deskriptif kualitatif. Deskriptif kualitatif adalah metode yang dapat menggambarkan, menganalisis, menjelaskan, menafsirkan, dan mengungkapkan makna serta fakta dari logika keilmuan. Adapun tahap-tahap yang dilakukan peneliti dalam menganalisis makna semiotika yaitu membaca dan memahami keseluruhan isi puisi. Selanjutnya tanda dan penanda yang ditemukan akan dianalisis menggunakan teori Ferdinand De Saussure, karena dalam kajian semiotika teori Ferdinand De Saussure dianggap paling penting untuk menganalis tanda, simbol, lambang yang disampaikan penyair dalam karyanya. Hasil dari puisi 'Hutan kelabu dalam hujan' menggambarkan kesunyian, kekelaman, dan kesedihan amat dalam. Setiap bait dan baris dalam puisi menggambarkan kesedihan ibaratkan hujan yang turun dan hutan mengungkapkan sunyi yang nyata dalam kesedihan tiada terakhir. Tangisanpun selalu menyelimuti dalam segala senandung yang di ucapkan.

Kata kunci: Analisis puisi, Hutan kelabu dalam hujan, Semiotika

## **INTRODUCTION**

Literary works are expressions, and feelings felt by the author that are present in the community to be felt, understood, and utilized as a language medium in expressing opinions and being used as a medium of communication (Anyer, 2019). Literary works can be obtained through personal experiences, and social relationships, which arise in their thoughts and can be poured into written form using beautiful language to arouse motivation, and provide guidance for readers (City et al., 2018).





In addition, literary works are tools used for teaching authors to express various ideas, imagination can be in the form of real discoveries and explanations. (Anggradinata, 2020). Based on the opinions of the experts above, it can be concluded that literary works are expressions, feelings, and personal, and social experiences that are poured by the author into writing so that they can be enjoyed, felt, and utilized by readers or society.

Literature is divided into three parts: drama, prose, and poetry. The three forms of literary works are the result of the poet's imagination gained from his own experiences, relationships, and social life. Drama, prose, and poetry are all used as objects to express what is being felt. One of the most popular literary works among the public is poetry. Poetry is a form of expression, a poet's feelings are arranged in a text and built with a structure that has a relationship between the elements that make up the poem without getting out of the boundaries that have been applied (Mustika & Isnaini, 2021).

Poetry is a work of art used by poets to express their hearts that can be heard, read, and felt by poetry readers who are bound by rhythm, and rhyme in each stanza (Rae et al., 2020). Poetry is composed with neat language in each line and wrapped in beautiful words and sentences that have meaning conveyed by the author through his work to be enjoyed and felt by the reader through the structure of the poem. Poetry has two structures, namely physical structure and inner structure (Ginanjar et al., 2018). The physical structure consists of imagery, typography, diction, imagination, and solid words, while the inner structure includes theme, content, taste or feeling, tone, and mandate. These two structures can produce literary works in the form of poetry that contains beautiful language that has a relationship in each line.

Each stanza and line of poetry has a meaning or message conveyed by the author through his work that is not easily understood by the reader explicitly (sarcasm). For this reason, readers need a semiotic approach that can describe and interpret the implied meaning of the work itself. Semiotics is a science that studies describes, and analyzes the meaning, symbols, or signs in detail in poetry (Komara et al., 2019). Semiotics is also a science that can be used to examine a sign in a literary work, which can be interpreted by observers and society through signs or symbols (Santoso, 2013). Signs or symbols related to objects can be interpreted as indices, icons, and symbols. An index is the quality of an object, while an icon is a sign that has similarities to an object and a symbol is a conventional relationship with an object (Azhari, 2014).

Ariefa (2015) the meaning studied in a poem is the multilevel signs arranged in a poetic structure and convention. The relationship between signs and other signs in poetry will produce





denotation and connotation meanings, namely the meaning of words that are born from ideas and feelings accompanied by their original meaning (Mahayana, 2015). These two meanings, become a link between meaning and sign and become a determinant in analyzing a sign. Imagination is a picture of signs in the mind that is poured into a language (Isnaini, 2021). Majas has a function as a helper for readers to find the meaning of the message conveyed by the author through his work (Prihastuti, 2017). Therefore, giving meaning and signs in a poem requires a deep understanding of reading a poem, so that readers can understand the message conveyed by the author through his work (Fadila, 2016).

The science that studies the meaning of signs, and symbols and criticizes a literary work is semiotics. Semiotics can criticize literary works by changing the storyline by presenting new meanings according to the observation and accuracy of the readers to reveal facts that occur in social life (Imam, 2017). Literary criticism can be in the form of satire between communities that can be expressed through digital media, along with the development of today's mass media, many people express opinions and even criticize through Social Media, while humor is a way to express ideas of feelings and thoughts in the form of entertaining invitations, contain laughter, funny, and sympathy that have been designed by poets in their work (Luthfi, 2020). Humor is present in social society which has a variety of benefits including; education, entertainment, and criticism. Humor is also a form of literary work that involves readers and listeners criticizing an event raised from poetry or other stories (Jabrohin, 2014).

Based on the background of the problem above, the research focuses on analyzing the meaning of semiotics, namely the signs or markers hidden behind the title of the poem "Gray Forest in the Rain." When viewed from the title of the poem, it has a very interesting point of view to be observed and explored more deeply, the sadness that dominates the image of the poem is so pronounced. In addition, in this poem, the poet expresses a feeling that sometimes feels ambiguous and difficult for the reader to understand if they just read and are unable to represent the feelings that the author wants to express in his work. Therefore, readers need to analyze every word and sentence conveyed by the poet in his work.

## **METHOD**

The method used in this research is qualitative descriptive. Qualitative methods are methods that can examine, analyze, describe, and describe the facts of an actual situation of an object under study (Triyadi & Nurhayati, 2021). The qualitative descriptive method uses more descriptions and words to analyze and reveal facts. The stages in this research include; 1)





reading carefully the poem "Gray Rain in the Forest," 2) recording symbols or meanings that become signs as objects to be studied, 3) selecting and recording data that will be used as a study and processing data, 4) describing and interpreting the results of the research. With the semiotic method used in this research Ferdinand De Saussure. Ferdinand De Saussure's semiotics is the study of signs and conventional symbols. From each spoken language, a sign united in the form of sound not by stating something in the form of a name (Sobur, 2017). The spoken sound that appears in the form of a word is called the signifier, while the signified is called the concept.

### RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### Result

## Hutan Kelabu Dalam Hujan

(Karya Sapardi Djoko Damono)

hutan kelabu dalam hujan lalu kembali kusebut kau pun kekasihku langit dimana berakhir setiap pandangan bermula keperihan, rindu itu

> temaram temasa padaku semata memutih dari seribu warna hujan senandung dalam hutan lalu kelabu, mengabut nyanyian

In Sapardi Djoko Damono's work entitled "Hutan Kelabu dalam Hujan", it is felt that it has a deep meaning about sadness. By using semiotic studies, researchers hope to prove the existence of a deep feeling element, especially in the sadness that the author conveys in the work by using the meanings of words that will be connected to signs as material for study. The following is a table of all semiotic words and sentences.



**Table 1.** Results of semiotic sentence analysis of the poem "Gray Forest in the Forest"

Sentence of stanza	Sentence	the word semiotics
Sentence	Gray forest in the rain	Rain
stanza 1	Then you were called back my lover	Gray
	The sky where every glance ends	Forest
	The pain of longing began"	Sky
		the pain of longing
Sentence	Temaram temasa pada aku semata	Temaram
stanza 2	The whiteness of a thousand colors	Simply
	Rain humming in the forest	A thousand colors
	Then gray, mist the song."	Humming rain

#### Discussion

In this section, the researcher will explain the sentences and symbiotic words in the poem "Gray Forest in the Rain" using Ferdinand De Sausure's theory because this theory is considered important in analyzing signs and signifiers in semiotic studies (Fanani, 2013). When viewed from the title "Gray Rain in the Forest" is a description of how deep the darkness and feelings that the poet wants to express. 'Forest' itself has a broad meaning of land or land that is only filled with trees, while the word "Gray" is the color white, and black mixed into gray, and 'Rain' in a simple sense describes water falling from the sky. However, these meanings and symbols are not the actual meaning conveyed by the author through his work. To find out the real meaning of the poem "Gray Forest in the rain," the main thing the researcher did was to analyze the signs and markers of each stanza, line, word, and sentence of the entire poem. The following table analyzes the signifiers and signs of each stanza.

Table 2. Analysis of signifiers and signs of stanza 1

Sentence stanza 1	Bookmark	Sign
Gray rain in the forest Then you were called back my lover The sky where every glance ends The pain of longing began"	Forest Gray Rain The pain of longing	<ul><li>Land that is only overgrown with trees</li><li>Gray color</li><li>Cries</li><li>A deep sense of longing</li></ul>

The results of the analysis in the first stanza "Gray Forest in the Rain." The word gray forest describes the darkness felt by the author, where the forest has the true meaning (denotation) as a vast land covered with trees, but in this line, it is not the lexical meaning, but rather the atmosphere in the forest itself which represents the chosen meaning. The situation in





the forest is more likely to be quiet and gray in the denotation meaning a color like gray. Gray itself represents the meaning of obscurity so that there is a "sense of lost direction" effect depicted in the word. The use of the word rain becomes a word that emphasizes the chaotic situation that you want to describe where the feeling of desolation and loss of direction that is depicted will be felt even more strongly when added by the connotation meaning of "Rain." word 'Rain' is a cry when in a state of loneliness, disappointment that is too deep.

The use of symbolic comparison in the disclosure of poetry is described by symbols or symbols that represent the actual thing the author wants to express. In other words, the disclosure in the first sentence uses figurative words that are used as symbols of the actual expression. The words 'forest' gray, rain' are a form of expression that represents the actual meaning conveyed by the author. The depiction of the meaning of the symbol or symbol of the previous word implies silence, a sense of loss of direction with a very heartbreaking atmosphere of the word "Rain" in the poet's meaning of crying.

Furthermore, in the second line of the first stanza, the author reveals "Then I call you back my lover" This line is still related to the sentence in the first line, which describes the silence and sense of lost direction, the poet calls back his lover. The word "kusebut" here is a form of wishful thinking that continues to center on the lover as a result of too deep a sense of longing being the cause. Unlike the first line of the first stanza, the second line of the second stanza uses words that represent the original meaning. 'Beloved' means a person who is loved, dear, and loved. 'I call you back' describes the repetitive behavior in remembering the figure of a lover who symbolizes the name represented by 'I call you'. The last in the second line of the first stanza is the word 'Then' which is the sentence opener. The word 'Then' can be interpreted as an action that will be carried out. The expression of words and sentences above is arranged in such a way as to become a unity of meaning. The author's expression occurs spontaneously and repeatedly to find the figure of the lover or idol.

In the following lines, the author expresses the question "The sky where every view ends," in the sentence is a very broad expression of words in meaning. The connotation of the word "Sky" has various meanings such as something to aim for, hope, or thoughts that race in the view (forward thinking). "Where" is a question word that refers to a place, "ends" which means the denotation of the end, and the word "Every view" can be interpreted as all thoughts or foresight and goals. In other words, this sentence translates the meaning of where there is no more hope, no power, no power to hope, and tends to lose its purpose.



The next sentence "The pain of longing began" is the last sentence of the first stanza as an explanatory word of the previous lines. In the first line, the author explains the situation in his mood. In the second line, the writer explains the reason for the sadness and despair caused by the memories of the lover with the emphasis 'Kusebut kembali' which has recalled the memories of being with the lover, or in other words "kusebut" means thinking, his thoughts on the lover. The sense of hopelessness described in the third line of the first stanza is the result of the sadness that always arises in the writer's mind. The sadness felt by the writer is an emotional form accompanied by feelings of disappointment, helplessness, unluckiness, loss, confusion, heartbreak, and lack of enthusiasm (Mukrimaa et al., 2016).

**Table 3**. Markers and signs in the poem "Gray Forest in the Rain"

Sentence stanza 2	Bookmark	Sign
Temaram temasa pada aku	Tamaran	dimly lit
semata	Temasa	relationship
The whiteness of a thousand	Simply	yourself
colors	A thousand colors	any matter or method
Rain humming in the forest	Humming rain	sadness
Then gray, mist the song."	Chant	sing

The results of the semiotic analysis in the second stanza in the form of markers and markers, the poet describes 'Tamaran' which has a denotation meaning, namely dimly which means there is no clarity, followed by the word 'Temasa' in Turkish, namely the relationship 'To me alone' is an expression that leads to self-self on an object, namely me. The line has a unitary meaning that hints at what the poet feels here as a set of confusion or uncertainty connected only to him, which seems to emphasize "why do things like this happen only to him?" by focusing on what I feel.

In the second line of stanza two, the poet describes a sense of loss of direction or purpose in life by presenting the words "A thousand colors" which means that everything that is felt feels empty like a deep void, and is so attached to the self that the author presents the word "Memutih" which means forever. Furthermore, in the words 'Humming rain in the forest', the author uses comparative majas to express feelings in each word into symbolic words to represent the desired expression. Humming rain implies a cry of sadness, rain here represents the word cry with the word "humming" as a combination of words that have a connection. Meanwhile, the placement of the word "In the forest" as a symbol of silence leads to a situation





of sadness and silence that are merged into one. This can be seen from the expression of line one of the first stanza and line two of stanza three which means the darkness felt in the cry of sadness, which is surrounded by darkness in silence.

Both stanzas can be said to have the same meaning. This is evident in the expression of the same meaning but different. Because the expressions of crying or sadness and silence or emptiness have continuity as the feeling that the author wants to convey. It is not the same in the expression of the first line of the first stanza with the sentence in the third line of the second stanza. These two affirmations both represent the poet's feelings. In the fourth line of the second stanza "Then gray, fogging the song" the word gray here refers to uncertainty, such as the denotation meaning that causes the definition as a color that is a mixture of black and white. Gray also symbolizes the uncertainty of something that is far from certain, the word "fog" has the meaning of smoke that covers or a natural phenomenon caused by the weather. The interpretation implied in the sentence of the poem that is taken is the meaning of the nature of the fog itself which tends to envelop everything that exists. And the last is "singing" which refers to the humming or things that are repeatedly chanted by the poet "I", namely longing for the lover.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the analysis of the poem "Gray Forest in the Rain" by Supardi Djoko Damono, it can be concluded that "Gray forest in the Rain" is the essence of the message conveyed by the author to represent the feelings of desolation and loss of direction, uncertainty, and sadness that continues to hit, namely crying, disappointment, feeling so painful, and deeply remembering the story with the idol or lover. That is the meaning hidden in the title of the poem. In addition, in each stanza, the lines of the poem describe sadness that has a deep inner meaning.

The choice of words, the use of majas, and the depiction of each line and stanza are so close to the expression of the dominant sadness, starting from the meaning of words that symbolize a situation or even the poet's feelings expressed through poetry are arranged in such a way that it becomes a unified poem that touches the heart for the readers. The selection of words by word is assembled and arranged with full meaning, namely pouring out a pattern of sadness that becomes the effect caused, with the emphasis that appears in the sentences in the poem with comparative rhyme. Like some of the following sentences "Gray forest in the rain" with words that represent the pain in sadness that refers to deep sadness. "Then I call you my



lover again" in these lines describes the repetitive reminiscing of helplessness in the sadness of longing. The third line "The sky where every glance ends" refers to our lack of direction, "The beginning of the pain of longing" the loss of life goals that refer to the figure of a lover, tells the wound of pain that has an impact on the beginning of a sadness of longing. The sentence "Temaram temasa to me alone" and the sentence "Whitening of a thousand colors" represent a fate that seems to be wondering "Why only on him this misfortune happened? loss of happiness with the loss of a life purpose" with emphasis on the next sentence, the loss of effort or the loss of all things felt and what is left is only sadness. And in the words "Rain humming in the forest" convey the endless sadness that is likened to rain falling and the word "forest" expresses the real silence in sadness likening to extreme sadness, and finally continues with the sentence "Then gray, fogging the song" with the word gray which means sadness envelops in all the humming spoken

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