

## Semiotic Analysis Of The *Index* In Revealing Romanticism On Poetry By Joko Pinurbo

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### ABSTRACT

This research aims to examine the concept of romanticism as understood by Russell Noyes in the poetry of Joko Pinurbo, utilizing Charles Sanders Peirce's semiotic theory with a focus on the index as a key object. The study is conducted using a qualitative descriptive method, analyzing ten data points extracted from five of Joko Pinurbo's poems: "Kosmetik," "Salam Sembuh," "Kisah Natal," "Ramadan di Rantau," and "Ngabuburit." The research methods employed include close reading and note-taking to identify and interpret the presence of index signs within these poems. Through the analysis of these index signs, the study identifies three distinct schools of romanticism as they manifest in the works of Joko Pinurbo. The focus of the research is on interpreting the indexes to uncover the underlying romantic elements within the poetry. This involves a detailed examination of how the indexical signs contribute to the overall theme and emotional resonance of the poems, aligning with the broader genre of romanticism. The findings provide insights into the unique way Joko Pinurbo's poetry embodies romantic themes, as seen through the lens of semiotic analysis, thereby

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### INTRODUCTION

Poetry is a literary work that is written based on imaginative thinking, and is full of meaning. The language in poetry is connotative, the language contained in it is very varied so that it is possible to have many possible meanings based on the reader's interpretation. (J. Waluyo, 1987:22).

Poetry is one of the literary works that has a variety of symbolic languages. The message contained and wanted to be conveyed by the author through poetry tends to be short, concise, and clear compared to other types of literary works so that it is easier for readers to understand. The uniqueness of a poem is of course related to its structure: sentence structure, metaphor, diction, simile, pattern, rhyme, and others. (Elsa Novianti, 2022). Poetry also prioritizes rhetorical elements that can attract the reader's attention through the main idea of the poem. Rhetorical elements can appear in the form of repetition, tripling and parallelism. (Mustika & Isnaini, 2021). The use of these elements is part of the author's effort to emphasize or explore the ideas and concepts conveyed to the reader. Poetry can motivate its readers, especially those interested in romantic values. The creation of literary works requires the thoughts and feelings of the author,



the aim is to foster imagination so that literary works become more general and freer. (Irfanda Siti Amaliyafitri, 2022).

In interpreting a literary work, it must be associated as a sign system in the text of the literary work, which has its own rules based on the nature of the literary work. The forms of interaction (language) that exist in this world cannot be separated from the symbol system. Signs always exist in human life, whether we realize it or not. Apart from language, it can be in the form of objects, properties, and even movements. Signs are there to represent clues that do not necessarily appear on the surface. For this reason, semiotics was born so that everyone can understand the various symbols around them. (Sari Rahayu, 2021).

The branch of science that studies *signs* and language symbols belong to the science of semiotics. Semiotics is the study of signs as part of life. Implicit in Saussure's definition is the truth, that semiotics is very aware of the rules or social codes that apply in society, so that signs can be understood collectively. (Pujiati, et al 2018).

Semiotics studies signs in the form of language that appear in literary works which include *index, icon, and symbol*. These three aspects are interpreted with a triangle; therefore, it is often called the triangle of meaning (Dharma et al, 2022). *Index* is a sign whose relationship between the *representamen* and *the object* is causal or contiguous, *icon* is a sign whose *representamen* has a similarity to the *object*, and *symbol* is a sign whose meaning of the representamen is given based on social convention (Benny H. Hoed, 2013). (Benny H. Hoed, 2014: 10).

According to Peirce (in Hoed, 2014:8) states that signs and meanings are not structures but a cognitive process called semiosis. Semiosis goes through three stages. *The first is the perception of the representational aspect, the second is the spontaneous association of the representational aspect with human experience and knowledge, and the third is the interpretation of the object in accordance with the desire.* A literary work reflects the thoughts, feelings, and desires of its author through language. As a practitioner of language, the author often gives signs to the reader to interpret. Therefore, every literary work of poetry has a system that has its own conventions. The convention is in the form of sign units that include vocabulary, language styles, and figurative language (metaphor, simile, personification, etc.). These units of signs are found in poetry and have meaning and meaning. So, to seize or search for meaning contained in poetry will feel more complicated than in prose.

In life, love can be felt through literary works such as drama, music, short stories, poetry, and others. Love can be felt by teenagers, parents, and even children. They recognize love based on the feelings and experiences that exist within them. (Pujiati et al., 2018). Romanticism is a genre that suggests that the principle of literary works is a reflection of human life that is full of aesthetics and uses beautiful language (Mugiyanti, 2023).

(Damono et al, 2005) Indonesian Romanticism is an influence of the development and spread of Romanticism in Europe. The term Romanticism is also related to the use of the word Roman in the Middle Ages, namely the history of the Romans in the Middle Ages. (Khasanah, 2017). In its application, romanticism is a story about chivalry, usually written in the form of poetry. Over time, there have been changes in the characteristics that characterize the meaning of romantic stories. According to (Noyes, 1956: 22) romanticism has a span of approximately one century, from the mid-18th century to the mid-19th century. Noyes divides romanticism into 6 categories. *First, The Return to Nature*, is a genre that depicts nature as an object in literary works. *Second, Romantic Melancholy*, is a genre that prioritizes feelings of deep sadness and feelings of sadness due

to loss. *Third, Primitivism*, this school emphasizes the morals and natural goodness of humans. *Fourth, Sentimentalism*, is a school that prioritizes feelings frontally and emphatically either to humans or to religion and God. *Fifth, Individualism*, is a school where characters are depicted with an idealized and coveted world. *Sixth, Exoticism* is a genre that shows feelings of love for fellow humans or unique human behavior.

In his works, Joko Pinurbo slips a lot of language signs that have connotative meanings that allow readers to freely and freely determine the meaning based on their respective interpretations. Joko Pinurbo's poems are very interesting to study using Charles Sanders Peirce's semiotic theory because there are a lot of signs in the form of *indexes, icons, and symbols* used by Joko Pinurbo in revealing the meaning contained in his work. From the results of this study of the three signs, the *index* sign dominates. Therefore, the researcher focuses more on the semiotics of the index in revealing romanticism in poetry by Joko Pinurbo.

## **METHOD**

Qualitative descriptive method is research that aims to understand phenomena related to what the research subject experiences, for example: behavior, perceptions, motivations, actions, etc., comprehensively and through descriptions in the form of words and language in a specific and natural way. (Abdulfatah, 2018). According to (Sugiyono, 2018: 3) descriptive qualitative method is a method that serves to collect rich data, in-depth information about an issue or problem to be solved.

The data used in this study were obtained from 5 poems in the poems "Kosmetik", "Salam Sembuh", "Kisah Natal", "Ramadan di Rantau", and "Ngabuburit" by Joko Pinurbo quoted from the poetry collection *Kabar Suka Cinta* by Joko Pinurbo in 2019. The semiotics that will be studied in this research is *index*. Index semiotics will play a role in determining the meaning and flow of romanticism in Joko Pinurbo's poetry.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Based on the analysis of the poems by Joko Pinurbo, meanings related to romanticism were found, namely the meaning of the representation of nature, the meaning of melancholy and sadness, the meaning of sentimental feelings, the meaning of human kindness and morals, the meaning of dream life, and the meaning of love stories and exotic behavior. These meanings are found in *signs* that refer to the semiotic index in Joko Pinurbo's poetry.

### **Analysis of Joko Pinurbo's poetry**

The first poem to be analyzed is the poem titled "Cosmetics" and 2 *index* meanings and 2 romantic flow meanings were found.

#### ***Cosmetics***

*He was not ready to grow old.  
He was afraid of losing his charm.  
He is afraid that he is no longer attractive  
before himself*

*in front of his cell phone  
he prayed:  
"Hail Mary  
full of grace*

*protect us  
from the temptation of cosmetic advertisements."*

*He was stunned  
when advertising stars  
the beautiful one said,  
"Don't be afraid.  
You will remain  
brilliant. Your face  
radiating affection."*

The poem tells the story of a woman who does not want to be dependent on cosmetics so she asks God to keep her away from the temptation of cosmetics, but on the other hand she does not want to lose her charm because she is getting older and losing her attractiveness.

In the first stanza, the phrase "*she was not ready to grow old*" is an *index* meaning because the quote illustrates the causal relationship of a woman's fear of growing old and losing her charm because she chooses not to use any cosmetics. The quote depicts the social reality of today. Nowadays, beauty is an advantage because beauty can make it easier for people to find a partner and a good job.

Based on the meaning of the *index* mark, the quote above is a representation of melancholy and melancholy romanticism. This romantic genre emphasizes the human fear of losing something precious, in the quote "*she wasn't ready to grow old*" it shows a woman's fear of growing old because she will lose her attractiveness and beauty. Therefore, the quote can be classified as melancholy and melancholy romanticism.

*in front of his cell phone  
he prayed:  
"Hail Mary  
full of grace  
protect us  
from the temptation of cosmetic advertisements."*

In the second stanza there is the quote "*protect us from the temptation of cosmetic advertisements.*" The quote can be classified as an *index* because it expresses a woman's hope and desire that she be kept away from the temptation of cosmetic advertisements which indicates that she does not want to have dependence on cosmetics. The quote above is an illustration of human weakness because humans are creatures that have lust and are easily tempted, so the woman prays to God so that she is kept away from the temptation of cosmetics.

Based on the meaning of the *index* mark, the quote above is a representation of sentimental romanticism. The sentimental school prioritizes human feelings towards God, in the quote above the word "*protect us*" is a human request to God to be protected from all cosmetic temptations.

### **Second analysis of Joko Pinurbo's poem**

The second poem to be analyzed is the poem entitled "Salam Sembuh" and 1 *index* meaning and 1 romantic meaning were found.

### **Best wishes**

*Of all the greetings  
that I received  
in my life,  
no sayu salam  
that can make  
my heart  
like  
recover:  
Hail Mary.*

The poem talks about someone who loves his religion which is the cure for all diseases and problems in his life, even though he considers that there is no prayer that can make his heart and soul feel healed other than the Hail Mary.

Although the poem only consists of one stanza, it has a deep meaning about religious values. In the first line there is a sign "*Of all the greetings*" the quote is a description of the *index* because it describes a person whose soul can only be calm and safe when saying a greeting, namely "Hail Mary". The quote describes a person's love for his religion that makes his soul feel safe and calm when he prays.

From the meaning of the *index* mark above, the quote "*Of all the greetings*" is a representation of sentimental romanticism. The sentimental flow refers to the feeling of love for religion, so that if someone does not worship then his soul will feel restless. Therefore, religion has a very important role in human life, especially in guiding people towards goodness.

### **Analysis of the three poems of Joko Pinurbo**

The third poem to be analyzed is the poem entitled "Christmas Story" and 1 *index* meaning and 1 romantic meaning were found.

#### **Christmas Story**

*On Christmas Eve a mother  
Finding a red-clad baby  
Wind and rain by the roadside.  
He picked it up and carried it  
To the nun for rescue.*

*He did not want to ask if  
The baby was born out of love, and why  
He was abandoned by who knows who  
Who gave birth to him, for crying  
The baby is clearer than faith.*

*One day someone will appear  
The one who feels confident that the child is her child,  
The fruit of his love. But love has  
Finding his own way of the cross*

The poem tells the story of a baby who was left by his mother alone on the side of the road in the rain and cold wind. Then came a mother who saw him and came to save him and believed that one day the mother of this child would come to look for her child.

In the first stanza of the poem, the *index* meaning is depicted because "*On Christmas Eve a mother found a red baby - wrapped in wind and rain - by the side of the road*". It describes a mother who found a baby in the rain because the baby was abandoned by the mother who gave birth to it. The quote expresses the meaning of sadness because an innocent baby must be abandoned alone in the rain and cold air.

From the meaning of the *index* mark above, the quote can be classified as romantic melancholy and melancholy. The genre refers to feelings of sadness due to abandonment or loss of loved ones. The quote above illustrates the sadness of a mother leaving her newborn child alone on the side of the road.

### **Analysis of the four poems of Joko Pinurbo**

The fourth poem to be analyzed is the poem entitled "Ramadan in Rantau" and 1 *index* meaning and 1 romantic meaning were found.

#### ***Ramadan in Rantau***

*Memorable tarawih and amen  
which is melodious.*

*Remembered that sandal, damn it,  
switched sides.*

*Remembered the obedient hungry  
educated time.*

*Remembering the twilight rolled by the call to prayer  
above the valley.*

*Remembered monkey love  
whose monkey is me.*

*Remembered mercon  
that made my longing break.*

*Reminiscing about my mother  
again, at suhoor with my cat.*

The poem tells of someone who misses all the memories of Ramadan when he was a child in the village, a sense of longing that now cannot be repeated because he is far from home. The quote "*I remember the melodious tarawih and amen.*" It is an *index* because when the character hears the call to prayer and the verses during tarawih, he will feel nostalgic and remember all his beautiful childhood memories.

From the meaning of the *index* mark above, the quote "*Memories of tarawih and amen are melodious.*" Can be classified into sentimental romanticism. Sentimental flow refers to the deep feelings of a human being, emotional feelings that make humans sad because they remember beautiful memories that cannot be felt again.

### **Analysis of the five poems of Joko Pinurbo**

The fifth poem to be analyzed is the poem entitled "Ngabuburit" and 2 *index* meanings and 2 romantic meanings were found.

#### ***Ngabuburit***

*Children ngabuburit  
by playing ball in the yard*

*narrow. They cheered with excitement  
as if they were running  
trust: nurturing joy,  
maintain sanity before  
they learn more  
regarding merit and sin,  
before being demanded to be smart  
and adults by the school,  
before it was seized by the state.*

The poem depicts time running so short that it is necessary for adults to provide happiness for their children. Children should be given happiness because one day they will grow up and be busy studying and eventually working all the time to continue living.

In the poem above there is an *index* mark in the quote "Children ngabuburit" the quote describes a causal relationship that states a group of children go to spend their afternoon playing and chatting before the maghrib call to prayer.

From the meaning of the sign above, the quote "Children ngabuburit" can be classified into individualism romanticism. The flow of individualism emphasizes the pleasure and happiness of the characters for the depiction of the world they yearn for, this is illustrated in the quote which shows the happiness of children doing ngabuburit activities in the afternoon during the month of Ramadan.

*before being demanded to be smart  
and adults by the school,  
before it was seized by the state.*

The quote illustrates the meaning of the index because the quote "*before being demanded to be smart and mature by school, before being taken by the state.*" Describing a situation where when children graduate from school they will face the real reality of working to continue their lives and some serve the government so that they lose time and some happiness.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the results of the data description above, it can be concluded that in analyzing poetry literary works, semiotic *index* can be used to determine the meaning and reveal the flow of romanticism in poetry by Joko Pinurbo. From the analysis of Joko Pinurbo's poetry, there are 7 index data and 3 types of romance consisting of romantic melancholy, romantic sentimentalism, and romantic individualism.

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