



Chapter II

Review Or Related Literature

This chapter explains the relevant previous studies. This chapter also explains the definition of semiotic, symbolism, and four types of symbols according to Perrine's theory (2002) including symbolic objects, symbolic names, symbolic actions, and symbolic settings. This chapter also explains the *Permission to Dance* by BTS music video and at the end of this chapter will explain previous research used as a reference for this research.

2.1 Semiotic

Saussure had a significant contribution to the thinking and development of signs and meanings, thus providing the foundation for further semiotic studies. As stated by Saussure in Candhler (2002), semiotics is the science that studies signs in the human sign system. Signs in linguistics are used as a language, so signs are useful as a means of communication in the community or social environment. Saussure explained that conveyance between language and the world is through a sign. The sign is also found in literature, where the sign here is a symbol used to convey meaning in a literary work. In Saussure's theory (2002), signs are divided into two aspects, namely signifier and signified. The signifier relates to the physical component or what is written or spoken while the signified contains the meaning of the signifier. Signs in Saussure's theory refer to signs used in linguistics, because in linguistics signs also include language used to communicate in social life. However, semiotics also studies signs so Saussure's theory also approaches the study of literature, specifically semiotics.

According to Peirce in Chandler (2002), Semiotics is a formal doctrine, of the link between signs and logic. In Saussure's theory, signs are related to social life, while Perrine explains that semiotics is the science of signs that have meaning according to a person's logic. Peirce places semiotics in the context of challenges that involve humans actively in creating signs and arranging them to achieve understanding. It can also be considered a form of practical logic in the process of interpretation and meaning formation. The meaning of a sign is based on a person's thoughts and produces a meaning in the sign. The relationship between signs and logic can provide a view and a belief that can create a view of the world through a sign. Perrine also explained that a sign has no characteristics because a sign comes from a person's experience. Perrine in Chandler (2002) also divided it into 3 parts (triadic) consisting of symbol/symbolic, icon and index. These three parts are used to study the science of signs in semiotics.

According to Chandler (2022), semiotics is a science that studies signs and everything that can represent something else. Semiotics is called the science of signs. A sign is not just an ordinary sign, but a sign can represent something else. Semiotics examines signs, where a sign has meaning in it. This is what is meant by the sign can represent something else. According to Chandler (2022), signs can be words, images, sounds, gestures, and objects. A sign can be anything, which can produce meaning in it. Semiotics are words that replace an object and have meaning.

Semiotics to several theories refers to the science that studies signs, where the signs have meaning. Semiotics can be related in various directions, both as a communication tool, as a basis for thought, and as representing something else. However, several theories come to the same conclusion, namely semiotics which means a science that studies signs and the meaning of the signs themselves. This sign can fall into symbolism.



2.2 Symbolism

According to Quinn (2006), Symbolism is the practice of using symbols or can be called the practice of describing a group of symbols in a particular text. In literature, symbolism refers to the use of symbols or signs in a literary work. Symbolism here can be called a practice that uses a symbol or sign in it. Symbolism is used to connect the meaning conveyed by the poet through symbols. The use of symbolism in a literary work emphasizes that literature has a literal meaning in it. The use of symbols used in symbolism contains the meaning or message conveyed by the poet to the reader or listener.

According to Symons (2021), Symbolism is symbols that are arbitrary in their composition, just sounds that are agreed upon for a certain meaning. Symbols - A collection of sounds that correspond to the letters that compose them, but behind that the symbols have a meaning that has been mutually agreed upon. The meaning of symbolism does not match what it sounds like but has its own meaning. According to Symons (2021), symbolism is an expression but is thought-provoking. Symbolism comes from the poet's feelings or emotions to convey a message to the listener or reader. There had previously been an agreement on these meanings so that these symbols were not just sounds that corresponded to the letters that compose them but had a meaning in them.

In the world of literature, symbolism is the use of symbols in it. However, symbolism is not just a sign or symbol but within the symbol, there is a relationship between the symbol and the meaning. Symbolism is used to convey meaning through symbols or signs in a literary work. The use of symbols in symbolism makes a literary work more beautiful because symbols are abstract or figurative. So, symbolism is a collection of symbols that have meaning from each symbol used in a work to convey messages or language by poets to the public.

2.3 Symbol

A symbol is a sign used to represent something that is not the same as what is symbolized. This is also reinforced by Perrine's theory (2002),



Symbols in literature have a literal meaning in a story but the symbol implies or represents another meaning. In literature, symbols have more meaning than what is symbolized. Symbols in literature are used as signs that represent a meaning or something else. The meaning in the symbol has a literal meaning with what is symbolized and has been explained by Perrine's theory (2002) that the symbol has another meaning than what is described by the symbol itself. In the symbol the poet tries to convey feelings, ideas, and describe social life. This is also reinforced by Saussure's theory (2004), symbols come from feelings, ideas, and social life.

Humans can realize ideas because humans tend to give meaning to certain objects or symbols. Symbols are often associated with a person's feelings and social life. This is what gives rise to the idea of giving meaning to a symbol. This is reinforced by Harris (1997), the symbol is realized from an idea and the idea gives rise to a meaning in a symbol. However, a symbol is not only a sign, there are ideas from poets that channel emotions and social events around. In an idea, feeling, or replication of social life through a symbol. The symbol is also included in the language, where a language is a medium to communicate in conveying something.

A symbol describing its meaning can be through verbal communication or non-verbal communication. The use of symbols in a literary work will make it more unique and interesting. Symbols in conveying their meaning are not written or spoken directly but through indirect expression, this can be called that symbols are abstract or have figurative language. Symbols can be words, colors, movements, objects, and images. This is reinforced by Perrine's theory (2002) in conveying meaning through symbols, symbols can be symbolic names, symbolic objects, symbolic actions, and symbolic settings. These symbols can present a deep meaning through words, colors, gestures, actions, images, or objects. Conveying meaning through these symbols will cause meaning. There are four kinds of symbols based on Perrine's book, but Perrine only gives examples limited to symbolic names and symbolic objects.



So, the definition of symbolic actions from Burke (1966) and symbolic settings from Quinn (2022).

2.3.1 Symbolic Name

Symbolic names are included in a symbol that refers to a name or label. This name or label represents a special identity so that this label or name can give rise to a meaning. This is also reinforced by Perrine (2002), Symbolic name is not just a label, but in a symbolic name, a label will have meaning if the name used has an identity and has a character that can give an impression. A symbolic name used will have meaning if the name or label used has an identity or character that can provide something memorable.

According to his book, Perrine gives examples of symbolism (2002). In the fictional trilogy “The Forsyte Saga, John Galsworthy chose Forstye as the surname of the main character to suggest foresight. Mr. Nilson's name can be analyzed as "Nil's son", son of Nile or not. Mr. Tandram (Sounds like tandem and humdrum) consists of a drum, very small in size, and 'tan', a substance to turn skin into leather. Whether Galsworthy consciously chose the names with these meanings in mind or chose them because they "sounded right" and whether the reader recognizes this suggestion or not, the names seem appropriate”.

2.3.2 Symbolic Object

In this symbolic object comes from the understanding for readers who understand the meaning of the object used. According to Perrine (2002), a Symbolic object is a natural symbol and is compatible with literal meaning. Readers need a specific understanding to understand the meaning contained in the object because according to Perrine (2002), Symbolic objects cannot be seen directly but require symbolic interpretation if they are to produce a significant meaning.



In Perrine (2002:198) there are examples of these symbolic objects. Perrine gives an example by taking the *Hill Like White Elephants*, “The railway station is situated in a river valley between two mountain ranges. On one side of the valley, there is no shade and no trees and the country is "brown and dry." It is on this side, "the dry side," that the station sits in the heat, "between two lines of rails”. The hot arid side of the valley represents sterility, the other side, with water in the river and the cloud, a hint of coolness in the cloud's moving shadow, and growing things along the river banks, represents fertility. The girl's remark about this other side shows a conscious recognition of its symbolism”.

In the example taken from Perrine (2002), symbolic objects can refer to objects that carry meaning outside their literal existence. However, understanding symbolic objects requires an understanding of the literal meaning of an object.

2.3.3 Symbolic Action

Symbolic action has an action in it. This explanation of symbolic action uses an explanation from Burke because in Perrine's book, there are limited explanations and examples of symbolic action. According to Burke (1966), all language is persuasive because symbolic actions do something and also say something. This opinion explains that symbolic action is related to an action which in this action creates meaning. Symbolic actions can convey a message to readers or listeners.

In the *Permission to Dance* by BTS music video, we can take an example of symbolic action. In the duration 1: 26 – 1: 27, there is a scene of J-Hope throwing a balloon. Throwing a balloon can have a meaning of joy, celebrating freedom, and wishes. The meaning of the symbolic action of throwing balloons is that they celebrate and wish for a desire for a new life, namely freedom from the COVID-19 pandemic which will end soon. The part about throwing balloons is included in the symbolic action because it acts.



2.3.4 Symbolic Setting

This explanation of symbolic settings uses the explanation from Quinn (2022) because in Perrine's book, there are limited explanations and examples regarding symbolic settings. According to Quinn (2022), The Setting is the place or time in a narrative text or a drama. Setting is something that refers to the time or location of an action. In a symbolic setting, time and place not only function as a physical place where action occurs. But in the symbolic setting, the place and time have symbolism or meaning that can support the message in a literary work.

The symbolic setting place example can be taken from *Permission to Dance* by BTS music video. At duration 1:46 - 1:47, there is a setting in the school corridor. The school corridor has the meaning of transition and growth. The school corridor raises a meaning, namely transition, the transition referred to here is a change from the pandemic period to the end of the pandemic, everyone's journey when going through difficult times to a period full of happiness is what is meant by transition. The meaning of the word growth is that everyone experiences important developments in their lives when going through a pandemic.

The other examples of setting time can be taken from *Permission to Dance* by BTS music video, at duration 0: 20 - 02: 12. In this duration, it occurs during the day, which is characterized by very hot and bright sunlight. The symbol of daylight means life and resurrection. This symbol means that there is still life after the completion of the pandemic, the pandemic does not mean there is no life. Then the awakening is related to the awakening during the pandemic and afterward because in this music video, BTS invites everyone to rise together from adversity during this pandemic. So, the meaning of the daytime symbol is life and one's awakening when the pandemic will be over.

The example, it explains that the school hallway and day is a symbolic setting place and setting time because it explains the setting of



a literary work. On the other hand, the school hallway is not just a place but a place that has meaning in it.

2.4 *Permission to Dance* by BTS Music Video

BTS is one of the most popular boy bands from South Korea. BTS is under the auspices of Big Hit Entertainment. BTS has seven members including Kim Namjoon (Rap Monster), Kim Seokjin (Jin), Min Yoongi (Suga), Jung Hoseok (J-Hope), Park Jimin (Jimin), Kim Taehyung (V), and Jeon Jungkook (JK). The statement of Camelia is based on an article on Liputan 6, The boy band was formed in 2010 and debuted in 2013. At the beginning of its debut, BTS made its first album, "2 COOL 4 SKOOL" Until now they are still active in the music world.

The statement of Avlentcs is based on an article on WordPress, BTS released many albums including 2 COOL 4 SKOOL (2013), O!RUL8,2? (2013), Skool Luv Affair (2014), Skool Luv Affair Special Edition (2014), No More Dream Versi Jepang (2014), Boy In Luv Vers Jepang (2014), Dark & Wild (2014), Danger vers Jepang (2014), Wake Up ver Jepang (2014), The Most Beautiful Moment In Life (2015), For You Vers Jepang (2015), The Most Beautiful Moment In Life pt. 2 (2015), I NEED U vers Jepang (2015), RUN vers Jepang (2016), (The Most Beautiful Moment In Life) Young Forever (2016), 2nd Japanese Album: Youth (2016), 2nd Album: WINGS (2016), The Best Of BTS (2017), EXTENSION: WINGS YOU NEVER WALK ALONE (2017), 7th Japan Single Album: Blood Sweat & Tears (2017), 5th Mini Album: Love Yourself 承 Her (2017), 8th Japan Single Album: MIC Drop/DNA/Crystal Snow (2017), 3rd Japanese Album: Face Yourself (2018), 3rd Album: Love Yourself 轉 Tear (2018), REPACKAGE: Love Yourself 结 Answer (2018), 9th Japan Single Album: FAKE LOVE/Airplane pt.2 (2018), 6th Mini Album: Map Of The Soul: PERSONA (2019), 10th Japan Single Album: Lights/Boy With Luv (2019), 4th Album: Map Of The Soul: 7 (2020), 4th Japanese Album: Map Of The Soul: 7 ~ The Journey ~ (2020), Single: Dynamite (DayTime Version) (2020), Single: Dynamite (NightTime Version)



(2020), BE (2020), Japanese Album: BTS, THE BEST (2021), Single: Butter (2021), Single: Butter (Hotter, Sweeter, Cooler) (2021), Single: Butter / *Permission to Dance* (2021), Anthology Album: Proof (2022), and Single: Take Two (2023). In this study, we will analyze the semiotics in the *Permission to Dance* music video, this music video is found on the Single album: Butter / *Permission to Dance* which was released in 2021.

The *Permission to Dance* music video was released on July 9, 2021 and in 2023 it reached 615 million views on Big Hit Entertainment's YouTube account. The statement of Syarifah (2021), the song *Permission to Dance* involves two popular English music icons, namely Ed Sheeran and Elton John, who played a role in making this song. Ed Sheeran and Elton John took part in writing the lyrics of *Permission to Dance*, which is BTS' third single in English. Butter, the album of *Permission to Dance*, has topped the US Billboard Hot 100 for six consecutive weeks.

This music video was made when the COVID-19 pandemic was still ongoing. *Permission to Dance* was made as a motivation to everyone not to be discouraged because the pandemic is not over yet. BTS's *Permission to Dance* music video aims to foster enthusiasm and show that there is still hope after the COVID-19 pandemic is over. This music video also fosters mutual tolerance and trust in each other so that they can get through difficult times in the pandemic together. In *Permission to Dance*, it means to arouse passion while showing a bright future when everyone is free to dance and take off the mask kit in the post-pandemic world, this aims to prevent fans from continuing to be down but invites fans to fight this difficulty together.

Apart from motivating, this music video also has a uniqueness conveyed by BTS through the music video. The statement of Syarifah is (2021), The uniqueness is that they combine movements with sign language, there are three sign language movements in this music video. The three movements are "dancing", "speaking", and "walking" using American Sign Language (ASL). The purpose of combining sign language with the *Permission to Dance*



choreography, BTS wants to invite their fans who have hearing impairments so BTS incorporates sign language into the *Permission to Dance*.

2.5 Previous Studies

Permission to Dance (2021) by BTS has been analyzed by several researchers on various topics. They are semiotic, figurative language, and semantic. The study on *Permission to Dance* by BTS has been conducted by many researchers in the fields of literature and linguistics. In literary studies, there are semiotics specifically symbolic objects, symbolic names, symbolic actions, and symbolic settings, while in linguistics studies there are semantic and figurative languages.

This study considers four different previous studies. The first study, conducted by Hakim and Aina (2022), analyzed Semiotics. The focus of this research is to analyze the symbols and explore the meaning of the symbols that have been found. The form of the data of this research includes gestures, expressions, and objects. The research method applied in this research is the qualitative description method, using Barthes' theory (2006) as the theoretical framework. This research analyzes symbols by analyzing sign, signifier, signified, denotation meaning, and connotation meaning in the *Permission to Dance* video clip. This research found 6 data by analyzing Barthes' theory (2006). The result of this research showed the representation of *Permission to Dance* music video by analyzing and detecting the visual image of the scene by using Barthes's theory (2006).

The second research is Semiotics in *Permission to Dance* music video conducted by Mersita (2022). The analysis used is semiotic analysis which consists of analyzing signs, objects, and interpretants. The research method used in this study is a qualitative method, using Peirce's theory (2006) as a theoretical framework. The form of the data in this study includes gestures, sentences, numbers, objects, and colors. The findings of this study reveal that meaning can be conveyed through signs, objects, and interpretants contained in the music video *Permission to Dance* by BTS as well as the song lyrics. The



signs used in music videos can produce a meaning. The results of this study found 17 signs. The results of this study show the results that the relationship between signs and the construction of social reality during the COVID-19 pandemic from the music video Permission to Dance by BTS.

Permission to Dance object research in the third previous research is research conducted by Kinanti (2022) using semiotic analysis. The main focus of this research is to analyze the symbols in the music video that have meaning in the symbols, namely the sign, myth, signifier, signified, denotation meaning, and connotation meaning. The data form of this research includes gestures, expressions, and objects. The research method used in this research is a qualitative description method, using Barthes' theory (2006) as a theoretical framework. This research analyzes symbols by analyzing signs, myths, signifiers, signifieds, denotation meanings, and connotation meanings in Permission to Dance video clips. The results showed that there are meanings and myths in the parts of the symbols behind the making of the Permission to Dance video clip from those who experienced the Covid 19 pandemic.

In addition to research using literary studies, this object has also been studied in linguistic studies in previous studies, namely analyzing semantics in Permission to Dance by BTS. This linguistic study research was analyzed by Kristiawati and Sutopo (2023). The research they analyzed focused on analyzing the types of metaphors in the lyrics of songs from BTS, one of which was the song Permission to Dance. The types of metaphors consist of Anthropomorphic metaphor, Zoological / Animal metaphor, Abstract to concrete metaphor, and Synesthetic metaphor. The data form in this research is in the form of words or sentences contained in song lyrics. This research uses a qualitative descriptive approach method and conducts research with Ullman's theory (2009). The data results from this previous research are 16 Anthropomorphic metaphors, 1 zoological/animal metaphor, 19 Abstract to concrete metaphors, and 4 synesthetic metaphors. It showed the result that the types of metaphors in the song lyrics analyzed, especially in the song



Permission to Dance, have a beautiful meaning that makes the song lyrics in a word or sentence more meaningful about the spirit during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In other studies, there is an analysis with the similar object but using a different topic from the research to be carried out, namely examining figurative language in the film Permission to Dance conducted by Agustina and Mustikawati (2023). The main focus of this research is the use of figurative language using the theory by Knickerbocker & Renninger (1963) and Griffiths (2006). The research method used in this research is a descriptive qualitative method, using the theories of Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963) and Griffiths (2006) as the theoretical framework. The data form in this research analyzes the words and sentences contained in the lyrics of the songs Make it Right and Permission to Dance. The findings of this study are the use of figurative language which includes metaphor, hyperbole, alliteration, irony, personification, simile, symbolism, metonymy, and synecdoche. This research has found 4 Metaphors (Permission to Dance 1 and Make it Right 3), 4 Similes (Permission to Dance 3 and Make it Right 1), and 3 Personifications (Permission to Dance 1 and Make it Right 2). It showed the result that the use of figurative language in both songs, namely in the song Make it Right conveys a message to fans about the struggle for a glorious future while in the song Permission to Dance conveys a message to fans to keep their spirits up and continue to live even during a pandemic.

The first research has similarities in the form of the data used (gestures, expressions), objects (Permission to Dance by BTS music video), and the topic discussion (Semiotics) but it has a different focus which is about signs, signifier, signified, denotative meaning, and connotative meaning because it used the theory of Barthes (2006) and it used descriptive qualitative method. My study will use Perrine's theory (2002) which includes symbolic objects, symbolic names, symbolic actions, and symbolic settings. The second previous study used in this research has similarities with my study in the topic used



(Semiotics), object (Permission to Dance by BTS music video), and the form of the data (gestures, sentences, numbers, objects, and colors). However, there are differences in this second previous research, namely the method used (Qualitative method), a focus which is about Signs, objects, and interpretants because it uses Peirce's theory. The third previous study used in this research has similarities with my study in the topic used (Semiotics), object (Permission to Dance by BTS music video), and the form of the data (objects and gestures). However, there are differences in this third previous research, namely the method used (qualitative method), the Focus in the research (sign, myth, signifier, signified, denotation meaning, and connotation meaning), and the theory used (Barthes's theory). Then the fourth previous study has similarities with the research to be carried out, namely the object (Permission to Dance by BTS but analyzed on lyrics of the song) and part of the form of the data (words). On the other hand, this previous research has differences, namely the topic (Semantics), the method (Descriptive qualitative), the theory, namely Ullman's theory (2006), and the focus of the research (Lyrics). Furthermore, the fifth research has similarities in the object, part of the form of the data (words), and Symbolism. However, there are differences in this previous research with the research to be carried out, namely in the method (descriptive qualitative), theory (Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963) and Griffiths (2006), and topic (Figurative languages).

The differences between this study and the previous studies are in the theory and method. In some previous studies there were also shortcomings in the results of data discovery, so this research will continue and add to the shortcomings of the results of previous research data. Furthermore, some theories have similarities in the topic of analyzing several songs or objects such as analyzing song lyrics in their research, but this research will focus on analyzing Permission to Dance by BTS music video. Although Permission to Dance by BTS music videos have been analyzed by many previous researchers and have similarities in the form of data and topics. This study has differences in the methods and the theories used. The previous studies were not only



analyzed in literary studies but also in linguistic studies. Although linguistic studies such as semantic analysis and figurative language, linguistic studies still have a relationship with literary studies because they both analyze the meaning contained in the Permission to Dance music video. However, this research examines the symbols or signs contained in the music video or video clip Permission to Dance which uses the theory of Perrine (2002). This research will analyze symbols related to words, colors, movements, images, and objects. Some of the research above may have similarities in the theory and data sources used, but this theory has never been used to analyze the Permission to Dance by BTS music video specifically analyzing the symbols or signs.





Table. 2.5 Previous studies and GAP's

No	Previous Studies	Method	Theory	Data	The Result	GAP
1	"Analisis Semiotika Video Klip "Permission to Dance". (Hakim and Ananda, 2022)	Qualitative description	Barthes' theory (2006)	sign, signifier, signified, denotation meaning, and connotation meaning	The representation of Permission to Dance music video by analyzing and detecting the visual image of the scene	Theory and method
2	"Analisis Semiotika Charles Saussure Peirce Pada Music Video "Permission to Dance Oleh BTS" (Maulana, 2022)	Qualitative	Peirce's theory (2006)	signs, objects, and interpretants	The results of the relationship between signs and the construction of social reality during the COVID-19 pandemic	Theory and Method
3	"Representasi Pandemi Covid 19 Dalam Video Klip Lagu "Permission to Dance Oleh BTS" (Kinanti, 2022)	Qualitative description	Barthes' theory (2006)	sign, signifier, signified, denotation meaning, and connotation meaning	The symbols behind the making of the Permission to Dance video clip from those who experienced the Covid 19 pandemic.	Theory and Method



4	"Aesthetic Analysis in The Lyrics of Bangtan Sonyeondan's Song 'Dynamite'" (Kristiawati and Sutopo, 2023)	Qualitative descriptive approach	Ullman's theory (2009)	Animal metaphor, Abstract to concrete metaphor, and Synesthetic metaphor.	The types of metaphors in the song lyrics analyzed have a beautiful meaning about the spirit during the Covid-19 pandemic	Topic, Theory, and Method
5	"Analysis of Figurative Language in Song Lyrics 'Make It Right' and 'Permission to Dance' By BTS" (Agustina and Mawati, 2023)	Descriptive qualitative	Knickerbocker & Renninger (1963) and Griffiths (2006).	figurative language	The use of figurative language conveys a message to fans	Topic, Theory, and Method