

# ISSN 2656-9531 JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)

Vol. 4 No. 2, November 2022, pp. 124 - 144

# SEMIOTIC INTERPRETATION OF "IMPERFECT: KARIR, CINTA DAN TIMBANGAN" FILM BY USING ROLAND BARTHES THEORY

Elisa Betty Manullang Universitas Negeri Medan elisamanullang@gmail.com

Yosephin Angelica Universitas Negeri Medan Yosephin13@gmail.com

#### Abstract

This study about the semiotic interpretation of Imperfect: Karir, Cinta dan Timbangan" film with Roland Barthes Theory. This study aims to (a) find out the signs that found in "Imperfect: Karir, Cinta dan Timbangan" film and (b) describe how the signs interpreted in "Imperfect: Karir, Cinta dan Timbangan" film. This reasearch uses descriptive qualitative method. The data were taken from words and phrases which are collected from 'Imperfect: Karir, Cinta dan Timbangan' film script. The results shows that there were 15 signs found in Imperfect: Karir, Cinta dan Timbangan film. Timbangan (balance) as the most frequent signs was about 8 data such as: stranded whale; stairs vibration; power head waste; eating tissue; broccoli hair; remember your thigh; you are so fat ya, but it's OK it's fresh; and both of you are so different, even you are sisterhood, followed by Cinta (love) with 4 data namely: moles; stretch mark, reduce the rice; and use sunblock, and 3 data for Karir (career) such as pregnant; round face; and she is so old school. The signs includes in Karir (career) when it relates to the development, growth, and progress of someone's job/profession. The signs that associate to Cinta (love) connects to the deepest someone's emotional and interpersonal affection. The signs Timbangan (balance) that have a correlation with someone's weight and physical condition or appearance. Timbangan (balance) were realized by the utterance that refers to physical condition and closely to mock. Cinta (love) associate to the word, gesture, or utterances that express a love or deepest personal affection. Karir (career) was described by a simple word to mock that closely sounds sarcastic and exaggerating.

Keywords: Semiotic, Film, Imperfect: Karir, Cinta dan Timbangan



Vol. 4 No. 2, November 2022, pp. 124 - 144

#### **Abstrak**

Artikel ini berisikan tentang kajian interpretatsi Semiotik dari sebuah film yang berjudul Imperfek: Karir, Cinta dan Timbangan, Film ini mengambil teori dari Roland Barthes. Artikel ini bertujuan menemukan ada pada film tersebut dan menggambarkan tanda-tanda yang bagaimana tanda tanda tersebut diinterpretsikan dalam film Imperfek: Karir, Cinta dan Timbangan. Penelitian ini menggunakan desktriptive kualitatif metode. Data diambil dari kata-kata maupun phrasa yang dikumpulkan dari skrip Film Imperfek tersebut. Dan hasilnya menunjukan bahwa ada 15 tanda yang ditemukan pada film Imperfek itu. Timbangan sebagai tanda yang frekuensin ada 8 data about 8 data such as: stranded whale; stairs vibration; power head waste; eating tissue; broccoli hair; remember your thigh; you are so fat ya, but it's OK it's fresh; and both of you are so different, even you are sisterhood, diikuti dengan tanda Cinta (love) with 4 data namely: moles; stretch mark, reduce the rice; and use sunblock, dan ada 3 data untukr Karir (career) such as pregnant; round face; and she is so old school. The signs menyimpulkans in Karir (career) when it relates to the development, growth, and progress of someone's job/profession. The signs dapat diasosiasikan Cinta (love) connects to the deepest someone's emotional and interpersonal affection. Timbangan (balance) that have a correlation with someone's weight and physical condition or appearance. Timbangan (balance) were realized by the utterance that refers to physical condition and closely to mock. Cinta (love) associate to the word, gesture, or utterances that express a love or deepest personal affection. Karir (career) was described by a simple word to mock that closely sounds sarcastic and exaggerating.

Kata Kunci: Film, Imperfek, Karir, Cinta dan Timbangan

# INTRODUCTION

Language as a means of communication consists of sounds, words, and object to express ideas, feelings and emotions. In the current era of technology, people can learn and use the language in many ways. Such as reading books, listening music, watching film or movies and others. Films as works of cultural art, social institutions and media of mass communication made based on cinematographic principles with or without sound and can be demonstrated (Wilandra, 2017:2). Film has become a new form of art that has the power to reach out to social life, thus making film a potential medium



# JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)

Vol. 4 No. 2, November 2022, pp. 124 - 144

in conveying messages to its audiences. Film as media plays an essential role in human's existence. This led to many academic serious kinds of research by applying specific techniques, specifically semiology. In manner by using semiotic, the researcher can examine and interpret every sign in films.

According to Winchkler (2011), semiotics pursuits to discover or interpret the meanings in a sign in order that it is regarded how the communicator creates the message. The important thing of study in semiotics relates to the textual content consisting of literature, film or a piece of music, film assamble that means via sign. *Imperfect: Karir, Cinta dan Timbangan* as one of the story films (drama romance) that adapted from a novel entitled *Imperfect: A Journey to Self-Acceptance by Meira Anastasia*. This film was released in december, 2019 and directed by Ernest Prakasa. This film tells about being imperfect is perfect that makes this film contained many signs. For example: it is found in the beginning of the film 'putih banget kayak bolabola kapas' in denotation itself can define as cotton balls, in connotation can define as something that is smooth, pure, and spotless, and in myth there is no baby who has white skin as cotton balls. By using Roland Barthes theory is interested in analyzing the denotative, connotative and myth because in film there are many signs that can be analyzed.

The researcher analyzes the signs that relates to Karir (career), Cinta (love) and Timbangan (balance). This researcher will be different from the previous research, because in this case study, based on the title "Imperfect: Karir, Cinta dan Timbangan."

#### Semiotic

Semiotic of the study of sign process. The sign have the main object that will analyzed what is the meaning of the signs. Jakobson in Chandler (2007:8) defined semiotics as 'the general science of signs which has as its fundamental area of linguistics, the science of verbal signs'. Semiotic is a part of linguistic that focused on the signs' meaning. The meaning of the sign, has



# JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)

Vol. 4 No. 2, November 2022, pp. 124 - 144

many aspects of its understanding depending on how the sign was made and what the reason for sign was made.

Semiotics has been extended into a definitely significant area of study, namely, amongst different

efforts, the study of body language, art forms, rhetorical discourse, visual communication, media, myths, narratives, language, artifacts, gesture, eye contact, clothing, advertising, cuisine, rituals-in a phrase, anything that is used, invented, and/or adopted by human beings to produce meaning. (Danesi, 2004).

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that signs have the position. the effect of signs has also been able to affect the lives of people who assume that wherever and whenever that sign will still exist. Not only in daily life, signs also can take from the culture. People can only know the culture and the reality by means of a sign through the process of signification.

There have two famous founders of semiotic. First, Ferdinand de Saussure (1857- 1913). Second, Charles Sanders Peirce (1839- 1914). Third, Roland Barthes (1915-1980) They have the different terms about semiotic.

## Ferdinand de Saussure

Ferdinand de Saussure is popular name as the father of modern lingustics and the founder of structural lingustics in Europe. He defined the sign composed as "signifier" and "signified". In Chandler (2007), Saussure's make the terms: "A linguistic sign is not a connection between a thing and a name, but between a concept [signified] and a sound pattern [signifier]. The meaning of signs in Saussure model explain if language is a signs and linguistics system, it is reasonable only as part of language sign system. Saussure notion that the meaning of a linguistic sign is dependent on its value, which functions as a systematic constraint on its potential meaning.





Vol. 4 No. 2, November 2022, pp. 124 - 144

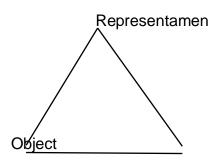
For instance, the word of "house" is a sign which consists of:

- a signifier: the word 'house';
- a signified concept: that the place who human living.

### **Charles Sanders Peirce**

Peirce is the one of the philosophical doctrine's founder as pragmatism. Peirce states that meaning depend on the social context. Peirce's theory is more structured that Saussure theory. (Cobley, 2010:68) assert that through comparison with structuralism, Peirce's philosophy sees no difference between semiotics and logic: rather, semiotics is common sense, both taken in its narrow sense as an examine of truth-preserving inferences by means of signs, and within the broader sense because the study of the development of the sciences through fundamental pragmatic concepts.

Peirce formulated the signs into triadic concept: sign/representamen, object and interpretant.



Interpretant

Semiotics views a sign as a physical element that communicates the meaning that is not sign itself to interpreter of the sign. The meaning can be such as a word uttered with a specific meaning such as sympton being a sign of a particular medical condition. A sign can communicate through any senses, visual auditory, tactile olfactory and/or taste. Based on the object,



Vol. 4 No. 2, November 2022, pp. 124 - 144

Peirce classified the sign into three kinds that are icon, symbol and index. They have their own position to describe and interpret the meaning of things.

#### **Roland Barthes**

Roland Barthes is known because of his theory of criticizing Saussure's theory. Barthes' theory analyzes signs deeper by relating the myths. According to Barthes, semiotics studies how humanity interprets the things. Barthes classifies two meaning of semiotics into denotation and connotation. Denotation is the descriptive and literal meaning agreed upon by all members of the culture, and the connotation of meaning is generated by the relationship between the signifier and the broad culture that includes the beliefs, attitudes, frameworks, and ideologies of a social formation. (Ramadania & Arifin 2019). The denotation sign in Barthes's view is the first level which has a closed meaning. The level of denotation produces unclear meanings. Denotation is the true meaning, socially agreed upon, which leads to reality. A connotative sign is a sign has openness of meaning or implied, indirect, and uncertain meaning, which means that it is open to the possibility of new interpretations. In the deeper theory Barthes also using the Myth to support the data. Myth according to Barthes's view is different from the concept of myth in a general sense. Barthes argues that myth is language, myth is a communication system and myth is a message.

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research was conducted by using descriptive qualitative research. Cresswell (2014) defines that qualitative research is a research design in which the researcher is interested in processing the meaning and understanding through words and pictures. This research will focus to analyze semiotic interpretation in 'Imperfect: Karir, Cinta dan Timbangan' film. This research intends to describe everything that related to the semiotic interpretation in "Imperfect: Karir, cinta dan timbangan" film.



# JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)

Vol. 4 No. 2, November 2022, pp. 124 - 144

Data is things known or assumed (Mukhtar, 2013: 99). The data of this study are words and phrases which are collected from 'Imperfect: Karir, Cinta dan Timbangan' film script. Then, the source of data is sources in which the researcher can get a data or information to do this research (Mukhtar, 2013: 107). The source of data in this study is the film which is downloaded from the internet. The data in this study were collected by watching the Imperfect: Karir, Cinta dan Timbangan film. The data will be collected by watching the film, understanding, writing down all the information in the film. The researcher watched the film by subtitle while reading the script, tool all the dialogue and act which are related to the semiotic interpretation theory and listing the signs in the film based on Roland Barthes theory. The instrument of this study was the researcher herself as a tool to get the data. It is because the researcher will interpret, by observing and collecting the data in order to answer the research's problems. Documentary technique is used as the instrument to collect the data.

Data were analyzed by using three following steps: (1) Identifying the utterances in "Imperfect: Karir, cinta dan timbangan"film, (2) Reducing the data which are not relevant to the semiotic interpretation, (3) Classifying the utterances into Karir, Cinta and Timbangan, (4) Analyzing and Interpreting dennotative, connotative and myth in each utterances using Roland Barthes theory and the interpretation conveyed semiotics through 'Imperfect: Karir, Cinta dan Timbangan' film, (5) Concluding the result of this study.

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

After collecting the data, all of the words, phrases and sentences from the film were categorized into three based on the issue that discussed in the film. Karir (career), there were 3 data found in the film that relate to the development anm progress of someone's job. From 15 data found in the film, there were 4 data that associates to Cinta (love) and connects to the deepest someone's emotional and interpersonal affection. Besides that, the researcher



Vol. 4 No. 2, November 2022, pp. 124 - 144

also found the data that link to Timbangan (balance), there were 8 data that have a correlation with someone's weight and physical appearance.

No.	Signs (Icon/Index/Symbol)	Dennotation	Connotation	Myth
1.	Paus terdampar (stranded whale)	Whales that washed away and thrown ashore	Someone who has overweight like a whale until she is hard to wake up or move	In some beliefs particularly in Indonesia, stranded whales can be a warning that a natural disaster will be coming for the human around the place that those whales stranded.
2.	Tikus tanah (mole) icon	Moles are small mammals adapted to a subterranean lifestyle. They have cylindrical bodies, velvety fur, very small, inconspicuous eyes and ears, large paws adapted for digging.	One of the 12 year cycles in the Chinese zodiac (Shio)	In the Chinese zodiac, those who have a mole shio are those born in 1948 and 2008. In this movie, mole are uttered by an old lady who wants to marry as soon as possible. She tries to search her love by matching her shio with aquatic ape. Mole in here symbolize an intelligence and attention to detail.
3.	Getaran tangga (stairs vibration)  index	Vibrations that occur on the stairs as a result of the pressure exerted by a person when go upstairs and go downstairs.	Stairs vibration can detect someone's weight without looking at their face. It can be called as a tool of measurement.	In film, this scene displays that a mom know her daughter's presence without seeing her. Some people believe that a human has a sense to feel someone's coming. But in science, it is called a proprioception.
4.	Hamil (pregnant) index	A condition in which a mother carries a child in her womb.	Someone with fat body, have a distended stomach because of fat that has accumulated.	In Indonesia, there is a beauty standard that a woman will be judged as a pretty and beautiful if they have a slim body. Society around



Vol. 4 No. 2, November 2022, pp. 124 - 144

				them also share a rumor that a woman with fat body will be difficult to pregnant.
5.	Kepala boros listrik (power waste head) index	Someone who consumes the most electricity	A head with very curly hair that consumes a lot of electricity to straighten her hair.	Women with curly hair may not cut and change their hair style with short hair. That's why their long hair consumes more electricity than normal ones.
6.	Muka bulet (round face)	A face that shaped a circle.	A face that has cheeks that are too chubby and fat	A face shape can determine the character and personality inside. Round-faced people are cheerful, sensitive, considerate, sincere, and realiable. But they tend to have sexual fantasies.
7.	Makan tisu (eating tissue) index	Chew and swallow a tissue or some kind of light crepe paper. It is popular as Pica.	Chew and swallow snacks, healthy and lean foods or foods that don't make you fat	Eating tissue can delay starving. Some models do eating tissue when they have many photoshoots.
8.	Rambut brokoli (broccoli hair)	Hair that belongs to a broccoli	Curly and fluffy hair	priotosnoots.
9.	Stretch mark in mother's stomach symbol	The scars on the mother's body after giving birth	A mother's love for her child because of the stretch mark, she lost her career as a model.	
10.	Kurangi nasinya (reduce the rice) index	Reduce food portions	A warning to a child's weight.	
11.	She is so old school symbol	The school that already old and not new.	Someone that still embrace a rigid culture or traditional/old habits.	
12.	Use sunblock right? (Pake tabir surya kan?)	Sunblock is a skin lotion or cream that absorbs some of the sun's ultraviolet	A warning to a daughter's physical appearance especially for the	



# ISSN 2656-9531 JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)

Vol. 4 No. 2, November 2022, pp. 124 - 144

	symbol	radiation and helps protecting against sunburn and prevent skin cancer.	skin.	
13.	You are so fat ya, it's OK it's fresh (Kamu kayanya gendutan ya, tapi gapapa seger kok seger).  index		A sarcastic word to soften the comment about someone's physical body.	
14.	Both of you are so different, even you are sisterhood. (Kalian itu beda banget ya adek kakak).  index	Sisterhood means sisterly relationship, the state of being a sister.	A word to make a comparison who's better than another.	There is a myth that if siblings have the same face, character and personality, they possibly often quarrel each other. In this film, two sisters hardly have different argument and bickering.
15.	Remember your thigh, dear ( <i>Inget paha kak</i> ).  index	The part of human leg between the hip and the knee	A measurement to determine beauty from a woman.	

According to the data, signs in Imperfect: Karir, Cinta dan Timbangan film are realized by three categories based on the title of the film. The signs that categorize as Karir (career), when the signs are related to someone's occupation, what they are doing in the office or the conversation that are built when they work. The signs that represent Cinta (love) when the signs are linked with someone's deep feeling or affection. Last, the signs that connected to Timbangan (balance) are the signs correlate to someone's physical appearance. The meaning of signs in terms of Karir (career), Cinta (love) and Timbangan (balance) is described as follows:



# JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)

Vol. 4 No. 2, November 2022, pp. 124 - 144

# 1. Karir (career)

### Data 1

### Pregnant (hamil)

This sign is classified as an index. It is found in the scene when the setting's in the office. Rara (the main character) comes to the office and bring two packs of chicken porridge. Irene and Wiwid as her colleague are eating fruit salad for their breakfast to maintain their weight and they greet Rara with some sarcastic utterances, Wiwid says 'wiiih bubur lagi ya? (wiiih porridge again?)' then Irene adds 'Ra, inget lemak, eh tapi gapapa deh nutrisi buat ibu hamil (Ra, look at your fat, but it's OK, nutrition for the expectant)'. The word 'hamil' or pregnant in English refers to the expectant/pregnant mother. Otherwise, themain character Rara is not pregnant. She just has an overweight body. In this scene, the colleagues uttered a sarcastic word by saying that Rara was pregnant is caused by Rara's body which displayed in the frame as a full fat body. In conclusion, an overweight body that Rara has indicates the body condition of pregnant mother. This index overcome a statement which refers to Rara is pregnant. In Indonesia, there is a beauty standard that a woman will be judged as a pretty and beautiful if they have a slim body. Society around them also share a rumor that a woman with fat body will be difficult to pregnant.

### Data 2

# Round face (muka bulet)

After almost an half-hour watching the film, the word 'muka bulet (round face) is noticed as a face that cover the video screen. It appears when the scene displays Rara's sister named Lulu. She is an influencer and she often makes a video to share her daily make up to the campus and in the scene of the film, she is looking at the comment session of her Instagram account. One of the comments mentions 'Yaelah mbak, PD banget sih. Situ oke?Itu muka bulet banget nutupin layar (OMG sist, you are over confident. You feel OK? It's a round face until covering the screen)'. The comment



# JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)

Vol. 4 No. 2, November 2022, pp. 124 - 144

refers an exaggeration because in the video that Lulu made, her face is oval with chubby cheeks not round or wide until covering the screen. It means round face connotes an oval face with chubby cheeks. It can be classified as icon, because it is physically and relates to human body. A face shape can determine the character and personality inside. Round-faced people are cheerful, sensitive, considerate, sincere, and realiable. But they tend to have sexual fantasies.

### Data 3

### She is so old school.

This is categorized as karir (career) and classified as symbol because this utterance appears in the scene that displayed Lulu's boyfriend as a selebgram. His profession requires him to influence people and create a content for his 2 millions followers. One of his contents is doing live and sharing his daily life. In this film, George (Lulu's boyfriend) asks Lulu to join his Instagram live. The content of his live session is about the status between Lulu and George. Lulu does not consider that she has been in relationship with George because she thought that George does not express his feeling yet. Then, apparently George expresses it and asks Lulu to be his girlfriend in live session. George said that Lulu is so old school so he makes a formal statement. Old school here literally doesn't mean an old school but refers to a rigid culture that it needs a formal statement to clarify a status eventhough there is a real action. The phrase 'old school' symbolizes a culture lag between Lulu and George.

# 2. Cinta (love)

#### Data 4

### Moles (Tikus Tanah)

The statement that dennotes moles are small mammals that have cylindrical bodies, velvety fur, ver small, inconspicuous eyes and ears. In the film, moles describe something different, it connotes a Chinese zodiac. In



# JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)

Vol. 4 No. 2, November 2022, pp. 124 - 144

minutes 8.23 from the film, there is an old lady wants to get married but she has no relationship with a man. She tries to get a help from Rara and Dika to find a man to be her husband. She believes in Chinese zodiac or people called shio. Her shio is aquatic ape (monyet air) and she looks for someone who has shio moles (tikus tanah) because water and land can be together, land can absorb water and water can nourish land. It concludes that in the scene, moles symbolize the Chinese zodiac or shio which mean in Chinese myth someone with that shio is a discipline, mature and realistic person. They are smart, efficient, and loyal. Meanwhile, in Chinese zodiac someone with aquatic ape has a high sense of humor and smart. Most of people believes that women prefer to have a relationship with humorous men. It is also the reason the old lady looks for someone with aquatic ape shio. Even in the film, moles refers to the Chinese zodiac but physically the body shape is same with the literal moles. In addition, it is classified as icon that represent the characteristic of mole itself.

# Data 5

#### Stretch Mark in Mother's Stomach

An half hour before the film ends, there is a scene when Rara, her mother and Lulu (her sister) talk about their mother's past. Her mother told that she was a model and women are judged by their physical appearance and when Rara was in her mother's womb, her weight was so big until 4 kg and left scars in her mother's stomach when she was born. Her mother's career was messed up. That stretch mark in her mother's stomach connotes a mother's love instead of just a scar. Her mother sacrifices her career to save Rara. Eventhough after Rara was born, her mother seems like she does not love Rara as much as she loves Lulu (Rara's sister). In the film, her mother symbolize love with stretch mark in her stomach. It is another kind of expressing love that Rara does not know. Because of the experience of her mother, she tries so hard to warn Rara to keep her body low fat.



Vol. 4 No. 2, November 2022, pp. 124 - 144

### Data 6

# Reduce the rice (Kurangi Nasinya)

In the beginning of the film displays a scene in the dining room. It happens after her father, someone who is very close to Rara, passed away. Rara wants to add her food portion with taking the rice. Her mother warns her by saying 'Kak, kurangi nasinya (Dear, reduce the rice). But Rara's reaction to her mother's utterance signify she does not catch the meaning. It indicates a love from a mother even it disguises in a warning because for some people especially for her mother as an ex-model think that physical apperance is vital and fat body is not good and can bring many diseases. Rara only thinks that the one who loves her is only her father and after he passed away, she overthinks that no one loves her then she misinterpreted her mother's warning. The statement 'reduce the rice' is an index of mother's love.

### Data 7

## Use sunblock right? (Pake sunblock kan?)

This film describes Rara as a kind-hearted woman who often helps teaching unlucky children. The children live in the slums and never get a formal education because of their parents' economy condition. Rara always visit them to teach them like in the school. She also build a temporary classroom without roof around the area. This is what requires her to use sunblock more because she has to work directly under the sun. Rara has a black skin and it is out of beauty standard of Indonesian women. Her mother warns her by saying 'use sunblock right? (pake sunblock kan?). Sunblock is a protective product for the skin to againsts sunburn and prevent skin cancer. In this film, the utterances of her mother's symbolizes a mother's love or a warning to her daughter especially about the appearances. Her mother does not want Rara has skin problems. In conclusion, the utterance 'use sunblock right?' is an index of a mother's love.



# JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)

Vol. 4 No. 2, November 2022, pp. 124 - 144

# 3. Timbangan (balance)

### Data 8

# Stranded Whale (Paus Terdampar)

In literal meaning, stranded whale means a whale which washed away and thrown ashore, they are untreated and abandoned. But in the first scene of this film, stranded whale refers to someone who are hard to wake up and move. In the frame, a mother is waking her daughter (Rara) up and saying 'Pusing mama liat kamu udah kaya paus terdampar (I have an headache when I see you like a stranded whale)'. This utterance show a mother's worries every morning by seeing her daughter with full fat body hard to move herself. Her mother always makes a fuss with Rara because of her weight. This sign is classified as a icon because stranded whale physically is same with the Rara's condition and position when Rara was sleeping. This can indicate that a trouble will come for all around that position, including for Rara. Having a very fat body will bring Rara to a trouble and it realizes in some scenes of the film. In addition, in some beliefs particularly in Indonesia, stranded whales can be a warning and symbolize a natural disaster for the human around the place that those whales stranded. Having a fat body or having an obesity can be a danger in terms of cannot move easily.

#### Data 9

### Stairs Vibration (Getaran Tangga)

Stairs vibration is an index of someone's presence. This kind of sign can distinguish someone only from how they go down the stairs. The vibration that comes from someone with a big body, full fat body is more felt or more heard. The film displays directly the difference between fat and thin body from the stairs vibration. When Rara go down the stairs then her mother says 'Kamu ga telat kak? (aren't you late, dear?)' without looking at Rara. After that Rara replies 'Kok tau ini aku? (how did you know that it's me?)'. Then her mother adds 'Getaran tangganya beda (the stairs vibration



# JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)

Vol. 4 No. 2, November 2022, pp. 124 - 144

is different). It is obviously a sign because after her mother's last words, Lulu also go down stairs, the her mother's response is so heart warming. In film, this scene displays that a mom know her daughter's presence without seeing her. Some people believe that a human has a sixth sense to feel someone's coming. But in science, it is called a proprioception.

### Data 10

# Power Head Waste (Kepala Boros Listrik)

This scene plays two characters Prita and Maria. Prita is helping Maria to straighten her hair by using hair straightener. Maria's hair in this film is described by fully curly and fluffy hair. It is the reason Prita says 'Pala lu boros listrik (Your head is wasting most electric). It does not mean that Maria's hair need electricity the most but to straighten her curly and fluffy hair, she needs most electric because they are using hair straightener. It categorizes as Timbangan (balance) because of Maria feels insecure with her hair. It is the main issue that discuss in the film. These two characters are a part of four characters who lives in the Dika's mother's dorm with different insecurities. The using of phrase 'power waste head' indicates the fully curly and fluffy hair needs more electricity to straighten rather than the normal hair ones.

#### Data 11

# Eating tissue (Makan Tisu)

In the film, Rara has a bestfriend named Fey, a tomboy. In minutes 38.59 Fey is watching a music video that perform a girlband. A group of music usually consists of slim body girls. Then, Rara asks how can they have slim body and Fey answered 'makan tisu mungkin (eating tissue maybe). Tissue in the film does not mean light crepe paper literally, but it connotes some food that contains of low fat and not make people overweight. It is more likely snacks, healthy food, salad, low calories food that can keep ideal weight. Eating tissue is an index of starving and hunger.



# JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)

Vol. 4 No. 2, November 2022, pp. 124 - 144

Eating tissue can delay starving. Some models do eating tissue when they have many photoshoots.

### Data 12

## Broccoli Hair (Rambut Brokoli)

Lastly, it is found a sign which can be also classified as icon in minutes 61.05 to signify a curly and fluffy hair by using a word broccoli hair. It denotes a broccoli has hair but it connotes a curly and fluffy hair. It is said by Maria 'Saya juga malu punya rambut macam brokoli begini (I am also ashamed to have hair like broccoli)'. This does not connect to the colour of hair but only the texture of the hair itself. Broccoli has a rough texture and fluffy.

### Data 13

# Remember your thigh, dear (Inget paha kak).

The setting of this scene is in the dining room when Rara, Lulu and their mother are enjoying breakfast. It displays an act when Rara take a jam for her bread but her mother hold it and says 'remember your thigh dear (*inget paha kak*)'. It is also interpreted as a warning and disguised in mother's love but because the word 'thigh' that used by Rara's mother is categorized as balance (*timbangan*) because it relates to Rara's physical condition. This is classified as index. It indicates a warning to Rara because of her obesity.

### Data 14

# You are so fat ya, it's OK it's fresh (Kamu kayanya gendutan ya, tapi gapapa seger kok seger).

This utterance comes out from her mother's friend when visiting Rara's house and looking at Rara's appearance. She is saying it because Rara and her sister are so contrast. Rara is depicted by a woman with black skin, curly hair, and plus size. Meanwhile her sister is a cute girl with white skin, slim body and straight hair. Lulu, her sister seems like a duplicate of her mother.



# JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)

Vol. 4 No. 2, November 2022, pp. 124 - 144

Her body is ideal like any other woman wants to be. The word 'fresh' literally mean a new better condition that is different from the condition before. Her mother's uses 'fresh' refers to soften her words 'you are so fat' at the beginning, not literally to say that Rara's physical condition is better from before. This utterance indicates as a mock but in terms of euphemism.

#### Data 15

# Both of you are so different, even you are sisterhood. (*Kalian itu beda banget ya adek kakak*).

This utterance is also uttered by her mother's friend. In the beginning of the film, Rara and her sister, Lulu are in one frame, then it is obviously showing the differences between them. It is still connected to the data above. It sounds sarcastic because it is like a comparison. Rara's physical apperance is similar with her father's with black skin, fat body, and curly hair meanwhile her sister Lulu's physical condition is close to her mother with proportional body, slim, white and bright skin, straight hair and tall. It brings an issue that people must normalize a difference in sisterhood because there are two human beings who are physically different united in marriage. This utterance indicates God's power to create human differently in order to easily distinguish each other. In addition, there is a myth that if siblings have the same face, character and personality, they possibly often quarrel each other. In this film, two sisters hardly have different argument and bickering.

### CONCLUSION

The objectives of this research was to find out the signs and to describe how the signs are interpreted in *Imperfect: Karir, Cinta dan Timbangan* film. After analyzing the data and found the reserach findings, The signs in *Imperfect: Karir, Cinta dan Timbangan* film were classified into three categories based on the issue that discussed in the film. The three categories were *Karir* (career), *Cinta* (love), and *Timbangan* (balance). The signs includes in *Karir* (career) when it relates to the development, growth, and





Vol. 4 No. 2, November 2022, pp. 124 - 144

progress of someone's job/profession. The signs that associate to *Cinta* (love) connects to the deepest someone's emotional and interpersonal affection. The signs *Timbangan* (balance) that have a correlation with someone's weight and physical condition or appearance. There were 15 data found in *Imperfect: Karir, Cinta dan Timbangan* film. *Timbangan* (balance) as the most frequent signs was about 8 data, followed by *Cinta* (love) with 4 data and 3 data for *Karir* (career). *Timbangan* (balance) were realized by the utterance that refers to physical condition and closely to mock. *Cinta* (love) associate to the word, gesture, or utterances that express a love or deepest personal affection. *Karir* (career) was described by a simple word to mock that closely sounds sarcastic and exaggerating.

### **SUGGESTIONS**

In relation to the conclusion, suggestions are staged as the following. It is suggested to all of the people that in watching films can more undestand and realize the meaning behind the signs displayed in the film. In this case, interpreting signs by dennotative and connotative meaning can be used to help people to catch the message or moral values of the film. It is advised that the reader should increase scientific knowledge about the semiotic analysis particularly the signs through the film and any other media such as music and memes. It is recommended for further researchers to conduct other research related to semiotic analysis through many more medias, mass or online media in order to increase the amount of semiotic analysis or interpretation research and further information.

### References

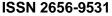
Adebola, O. A. (2017). Semiotics in the Whatsappconversations of undergraduate students of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, Osun State, Nigeria. *International Journal of English and Literature*, 43-62.



# JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)

Vol. 4 No. 2, November 2022, pp. 124 - 144

- Agustina, S. I. (2020). "COVID-19" Meme in Social Media: Study Of Roland Barthes Semiology. *Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa dan Sastra*, 351-378.
- Al-Sharafi, A. G. (2007). Textual Metonymy A Semiotic Approach. *New York: ALGRAVE MACMILLAN.*
- Arifin, F. R. (2019). Cultural semiotic in Dayak's Babalai ceremonial at Paramasan as. *Journal SOCI*, 1-14.
- Boggs, J. M. & Petrie D. W. (2000). The Art of Watching Films. Mayfield Pub.
- Chandler, D. (2007). Semiotics: The Basics. New York: Taylor & Francis e-Library.
- Christin, S. K. (2015). Analisis Semiotika Charles Sanders Peirce Ats Presentasi Kekerasan Dalam Serial Film Little Krishna Episode 5 September 2014. *e-Proceeding of Management, 2237-2243.*
- Cobley, P. (2001). *The Routledge Companion to Semiotics*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Cresswell, J. W. (2014). Research Design. California: SAGE Publication.
- Danesi, M. (2004). *Messages, Signs, and Meanings*. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press Inc.
- Dirgeyasa, I. W. (2019). *The Art Of Scientific Writing: A Comprehensive and Practical Guide.* Medan: Fbs Unimed Press.
- Djuhardi, D. N. (2017). Setting Of Developed Country in Drama Script "Nyayian Rimbayana". *Journal Sampurasun*, 41-55.
- Doho, D. A. (2019). Analisis Semiotika Roland Barthes Terhadap Lirik Lagu Band NOAH "Puisi Adinda". *Jurnal Ilmu Komunikasi dan Bisnis*, 77-103.
- Gurdin, E.Julie (1994) The Dialogic and the Semiotic: Bakhtin, Volosinov, Peirce, and Sociolinguistics. Association of Student Anthropologists, Department of Anthropology, University of Arizona.
- Sari, I. K. M. L. (2019). Makna Indenpendesi Wartawan Dalam Film The Post (Analisis Semiotika Roland Barthes). *Jurnal KOMUNIKATIO*, 1-6.





Vol. 4 No. 2, November 2022, pp. 124 - 144

- Khairunnisa, E. (2014). A Semiotic Analysis of Fashion Domination throughSigns in Music Videos. Passage, 2(1), 41-55
- Mukhtar. (2013). Metode Penelitian Deskriptif Kualitatif. Jakarta: GP Press Group.
- Musyoka, E. N., & Karanja, D. P. (2014). Problems of Interpreting as a Means of Communication: A Study on Interpretation. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 196-207.
- Patista. (2008). Memahami Film. Yogyakarta: Homerian Pustaka.
- Petrie, J. M. (2000). *The Art Of Watching Film : Fifth Edition*. California: Mayfield Pub.
  - Ranjan, G. D. (2010). Science of Semiotic Usage in Advertisements and Consumer's Perception. *Journal of American Science*, 6-11.
- Simbolon, L. M., Ambarita, B., & Hadi, W. (2019). The Study Of Semiotics In Cinta Di Dalam Gelas Novel By Andrea Hirata As Literature Reading Material In Senior High Schools. *International Journal of Education, Learning and Development, 21-34.* 
  - Sebeok, T. A. (2001). *An Introduction to Semiotics*. London: University of Toronto Press.
- Son, P. A. (2019). Visual Semiotics Analysis on Television Ads UHT Ultra Milk "Love Life, Love Milk". *International Journal of Visual and Performing Arts*, 27-41.
- Sonesson, G. (2008). The Varieties of Interpretation. A View from Semiotics.
- Winchkler, G. (2011). Semiotics of the Edges. Buenos Aires
- Wilandra & Supratman, S. M. (2017). Analisis Semiotika Roland Barthes Tentang Representasi Potret Perjuangan Mahasiswa Pada Film "Di Balik 98". e-Proceeding of Management, 1-12.
- Zaimar, Y. S. (2017). Semiotic Analysis of Valak and Lorraine in "The Conjuring 2" Film.