

SIGN SYSTEMS AND AUTHORSHIP STYLES IN INDONESIAN POPULAR POETRY

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Abstract

The sign system found in poetry is a symbolic sign. These symbolic signs give rise to an authorship style. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to describe the symbolic sign system and classify the style of authorship in Indonesian popular poetry based on the use of the symbolic sign system. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative using the approach of stylistic criticism and semiotics. The stylistic criticism approach is to describe the authorship style of Indonesian popular poetry writers and the semiotic criticism approach is used to analyze the symbolic sign system in the poems. The results show that the symbolic sign system contained in Indonesian popular poems is symbols in the form of phonemes, words, sentences, and typography. Based on these symbols, it is concluded that there are four styles of authorship, namely: 1) style that relies on phonemes; 2) style that relies on words; 3) style that relies on sentences; and 4) style that relies on typography.

Keywords: Authorship Style; Poetry; Stylistics; Semiotics

INTRODUCTION

Poetry is part of a literary genre that is unique compared to other literary genres, such as prose and drama. Poetry tends to use few words, but it is dense and concise. Poetry is beautiful words in a beautiful arrangement (Coleridge in Pradopo, 2019). Poetry consists of a physical and mental structure. The physical structure includes appearance, imagery, rhyme, the figure of speech, diction, and concrete words, while the inner structure consists of content, theme, message, atmosphere, and tone (Aminudin, 2013). The uniqueness of poetry lies in the structure that builds the poem. Based on the building structure, poetry can present various stories or realities of life experienced by humans with a choice of words that are loaded with meaning. The author can present realities or images by using few words but full of meaning and significance.

The meaning or meaning contained in the poem, author takes advantage of the signs that exist in the surrounding environment and even the author creates new signs to give an aesthetic effect to the poem. The sign in question is the use of symbols in the universe as well as social symbols formed by society. The symbols used by the author are called the sign system in poetry. This sign system is not only related to words, but also relates to appearance, sound, imagery, and figure of speech. According to Asriningsari, and Umaya, (2010) what is meant by a sign system is a combination of all elements that are systemized so that it gives birth to what is considered a sign. This sign system will give the effect of beauty in the poem that gives rise to multiple interpretations. This is in line with the opinion expressed by Endraswara (2013) that language in poetry is not limited to language as a linguistic system but also has meaning in the literature that can reflect many things and have multiple interpretations. Not only that, but this sign system also distinguishes the style of authorship between one author and another—between one poem and another.

The sign system found in poetry is a sign in the form of symbols. A symbol is a sign that tells something to others that refers to an object outside the sign (Wijana and Rohmadi, 2017). Therefore, symbols in poetry cannot be understood if we only refer to the literal meaning of the word. As explained earlier that the sign system in poetry is related to the building blocks of poetry, so the sign system certainly contains symbolic meanings.

These symbolic signs give rise to a style of authorship. Therefore, to study the style of authorship and classify the style of authorship, it is necessary to scientifically know the symbolic meaning contained in the poems written by Indonesian authors. The study of symbolic meaning cannot be separated from the study of semiotics, because semiotics is a scientific discipline that examines the intricacies of signs and the meaning of signs. Therefore, the study of the style of authorship in poetry in terms of symbolic meaning is a study of two interrelated disciplines, namely semiotics and stylistics. Semiotics focuses on its study of the meaning of symbolic signs and stylistics focuses on its study of the style of authorship.

Based on this description, it is important to do this research. The urgency of this research is that there is no scientific research on the style of authorship in poetry in terms of the sign system and symbolic meaning. Previous research has shown that the study of the sign system and symbolic meaning in poetry focuses on revealing the meaning of poetry only, does not relate it to the style of authorship, or only examines it from a semiotic approach. The previous studies that examined the sign system and symbolic meaning were research conducted by: Setiawan,

et al (2021) with the title Meaning of the Symbols in the Poetry Collection "Mata Air Dikarang Rindu" by Tjahjono Widarmanto (DOI) : <https://doi.org/10.22515/tabasa.v2i2.3943>); 2) Rahayu, Ika Sari (2021) with the title Analysis of Semiotic Studies in Chairil Anwar's Poetry Using Charles Sanders Peirce Theory (DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.30813/s:jk.v15i1.2498>); 3) Yusnaini (2020) with the title Symbolic Meaning and Social Criticism in a Collection of Prayer Poems for Children and grandchildren by WS. Rendra (DOI:<http://dx.doi.org/10.31851/pemmbahsi.v10i1.4615>); 4) Pribadi, Budi Setia and Firmansyah, Dida (2019) with the title Semiotics Analysis of the Poem "Barang Kali Because of the Moon" by WS. Rendra (DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22460/p.v2i2p%25p.2737>); and 5) Gunawan, Fajarisman, and Sujinah (2018) with the title Symbol in a Collection of One Thousand Butterfly Poems by Surachman Radea Maman (DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.30651/lf.v2i1.1443>). The purpose of these studies is to reveal the meanings of signs contained in poetry based on a semiotic approach.

Therefore, the purpose of this study is to describe the symbolic sign system and classify the style of authorship in Indonesian popular poems based on the use of the symbolic sign system. The symbolic sign system is analyzed from the point of view of semiotics. Furthermore, based on the sign system found in popular Indonesian poetry, it is classified and described as the authorship style of Indonesian popular poets.

METHODS

This research is research on the author's style of writing in terms of the sign system. The style of authorship is a study of stylistics. Meanwhile, the sign system is the study of semiotics. So, this study uses two scientific perspectives, namely semiotics and stylistics. The object of this research is popular Indonesian poetry. The data for this study are sounds, words, phrases, sentences, images, and typography contained in Indonesian popular poetry.

The style of authorship in Indonesian popular poems which were reviewed based on the sign system was analyzed using descriptive qualitative methods. Qualitative research is to understand the object of research by conducting an in-depth analysis of the object of research by prioritizing the sharpness of natural data analysis (Moleong, 2001). Descriptive method is used to explain the research results in the form of a description. The data obtained were then described by the research objectives. So, this research is semiotic-stylistic research with a qualitative-descriptive approach.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Etymologically, stylistics is related to the word style, which means style, while stylistics can be translated as the science of style. Cunningham (2008:6) states that style is a way of expressing in writing or speech. Stylistics is also seen as a branch of linguistics that discusses the artistic function of the language of authorship in literary works (Sangidu, 2004). Furthermore, Nurgiyantoro (2015) explains that stylistics is not only at the literary level but includes language styles outside of literature (non-literary), such as language styles in speeches, lectures, preaching and so on. Stylistics discusses the form of language used in a literary work which includes the choice of words, sentences, empowerment of language potential, language peculiarities, the uniqueness of the author's language, the author's figurative language, and so on (Al-Ma'ruf, 2009). Based on this opinion, it can be said that stylistics is a linguistic science that specifically examines the style of authorship in literary works. The authorship style is seen from the aspect of language use in literary works. These aspects include the use of phonemes, words, diction, sentences, figurative language, imagery, typography or appearance, and so on.

The object of stylistic study is the author's language in literary works. According to Pradopo (2021) and Nurgiyantoro (2015), the object of the study of stylistics is language style which includes phonemes, words, and sentences. At the level of the phoneme, the aspects of alliteration, rhyme patterns, associations, rhythm, and orchestration are studied. At the word level, morphological, semantic, and etymological aspects are studied. While at the sentence level, it is studied the means of rhetoric and sentence style. In contrast to Pradopo's opinion, Sudjiman (2007), suggests that stylistic studies include diction, use of the figure of speech, rhyme patterns, imagery, and mantras. Thus, it can be concluded that the object of stylistic study is the author's style of language in literary works. In this case, the literary work that is the object of research is poetry. In relation to the author's style of language in poetry, the linguistic aspects studied are aspects of phonemes, words, sentences, and typography. The language style is reviewed based on the use of a sign system.

Symbolic Sign System

The sign system is everything that builds or forms a sign so that it can be said to be a sign. Something that can be said as a sign if something is considered meaningful or can give meaning. The meaning of a sign appears when the interpreter of the sign can understand the sign as something that gives a certain meaning. Peirce said the sign consists of representamen, interpretants, and objects. The representation meant by Peirce is something that forms the basis of a sign. The interpreter is what is in the human mind about the representation or basis of a sign.

According to Peirce, interpretants are thoughts that are generalized through the relationship of representation and reference in the form of objects (Taufiq, 2016: 36-37).

Based on the object, Charles Sanders Peirce divides signs into several types, namely: a) Icon is a sign where the signifier and the signified have the same relationship in a natural form. In other words, an icon is a relationship between a sign and a reference object that has similarities. B) Index is a sign that shows a natural relationship between a sign and a sign that is causal or a causal relationship, also known as a sign that directly refers to reality. C) Symbol is a sign that shows the natural relationship between the signifier and the signified. The relationship is arbitrary or arbitrary or the relationship exists based on community conventions (agreements) (S/obur, 2013:42).

Poetry as a literary work is a sign. Poetry is a sign in the form of a symbol. Therefore, to understand the sign in poetry, it is necessary to understand the building elements of poetry which are considered a sign system. The sign system that builds poetry is symbols in the form of sounds, words, sentences, and expressions. The following describes the symbolic sign system found in popular Indonesian poetry.

Symbols in the Form of Phonemes

The first level in the structure of poetry is phonemes. phonemes play an important role in poetry because phonemes can give the impression of beauty in poetry. If there are no beautiful phonemes then it cannot be said to be poetry. phonemes functions as an element that sharpens and reinforces meaning, and gives suggestions to the reader. Symbols are in the form of sou phonemes and are signs found in poetry at the phoneme level. Phonemes or sounds contained in poetry become a sign and give meaning. Even though the sound is only one or two phonemes, but then can suggest and be a sign and give meaning and a deep impression to the reader. The following is an example of a symbol in the form of sound found in the poem "O" by Sutardji Calzoum Bachri

O

dukaku dukakau dukarisau dukakalian dukangiau
resahku resahkau resahrisau resahbalau resahkalian
raguku ragukau raguguru ragutahu ragukalian
mauku maukau mautahu mausampai maukalian maukenal maugapai
siasiauku siasiakau siasiasia siabalau siarisau siakalian siasiasia
waswasku waswaskau waswaskalian waswaswaswaswaswaswaswas
duhaiku duhaikau duhairindu duhaingilu duhaikalian duhaisangsai
oku okau okosong orindu okalian obolong orisau oKau O....

The symbol in the form of phonemes contained in the poem above is the phoneme "O". The phoneme "O" plays an important role in the poem because the phoneme "O" is used as the title of the poem. Apart from being the title, the phoneme "O" is repeated nine times in the last line of the poem. This shows that the phoneme "O" is a sign system that gives rise to meaning in the poem. The phonemes of "O" as a sign system in the poem give the meaning of emptiness or emptiness that is felt by the author. It is the same with the form of "o" which does not contain, which is hollow, such is the feeling and meaning that the author wants to convey through the use of the phonemes "O".

Another example of a sign system in the form of phonemes is found in the poem entitled "Luka" by Sutardji Calzoum Bachri, which is as follows:

LUKA
ha ha
1976

The Luka poem written by Sutardji Calzoum Bachri is super short, because it consists of one word, namely the word "Luka" and the two phonemes "ha". This poem does consist of one word as the title and two phonemes or sounds of "ha" as the content, but the meaning of this poem is not that short. The choice of words and sounds as the content in the poem is the words and sounds that have been selectively chosen to give suggestions to the reader and give the effect of beauty in the poem.

The sound of "ha ha" contained in the poem is a symbol of the sound of laughing out loud. The sound of "ha ha" in Luka's poem gives the meaning of happiness and suffering. Based on the typography of Luka's poem, the word "Luka" was chosen as the title which is located at the top, while the sound "ha ha" was chosen as the content which is located below the title so that it can be interpreted as happiness over suffering. This meaning reflects the reality of life that occurs in society. This poem not only gives a sign that means "happiness over suffering" but also as a satire to the rulers or governments who live in luxury while many people are poor and live in misery. Such is the power of sound in poetry that can give meaning and become a sign.

Symbols in the Form of Words

The next level in the structure of poetry is the word. Words are symbols that also play a very important role in poetry because choosing the right words can increase the beauty of poetry. Symbols in the form of words are words contained in poetry that play an important role in giving rise to the meaning of poetry so that it can be said to be a sign. In other words, the meaning of the poem can be understood through the words that build the poem. An example of a poem that uses symbols in the form of words is the poem entitled "Hilang (Ketemu)" by Sutardji Calzoum Bachri:

HILANG (KETEMU)

batu kehilangan diam
jam kehilangan waktu
pisau kehilangan tikam
mulut kehilangan lagu
langit kehilangan jarak
tanah kehilangan tunggu
santo kehilangan berak

Kau kehilangan aku

batu kehilangan diam
jam kehilangan waktu
pisau kehilangan tikam
mulut kehilangan lagu
langit kehilangan jarak
tanah kehilangan tunggu
santo kehilangan berak

Kamu ketemu aku

In the poem above, the sign system in the form of a word is the word "lost". This word becomes the focus of the author to bring his poetic style to life. The word "lost" is used as a sign that builds poetry and as the dominant word holder in the poem. The word "lost" is repeated 15 times. The word "lost" is in every line in the poem, except for the last line. The word "lost" is the center of meaning in the poem. The meaning of the word loss is disappearance or emptiness. Quoting the words of the author of this poem, the word is the meaning of the word itself, so the meaning of the word "loss" is nothingness, emptiness, and disappearance. Through the word "lost", the author conveys that the word "lost" is to show the disappearance of the natures possessed by objects, such as stones whose nature is silent, but loses silence. Like a clock whose nature has time but loses time. So, symbols in the form of words in poetry are words contained in poetry that are the center of meaning in poetry. These words are also an important element in building beauty in poetry. The word is not only considered as a compliment but the meaning of poetry is found in the words that build it.

Symbols in the Form Sentences

The third sign system in poetry is the sentence. A sentence is considered a sign system in poetry if the meaning of the poem is found in the sentences that build the structure of the poem. Although it is rare to find poems that use complete sentences in their lines or stanzas, sentences are also seen as a sign system that can create meaning in a poem. The meaning of poetry can be understood from the sentences that make up the poem, not from the sounds or words contained in it. This system of signs in the form of sentences is commonly found in prosaic poetry. The following is an example of a symbol in the form of a sentence found in the poem entitled "Penyair Kecil" by Joko Pinurbo.

PENYAIR KECIL

untuk Nur

Penyair kecil itu sangat sibuk merangkai-rangkai kata
dan dengan berbagai cara menyusunnya menjadi
sebuah rumah yang akan dipersembahkan kepada ibunya.
"Kita belum punya rumah kan, Bu. Nah, Ibu tidur saja
di dalam rumah buatanku. Aku akan berjaga di teras
semalaman dan semuanya akan aman-aman saja."

Ketika kau bangun di subuh yang hening itu, kau tertawa
melihat penyair-kecilmu tertidur kedinginan
di teras rumahnya, ditunggu *Donald* dan *Bobo*,
pengawal-pengawalnya yang setia.
(2002)

In the *Penyair Kecil* poem, there are 5 sentences that build the poem. In the first stanza, there are four sentences and in the second stanza, there is 1 sentence. These sentences become important symbols in the sign system in the poem. The first sentence means a child who aspires to have a decent house for him to live in with his mother. The second sentence means that the little girl states that she does not have a home yet. The third sentence means, the little girl told her mother to sleep in the house she made. The artificial house is the story the little girl told her mother. The fourth sentence means that the little girl will take care of her mother all night long. The fifth sentence means that when morning comes, they are faced with the real reality of life. The little girl telling her mother to sleep at home and keeping her on the terrace is a fantasy. The real truth was that the little girl was sleeping on the terrace in the cold holding a fairy tale book called *Donald and Bobo*. These sentences become the center of meaning in the *Penyair Kecil* poem.

In contrast to other popular poems, which rarely even use sentences to construct poetry, the author, *Joko Pinurbo*, focuses more on meaning and poetic style through sentences that build poetry. Usually, style in the form of sentences can be found in prose, but this author gives different suggestions to the reader through the sentences in his poetry. Based on the sentences that are the main elements of meaning in the poem, it can be said that the sign system in the *Penyair Kecil* is in signs or symbols in the form of sentences.

Symbols in the Form typography

The next element in poetry that also gives meaning is the typography of poetry. Authors use typography to create signs in poetry. Poetry with certain typography gives a certain meaning as well. The choice of typography by the author is not only to bring out the style of beauty but also to be the center of meaning in poetry. The meaning of poetry can be understood if the typography is also understood as a sign that gives a certain meaning. An example of a poem that uses a sign system in the form of typography is the poem entitled "*Tragedy Winka dan Sihka*" by *Sutardji Calzoum Bachri*.

TRAGEDI WINKA DAN SIHKA

kawin
kawin
kawin
kawin
kawin
ka
win
ka
win
ka
win
ka
win
ka
winka
winka
winka
sihka
sihka
sihka
sih
ka
sih
ka
sih
ka
sih
ka
sih
ka
sih
sih
sih
sih
sih
ka
Ku

Based on the typography contained in the poem "Tragedi Winka dan Sihka", the typography is in the form of a zigzag or winding. The meaning of the typography is that the journey of a household or marriage does not go straight. The journey in marriage or marriage will be torturous. The tortuous meaning is that there are many problems encountered and faced in marriage. When viewed from the words that make up the winding typography, it can be said that the poem describes a marriage that was initially happy, then turned into an unhappy one again which was marked by the word "sihka" as opposed to the word "love", then ended in divorce which was marked by the words "ka" and "ku" are not together anymore.

Classification of Authorship Style

During the Renaissance, the style was defined as a way of composing and describing something accurately and deeply so that it could display certain beauty values according to the impression and purpose of the presentation (Aminuddin 2002). In the neoclassical era, the style was defined as a form of expressing linguistic expression according to the depth of emotion and something the author wanted to reflect indirectly. In literary works, the term style or style implies the way an author conveys his ideas using beautiful and harmonious language media and can convey meaning and atmosphere that can touch the intellectual and emotional power of the reader (Aminuddin 2002: 72). Style is decoration, as something sacred, as something beautiful and graceful and as the embodiment of the man himself (Salbach in Aminuddin, 2002).

In relation to literary works, there are various understandings or opinions about the style which are not much different from that understanding. The term style is equivalent to the term *stylos* (Aminudin 2013:84). In general, the meaning of the *stylus* is an architectural form, which has characteristics according to the characteristics of space and time. Meanwhile, the word *stylus* means a tool for writing according to the method used by the author. There are dimensions of form and manner, which causes the term style, apart from being categorized as a noun, to be categorized as a verb.

The style of language used by the author in his work means expressing himself through the medium of choosing diction, using figures of speech, sentence structure, and tone. The same thing was stated by Abraham (in Pradopo 2008: 4) that an author's style of language can be seen from the use of diction, choice of words, sentence structure and syntax, density and types of figurative language, rhythm patterns, sound components, characteristics of language. other formal features and their rhetorical aims and objectives. Keraf (2000: 113) defines language style as a medium of expressing oneself either through language (verbal), behavior (nonverbal), and so on. In other words, to see human actions, knowing who he is and the picture of the human being can be seen from the style of language used by that person.

Based on the use of the sign system in poetry, the authorship style of the poet can be classified into four, namely styles that rely on phonemes, words, sentences, and typography. The style is formed based on the focus on the center of meaning in poetry. The four styles of authorship are described below.

The Style That Relies on Phonemes

The style of authorship that relies on phonemes or sounds is the use of language sounds as symbols in poetry which are the center of meaning in a poem. The phonemes referred to here are not sounds in the form of alliteration or assonance, but the sounds referred to here are the level of elements in the sound layer in the form of phonemes that give meaning to a poem. As in the example of the poem entitled "O". The sign system is formed on the sound layer, namely the phoneme "o". The sign system at the sound level is not just to beautify the rhyme or rhythm, but the "o" sound in the poem is a phoneme that is considered a sign that gives a certain meaning. In addition, the "o" sound in the poem is the center of the meaning of the poem. The meaning of center of meaning is the meaning of the poem in the sound "o". Without the "o" sound, the poem is considered not to have full meaning. The spirit or value of beauty and suggestion of the poem entitled "o" is the sound of "o".

The style that relies on phonemes is widely found in the poems by Sutardji Calzoum Bachri. However, it is possible that the style based on phonemes is also found in other popular poems, as long as the poem shows the meaning of the phonemes layer. In other words, the style of authorship that relies on a sign system in the form of sound is the use of certain phonemes as a form of a sign that gives meaning and value to the beauty and suggestions of the poem.

The Style That Relies on Words

The authorship style of a poet who relies on words is the use of words to bring life and value to poetry through the selection of the right words. The sign system on the word layer is very important in writing poetry so the style that relies on words is widely used by authors in writing poetry. The style that relies on words is considered one of the styles of authorship in terms of the sign system. The words chosen by the author in the poem are, of course, words that are considered as a sign that gives meaning to the poem. The word that is considered a sign is the word

that is the center of meaning in the poem. Without the word as a meaningful sign, the meaning of the poem is considered incomplete. In terms of the beauty of the poem, the word gives an aesthetic effect to bring out the style of authorship and the beauty of the poem.

The authorship style that relies on words is widely used by Indonesian authors in popular Indonesian poetry. As in the example of the poem entitled "Lost (Find)". The sign system in the poem is based on the word "lost". The word plays an important role in the body and soul of the poem. The center of meaning is in the word "lost". This style is also widely found in the poems of Sutardji Calzoum Bachri, Khairil Anwar, Amir Hamzah, and other authors. This is because the spirit in a poem is dominant in the words that make up the poem so the choice of words in writing poetry is done as selectively as possible to give a deep impression. So, the style of authorship that relies on words is a sign system in the form of certain words as the center of meaning in poetry.

The Style That Relies on Sentences

The style that relies on the sentence is the authorship style of the poet who is reviewed based on the use of signs in the form of sentences. The sentences contained in the poem are considered a sign that builds the poem and at the same time the center of meaning in the poem. Poetry that uses sentences as a sign system and a center of meaning is found in many prosaic poems. As in the poem entitled "Little Poet" which has been described previously. The sign system in the poem is at the sentence level because in the poem the meaning arises from the sentences that make up the poem, not from the power of words or sounds. Styles that are based on sentences are found in many of Joko Pinurbo's poems, but it is possible that other authors also use this style a lot as long as the poem shows its meaning at the sentence level as the center of meaning.

The Style That Relies on Typography

The appearance or typography in poetry not only gives a beautiful impression but also as a sign system that gives a certain meaning. An authorship style that relies on the appearance or typography of poetry is an authorship style that utilizes the appearance of poetry as a sign system that gives meaning. The expression of poetry is an important element in the meaning of a poem so that through appearance, the author can bring out the meaning and increase the aesthetic value of poetry. Sutardji Calzoum Bachri is an author who uses poetry a lot as the center of meaning. As in the poem entitled "Tragedy of Winka and Sihka" which uses zigzag or winding typography. The meaning of the winding form is to describe the journey of a marriage or household that is not straight or not always fine. The winding is interpreted as many problems that will be encountered in building a household. Thus, the style that relies on the appearance of poetry seen from the sign system is the use of the appearance or typography of poetry as a sign system that gives a certain meaning. If typography or appearance is only a form of beauty and there is no meaning behind the typographical form, then it cannot be said to be a sign nor is it considered a style that is based on appearance.

CONCLUSION

The sign system contained in popular Indonesian poetry is a sign system found at the level of sound, word, sentence, and appearance. Sounds, words, sentences, and expressions are considered sign systems if they have meaning and become the center of meaning in a poem. Sounds, words, sentences, and expressions that make up a poem are sign systems that give rise to aesthetic values and form a characteristic style of authorship. Based on the sign system found in Indonesian popular poetry, the authorship style of the poet in terms of the sign system is classified into four types of authorship, namely: 1) sound-based style, 2) word-based style, 3) word-based style, which is based on the sentence, and 4) style which is based on the appearance or typography.

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