

# The Meaning of Speech of Korean Minari Movie Casts a Study of Semiotics and its Implementation in Learning Indonesian Language

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## ABSTRACT

*This study aims to describe the meaning of the actors' utterances in the Korean film Minari. The film, which was adapted from a true story experienced by director Lee Isaac Chung, is a film that tells a family of immigrants from Korea who are trying to live and realize their dreams in rural America in the 1980s. They also work on a chicken farm while starting their own plantation business. They then find many obstacles that they must be able to go through for the sake of the integrity of the household and the dreams of their children. This film tells a lot about the struggles and hard work of a family. This research uses CS Pierce's semiotic approach to see the meaning and signs of the actors' utterances contained in the film to be used as data in research. Data collection techniques using two techniques, namely observation and documentation. As for implementation in learning Indonesianis to have a lot of positive impact on students. This film provides strength and depiction of the attitude of struggle and not easily giving up on something. For example, for children who fail in their studies, grades and failures they get in the family environment. This film motivates students to keep fighting and believe that failure is the beginning of success.*

## INTRODUCTION

Literary work is the result of an imagination created by humans who then use human life as a source of inspiration and develop it. Ratna (2005: 312) argues that the nature of literary works is fiction or what is more commonly called imagination. Imagination in literary works is imagination based on reality. The imagination is also imagined by other people. Even so, literary works are very useful for human life. Because literary works can give awareness to every human being about how the truth of life is even though it is described in fictional form. Literary works can give joy and inner satisfaction to every connoisseur of literary works. Literary works can also be used as a medium for work. because everyone can pour out their hearts and minds into a writing or oral that has artistic value. Literary works are not just entertainment material, but literary works can provide learning about life.

In this modern era, many literary works have been created by outstanding children of the nation who provide educational and motivational values for anyone who enjoys them. Many poems, novels, rhymes, various fairy tales and community legends are presented not only in written or oral form but have been packaged in an audio-visual form called a film. Literary works that are poured in the form

of different variations will add their own artistic value so that they are more interesting for us to enjoy. Film is one of the most effective forms of literature. So that it can be used as a means of providing learning in real life. The existence of practical film, can be equated with the need for food and clothing. It can be said that there is almost no daily life of an advanced cultured human who is not touched by this media. Film binds anyone who watches it emotionally so it has great power from an aesthetic point of view. Some people criticize film as an entertainment medium for their escape. And there are also those who praise it as an imaginative art that gives awareness to everyone to fulfill their dreams and fantasies.

There are so many films that provide education through the creativity of artists in making them. Film is also a medium of communication in conveying the many messages contained in it. Make it easy for everyone to catch the meaning of what the story maker conveys. Films have meanings and messages conveyed in a simple and creative way so that people who watch are expected to be able to interpret the films they watch and be able to pick up good messages which will later be used as examples and motivation for their daily lives. Through neat film packaging, the elements contained in it will feel more alive. So that the community, especially students, will find it easier to understand these elements properly and then make them good learning media. through movies,

One of the films that can be used as a learning medium is a film originating from Korea entitled "Minari". The film tells of a family of immigrants from Korea who are trying to live and realize their dreams in rural America in the 1980s. Working on a chicken farm while starting their own plantation business, they encounter many obstacles that must be overcome for the sake of the integrity of the household and the dreams of their children.

The Minari film is an authentic drama film using English and Korean which was released by A24 on February 12, 2021 after previously premiering at the Sundance Film Festival and was awarded the Dramatic Grand Jury Prize and Dramatic Audience Award. The Minari film stars Steven Yeun, Han Ye Ri, Alan Sun Ki, Noel Cho, and Youn Yuh Jung. In addition, Lee Isaac Chung's fourth film also won awards at other film festivals.

In 1983, a family of Korean immigrants came from California to move into their new home in rural Arkansas. Jacob as the head of the family wants to protect and provide the best for his family by working hard. Jacob and Monica went straight to work on the chicken farm as chick sorters. Jacob chose the wheelhouse because it has a large area for gardening. In the beginning, he did everything independently, including looking for water sources to irrigate his garden later.

After refusing to use the services of a water forecaster, Jacob digs the source of the spring himself. While renting a plow tractor, Jacob accepts help from Paul to build his garden. They bring in Monica's mother, Soon-Ja, from Korea to look after Anne and David while they work. David, who has never met his grandmother, is shy and sometimes avoids Soon-Ja because he does not fit the image of a grandmother in his mind. Even so, Soon-Ja is still trying to adapt to life in America. The well-used to water the garden runs dry, causing Jacob to worry about his garden's crops. Then he uses the PAM water to irrigate his garden, thus causing their water bill to increase and stop flowing when they are late paying their bills.

To meet their daily water needs, Soon-Ja, David and Anne take turns fetching water from the river. Soon-Ja also planted a minari in the creek with David which made their relationship start to develop. Soon-Ja teaches David hanafuda (a Korean card game), treats his wound when he is hit by a dresser drawer, and soothes David's anxiety over his illness every time he wants to sleep. Until one day, Soon-Ja wakes up in a sick condition which makes her suffer a stroke. After receiving a cancellation from a shop in Arkansas when he was about to send his garden produce, Jacob was frustrated. Stories about the previous owners of the house and garden who committed suicide because they failed with their garden began to haunt the mind.

But thanks to Paul's unique motivation, Jacob keeps his enthusiasm to move forward, even though he has to work harder than before. Jacob, Monica, and their two children traveled to Oklahoma to check

David's heart health and offer garden produce to a store in town. Although they receive good news about David's heart health and a partnership with a convenience store, Monica and Jacob get into a thorny argument and they decide to split up. Meanwhile, Soon-Ja, who is left alone at home, cleans the house, even though Monica had forbidden her before leaving. When burning garbage, unexpectedly the cardboard that was being burned fell and the fire crept towards the barn. When they got home, Jacob and Monica went straight to the barn and tried to save the garden. Soon-Ja who felt guilty then went away from the house, but was chased by David and Anne who managed to persuade her to come back. The barn and garden produce could not be saved due to the fire that destroyed everything.

This film is interesting to study in terms of the meaning of the speech by the characters in it. In addition to the meaning of speech, this film also has a family meaning that deserves to be applied or appreciated as a medium in learning, this film can also give a feeling of its own through the speech of each character in it. These utterances can be a motivation for everyone who watches them. Some people even make it a motto in life depending on the strength of the meaning contained in the utterances themselves. One of the studies of meaning that is suitable for interpreting speech in films is the semiotic study by Charles Sander Peirce. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to describe the meaning of the utterances of the cast of the film *Minari*. While its implementation in learning Indonesian is through the meaning of the actors' utterances, you can find a lot of learning which is then applied in learning at school

## **THEORETICAL FOUNDATION**

### **Semiotics Charles Sanders Peirce**

Charles Sanders Peirce was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1890. Charles Sanders Peirce was born into a family of intellectuals. Charles was educated at Harvard University and gave lectures on logic and philosophy at Johns Hopkins and Harvard Universities. Semiotics is a science or analytical method for studying signs. Signs are devices used in trying to find a way in this world, among humans and with humans. Semiotics, or in Barthes' terms, semiology, basically wants to study how humanity makes sense of things (to signify) in this case not to be mixed up by communicating (to communicate).

For Charles Sanders Peirce, the fundamental principle of sign nature is representative and interpretive nature. The representative nature of the sign means that the sign is something else, while the interpretive nature is that the sign provides opportunities for interpretation depending on the user and recipient. Semiotics has three areas of study:

- a. The sign itself. The study of different signs, different ways of conveying meaning and how signs relate to the people who use them.
- b. Systems or codes of study that cover the ways in which various codes were developed to meet societal or cultural needs.
- c. The culture in which codes and signs operate depends on the use of codes and signs

Charles Sanders Peirce's semiotic theory is often called the "Grand Theory" because his ideas are comprehensive, a structural description of all significations, Peirce wants to identify the basic particles of signs and recombine the components in a single structure.

Charles Sanders Peirce is known for his triadic model and his trichotomous concept which consists of the following:

1. *Representamen* is the form received by the sign or serves as a sign.
2. *objectis* something that refers to a sign. Something that is represented by a representamen related to reference.

3. *Interpretis* a sign that is in someone's mind about the object referred to by a sign.

To clarify Charles Sanders Peirce's triadic model, it can be seen in the following figure:

Interpret



Object representation

**(Picture 1. Triangle Meaning)**

(Source: Nawiroh Vera "Semiotics in Communication Research")

In studying the object, looking at everything from the three trichotomous concepts, which are as follows:

1. *Sign (Representation)* is a physical form or anything that can be absorbed by the senses and refers to something, the first trichotomy is divided into three.
  - a. *Qualisignis* a sign that becomes a sign by virtue of its nature. For example, the nature of the color red is qualisign, because it can be used as a sign to show love, danger or prohibition.
  - b. *Sinsignare* signs that become signs based on their shape or appearance in reality. All individual utterances can be a sinsign of a scream, can mean surprise, pleasure or pain
  - c. *Legisignis* a sign that becomes a sign based on a generally accepted rule, a convention, a code. All language signs are legisigns, because language is a code, each legisign contains within it a sinsign, a second that connects with a third, that is, a general rule.
2. Objects, signs are classified into icon, (icon), index (index), and symbol (symbol).
  - a. An icon is a sign that resembles the object it represents or a sign that uses similarities or the same characteristics as what it means. For example, the similarity of a map with the geographical area it describes, photos, and so on.
  - b. An index is a sign whose sign depends on the existence of a denotation, so that in Peirce's terminology it is a secondness. Index, thus is a sign that has a connection or closeness to what it represents.
  - c. A symbol is a sign, in which the relationship between the sign and the denotation is determined by a generally accepted rule or determined by a mutual agreement.
3. Interpretant, the sign is divided into rheme, design, and arguments.
  - a. *Rheme*, if the symbol is interpreted as a first and the meaning of the sign can still be developed
  - b. *Designed*(dicentsign), if there is a correct relationship between the symbol and its interpretation  
*argument*, if a sign and its interpretation have generally accepted characteristics (a thirdness)

### **Definition of Film**

According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) film is a thin membrane made of celluloid to place negative images (which will be made portraits) or to place positive images (which will be played in cinemas). Pratisia (2017: 25) in his book entitled Understanding Film suggests that film language is a combination of sound and image language. Film experts offer a solution through their films with the hope that the film will be well received by the audience. The mental and cultural experiences of the audience also influence the audience's understanding of a film, consciously or unconsciously. This is why everyone can have different opinions or opinions. about a movie. Film is

just a moving image, while the movement is referred to as intermittent movement, movement that appears only because of the limited ability of the human eye and brain to capture a number of image changes in a fraction of a second. Film is a very influential medium, more than any other media, because audio and visual work well together in making the audience not bored and easier to remember, because of its interesting format. (Wenti Ayuni Mondo : 2021)

## **Movies**

Movies are often referred to as movies or moving pictures. Film is a modern and popular art form created for business and entertainment purposes. Filmmaking has now become a popular industry throughout the world, where feature films are always eagerly awaited in cinemas. Movies are made in two main ways. The first is through shooting and recording techniques through film cameras. This method is done by taking pictures or objects. The second uses traditional animation techniques. This method is done through computer graphic animation or CGI techniques. Both can also be combined with other techniques and visual effects. Filmmaking usually takes a relatively long time. In addition, each job desk is required, starting from the director, producer, editor, wardrobe, visual effects and others.

## **Literary Works and Film Appreciation**

Literature is an expression of human expression in the form of written or oral works based on thoughts, opinions, experiences, up to feelings in imaginative forms, reflections of reality or original data wrapped in aesthetic packaging through language media. The above understanding is reinforced by Sumardjo and Saini (1997:3) ) who argues that literature is the expression of the human person in the form of experiences, thoughts, feelings, ideas, enthusiasm, beliefs in a form of concrete images that evoke fascination with language tools.

Literature and film are things that we are familiar with in today's life. Literature and films are here to fill free time and boredom in the midst of living life and work fatigue. From this, literature and film have the opportunity to enter into human life. To evaluate a film, we must know what aspects are contained in the film, as is the case with other types of works of art. Film has more value than other works of art, because film is an art that uses the point of view of motion, at various times, which cannot be done like performing on stage.

## **Definition of Character**

### **1. Figure**

In simple terms, it can be said that a character in a literary work is a person who actually takes a role in a story. Literary works, including films, certainly need actors or players (characters). Actors who carry out the events in the story are called characters (Aminudin 2002:79).

The characters in a story have different roles. A character who has an important role in a story is called the main character. Meanwhile, figures who have an insignificant role because their appearance only complements, serves, supports the main actors are called auxiliary figures or auxiliary figures (Aminudin 2002:79-80).

Figures according to Abrams (in Nurgiantoro, 2000: 165) are people who appear in a narrative work or drama, which is interpreted as having moral qualities and tendencies in the words and actions taken

The variety of characters or actors in literary works according to (Aminuddin 2002:79-80) is divided into 8:

1. The main actor or core actor is a character who has an important role in a story.
2. Additional actors or supporting actors are figures who have an important role because their appearance only complements, serves and supports the main actors.
3. The protagonist is the actor who has a good character so that the reader likes him.

4. Antagonists are actors who are disliked by readers because they have characters that are not in accordance with what the reader wants.
  5. Simple character that does not show much complexity of the problem, its appearance is only faced with a certain problem that does not give rise to complex inner obsessions.
  6. Complex characters, namely those whose appearance is burdened with problems which are also marked by the emergence of actors who have quite complex inner obsessions.
  7. Dynamic actors are actors who have inner changes and developments in their overall appearance.
  8. Static actors are actors who do not show any change or development from the time the actor appears until the end of the story.
2. Attitude

In KBBI attitude is: all actions and actions that are based on one's convictions and beliefs. Attitude is an evaluative statement about everything, it can be an object, person or event. Attitude reflects a person's feelings towards what he experienced. Attitude is the result of the relationship between stimulus and response. The behavior is further divided into three domains namely cognitive, affective and psychomotor. Cognitive is measured from knowledge, affective from psychomotor attitudes and actions (skills). Knowledge is obtained from experience, in addition to teachers, parents, friends. Changes in behavior in a person can occur through environmental conditions. According to the American encyclopedia, attitude and behavior can be interpreted as an action in which the organism's reaction to the environment,

The theory of attitude change provides an explanation of how a person's attitude is formed and how that attitude can change through the communication process and how that attitude can influence a person's attitude or behavior. This attitude change theory states, among other things, that a person will experience mental discomfort if he is confronted with new information or information that is contrary to his beliefs. This uncomfortable situation is called dissonance, which comes from the word dissonance, which means incompatibility or discrepancy, so it is also called the theory of dissonance. People will consciously or not try to limit or reduce this discomfort through three selective processes, namely selective information reception, selective memory, and selective perception (Al katuuk 2020:

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

This research is a descriptive qualitative research using media text analysis to describe the meaning of the actors' utterances in the Minari film. Qualitative research is research that does not use samples and populations, does not depart from theory but departs from the phenomenon of reality. This research is an analysis of media texts, namely Charles Sanders Peirce's semiotic analysis, semiotics as a model of social science understands the world as a system of relations that has a basic unit. that's called a sign. In interpreting the sign, the researcher uses semiotic analysis from Charles Sanders Peirce. This analysis is used to study the characters in the Korean film Minari. This model is famous for its triangle of meaning, namely the sign, the object, and the interpretant.

The data collection was carried out using two mutually supportive techniques, including observation and documentation techniques. Observation, namely by watching the Movie Minari film which has a duration of 1 hour and 50 minutes. The researcher observed scenes from the film which then obtained data in the form of visual signs in the form of stills, and verbal signs in the form of dialogues spoken by the actors in the film. Documentation, namely collecting data in writing such as books and articles that have been published in journals and internet sites about films, Korean films, semiotics and other materials that support research.

In analyzing the data in the form of visual signs in the form of cut pictures, and verbal signs in the form of dialogues uttered by the actors, the researcher used CS Peirce's semiotic analysis with the "Triangle of Meaning" model. Where this model explains how these signs work, namely how signs are related to objects and interpretants. In analyzing the data, the researcher also refers to the

application of CS Peirce, Roland Barthes, and Saussure's "Triangle of Meaning" model to the visual communication work of public service advertisements in newspapers conducted by Tinarbuko (Tinarbuko 2008, 42-50 in Nur Zaini 2014 in Santje Iroth 2022). He distinguished the signs into two kinds, namely visual signs in the form of pictures and verbal signs in the form of writing on the ad. Besides that,

## RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The meaning of the stories of the actors in the Korean film *Mirani*

### 1. Be brave and stand firm

We can see the brave attitude in this film in Jacob's attitude, who as the head of the family dares to take risks and sticks to what he believes is the path to his success.



(Picture 1. Jacob shows the color of the soil in their new home)

Figure 1 is a visual sign that shows that Jacob is the head of the family who is brave and firm in his convictions. These visual signs are supported by verbal signs in the following statements.

Monica : What place is this ?

Jacob : Our new home

Monica : This isn't what you promised

Jacob : Look at the ground, look at the color. This is the reason I chose this place.

Monica : Because of the color of the soil?

Jacob : It's the best color in America.

The conversation above is a form of determination from Jacob who dares to take this risk because he is sure of success in growing vegetables in his new place.

The sign above as a reference that a head of a Korean immigrant family who lives overseas in a foreign country is very unlikely to experience economic problems that will occur, seen from the background of the year in the film, namely 1983. Most Korean immigrants are afraid to take risks that will harm them later. Then this also made Monica not like her husband's idea. But all of them can only rely on luck, and hope that what they want can be achieved.

### 2. Hard worker

We can see the hardworking attitude in this film in Jacob's family. The hardworking attitude is not

only for Jacob, but Monica also helps Jacob in terms of their family's economy.



**(Picture 2. Jacob and Monica work in the same place)**

Figure 2 is a visual sign that shows that not only does Jacob work for a living, but Monica also helps Jacob in their family's economy. These visual signs are supported by verbal signs in the following statements and conversations.

Boss : Attention everyone. This is Master Jacob and this is Monica Yi. Mr. Yi who is an expert in determining the sex of chickens has been working in California, Seattle. So let's give Arkansas a big welcome

Employee : I've never seen anyone as fast as Master Yi. You must be making a lot of money in California.

Monica : Correct. But I'm still not fast enough to work there

Employee : How long have you been working?

Monica : About six months

Employee : At least here you are fast enough. You've come to the right place.

The statement and conversation above is a form of sign indicating that Jacob started looking for their capital by working in a chicken factory. Not only is Jacob the head of the family, but Monica also helps her husband.

Signabove as a reference that in order to smooth goals and desires in economic matters, a wife should help her husband. Don't just rely on the head of the family to make a living. The wife must also support any decision that will be taken by the head of the family. The form of hard work is when we work together in achieving what we want together so as not to create jealousy which then leads to an unhappy family.

### 3. Struggle

The struggle to achieve what you want requires a lot of sacrifices and you will encounter various kinds of obstacles, disappointment and you have to go through the dynamics of achieving your dreams.





**(Picture 3. When the buyer cancels his order)**

Figure 3 is a visual cue showing Jacob's disappointment when the buyer canceled his order and chose to buy vegetables from California. These visual signs are supported by verbal signs in the following conversations.

- Paul : Then where do they buy products from?  
Jacob : Californian  
Paul : They suddenly changed their mind?  
Jacob : Who knows  
Paul : We still have time, Jacob, to find another place. They haven't rotted yet.  
Jacob : Koreans, big city. Never trust them!  
Paul : Forget Dallas, there's always Oklahoma City. We can go to Memphis.  
Jacob : I'm still paying the water bill.

The conversation above is a sign that shows disappointment from Jacob, who has been willing to give water that should be used for home needs to be channeled to the plants that he will sell later. However, after the plants have been harvested and ready to be sent to the buyer, they are cancelled.

Visual SignsNext, we can see in the image below.



**(Picture 4. Jacob giving Monica the choice to leave)**

Figure 4 is a visual sign that shows Jacob's persistence against the failures he experienced. This visual sign is supported by a verbal sign in the form of the following conversation.

- Monica : In California we can easily pay our debts.  
Jacob : By determining the sex of the chicken until we die?  
Monica : Think about the kids  
Jacob : They need to see me succeed at something just once.  
Monica : What for ? Isn't it more important that we stay together?  
Jacob : Go on and do what you want. Even if I fail, I must finish what I started.

The above conversation is a verbal form of Jacob's persistence, which gives Monica the option to leave if she can't stand the current situation. Jacob is consistent in what he does to finish what he has started. But when Monica was about to leave Jacob because Jacob preferred the plantation over his family. Na'asapun incident happened again.



**(Picture 5. The storage shed caught fire)**

When Jacob had found a customer who would buy his vegetables, fate tested him again with a fire in the vegetable storage warehouse that he had been using.

Some of the visual signs and verbal signs above refer to signs indicating that the struggles

experienced by the Jacob family, which had experienced many twists and turns and the various problems they faced, made this family almost shaken. Where was Jacob's son who was sick, his business failed and his wife who later couldn't stand all the things that happened to them anymore, but Jacob remained optimistic and willing to let go of his family. Although at its core is patience, fortitude they should do in order to find the best way to solve the problems they face. But thanks to Jacob's persistence, they started the business again from scratch. This time Monica also participated in helping Jacob.

## **CLOSING**

Minari or in Korean ancient rhyme means watercress is the essence of this film. Watercress is a plant that can grow easily anywhere, as well as the Jacob/Yi Family, which must be able to survive in all conditions despite many obstacles. This story is based on the personal story of the director himself, Lee Isaac Chung. He is of Korean-American descent and lives on an Arkansas plantation.

But what should be a lesson in this film is the strong nationalism of Jacob and his family. Even though they live in America, Jacob insists on growing vegetables and fruit that come from his country, namely South Korea and one of them is Minari which is the title of this film. Living in a foreign country and forgetting his identity as a South Korean. Jacob did not let go of the South Korean culture, characteristics, behavior in him. However, he mixes it with American culture, without losing his identity. This film also depicts family relationships as important in achieving success and happiness in life. despite having gone through various tests, sadness, disappointment and happiness,

In learning Indonesian, this certainly has many positive impacts that we can implement for students. This film provides strength and depiction of the attitude of struggle and not easily giving up on something. For example, for children who fail in their studies, grades and failures they get in the family environment. This film motivates students to keep fighting and believe that failure is the beginning of success.

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