

**THE OPTIMISTIC SYMBOLISM IN ANDREA HIRATA'S
*THE RAINBOW TROOPS***

SKRIPSI

*Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
For the Degree of Sarjana Pendidikan (S.Pd)
English Education Program*

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ABSTRACT

Rizky Dewanti, Yudia “The Optimistic symbolism In Andrea Hirata’s The Rainbow Troops”. Skripsi English Education Program. Faculty of Teacher Training and Education University of Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara, Medan, 2018.

This study aims at explaining the symbols used in the novel and describing the values of optimistic reflected in the symbols used in Hirata’s The Rainbow Troops. This research is classified as a descriptive qualitative method. The primary data source of this study is the novel The Rainbow troops by Andrea Hirata. The collecting data process is note-taking technique. This study is also categorized as library research. Based on the findings and discussion, the researcher draws the conclusion such follow. First, it is found that there are six symbols used in this novel. They are classified into Individual symbol. The selected symbols taken from the novel that the researcher consider individual symbol is a symbol which is originally created by authors for the moment of work so interpreting it requires greater attention to context, for their meaning come almost entirely from context. In the novel The Rainbow Troops the symbols which the researcher considers as individual symbols. Individual symbols are Pak harfan and Bu Mus who have a tenancy, Lintang as a symbol of intelegent, PN Timah as a symbol of wealth and injustice, and the Rainbow Troops team as a symbol of friendship. There are two elements or values which characterize someone as the one who has optimistic life which is reflected in the symbols used in this novel. They are the values of struggle and positive thinking, Second, those symbols reflect the values of optimistic life which is to be the theme of the novel.

Keywords: optimistic, symbol

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The Researcher

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	v
LIST OF APPENDICES.....	vii
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION.....	1
A. The Background of the Study.....	1
B. The Identification of the Study.....	4
C. The Scope and Limitation of The sudy	5
D. The Formulation of the Problem	5
E. The Objectives of the Study	5
F. The Significance of the Study.....	7
CHAPTER II REVIEW OF LITERATURE	7
A. Theoretical Framework	7
1. Semantic.....	7
2. Semiotic.....	7
3. Symbol	10
4. Optimistic.....	12
5. Novel	13
6. Element of Novel	16
6.1. Intrinsic Element	16
a. Characterization	16

b. Plot	17
c. Setting	19
d. Theme.....	19
e. Point of View	20
B. Relevant of Study	20
C. Conceptual Framework.....	22
CHAPTER III METHOD OF RESEARCH.....	23
A. Research Design.....	23
B. Source of Data	23
C. Technique of Collecting Data.....	24
D. Technique of Analyzing Data	24
CHAPTER IV DATA AND DATA ANALYSIS	25
A. Data	25
B. Data Analysis.....	25
CHAPTER V CONCLUSION AND SUGESTION	36
A. Conclusion.....	36
B. Sugestion	38
REFERENCES	
APPENDIX	

LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 Classifying Symbol The rainbow Troops
- Appendix 2 Synopsis of The Novel “The Rainbow Troops”
- Appendix 3 Form K1
- Appendix 4 Form K2
- Appendix 5 Form K3
- Appendix 6 Lembar Pengesahan Proposal
- Appendix 7 Surat Keterangan
- Appendix 8 Surat Pernyataan Plagiat
- Appendix 9 Surat Izin Riset
- Appendix 10 Surat Balasan Riset
- Appendix 11 Berita Acara Bimbingan Proposal
- Appendix 12 Berita Acara Bimbingan Skripsi

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literature is big result of human civilization, in this life human and literature are living side by side. We realize that most events in our life are reflected in literature. As one of human's creations, literature depicts what human's life is like. Culture and its values give form of literature.

Life teaches men human values, these values guide men to enter social life and develop them to practice good life. One of the ways to study these values is from literature as a product of culture. In relation to this Wellek and Warren say literature is a social institution, using as its medium language, a social creation. Such traditional literary devices as symbolism and meter are social in their very nature. They are conventions and norms which could have arisen only in society. But, furthermore, literature "imitates" "life" and "life" is, in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary "imitation" (Wellek and Warren,1949).

While according to Carter (2006) A literary work expresses an author's mind and personality and that it also tells some essential truth about human life. As one of literature form which is popular among the other forms of literature to this day, the novel keeps its leading position as the genre

which produces many innovations. Novel gives the readers enjoyment, besides that readers can get the other benefit, they can learn about life from it.

The story of the novel can be fictional or true stories. Perhaps literature is definable not according to whether it is fictional or 'imaginative', but because it uses Language in peculiar ways. Language has significant role in literature where literature transforms and intensifies ordinary language, deviates systematically from everyday speech (Eagleton Terry, 2003).

This idea corresponds to the role of language as a medium of literature Siswantoro (2010) says that the beauty of a literary work is supported very much by the writer's ability in exploiting reflection of language so it leads to power and aesthetic work. Language is a literary medium but not all languages used in daily communication can be accepted as language supporting literature. Literary language is special language, it is language which has been bended by the writer in order to reach aesthetic impression and softness of sense.

Literary work has developed from time to time. By the born of some new authors the literary work has been enriched. In Every periode new authors are born and they show their own figures and personality. Some of them have shown their own writing characteristic that are different to the other authors' characteristic. Most authors tend to use the same style in their writing again and again, it makes their work easily to identify, especially to the author's readers. The big authors has clear characteristic which will be illustrated in his or her works.

One of the famous authors is Andrea Hirata. He has written many famous novels with his own style. Hirata's language style in *The Rainbow Troops* is simple and natural on the surface, but actually deliberate and artificial.

This thesis talk about Andrea Hirata, *The Rainbow Troops*. This novel is one of the novels that is written based on a true story experiences by the author, Andrea Hirata. *The Rainbow Troops* takes a setting in Belitung Island, Indonesia. His novel talks about eleven children who live in poverty but they have strong motivations to change their life. One of the ways to change their life is by going to school to get an education. Those eleven children are Ikal, Lintang, Mahar, Sahara, Borek, Kucai, A kiong, Syahdan, Harun, Flo, and Trapani. They are called as *Laskar Pelangi* or *The Rainbow Troops*.

The term *Rainbow Troops* appears because when it rain those children climb a tree to see the rainbow. Starting from that moment, Ibu Muslimah, their teacher calls them "*Laskar Pelangi*". This novel mostly tells about struggle of these poor children and their teachers, who fight for freedom from educational discrimination.

Besides, the translated *Rainbow Troops* is the winner of New York Book Festival 2013 in term of general fiction category and is the winner of Buchawards 2013 Germany (Hirata, 2013). Moreover, like a good fable, the book imparts a simple moral. One example of the values of good moral education in the form of Sincerity in *Rainbow Troops* is as voiced by Ikal (the main characters in the novel).

This thesis focus on his novella The Rainbow Troops. It is a well known fictional story which has been analysed countlessly times by many researchers. The Rainbow Troops is full of facts, most of which comes from Hirata own experience. Hirata's uniqueness writing style in his novella has attractked the writer to study and analyse it.

Although there have been many scholers analysing this novella, this thesis add to analyse the novella from different view to the previous studies. The writer analyses this novel from its style of symbol used in the novel by descriptive qualitative method.

As a qualified literature this novel provides many aspects of language which are attracted to analyze. This novel is rich of intrinsic and extrinsic aspects. One of these aspects is symbol, symbol is a thing that everybody faces, meets and makes interpretation of it and that's why the writer is attracted to talk and analyze it. Beside that, The Rainbow Troops gives a good learning from some life values which are reflected in the novel.

B. The Identification of The Problem

The problems of this research will be identified as follows :

1. Many readers do not understand the values of a novel.
2. Many readers do not know the meaning of a symbol in a novel.

C. The Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study will focus on semantic. The study is limited at the symbols of the novel entitled *The Rainbow Troops* which is used as the source of data.

D. The Formulation of the Problem

The problems of this study is formulated as the following :

1. What symbols are used in Andrea Hirata's novel *The Rainbow Troops* ?
2. What are the meanings of the symbols used in Andrea Hirata's novel *The Rainbow Troops* ?

E. The Objectives of Study

The objective of this study is formulated as the following :

1. To identify symbols used in Ernest Andrea Hirata's novel *The Rainbow Troops*.
2. To analyze the meaning of the symbols used in Andrea Hirata's novel *The Rainbow Troops*

F. The Significances of Study

The findings of this study is expected to be useful theoretically and practically.

1. Theoretically :

Theoretically, this research is helpful to provide the readers to know the optimistic symbols contained in the novel of *Rainbow Troops* written by Andrea

Hirata. In addition, this research also can increase knowledge in the field of literature as well as a benchmark and guidelines for consideration and reference source for researchers who will conduct similar research.

2. Practically :

- a. For a lecture , this research might be usefull for the lecture in giving additional input and reference.
- b. For the students, this research is useful to increase the appreciation of literature and is expected to motivate them to produce new ideas that are more creative and innovative in the future.
- c. For the readers, this literary application can help the readers to understand and analyzing the symbol and the meaning of each optimistic symbols that contained on Andrea Hirata's novel *The Rainbow Troops*.
- d. For other researcher, this research might be usefull for the other researcher who want to do further on the same subject in the future.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A. Theoretical Framework

In this chapter, the researcher discusses theoretical framework which consists of several main topic. In this case, the theoretical frame work is aimed at giving clear concept applied in this research. These theories help the researcher limited the study. Besides the discussion is started from the theoretical concept to avoid misinterpretation of the term use in particular situation. There are many points that is discussed as follows :

1. Semantic

Semantic is a branch of linguistics which relates with meaning. Semantics is considered as a study of meaning in language. It deals with the expression of linguistic objects such as word, phrase and sentences. It does not pay attention to the syntactical arrangement or pronunciation of linguistic object. *English Semantic* by Meisuri (2014) states that semantic is the study of meaning in language. It is concerned with what sentence and other linguistic object express, not with the arrangement with their syntactic parts or with their pronunciation. Semantic has long been an object of study within the philosophy. It is said that the term semantic itself was introduced into english at the end of the 19th century. Based on etymology, the word *semantics* originally comes from greek word *semantikos* means 'significant' ; *semainein* means 'to show, signify' or

‘indicated by sign’; from *sema* means ‘sign’. There are term semantic in various definition by some expert, they are:

Hurford, R. B, Hesley and B, Smith, in Semantics coursebook second edition (2007) states that semantics is the study of meaning of language.

Palmer (1996) states that semantic is the technical term used to refer to study of meaning.

Semantic has developed and become worthy study. There are two factors that make semantics become important and worthy study. Firstly, meaning is strictly connected with communication. A certain meaning can be delivered through communication plays an important role in human life. Second, the essence of human attempts to comprehend the nature of meaning involves the mental ability the use of reasoning and perception.

2. Semiotic

The study of Semiotic is one of a growing scientific approach mainly on the humanities and science communication. Semiotics becomes important to understand the various social realities of life human culture especially the various meanings and signs that live and grow in the society. According to Beny H. Hoed

(2011:3) as his understanding, semiotics is a science that examines the signs in people's lives. In simple method semiotic is the science of signs. Semiotics study about the system, a rule that produces the signs meaning.

According to Sobur (2009:123) Semiotic defined by Ferdinand De Saussure(1983) in course in general linguistic, as “the science review about signs” as part of the social life. In the other side according to Roland Barthes is the study of the form. This study examines the significance that separated from the content. Semiotic is not only researching on signifier and signified, but also relationships that bind them, the signa binding overall”.

Semiotic is a general study about sign or method of analysis of sign interpretation or study of the fictioning of sign system. *Introducing Social Semiotic* by Taylor and France (2005) states that semiotic is a science that studies the life of sign within society is conceivable. A sign is symbol used in everything around human being lives. A sign located everywhere, a sign in words form, a sign in human gesture, a sign in traffic ways, a sign in national flag and every object that manifest a meaning which can be determined as sign.

Chandler (2007) states that semiotic is the study of sign, there is considerable variation among leading semioticians as to what semiotics involves. Semiotics is concerned with everything that can be taken as a sign. Semiotics involves the study not only of what we refer to as “signs” in everyday speech, but of anything which ‘stands for’ something else. In a semiotic sense, signs take the form of words, images, sounds, gestures and objects. Contemporary semioticians study sign not in isolation but as part of semiotic ‘sign-systems’ (such as a medium or genre). They study how meanings are made and how reality is represented.

Theories of sign('or symbols') appear through out the history of philosophy from ancient times onwards.

Semiotics, also called semiotic or semiology, is the study of sign process (semiosis), or also signification a communication, sign and symbols, both individually and grouped into sign system. It includes the study of how meaning is constructed and understood. Example : traffic signals are ordinarily had special meaning which give instruction for us, red for stop, yellow for caution, and green for go.

Semiotic is a general study about the sign as an essential part of cultural life and communication. According to semiotics, we can only know about culture and reality by means of the sign, through the process of signification. This study assume that human phenomena which cultural or sociological is as sign signification. Semiotic become a sign interpretation due to it characteristic of method and role which understanding the sign. Semiotics as relationship among sign, an object and meaning and explains the way signs are used in social and cultural interaction. Example : the different light colors that signal different responses is traffic light, if a green light condition people know that have the right of way and it is even to continue. While if in a red light condition people know this is the right of way means should stop.

Semiotic is concerned with the study of sign as they are used in system of communication, and with the relevance of this study for language and literature. It means semiotic, focussing on communicative mechanism and on the nature of knowledge.

Based on the description and opinions of the experts above, it can be concluded that semiotics is the science that systematically examines signs, symbols or symbols concerning a literary work. It starts from the assumption that literary works have a meaningful sign / symbol system with aesthetic language media. Based on semiotic language is one sign or symbol and symbols of language in the form of words, sentences, and texts. The sign system has a specific meaning or understanding based on the interpretation of the recipient of the language sign or symbol. Because the symbol or sign system in literary works has a lot of interpretation.

3. Symbol

There are many elements on the novel that the reader want to keep reading it. Symbol as one of the elements important the reader not only to flow with the plot but also to discover the aim of the work. Theory of literature by Wellek and Warren (1977) states that symbol is words or others communicative things such as gesture or that stands for something else. For example : A flag is a piece of clothe which stand for (is a symbol of) a nation. A symbol has complex meaning, it has not only 'literal' meaning but also additional meaning beyond the literal meaning. Sometimes the literal meaning of symbol is absurd. Symbol may have more than one meaning. X.J Kennedy in literature : An introduction to fiction poetry, and drama third edition (1993) states that the word symbol derives from the gesrek verb symbolen, to trow together and it noun symbolon, 'mark' and 'sign'. Symbol is the use of word, a phrase, or a description, which

represent a deeper meaning than the words themselves. Symbol is something used for, regarded as, representing else. More specifically, a symbol is a word, phrase, or other expression having a complex of associated meaning; in this sense, symbol is viewed as having values different from those of whatever is being symbolized. A literary symbol is something that means what it is; an object, person, situation, or action that in addition to its literal meaning suggests other meaning as well. Symbol, however, also indicate their own reality. For example, a cross not only stand for suffering, but also stand for christian suffering.

Symbol are essentially words which are not only connotative, but also evocative emotive. They also evoke before the mind's eye a host associations connected with them, and they are also rich in emotional significance. "For example the word 'lily' merely connotes a 'flower' but it also evoke image of beauty, innocence and emotional overtone of pity, resulting from suffering or oppression. In this way, through symbols a writer can express much more than by the use of ordinary words : symbols make the language rich and expressive. Concept which by their very nature are inexpressible can be conveyed in this way. Thus a symbol can be used to convey "pure sensation" (Handa, 2003).

There are some of symbol in various definition by some expert, they are: According to Hartoko and Rahmanto (2006) classify symbol into three categories, they are:

a. Universal Symbol

It is symbol which deal to archetype (sleep as a symbol of death).

b. Cultural Symbol

It is symbol which influenced by certain culture. (keris in Javanese society)

c. Individual Symbol

That might be detained in the context of the overall work of an author.

Symbol is one of many aspects of language which can indicate an author's style. Andrea Hirata uses symbols to give the reader a better look and an easier understanding of what the stories about. In writing, symbolism is the use of a word, phrase, or description, which represent a deeper meaning than the words themselves. This kind of extension of meaning can transform the written word into a very powerful instrument. Symbolism occurs when the theme or emotion underlying a story. Without symbolism a story with plot and action will get wrong. Plot and action are important but too much of leaves your story reading like screenplay. For novel the characters have to have time just exist. The reader needs to have a chance to catch their breath.

4. Optimistic

Optimistic is performing the life by practicing values and attitudes which is described as the characteristic of optimism. The optimist is someone who has several characteristics that bring him or her into the great life. The optimists are the ones who know that they desire and hope and believe they are able to get it successfully then they attempt to obtain it confidently and achieve it. They believe on God who is very near and present in very pure and impulse of their hearts. Hearts as the source and centre of all minds compasses all truth and

converts the shadows to realities. With their spirit they can see the whole word, from this they reach their confidence and trust that can protect them from doubt and fears. A man must understand evil be acquainted with sorrow before he can write himself an optimist and expect others to believe that he has reason for the faith that is in him. With the knowaledge he can chase the evil away. Then the struggle is one of great blessing that makes them to be strong, patient and helpful men or women. The optimist will use every time and circumstances to break away the obstacle that blocks their desires. Their soul will beat glad march to every new discovery, for them every fresh victory comes over difficulties and every succes adds to human knowledge and happiness (Keller Helen, 2010).

Givray (2011) adds the optimists know when to let go although they are the strong in personality and perseverance, and they believe that perseverance is powerful but when they meet something which can't be changed, they will be able to let it go and are willing to move on. Peale completes what keller said that the optimist is someone who is full of hope in his/her life. By supplying attitudes of faith to the mind, it can increase energy thus the strength that is beneficial to achieve one's hopes and dreams to accur (Peale: 2014) and seligmn also adds that the central skill of optimism is the power of non-negative thinking, it is someone's abilty in changing the destructive things he say himself when he expeience the setback that life deals all of him (Martine Seligman 2006). From the above statement about optimism, the researcher sums up that optimism is a hope which is convinced to reach, this faith generates courage and power to strunggle and fight as proces of reaching what has been hoped. Positive thinking

and ignoring negative thinking help raising faith and respecting others and environment can remind that there is a limit of powers. So the researcher thinks that the values of optimistic life are hope, everybody's heart and mind to give him power; struggle; everything that the people want must be efforted and fought when an obstacle blocks it; powers, it is used to have struggle in deerting the obstacle; positive thinking, it is used to have clear thought to hinder making bad decision when he or she is in setbacks; respect, this value is useful to remind of someone's strength and limit.

5. Novel

Novel is a book of long narrative is literary prose. Novels tells stories which are typically defined as a series of events described in a sequence. The novel has been a part of human cuture for over a thousand years, although its origins are somewhat debated. Regardless of how it began, the novel has risen to prominence and remained one ofthe most popular and treasured xamples of human culture and writing. W.H. Hudson : *An introducingto study of literature* (2003) states that novel is concerned directly with life with men and woman, and their relationships, with the thoughts and feelings, the passions and motives by which they are governed and impelled, with their joys and sorrows, their struggles, successes, failures.

Novels first appeared over two hundred years ago. Since that time the novel has developed and changed as society. By reading a novel we learn about the world

that author describes. A novel, however, also helps us to understand our selves and our own world.

6. Element of Novel

6.1. Intrinsic Element

a. Characterization

W.H. Hudson : *An introduction To Study of Literature* (2003) states that novel is concerned directly with life with men and woman, and their relationship, with the thoughts and feelings, the passions and motives by which they are governed and impelled, with their joys and sorrows, their struggles, successes, failures. In novel a character may be defined as a verbal representation of human being. Through action, speech, description, and commentary, authors, portray character that are port worth caring about, rooting for, and even, loving, although there are also character you may laugh at, dislike, or even hate. Aminudin (1995) states that an event in fiction work is like an event in real daily life, is always supported by the certain characters. A person who supports the event in fiction story so that the event is able to interlance a story is called character, while the way of autho in implementing the character is called characterization. Character can appear in a narrative prose or novel and it is interpreted as being expressed in what they do.

According to Sayuti in Wiyatmi (2009) there are two ways to describe a character's behavior, which are directly (telling, analytic) and indirectly (showing, dramatic). The character's attitude is indirectly described by several ways: (1) a given name to the character (naming), (2) dialogue, (3) the description of character's mind, (4) stream of consciousness, (5) description of character's feeling, (6) character's deed, (7) character's attitude, (8) other character's perception to certain character, (9) physical description, and (10) setting description. E.M Forster, in his book *Aspects of The Novel* (1979) states that there are two major types of character; they are round character and flat character. Flat character is constructed a single idea or quality, he unchanging, static and at the end of the novel he is essential what he has been thought. All his response are predictable; so readers can anticipate exactly how the character will react. Round character is a character that this profound was altered by his experiences. His response makes us surprised. He does not embody a single idea, but it much more complex. Literary work usually portrays some difference types of character according to the existence of character and the appearance of characters in a novel.

b. Plot

Plot is an important element of literary work. Because the plot tells the important event that occur in a story. Plot or the structure of action is used to indicate almost any kind of action that found in a story, including the closed plot, the open plot, and the straight narrative with little or no serious complication, Staton

(2007) states that plot is a series of the events in a story : How a certain event affecting another event that cannot be ignored, since the event will be affecting for all the story. Plot is very close to the existence of the character. If the story only has a little in character, there will be more close and simple to plot, in contrast a novel that has many characters in the story the plot will be more complicated. Plot also helps the reader in understanding the story of the novel. The clarity of the plot makes the reader easier in understanding the story. Usually a good popular novels uses simple plot, so the strength of the novel also depend on the plot.

Staton (2007) states that the character is affecting the plot, if the story only has a few in characters, there will be more close and simple story. If we do not know the plot of the story, it will be hard to understand what the story tells about. Like another intrinsic elements, plot also have his own rule. There should be clear, real, and logic, where the beginning, middle, and the end of the story. The existence of the plot it self depends on two essential event: conflict and climax, these event usually have a close in relation. Conflict is a dramatic thing which direct to the competition between two balance powers and shows action reaction. Conflict brings out the extremes of human energy, causing characters engage in the decision, action responses and interactions that make up most stories. Nearly all fiction focusses on conflict. Judith (2003) states that conflict is a struggle between opposing forces. It is usually reflected or accompanied by the external and internal action. In addition to conflict inside the mind, literary work may focus on conflicts between individual and natural force. It is important to note

that conflicts do not necessary just belong in one category. The conflict is often forces character to make a decision t act or not to act, to compromise or to refuse. The point of this character make these choices are usually lead the story to the climatic moment, and the effect or implcaion of this choice usually refresent the conclusion of the story. The second eventis climax; is the highest point of interest, the moment when the conflict is most intense. The time when the consequences of a character's action become inevitable and the main points of the plot merge. In literary work plot is classified in to three major parts: plot based on the criterion of times order, plot based on the criterion of number, plot based on the criterion of content.

c. Setting

Sayuti in Wiyatmi (2009) states that setting is divided into three kinds, namely setting of place, time, and social. Setting of lace to the geographical place, at the location where the incident happened, in what village, what city,etc. Setting of time relates to a matter of time, days, hours, and history. Setting of social related to people's lives.

d. Theme

Stanton (2007) states that theme gives a strong explained about the unity of what is happening in the story, and tell about the story of life in a common context. The purpose of theme is to give shape and effect in our mind, so make the story easy to remember. A good theme has to represent the entire story in the novel.

Sometimes the theme shapes in to the fact that comes from the human experience. It is explored by the story and then gives impression for each of event in life.

The theme of the novel is more than its subject matter. Because an author's technique can play as strong a rule in developing a theme as the action of the characters, conflicts, and scenes, found within them, reader can look at different aspects of the work uncover different interpretations of the tale.

e. Point of View

Point of view is the way of looking at and brings the characters to put him in a certain position. In this case, there are two kinds of point of view that usually used are the first-person point of view and third person. Wiyatmi (2009) states that in the first person point of view. The story is told by the main character, because the story is seen by the point of view. Thus, point of view is technique that is used by the author to find and tell the meaning of his artistic work to the readers. The author expects that the readers can accept his technique. Point of view has psychological connection to the readers, and the readers need clear perception about the point of view. The readers understanding about the novel will be influenced by a clear point of view. Point of view is not only considered as the way of dramatic limitation but also considered as serving the thematic definition, because a novel offers values, attitude, and life perception which is controlled and served by the author intentionally through point of view.

6.2. Extrinsic Element

Extrinsic elements that are outside the literary works, but they indirectly affect the organization system of literary work. More specifically, they can be considered as elements that affect the story of a literary work, but do not come to be parts of it. The extrinsic elements in literary works are like background of authors, economical and social factor, socio political culture, religion, and values adopted by society, including moral values.

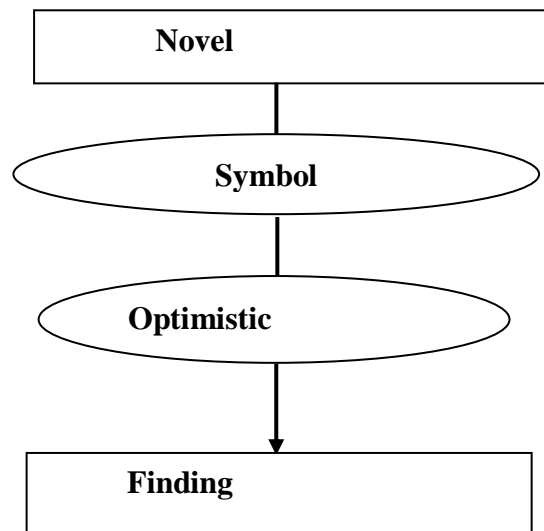
B. Relevant of Studies

There are some study that have conducted related this study. The first research is thesis from Simorangkir (2009) studies the meaning contained in each symbol and using descriptif methods. This study is limited only on one of them. That are symbol of object contained in the old man and the sea. They are the marlin, the shark, the skeleton, the lion Dimaggio and the sea.

Setyaningsih (2015) described the values of optimistic life reflected in the symbols used in Hemingway's *The Old Man and The Sea*. Based on the finding and discussion, the researcher draws the conclusion such follows. First, it is found that there are eleven symbol which is considered as a symbol whose meaning is long agreed by community because of their experience of this. The selected symbols taken from the novel that the researcher considers as Universal symbol are sea as a symbol of inverse, sun as a symbol of happiness, night as a symbol of suffering and lion as a symbol of strength. The second category is Individual symbol. The symbol which is categorized as individual symbol is a symbol which is originally created by authors for the moment of work so

interpretating it requires greater attention to context, for their meaning comes almost entirely from context. And the resesarcher found that there are six elements or values which characterize someone as the one who has optimistic life which is reflected in the symbols used in this novel. They are the values of hope, faith, power, struggle, positive thinking and respect. Second, those symbols reflected the values of optimistic life.

C. Conceptual Framework



From the conceptual framework above the researcher uses main data from the novel *The Rainbow Troops* which become the main source of analysis. Next, the writer analyze symbol used in Andrea Hirata's novel *The Rainbow Troops* to get information and then the writer underline the statement to support the analysis, like the statemet that contain optimistic symbol. Finally, the writer finds some finding symbols used in the novel *The Rainbow Troops*.

CHAPTER III

METHOD OF RESEARCH

A. Research Design

The resesarch will be conducted by using qualitative research which done without numeral. In analyzing this study, the researcher use *The Rainbow Troops* as the main source of the data. The researcher used library research and got information from some text books, articles and journal from internet and other source that relates to this research.

B. Source of Data

Source of data was taken from the novel written by Andrea Hirata entitled *The Rainbow Troops*. The Rainbow Troops is translated novel from original title *Laskar Pelangi*. This book was translated by Angie Kilbane at the end of March 2008 and was published on December 2009. It was published in 2005 by Bentang Pustaka.

C. Technique of Collecting Data

The technique for collecting data is a way to get information that will be used in the research. Creswell (2009) state that the data collection include setting the boudaries for the study, collecting information through unstructure for semistructured observation.

The researcher uses main data and supporting that for this research. Main data is obtained directly from the novel *The Rainbow Troops* which become the main source of the analysis.

1. Reading *The Rainbow Troops* carefully.
2. The researcher categorizes the symbols contained in *Rainbow Troops* that describing the optimistic life reflected in the symbols.
3. Researcher finds the symbol of optimistic contained in rainbow troops.
4. Researcher makes a table based on the specifications of optimistic symbols.

D. Technique of Analyzing Data

By reading the novel as the first step to get the information, the researcher also tries to find and underline the statements in order to support the analysis, like the statement that contained optimistic symbol. The next step interpret the symbol that are found in the novel and symbolic meaning from the statement.

CHAPTER IV

DATA AND DATA ANALYSIS

A. Data

The data were taken from the novel entitled *The Rainbow Troops*. This chapter is concerned with the analysis of symbol used in Hirata's novel *The Rainbow Troops*. There are lots of symbol the researcher find in the novel. Based on the theories that researcher has accomplished in the previous chapter, the researcher will classifies the symbols used in the novel into the individual symbol. In this research the writer selects six symbols taken from the novel. The writer considers those are the main symbols used in the novel.

B. Data Analysis

1. Individual Symbol

There were seven individual symbols used in *The Rainbow Troops Novel*. According to Rahmanto, Individual symbol is symbol which is usually interpreted in the whole context of a writer's work, Nonce symbol according to Dietrich is a symbol which is originally created by authors for the moment of work so interpreting so it requires greater attention to context, for their meaning comes almost entirely from context (Frederik, 1988:139).

Based on the description about individual, Nonce and Contextual symbol the researcher categorizes the following symbols taken from *The Rainbow Troops*

into the individual symbol because of the above reason. Those symbols are (1) symbol of tenacity, (2) symbol of poverty, (3) symbol of wealth, (4) symbol of intelligent, (5) symbol of friendship, (6) symbol of injustice. Each of the above symbols is interpreted privately, readers should interpretate the symbol based on the context where the meaning is not conventionally agreed by community but it depends on the readers ability in comprehending the story. In this case, reader's interpretation on story can be different among others.

a. Pak Harfan and Bu Mus as a symbol of optimism

In this novel Hirata illustrates Pak Harfan and Bu Mus as the main protagonist character. They have values as considered as the elements of optimistic life. They build a hope, they are faithful to struggle to reach it, they build power energy to prepare when the time for struggle comes, they also build positive thinking. For instance, Pak Harfan keeps teaching his students even though he is sick, as stated in the following quote.

“Even though his health was deteriorating, Pak Harfan was even more enthusiastic to teach after our victory in the Academic Challenge. He tirelessly prepared us to face our final exam”. (Page, 320).

“Pak Harfan never gave up trying to convince them to go to school. He'd even bring them books in the middle of the sea. He'd search for them on the floodplains of the rivers where they caulked boats.”(Page : 232)

As a teacher, Pak. Harfan is quite remarkable, his persistent principle to teach. The condition of being sick does not break his spirit, indeed tirelessly does he prepare his students for the final exam.

“We studied while holding umbrellas. Bu Mus covered her head with a banana leaf. That was the most awe-inspiring school day of my entire life. For the next four months it rained nonstop, but we never missed school, never, and we never complained, not even a little”. (Page, 49).

When the rainy season comes, teaching and learning process in Muhammadiyah elementary school is still running although the school situation is so severe, a leaky roof makes rain water spill into the room. However, their determination to run the learning process does not fade, Bu Mus teaches by covering her head with banana leaf and the student study while holding umbrella, there is no the slightest hint in their hearts to complain and leave the lesson. The rainy season which continued makes the situation worse but with the firmness of their principles they do not give up.

“Her determined choice to become a teacher would later bring Bu mus unimaginable hardship that no one else wanted to teach at our school because there was no salary. “(page : 47)

Bu Mus decision to teach Belitung's children in Muhammadiyah Elementary School without being paid at for some people is unreasonable and out of mind, but she was sincere in teaching so that the children get properly educated.

Another incident that shows the symbol of tenacity is also experienced by Bu Mus as a teacher that is not paid as state in the following quote.

“After a day of killing herself in class, Bu Ms received sewing orders and worked on lace food covers. She sewed until late at the night, and it was her lifehood”.(Page : 47)

Bu Mus works as a school teacher without salary. To support her life, Bu Mus has to work out of school schedule. After a day of teaching in the schools, at night she received sewing orders and she worked until late at night and has to wake up early to teach her beloved students in the morning, that was her lifehood as a symbol of tenacity in *The Rainbow Troops* novel.

The optimist has faith and courage on his/her hope, on his future. For them difficulty or problem is not something frightening but something that is not defeated or solved. They have good self confidence.

b. Symbol of poverty

Poverty is a social problem. According to Rampan (2008) "Basically poverty is not directly correlated with ignorance or genius. As a social disease, poverty must be combated with appropriate methods." This literary work contains a lot about the state of life of the Belitong people, who are mostly in a poor condition. The symbol of poverty is seen in the facilities of Muhammadiyah schools which are lacking and simple, as stated in the following quote :

“As for this school, Muhammadiyah Elementary School, it too was the poorest village school in Belitong.” (Page: 4)

"Our school has never been visited by officials, our school is not guarded because there are no valuable objects worth stolen" (Page: 18)

"Our school is not guarded because there are no valuable objects worthy of being stolen. The only thing that marks the building as if it is a flagpole

of yellow bamboo and a green writing board hanging oblique near the bell. Our bells are round with holes in the stove ”(Page: 18)

Muhammadiyah School is one of the poorest schools in Belitong. The building will collapse and look like a copra warehouse. In addition, Muhammadiyah schools lack teachers and only have six classes and small rooms. Morning for elementary school and afternoon for middle school.

This school is the place where it is most often the setting in this novel because because it seems like this is a place where the main school and members of the “*Rainbow Toops*” Army are studying. This school is the first Islamic school in Belitong that is poor and lacks facilities. There is no image and symbol of the State. Very apprehensive and almost collapsed.

“It's not difficult to describe our school, because our school is one of the hundreds or maybe thousands of poor schools across the country that if only a little goat from a female goats wants to marry, the bias can fall apart”. (Page: 17)

“Unlike other elementary school classrooms, there were no multiplication tables inside our classroom. We also had no calendar. There wasn't even a picture of the President and Vice-President of Indonesia or our state symbol—the strange bird with an eight-feathered tail always looking to the right. The one thing we had hanging up in our class was a poster.”(Page : 20)

“We experienced all of these things. So, my friend, talking about the poverty of our school is no longer interesting. What is more interesting is the people who dedicated their lives to ensuring the survival of a school like this. Those people are none other than our school principal, Pak Harfan, and Bu Mus”.(Page: 21)

“We came to see school as the best thing that could have happened to us—it was much better than becoming coolies, coconut graters, shepherds, pepper pickers or shop guards”.(Page :85)

c. PN (Perusahaan Negeri) Timah as a symbol wealth

Hirata uses PN Timah to symbolize wealth. Laskar Pelangi also tells of the massive exploitation of Belitong Island's natural wealth. Belitong Island's natural wealth is tin. The tin is managed and monopolized by the Timah State Company (PN Timah). PN Timah is the largest national tin-producing company with a workforce of around 14,000. He absorbs almost all of the workforce in Belitong and earns millions of dollars in foreign exchange. PN Timah has become the sole ruler of Belitong Island. The land of exploitation is unlimited. The land is strictly monopolized. The monopoly power is obtained by paying royalties, it is more appropriate to call the tribute of billions of rupiah to the government.

“PN Timah operates 16 units of dredges. Dredges with 150 giant steel bowls both day and night continue to dig tin, penetrate the sea, rivers and swamps. PN Timah made Belitong a source of foreign exchange with trillions of rupiah in assets”(Page :39).

PN School is a school of the highest quality throughout Belitong. The school is supported entirely by PN lead. Have a nice building and facilities are very adequate. Pupils in them are the children of the rich people in the island. It can be seen from the excerpt below:

“The PN School was in the Estate compound, and it was a center of excellence, a place for the best. Hundreds of qualified students competed at the highest standard at this school,” (Page: 35)

d. Lintang as a symbol of intelligence

Lintang comes from a poor family and was born to a family who had been illiterate and could only learn from loan books. However, miraculously, he was blessed with an extraordinary intelligent brain. Andrea revealed it in the following quote.

"In every series of words he wrote randomly implied the brilliance of brilliant thinking. Behind his untreated, dirty, poor and charred body, he had an absolutely beautiful mind. He is the fruit of a witty mind, the seed of genuine genius, born in a place far away from the sea, from a family that no one can read"(Page:109)

"Lintang is intelligent, a sign as a concept in the form of symbols. It can be seen from the quotations "we released a friend of the original genius trained by nature, one of the high-ranking Laskar Pelangi fighters." (Page: 431)

One of the student who has a burning spirit is Lintang. Although the distance between the school and his house was very far, about eighty kilometers back and forth, Lintang never missed school. Lintang takes that distance by riding a bicycle every day. Lintang is a genius student. His intelligence is extraordinary, he has all dimensions of intelligence. Even though, he is not arrogant and always helps his friends in understanding the lesson. His intelligence that also made Muhammadiyah Schools to become the winners in the quiz contest and made the Muhammadiyah School be school that is highly accredited.

"That's Lintang with his view. His mind has indeed far removed us. And listen to that, his speech is smarter than the talk of all the information ministers that the republic has ever had"(Page:121-122)

"Usually after that I was tempted to answer, a little hesitant, awkward, and unsure, so often wrong, then latitude corrected my answer, with a

constructive spirit full of familiar friendship. Lintang is an intelligent person who is humble and never reluctant to share knowledge. (Page:122)

e. PN Timah as a symbol of injustice

The symbol of injustice is seen in the novel quote.

"Belitong Island's different natural wealth is not normal, making the indigenous population prosper. They still live in the poverty line. This caused the entire natural wealth of Belitong Island to be controlled by PN Timah. Indigenous people are not permitted to take the natural wealth without permission from PN Timah. They cannot dig wherever they like because all of them have become the sole property of PN Timah. Thus, the wealth is only owned by PN Timah staff. The native Malays of Belitong are like a flock of mice that are famine in the rice barn "(Page: 39)

"I feel very poignant because a supergenius child, a native of the richest island in Indonesia must stop school because of lack of fees. Today, a small mouse dies in a rice barn which is abundant."(Page:432).

"Today, a small mouse dies in a rice barn which is abundant", "That is the parable that Andrea expressed to describe Lintang's apprehensive situation. "Little mouse" as a picture of a helpless little creature, whose life is always chased by humans to be killed, because they are considered dirty, carriers of disease, greedy, and disgusting. "Little rats" are likened to Lintang from poor families. Meanwhile, the "abundant rice barn" is a picture of Belitong Island which is abundant in natural wealth in the form of tin which is a source of foreign exchange for Indonesia. The essence of the story is Andrea's disappointment at the disappearance of the fate of his friends and rivals in the class. In fact, Lintang is the smartest and most likely to be able to provide something useful for this country if only he continued his education. Andrea's

disappointment felt heavier because he also realized that he couldn't do anything to help Lintang. They both came from families who were equally poor, who finally could only accept their defeat. This is shown in the following quote. This is the classic story about smart kids from destitute families.

"Because losing Lintang is a huge vanity. This is not fair. I hate those who party in Gedong and I hate myself who is helpless to help Lintang because our own family is destitute and our parents have to struggle every day to just make a living (Page:432-433).

Indigenous people are not allowed to take the natural wealth without the permission of PN Timah. They cannot dig tin wherever they like because the whole land has become the sole property of PN Timah. Thus, the wealth is only enjoyed by PN Timah's staff.

f. Laskar Pelangi members as a symbol of friendship

friendship is reflected in the intimacy and loyalty of the ten children who are members of Laskar Pelangi. In the Laskar Pelangi film, we also see that friendship is created because of the shared dynamics in the struggle of everyday life both at home, at school and in society. This friendship creates compassion and togetherness between Laskar Pelangi. This friendship feels even more intense when they start to be able to perform because of joint efforts.

This shared experience at Muhammadiyah Gantong Elementary School will influence how they relate to their growing up. However, the background of their respective economic conditions will also determine their future. Whatever their

circumstances in the future, what is certain is that the fruits of the cultivation of the values of spirituality and humanities that they get remain more important and valuable in their efforts to achieve the ideals of life. Friendship is a bond between people who trust each other and help each other to face problems. For some people, friendship is not just a belief but more than that, it is a condition where one is ready to sacrifice everything for his friend, as figure of Ikal did to his bestfriend Lintang as in the following excerpt.

“I was moved whenever I thought of it; I had quietly fallen in love with Lintang’s plan. So I prayed, frequently, that he’d achieve his dream. Suppose, just suppose, that God asked someone to sacrifice his or her dream so Lintang could achieve his. I would sacrifice mine for Lintang. (Page:293).

Lintang’s aspiration to become mathematicians that touched Ikal who is his bestfriend who wonders how can a fisherman's son may have such a high aspiration. Hence, in his deep heart Ikal prays for his friend that Lintang aspiration could be achieved. Everything would Ikal do to help his friend achieve his dream, and he was determined if the only had to sacrifice his dream for his friend in order to achieve his objectives Ikal is ready with all the risks. Although in the end fate is in the hands of God.

Friendship is also shown by the other members of Laskar Pelangi as stated in the following passage.

“Whenever they had free time, Samson, A Kiong, and Sahara would visit Harun. (Page: 456).

Laskar Pelangi's friendship remains intertwined. Several years after graduating days, when the life of each character has changed, Harun remains with his illness, down syndrome. But, this is not the reason for his companions to leave. Samson, A Kiong, and Sahara whenever they had free time, they would visit Harun, listening to his story that never changes about his three-striped cat giving birth to three kittens, which also had three stripes, on the third day of the month.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

After analyzing the data based on the theories, it is concluded that a symbol has complex meaning; it has not only “literal” meaning, but also additional meaning beyond the literal. Sometimes the literal meaning of a symbol is absurd, so that the symbolic meaning over-rides and cancels out the literal meaning. A symbol may have more than one meaning. In fact, the most significant symbols do convey an indefinite range of meanings. The novel is rich in symbolism that enhances both the plot and the themes. In Andrea Hirata’s novel *The Rainbow Troops*, Hirata uses symbolisms to portray the traits of the main characters in his stories. Hirata uses symbols to give the reader a better look and an easier understanding of what the book is about. The use of symbolisms in his books gives deeper meaning.

In Andrea Hirata’s masterpiece *The Rainbow Troops*, he uses much symbolisms to assist the readers understanding of the message he is trying to portray. There are many hidden meanings do it. Each element represents different things. , for example, represent tenacity, friendship and the last challenge we all go through. Considering findings the above the researcher takes a conclusion that every selected symbols taken from Hirata’s novel *The Rainbow Troops* has

values of optimistic life. The values implied in this novel can be used for guidance in our life to be a successful men. The values of optimistic life which Hirata wants to share is in line with the them of this novel.

B. Suggestion

Having finished of this research, the research would like to suggest the following :

1. It would be useful for the lecturers of the English Department if they use this thesis as the examples of moral values especially optimistic symbols when they are teaching about literature or other related subjects. Hopefully, students can apply moral values in their life.
2. It is for students of the English Department to make further study in analyzing symbolisms. Hopefully, it can help them when reading English novels which contain various symbols. At last, this analysis can at least be a comparison for any studies in the same field.

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LIST OF TABLES

Classifying Symbol The rainbow Troops

No	Quotation	The Example Symbol About His Character
1.	<i>“Even though his health was deteriorating, Pak Harfan was even more enthusiastic to teach after our victory in the Academic Challenge. He tirelessly prepared us to face our final exam”. (Page, 320).</i>	Tenacity
2.	<i>“We studied while holding umbrellas. Bu Mus covered her head with a banana leaf. That was the most awe-inspiring school day of my entire life. For the next four months it rained nonstop, but we never missed school, never, and we never complained, not even a little”. (Page, 49).</i>	Tenacity
3.	<i>“That determination gave him immeasurable life difficulties, because we were short of teachers, besides who was willing to be paid 15 kilos of rice every month? So for six years at Muhammadiyah Elementary School, he himself taught all subjects ranging from Beautiful writing, Indonesian Language, Citizenship, Earth Sciences, to Mathematics, Geography, Crafts, and Sports Practices”(Page: 30)</i>	Tenacity

4.	<i>"Our school has never been visited by officials, our school is not guarded because there are no valuable objects worth stolen" (page: 18</i>	Poverty
5.	<i>"Our school is not guarded because there are no valuable objects worthy of being stolen. The only thing that marks the building as if it is a flagpole of yellow bamboo and a green writing board hanging oblique near the bell. Our bells are round with holes in the stove "(Page: 18)</i>	Poverty
6.	<i>"It's not difficult to describe our school, because our school is one of the hundreds or maybe thousands of poor schools across the country that if only a little goat from a female goats wants to marry, the bias can fall apart". (Page: 17)</i>	Poverty
7.	<i>"In the classroom there are no operational poster patches for your times as they are generally found in elementary school classes. We also did not have a calendar and no picture of the president and his time, or a picture of a strange veil with eight strands that always turned to the right. The only patch there was a poster, just behind Mrs. Mus's desk to cover a large hole in the wall. The poster shows a picture of a thick bearded man, wearing a jubbah, and he holds a guitar in style "</i>	Poverty

8.	<i>"PN Timah operates 16 units of dredges. Dredges with 150 giant steel bowls both day and night continue to dig tin, penetrate the sea, rivers and swamps. PN Timah made Belitong a source of foreign exchange with trillions of rupiah in assets"(Page :39).</i>	Wealth
9.	<i>"In every series of words he wrote randomly implied the brilliance of brilliant thinking. Behind his untreated, dirty, poor and charred body, he had an absolutely beautiful mind. He is the fruit of a witty mind, the seed of genuine genius, born in a place far away from the sea, from a family that no one can read"(Page:109)</i>	Intelligent
10.	<i>"Lintang is intelligent, a sign as a concept in the form of symbols. It can be seen from the quotations "we released a friend of the original genius trained by nature, one of the high-ranking Laskar Pelangi fighters." (Page: 431)</i>	Intelligent
11.	<i>"That's Lintang with his view. His mind has indeed far removed us. And listen to that, his speech is smarter than the talk of all the information ministers that the republic has ever had"(Page:121-122)</i>	Intelligent

12.	<p><i>“Usually after that I was tempted to answer, a little hesitant, awkward, and unsure, so often wrong, then latitude corrected my answer, with a constructive spirit full of familiar friendship. Lintang is an intelligent person who is humble and never reluctant to share knowledge. (Page:122)</i></p>	Intelligent
13.	<p><i>"Belitong Island's different natural wealth is not normal, making the indigenous population prosper. They still live in the poverty line. This caused the entire natural wealth of Belitong Island to be controlled by PN Timah. Indigenous people are not permitted to take the natural wealth without permission from PN Timah. They cannot dig wherever they like because all of them have become the sole property of PN Timah. Thus, the wealth is only owned by PN Timah staff. The native Malays of Belitong are like a flock of mice that are famine in the rice barn "(Page: 39)</i></p>	Injustice
14.	<p><i>“I feel very poignant because a supergenius child, a native of the richest island in Indonesia must stop school because of lack of fees. Today, a small mouse dies in a rice barn which is abundant.”(Page:432).</i></p>	Injustice
15.	<p><i>"Because losing Lintang is a huge vanity. This is not fair. I hate those who</i></p>	

	<i>party in Gedong and I hate myself who is helpless to help Lintang because our own family is destitute and our parents have to struggle every day to just make a living (Page:432-433).</i>	Injustice
16.	<i>“I was moved whenever I thought of it; I had quietly fallen in love with Lintang’s plan. So I prayed, frequently, that he’d achieve his dream. Suppose, just suppose, that God asked someone to sacrifice his or her dream so Lintang could achieve his. I would sacrifice mine for Lintang. (Page, 293).</i>	Friendship
17.	<i>“Whenever they had free time, Samson, A Kiong, and Sahara would visit Harun. (Page: 456).</i>	Friendship

The Rainier Troops

"Delicious, beautiful, remarkable...
It gives you back a sense of awe and
disbelief in the great power of
writing that I thought I'd lost."
—Edward Taylor, author of
"The Book of David"



A
Novel

Andrea
Hirata

APPENDIX

Synopsis of *The Rainow Troops* Novel

The Rainbow Troops is narrated by Ikal, and is mainly an account of his school-years on Belitong (Billiton) Island in Indonesia. Almost all the action revolves around the tiny school he attended, Muhammadiyah Elementary School, and his classmates. A ragtag bunch nicknamed 'Laskar Pelangi' (the "Rainbow Troops") by their teacher. From the beginning, the school's very survival and with it the possibility that these children can even get an education is in question: the story opens on their first school day, when everyone desperately waits to see whether the necessary minimum of ten children can be found to even keep the school going; later, it is imperiled by the local mining company's interest in the tin on the school grounds.

The small island which, after all, gave mining giant BHP Billiton its name is dominated by tin mining and by PN Timah (now PT Timah), to the extent that Belitong has become more or less "a corporate village". The company staff live in a walled-off and guarded part of the island called the Estate, which is also where the PN School is "a place for the best", with all the amenities. Muhammadiyah Elementary School isn't so much a place for the rest as it is the last possible option, and the few children who go here come from extreme poverty and even then it is a great sacrifice for their families and them, with one of them bicycling huge distances daily just to get there.

Led by an idealistic new teacher, Bu Mus. Herself just fifteen and just out of junior high school. They are united by a commitment to the school and to learning. It turns out that one among them, Lintang, is exceptionally bright and he becomes their star student; another, Mahar, is artistically very gifted (though he and another student, the girl Flo, a later addition who fled the PN School become rather obsessed with mysticism and the like, eventually losing some of their academic focus).

Some of *The Rainbow Troops* is about perseverance and overcoming obstacles, and there are small triumphs on larger stages, too, in academic contests with other schools and the like the long empty trophy case doesn't remain entirely empty but it's not entirely a feel-good novel of anything being possible. It is a realistic account clearly also autobiographical and not all the triumphs are complete, and this attempt to get an education isn't enough to change some of the island fundamentals for the students.

The account is very loosely episodic, with little sense of the years that pass. Chapters focus on different events and episodes, with some of the action stretched out over several chapters, but there is only a limited and occasional sense of continuity or personal growth. Along the way there is a variety of action encounters with crocodiles, first love, the challenges the school faces just to survive, and more even as there is little sense of gradual individual progress, as the story simply jumps from one set of circumstances to the next. The students generally aren't described in much detail, and Ikal's own family and familial

circumstances remain almost entirely obscure. While the novel revolves closely around the school (even as quite a bit of the action takes place apart from it), even the teachers come across more as idealized figures rather than angible characters.

The last forty pages of the novel leap ahead to 'Twelve Years Later', as Ikal describes his second push at advancement through education, as well as some of what became of the others, a mixed bag of successes and setbacks.

As a novel, *The Rainbow Troops* is a bit of a mess. Structurally it is frailer than the barely-standing structure that houses Muhammadiyah Elementary, especially by the standards of carefully blueprinted MFA-honed American-style works of fiction. Yet there's considerable charm to the irrepressible narrative, too winning enough that it, and the colorful exoticism presented here, prove quite captivating. Hirata's controlled tone helps: despite the occasional cliché -- in both style and substance there's an agreeable liveliness to the writing. It helps too that it is almost relentlessly upbeat, with little wallowing in any of the abject misery (as would be easy enough to do) or depressing turns (though arguably a bit more focus on the sadder turns might have helped, as this is a story where people who are out of sight are immediately more or less entirely out of mind, and there's practically no long- (or even medium-)term reflection on loss).

Ikal is an avid reader, but as with everything else, Hirata does not go into much detail about that. Someone speaks of "the power of literature", but

Hirata more or less leaves it at that, Ikal just briefly noting: "*Literature*, asked my heart, *what's that ?*" but not dwelling on it then. And while he dabbles in poetry (sending them to his first love) and admits to: "an affinity for writing", Ikal is not one of these characters who lose themselves in fiction (and go on and on about that):

I occupied myself by reading practical psychology books on self-development and becoming more fanatical about John Lennon's inspirational sentence.

(The sentence is: "Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans !" which Ikal came across in an interview by Lennon in a newspaper clipping.)

Ikal believes his strengths are in playing badminton (though that hardly figures in the book) and writing; an amusing aside from the last section of the book describes a last-ditch effort to tie that all up into one big project:

I studied pop culture and trends of personal development to enrich my book. Even its title was impressive: *Badminton and Making Friends*. Indonesia had never seen a book like that. Unfortunately, based on commercial considerations, there were no publishers willing to print the book. They were more interested in pornographic books full of words like *condom*, *masturbation*, and *orgasm*. Those were more profitable.

That even the adult Ikal would not only think of writing but actually complete a book on *Badminton and Making Friends* gives a good sense of where this novel is coming from. Not quite so far-fetched, *The Rainbow Troops* is nevertheless equally sincere and idealistic, presenting a world in which

everything may not quite be possible, but everyone sure is going to try their darndest. (It also remains the antithesis of those 'pornographic books' that do get published: Ikal feels youthful passion for a girl, but this is a very decorous book, and there's no adolescent lust or adult activity to be found here, as a childish innocence is maintained throughout the book (another reason why there's little sense of the characters growing or maturing in many ways)

Yet for all its apparent ingenuousness (and near-relentless good cheer), the novel does not shy away from the reality of the consequences of the lack of educational opportunities in this society. These characters make the best of what is available, idealistic teachers and ambitious students making do with whatever they have -- but that isn't necessarily enough. Hirata (and Hirata-as-Ikal) offer this book as tribute and fulfilled pledge to their teachers, and if its basic message of the importance of education is a familiar one, it is nevertheless presented with more than enough heart, exotic frills, and appealing writing (rough around some of the edges, but still quite winning) to not seem simply a didactic social-moral tale.

An interesting glimpse of a slice of (fairly) modern rural Indonesian life, *The Rainbow Troops* is somewhat basic but also undeniably appealing.



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	The Effect of Collaborative Strategic Reading (CSR) in Improving Students' Reading Narrative Text	

Demikianlah permohonan ini saya sampaikan untuk dapat pemeriksaan dan persetujuan serta pengesahan, atas kesediaan Bapak saya ucapkan terima kasih.

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Disetujui oleh
Dosen Pembimbing



Dr. T. Winona Emelia, M.Hum

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The Optimistic Symbolism in Andrea Hirata's
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Pembimbing : Dr. T. Winona Emelia, M.Hum

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Mandra Saragih, S.Pd, M.Hum



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Judul Proposal : The Optimistic Symbolism in Andrea Hirata's the Rainbow Troops.

Sudah layak diseminarkan.

Medan, Agustus 2018

Disetujui oleh
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Wa'alaikumssalam Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

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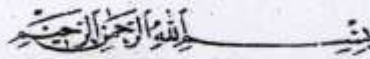
benar telah melakukan seminar proposal skripsi pada hari Kamis, tanggal 16, Bulan Agustus, Tahun 2018

Demikianlah surat keterangan ini dibuat untuk memperoleh surat izin riset dari Dekan Fakultas. Atas kesediaan dan kerjasama yang baik, kami ucapkan terima kasih.

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Ketua,

Mandra Saragih, S.Pd, M.Hum



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Judul Proposal : The Optimistic Symbolism in Andrea Hirata's the Rainbow Troops

Tanggal	Deskripsi Hasil Bimbingan Proposal	Tanda Tangan
1 Agt 2018	Table of contents	
	- Chapter I	
	- Identification.	
	- Formulation of the problem	
2 Agt 2018	- Chapter II	
	➢ Review of Literature	
	➢ Theoretical Framework	
	Chapter III	
	- Research Design	
	- Tech. collecting data	
3 Agt 2018	References	

Medan, Agustus 2018

Diketahui oleh:
Ketua Prodi

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Dosen Pembimbing

(Dr. T. Winona Emelia, M.Hum.)



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5/10 '2018	- Acknowledgement	
	- Abstract	
	- Table of Contents	
8/10 '2018	- Chapter I	
	- Chapter II	
	- Chapter III	
10/10 '2018	- Chapter IV	
12/10 '2018	- Chapter V	
	- Conclusion	

Medan, Oktober 2018

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