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## An Analysis of Symbol in Ernest Hemingway story; Cat in the Rain

Sri Rahayu Putri  
Universitas Bengkulu  
[srirahayuputrisyahbandi@gmail.com](mailto:srirahayuputrisyahbandi@gmail.com)

### Abstract

This descriptive qualitative study aim at finding out and analyzing symbol and their meaning which was used in Cat in the Rain Story written by Ernest Hemingway along with figuring out the meaning of the symbol itself, and the relationship between these points. The data in this descriptive study were being analyzed by using the theory of Kirszner and Mandell also supported by Shaw and Perrine theory. The finding showed that there were literally symbols that were found in this story, specifically contextual symbols, for instance: The bad weather, the empty square on the first paragraph which implicitly stated the negative moods (The conflict or the crisis or “emptiness” in the marriage of the couple in this story) The cat which represented the woman/ her “desire” to be understood by the husband and so on where the cat became the dominant main symbol uttered in this short story.

**Keywords:** analysis, cat in the rain, descriptive, story, symbol.

### Introduction

Language and Literature could be as something that has a close relation to each other, thus the creativity, and author’s our daily life as the work itself is often inspired by the “daily” phenomena of the author itself which influenced by the culture or their origin and it is being realized in literary works form and being expressed by using the language, this is supported by Klarer (2001) where he utters that commonly literature works represents the author’s creative imagination that represents the people language culture and traditions in form of written “products” or works. According to Aminuddin (2010) literary work stated as the valuable thing that could give some values and not only for spending time or entertainment purposes, this means by knowing and understanding the literary work, we as the reader could know several events that possibly take place in our life, for instance a social life reality, it could relates to religion, someone’s life experience in society, and the literature exists to communicate significant experience as it is concentrated and organized, meaning that it also allows us to live more fully, richly, deeply, and have great awareness through our imagination but not only in a sense of entertaining.

It is important for knowing and going deeper to this subject, especially as an English language study program student, because by understanding their content of the literary work and be more specific for each content on this subject, we are able to provide the students or the reader the guidance to know some events that happen in our life and already happened long time ago and to make them enjoy to study this subject though many kinds of literary works. In literary work itself there are many literature language aspects that could be analyzed, one of those is the intrinsic

elements of literary work, such as symbol (which is also part of figurative of speech or also known as figurative language). Unfortunately, based on what has been stated by Richard (1965) people often know the two most common figures of speech, are metaphor and simile, but actually, there are many other less common ones, just like symbols. Shaw (1881) states that a symbol is something that is used for or regarded as, representing something; a symbol is a word, phrase, or other expression having a complex of associated meanings. People are often confused between the symbol and the metaphor and think that these two are the same, although they are a little bit similar, the metaphor explicitly compares the two subjects while the symbols require the readers or audience to look for the meaning themselves through the content and several processes.

Usually, the symbol is often found in poetry to convey its idea and thought by using symbols, however, almost all of the literary works have a symbol created by the author (for instance songs and stories) with the purpose of showing a certain situation, event, and phenomenon presented in the story. By conducting the research the researcher hope could provide how the symbols are inputted in a story and then the result of this paper also could be implemented as well as beneficial as teaching media for teaching literature, specifically when learning symbols and could enhance the students' critical thinking skill.

In literature, there are several literary elements and one of them is an intrinsic element or internal components of a document. The novel is one of the examples which have this intrinsic element, the same goes to the short stories. Besides plot, theme, character and characterization, plot, point of view, as well as setting, the symbol is also included in this element, as what have been mentioned in the background, almost all literary works, such as poems, songs, or stories have symbol that created by the works author itself, insignificance certain situations. The symbol on a literary work contributes in building the storyline along with "broaden the view" purpose.

According to the experts Kirsznner and Mandell's (2000), the symbol could be a person, object, action, or event that stand or something else with more complex meaning further than its literal meaning. Based on this theory we can conclude that the symbol could also be in small form (object or action that represents something beyond itself). For example a rose could represent the gracefulness or beauty; it could be a person's beauty or place (two separate levels of meaning). Additionally, there are two kinds of symbol which are conventional symbol and literary. In here the symbol itself can be known as conventional symbol meaning that something that known by the society or culture; a flag is considered as a country's symbol. While another one is literary or contextual symbol (a setting, character, action, object, name, or anything with implies other meanings).

The symbols could be identified by the indication or supporting information on the text, According to Perrin (1991) as a reader, we should be able to identify the symbols by following several steps: The story need to furnish a detail clue to be taken symbolically, it indicates that could be identified by repetition, emphasis or position, then the literary symbols meaning should be established and supported by the story entire context (inside the text, not outside it). Then, it is important for us to

remember; it is said or called a symbol when an item must suggest a meaning different in kind from its literal meaning, however, we should distinguish the symbol from a sign, as a sign is a word or image that exactly corresponds to a particular meaning beyond itself, unlike the symbol and because of the reasons which are being explained above the researcher conducted this research.

Regarding the previous study, there were several previous studies where symbol being analyzed the same as this research, the first one was conducted Tankaruba (2011). Symbols, metaphors, and personifications in Owl City's song lyrics are based on Psychological Perspective, the second one by Subhan & Funck (2019), with the title symbol analysis in the who selected song and then the last one conducted by Rosita, et al (2019) An analysis of the symbol in Westlife's song lyrics. These previous studies had songs as the object while this research was a short story, the approach and the theory used were also different, for example, the second previous study used Charles Sanders Pierce's theory, and the first previous study used physiological perspective in order to carry out the research.

### Research Methodology

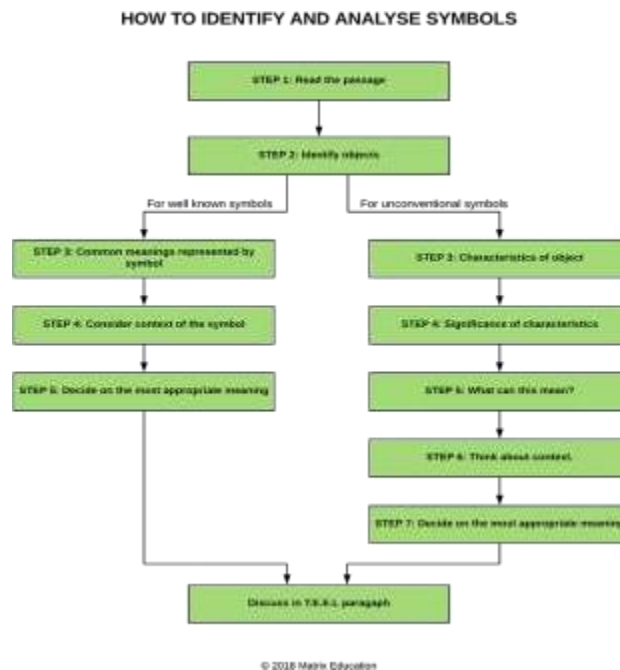
This research was a descriptive qualitative research with content analysis approach where most of the data was deeply explained in form of words rather than the number by the researcher. According what has been stated by Berg in Muhammad (2014) qualitative research considered as the research that refers to the meaning, concepts, definition, characteristics, metaphors, symbols, and description of things, this is also supported by Ary et al (2002) statements that defines a qualitative research deals with the data that are in the form of words rather than number or statistics, so in this research the researcher explained the data dominantly with words. The object of this research was a story written by Ernest Hemingway, with the title "Cat in the Rain" a short story written by famous author Ernest Hemingway and first published in 1925 as part of *our time* story collection.

According to Moleong, (2009) when the researchers conduct qualitative research, the researchers or writers act as the main instrument. Meaning that the research has the role of planning, collecting, analyzing, and describing the research findings or data. So in here the researcher acted as the main object to collect the data from a short story, then to analyze the story by using the chosen theories (which are explained below), and then the researcher presented as well as described the data. However, besides the researcher, an observation sheet was also used as another instrument or a medium to help the researcher in taking the data. Below attached the example of an observation sheet to help the researcher find the symbol and the meaning

**Table 1. The Example of Observation Sheet**

No	Symbols	Meanings

This observation sheet was used to classify the symbols that were found in the story and to elaborate the meaning behind it or what the symbol were possible trying to imply. In compiling the data, the researcher followed several steps based on the theory of Kirsznner and Mandell also supported by Shaw and Perrine theory, where we should. The rubric below adopted from matrix education below could give brief view on how the symbol being analysed.



## Findings and Discussion,

### Findings

In this chapter, the researcher presented and elaborated about the findings of the research, where in the story, the researcher discovered there were indeed the symbols (contextual symbols) found through analysing the short story, so in order to answer the research question What were the symbols found in *Cat in the Rain* Story and the symbols meaning itself, the researcher explained first about the symbols in *Cat in the Rain* story, in here the researcher found there were eight main symbols which supported by several symbols of the story, and those are: the empty square that described about their relationship crisis, the kitty or cat that mentioned the most which represented the wife loneliness, the “desire” to be loved despite the marriage that already dull, the benches that could reflected the confusion, the garden, the sea that implied the wide mind of the wife to be “set free”, the war monument, the table that showed the willingness or how the couple tried to make the relationship work, and several implicit supported symbols that could be seen on each dialogue which helped to explore more about the symbols mentioned before.

## Discussion

However, in here the cat was the main thing that often uttered and could be said acting as the main symbol, this because it was proven by how other symbols found here could support the cat in each dialog of the story and being mentioned more repeatedly in this story. These data examples were illustrated by the observation sheets below:

**Table 2**

No	Symbols	Meanings
1	The empty square	The feeling of emptiness between the American couples and their confusion about their own relationship.
2	The benches	

The terms above described about the marriage crisis and the negative mood bringing by the main characters in the story, this was also supported by how since the very beginning the author of this story already putted the hint about the couple's relationship crisis, for instance, as we could see from this sentence part "*There were only two Americans stopping at the hotel. They did not know any of the people they passed on the stairs on their way to and from their room*". It showed how the couples were "lost" on their own world and did not care about the surrounding, it was added the sense of gloominess between them.

**Table 3**

No	Symbols	Meanings
1	The tables	Their effort to make the relationship work.

*'You must not get wet,' she smiled, speaking Italian;* however the cat was already wet although the effort to keep it by took the cover under the table. In here the table itself symbolize how they tried to keep their marriage bound even though it was implied that they both were growing apart, for instance, by taking the vacation in Italia, however still, seeing from the previous symbol that was being analyzed, it seems like the marriage itself already "damaged" since the very beginning of the story.

**Table 4**

No	Symbols	Meanings
1	The Kitty	The American woman itself; the needs and her desire to be loved.
2	The Cat	

The term cat here which couple of times, for example just like what we could see from the data above, to refers to kitty represented the wife's desire to get attention from her husband, the kitty itself could possibly meant as the "inner child" of the wife, the needs to have someone who always right beside her anytime not only in terms of physically, also about the crisis or unhappy marriage. The symbol "cat" also always uttered repeatedly, mostly by the wife. *"I don't know why I want is so*

*bad. It isn't any fun to be a poor kitty out in the rain*”, this line implied how she knew to feel that way and the source of her frustration was the husband itself. This also strengthened by how the author implies the gender of the cat itself as “she”, this could be seen from this line “*The cat was trying to make herself so compact that she would not be dripped on*”.

### Conclusion and Suggestion

Through the data founded here; in this descriptive study which were being analysed by using the theory of Kirsznner and Mandell and supported by Shaw’s theory, it was shown that the symbols also could happen not only in the literary work poem, instead it could be in the story as well so does the songs just like the objects in this previous study as the finding showed that there were several literal symbols in this story it could be considered as proof that symbols could be found in any kind of literary works itself, for instance: The weather, the empty square on the first paragraph which implicitly stated the negative moods (The conflict or the crisis or “emptiness” in the marriage of the couple in this story) The cat which was represent the woman/ her “desire” to be understood by the husband and so on. however the story was being written a long time ago (included in classical story) in 1925, this possibly affects whether a symbol could be found and kind of symbol used in a certain story, therefore the next researcher could possibly conduct the same analysis by using the recent stories, or using the same object but conducting the different objective; analysing another part of figurative speech.

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