

## FAIRY TALES SYMBOLS REFLECTED IN SHARON MAGUIRE *GODMOTHERED* MOVIE (2020)

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### Abstract

This research is conducted to analyze fairy tales symbols presented in Sharon Maguire *Godmothered* movie (2020) and the semiotic analyzes of fairy tales' symbols in *Godmothered* movie (2020). There are two problem statements that the researcher used in this research, first, what are the fairy tales symbols presented in *Godmothered* movie (2020)? Second, how are the fairy tales symbols revealed in *Godmothered* movie (2020)? The researcher used the qualitative method to examine the problem. The theory and approaches that the researcher used is Semiotic. This study also includes the procedures of collecting data and procedure of analyzing data. The results of this study, first, the fairy tales symbols shown through someone actions and dialogue, second, the meaning of the fairy tales signs can be analyzed by using triadic concept of Pierce's semiotic theory. The types of symbols are more than one, depend on the symbol's category type.

Keywords: *Fairy Tales, Symbols, Semiotics, Movie*

### Introduction

Literature has a significant role in human daily life, it can be influence both human's thought and behavior. Literature also reflection of societies (Shaban 2017:124). Literature was a result of human work through an expression that is in form of writings which uses language as the media. In addition, part of the literary work usually embeds a values side and can draw the reader to enjoy it. Example of literary work is short story which Hansen also says that the earliest version of short story is found in the oral storytelling tradition, such as folklore, anecdotes, allegorical romance, fairy tales, myths, and historical legends ( 2020, para 2-3).

For centuries, fairy tales known as it was not written for children, but along the time fairy tales developed and written for children and mean to provide values and information to the children (Shaban, 2017:126). Study meaning in fairy tales are important, such as enhancing literacy development, teach critical thinking skills, emotional resiliency development, give a knowledge to the other culture values and behaviors, and a great tool for teaching story development. The study

of fairy tales meaning can be found in *Godmothered* movie that is first published on 4 December 2020. The story told about fairy godmothering student called Eleanor and her human assignment named Mackenzie to find woman's happily ever after life, and had conflict of unsuitable woman which written in the assignment is different than in real life. Eleanor and Mackenzie often show numbers of symbols that indicate to fairy tales' symbols, starting from the way they talk and how they act.

## **Literary Review**

### **1. Semiotics**

The term semiotics comes from the Greek word 'semeion' that used to refer to the sciences of sign. In other word, semiotic is a study about signs and process how the meaning created by existence of signs surrounding human life. Semiotics theory is the development of structuralism theory that had been developed by Ferdinand de Saussure and Charles Sanders Pierce.

Semiotic has three main area of study, they are: sign, code or system, and culture. Semiotic consists of three elements in any study of meaning. These are: (1) the sign (2) to which it refers, and (3) the users of the sign (Fiske, 1990: 40-41). Semiotics involve to what thing refer to as sign in everyday speech, but if only that stand for something else. In semiotics sense, signs take the form of words, images, sounds, gestures, and object. Semiotic also used as one of approaches in analyzing something that relate to sign, for example literary works, advertisement, and news report on media.

### **2. Charles Sanders Pierce Semiotics Theory**

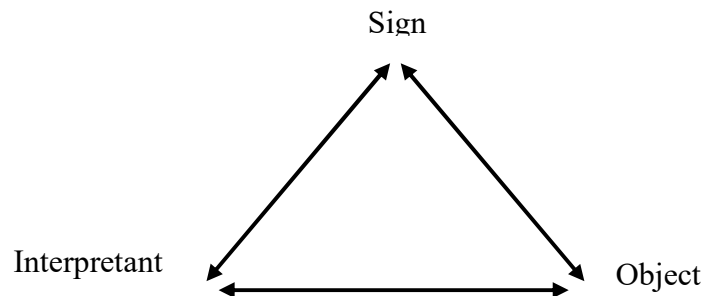
According to Pierce sign is begin with something everybody knows that stand for something else and has meaning for someone. Semiotics also based on logical state, because by logic people thinks and learn how to understand something as a sign that has a meaning in everyday life, the existence and the communication skill with other people give meaning to signs around the world.

According to Pierce (Krampen et al., 1987: 7) three categories are necessary and enough to know for all human experience, it designated as

- a. "Firstness", firstness is a conception about an existence which not depends on another thing.
- b. "Secondness", secondness is the mode that is relation to something else. This category includes individual, experience, fact, existence, and actions and,
- c. "Thirdness", Thridness is the mediator which the first and the second are brought into relation.

Fiske also stated that in Pierces's semiotics theory there are three main element of meanings and each term can be understood only in relations to others. These are sign, object, and interpretant. Sign is sign itself that can be

understood by others, interpretant is an effect in the mind of the users or meaning of sign. While object is the sign stands for something referred.



The three elements of meaning (sign, object, and interpretant) are logically triadic relation. By analysing the relationship between objects, interpretants, and signs, especially how the referent determines the sign, in addition, then the three elements of the sign can be divided into three further elements called trichotomies (Krampen et al., 1987: 5–8), they are: the qualisign, the signsign, the legisign. The second trichotomies are, symbolic sign, icon, index. The third trichotomies are, rhema, dicent, argument.

### **Fairy Tales Symbols**

Fairy tale is the oldest genre in human culture. Its aims are to bring out moral and entertainment. According to Holbek (Holbek, 2000: 3) fairy tale express sensitive problems of rural communities and emotional impression. As a common function of fairy tale that preserve and promote cultural and personal values, these are can provided by symbol that communicate thing beyond. Countless object that existed in the natural world suggest extended meaning and uses repeatedly by storyteller.

According Ashliman (2004: 6- 11) these variety of fairy tale symbol divided into four main categories, they are,

1. Natural and traditional symbol in fairy tales often related to nature and folklore that existed. Countless object from the natural world suggest extended meaning. For example bread and grain make logical symbols for life. A forest that one of the most used symbol in fairy tales, represent both freedom and danger. Different animal also have observable that lead to symbolic interpretations. For example, dragons, unicorns, and mermaids, and they have a special symbolic meaning.
2. Number Symbolism, number symbol in fairy tales represent more than just arithmetic counters. For example, the common number used in fairy tale is two that represent dualism, for example in fairy tale settings both this world and another world, human body consist of body and soul, or faced with good and evil.

3. Colour Symbolism, colour symbolism often suggested by nature, for example white colour in snow symbolize purity or colourless transparent as in Cinderella's glass slippers, the green in new plant grow symbolize for hope.

Symbolism is important in human communication since it is used to look for deeper meaning. Whether it is horse painting in the wall or in visual content. Meaning is added to communication activity alongside the use and interpretation of signs. Anything can be a symbol as long as people interpret it to the other meaning than its literal definition (Bausinger, 1987: 75).

### **Methods**

In this chapter, the researcher wants to use qualitative method as the principle instrument. Qualitative method is used by the researcher to explore and explains the symbols of fairy tales represented in "Godmothered" movie and the meaning of fairy tales symbols represented in the movie by focusing on the data that included in subtitle, scene, words, phrases, sentences, and narrations. In his book Research Design (2014: 152), Creswell asserted that to investigate the topic he suggested apply the qualitative research. Hence, to explain a research problem in qualitative project, it would be best understood by exploring a phenomenon and concept.

The object selected to be analyzed in this research is *Godmothered* movie published by The Montecito Picture Company, Walt Disney Pictures on December 04, 2020 with the durations 01:50:00 and originally downloaded from Imdb TV on 28 February 2021. The director of this movie is Sharon Maguire. The researcher uses all forms of sentences, speeches, utterances, and dialogues taken from English subtitle of *Godmothered* movie.

In the steps of collecting data from *Godmothered* movie (2020), the researcher uses observation the method, they are, watching, reading, identifying, classifying, and selecting. In this thesis also contains of method of analyzing the data, they are, displaying, explaining, and interpreting.

### **Finding and Discussion**

In this chapter, the researcher id displaying, explaining, and interpreting the movie on the fairy tales symbols and how the fairy tales symbols revealed in the movie. The researcher found some fairy tales symbols shown trough the action, dialogue, and appearance of main character Eleanor and Mackenzie  
Discussion:

The main character in this movie is Eleanor and Mackenzie. Eleanor is the fairy godmothering student from Motherland, Mackenzie is a Boston widow and a television producer. Eleanor as the fairy godmothering student realize that their motherland start to falling apart because there no more people believe in happily ever after. The headmistress of Motherland consider to shut it down, which means all the fairy student retrained again as tooth fairy. Eleanor try to find assignment

to potentially save the Motherland, and someone who requested a happily ever after life was written by little Mackenzie. Eleanor left Motherland to Boston to do the assignment, and show her magic power through the movie and show fairy tales symbol used in the movie. In this chapter, the researcher wants to analyze how the fairy tales revealed from the character through their actions and dialogue using semiotic theory.

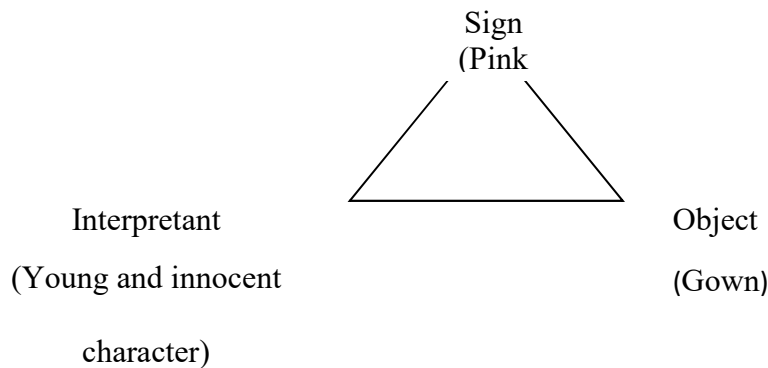
***Semiotic Analysis of Fairy Tales Symbols Reflected in Sharon Maguire Godmothered Movie***

***Pink Gown***

*Pink* represents femininity, love, sensitivity, and tenderness to gown that main character as the fairy student wearing which different to other fairy gown that wearing grey gown as they daily uniform. This is illustrated by Eleanor, one of main character that younger than the others and have a different sense of style.

AGNES: This is the story of Eleanor, She's the Motherland's youngest trainee, and the only person who's bothered apply in decades. All she wanted was to graduate, to be a real Fairy Godmother, to have her name in a book alongside the greats. *That's her in the pink*, without any pals.

(Sharon Maguire, *Godmothered* Movie Script: 2020)



The pink colour is a sign that represent to Eleanor gown as an object in this semiosis process. It indicates that Eleanor's pink gown gives information that Eleanor is a young and innocent fairy godmothering student which wearing pink gown instead of wearing grey gown like the other fairy student. Furthermore, the gown with pink colour that Eleanor's wearing gives information that Eleanor has a different character, young and innocent. It can be considered that Eleanor's character which is young and innocent is interpretant in this semiosis process.

***Little Pig***

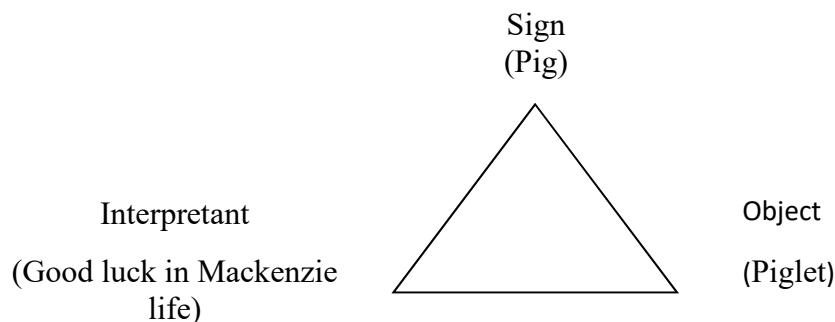
*Little pig* represent fertility, prosperity, and good luck. Pig's ability to reproduce at massive rates led to their symbolism of fertility and good luck.

According to Garth (Garth, July 4, 2021) in Native American, pig is related to bringer of rain that fertilize the earth. Rains connected to harvest and good crops that lead into good money. This is presented in Mackenzie's house, Eleanor bring in the little pig as a good luck for Mackenzie happily ever after life.

MACKENZIE : Oh (PIG GRUNTING)  
 Oh, my God, Bingo?  
 Bingo, is that you? (GASP)  
*You turned my dog into a pig?*

ELEANOR : Technically, he's a piglet  
 I was trying for a woodland creature to help out with all this house work, obviously, but then the spell got away from me

(Sharon Maguire, *Godmothered* Movie Script: 2020)



Pig is a sign that represent piglet as object in this semiosis process. It indicates that the piglet has characteristic the pig. Furthermore, piglet with its pig existence in Mackenzie house give information that it was good luck in Mackenzie life. It concluded good luck in Mackenzie life is interpretant in this semiosis process.

### ***Racoon Footmen***

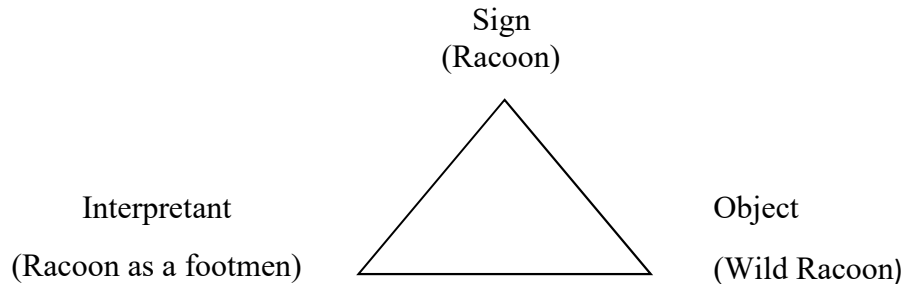
*Racoon* refers to animal that has manual dexterity according to Garth (Garth, July 4, 2021) in Native American, this explanation related to their habitat. Racoons love to hide in water their food, for example fish, frogs, included anything found in the shallow parts of river and lakes. The behaviour of food washing also seen in their existence. This is illustrated in the movie, Eleanor hiring a city based racoon to help Mackenzie with washing fruit, dishes and do the household works.

ELEANOR : There you are!  
 (CHITTER)  
 (GIRL SCREAM)  
*Oh, it's okay. He's just here to help with the housework*

MACKENZIE : Oh, right. Does he do laundry as well?

ELEANOR : I'd keep him away from your clothes (CHUCKLES)

*Racoon are best for light work. They are very good with brooms*  
 (Sharon Maguire, *Godmothered* Movie Script: 2020)



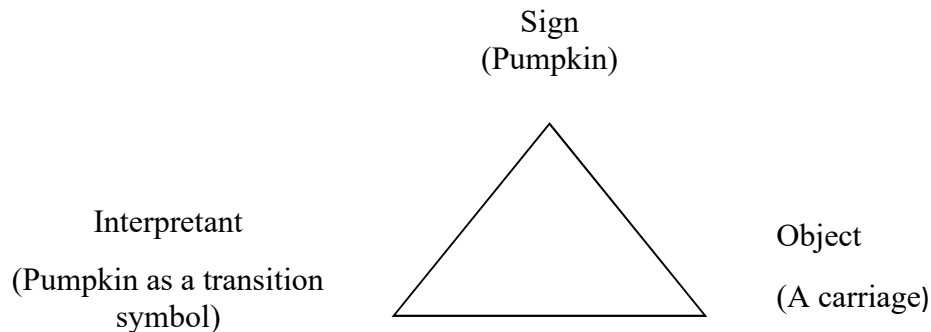
Racoon is a sign that refer to and represent wild racoon as an object in this semiosis process. It indicates only wild racoon that has characteristic such a racoon in this movie. Furthermore, wild racoon gives information that is racoon as a footmen. In concluded racoon as a footmen is interpretant in this semiosis process.

**A Pumpkin**

*A Pumpkin*, based on Cirlot in his *A Dictionary of Symbols* (1971:266), is the symbol for link between two worlds, the upper and lower, and therefore the cosmic phenomena that's night and day, life and death, sorrow and joy. From this definition, the researcher assumes that the pumpkin symbolize transition, according to Merriam Webster, transition is a change or shift from one state, subject, place, etc. to another. As in *Godmothered* movie Eleanor transformed the pumpkin into carriage to move from one place to another

PAULA : *Are you sure a pumpkin carriage is the fastest way back to the Motherland?*  
 ELEANOR : Yes, but...I'm never going to get it  
 PAULA : No worries  
           That was our last pumpkin, I've got an idea  
           Ta-da!  
 ELEANOR : That's not a pumpkin  
 PAULA : No, I know it's not a pumpkin. Good  
           Okay. You know what? Loosen up, rights  
 ELEANOR : All right  
 PAULA : You know, just really stay loose and don't think about the fact  
           that's a watermelon, not a pumpkin, and you might not have enough magic left to get home, and you might be stuck here forever

(Sharon Maguire, *Godmothered* Movie Script: 2020)



A pumpkin is a sign that represent a carriage as object in this semiosis process. It indicates only a carriage that has characteristic such a pumpkin in this movie. Furthermore, a carriage from pumpkin gives information that it was a transition symbol. It is concluded about the pumpkin as a transition symbol is interpretant in this semiosis process.

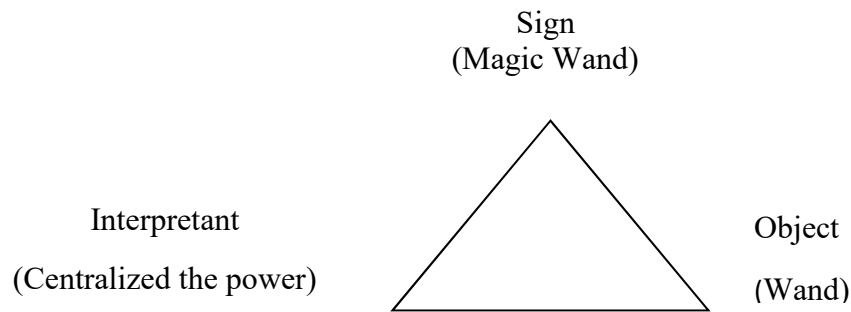
### ***Magic Wand***

Magic wand and is a sign that refer to and represent wand as an object in this semiosis process. It indicates only wand that has characteristic such a magic wand in this movie. Furthermore, wand with the type of magic wand give information that it was centralized the power. It can be concluded that centralized the power is interpretant in this semiosis process.

- MACKENZIE : Just back off, lady!
- ELEANOR : I know, what you're thinking, and it's true. Most Fairy Godmother are a lot older. If you can overlook my youth and your total lack of experience, you'll find I have a real can-do attitude that's gonna take us very, very far.
- MACKENZIE : I will call 911
- ELEANOR : *Oh, I'll show you*
- MACKENZIE : No. Please wait. No, please don't. I have kids
- ELEANOR : (SPEAKING LATIN)
- MACKENZIE : (EXCLAIMS) Huh? What just happened? (GASP AND GRUNTS)
- ELEANOR : I was trying for a ball gown, it's not my best work, but at least it is weather appropriate?
- MACKENZIE : Oh, my God, it's happening. I'm finally losing my mind
- ELEANOR : Don't be silly, this is magic?

(Sharon Maguire, *Godmothered* Movie Script: 2020)





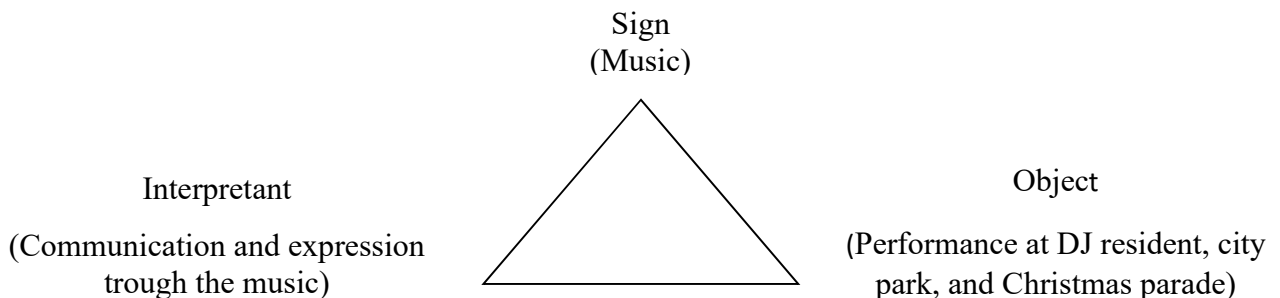
Magic wand and is a sign that refer to and represent wand as an object in this semiosis process. It indicates only wand that has characteristic such a magic wand in this movie. Furthermore, wand with the type of magic wand give information that it was centralized the power. It can be concluded that centralized the power is interpretant in this semiosis process.

**Music**

*Music*, based on Cirlot in his *A Dictionary of Symbols* (1947: 224) represent expression and communication. The instrument of music is an image from natural connection between all things, and at the same time connect the communication, spreading from inner relationship linked to all the things. This is illustrated by Agnes as a Motherland DJ that playing opera music to aware all the fairy student to get ready for school and learn to be a good fairy godmother.

ELEANOR	: Okay, I'm going to sing, and you're gonna back me up. All right? Trust me. When I start singing, nobody's gonna even notice you (PLAYS FLUTE) (PLAYING CHEERFUL TUNE) (SINGING) Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kitten~
MIA	: This is awesome
ELEANOR	: Bright copper kettles, and warm woollen mittens. Brown paper package tied up with strings (LAUGHTER)
MAN	: I'll pay you to stop
ELEANOR AND MIA	: There are a few of my favourite things. Cream colored ponies and crisp apple strudels.

(Sharon Maguire, *Godmothered* Movie Script: 2020)



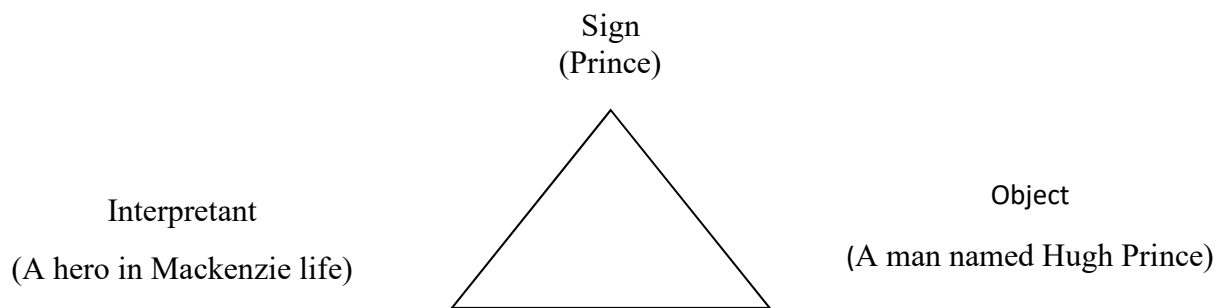
Music is the sign that refer to and represent performance at DJ resident, City Park, and Christmas parade as the object in this semiosis process. It indicates only performance at DJ resident, city park, and Christmas parade that has characteristic such a music in this movie. Furthermore, performance at DJ resident, city park, and Christmas parade in music type give information that it was a communication and expression trough the music. It can be concluded that the communication and expression trough the music is interpretant in this semiosis process.

**Prince**

*Prince*, based on Cirlot in his *A Dictionary of Symbols* (1947: 264) represent the son of king, Prince also known as a hero figures in a legend for his kindness and his intuition. This is illustrated in *Godmothered* movie, Hugh Prince is the Mackenzie friend's where they work together, but Eleanor think that Hugh Prince is a hero for Mackenzie, to make her happy ever after life comes true.

ELEANOR : Mackenzie! Where are you going?  
MACKENZIE : Home, before anybody else sees me  
ELEANOR : *What? No! Look at you! You look like a princess (OVER SPEAKER) and you are at the ball. Sort of and Duff and all the other peasant are here, and you even waltzed dance with the most handsome of all the princes. Hugh Prince!*  
MACKENZIE : Oh, I know it was you  
ELEANOR : and you said it at the hotel. You think he's charming and now he's noticing you. Isn't that what you wanted  
when you can just kiss and happily ever after?  
MACKENZIE : Because... (CHUCKLES)  
HUGH PRINCE : Happily ever after?  
ELEANOR : *Yes! You are her prince. Now, let get this done*  
MACKENZIE : No! Eleanor this isn't what I want

(Sharon Maguire, *Godmothered* Movie Script: 2020)



The prince is a sign that refer to and represent a man named Hugh Prince as the object in this semiosis process. It indicates only a man named Hugh Prince that has characteristic such a prince in this movie. Furthermore, a man named Hugh Prince that assumed as the prince give information that it was a hero in Mackenzie life. It can be concluded a hero in Mackenzie life is the interpretant in this semiosis process.

### **Clock**

*Clock* in basically to know the time, it also give a feeling of time pressure and reminder that time is a limited source that has to used wisely. Based on Cirlot in his *A Dictionary of Symbols* (1947: 50) clock represent as a time and has a predominant number symbols to tell the time left and the clock is related to notion of infinite motion. This is illustrated in *Godmothered* movie Agnes always reminds Eleanor trough pendulum clock to get faster in her assignment to make Mackenzie get her happily ever after life and save the motherland from tumbling apart, because there no more people believe in happily ever after.

ELEANOR : (SPEAKING LATIN)  
(WHRRING) (CLOCK CHIMING)

AGNES : Kid?

ELEANOR : (SCREAM) (BREATHING HEAVILY) Agnes?

AGNES : Hiya, kid, can you see me okay?

ELEANOR : Whoa! What is this?

AGNES : What? Haven't you ever heard of FaceTime?

ELEANOR : Oh Agnes...oh I missed you, oh! It's good to see you

AGNES : Well, I wish I could say the same, kid. But word on the quad is that Moira knows you're gone

ELEANOR : (GASP)

AGNES : Yeah, and if she finds out that you're doing an assignment, she'll go off her rocker

ELEANOR : Oh, no. She loves her rocker

AGNES : *You need to come home*

ELEANOR : Well, I can't. I'm not done yet

AGNES : Well, what's the holdup?

ELEANOR : Nothing. Mackenzie's not ten, for one thing. She's old, and she's got kids, and she says that people run off with "piratis".  
. She doesn't believe in happily ever after, Greta was right

AGNES : Sheesh!

ELEANOR : I know

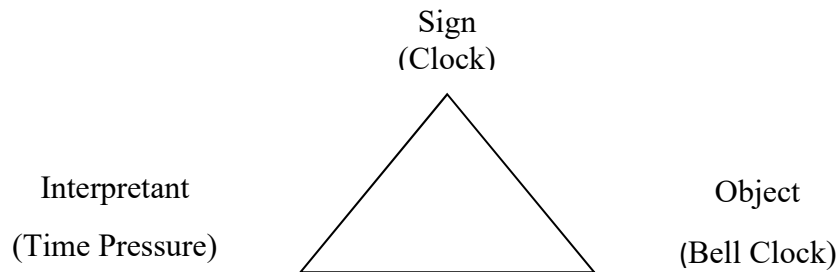
AGNES : Sounds like she doesn't even believe in "happy."

ELEANOR : Agnes, I gotta go, I think I just figured out what to do

AGNES : *Well, okay, kid, but do it fast. You only have four days left*

ELEANOR : Right. Fast. Bye!

(Sharon Maguire, *Godmothered* Movie Script: 2020)



Clock is a sign that refer to and represent bell clock as the object in this semiosis process. It indicates only bell clock that has characteristic of clock in this movie. Furthermore, bell clock with its type of clock give information that it was the time pressure. It can be concluded that time pressure is the interpretant in this semiosis process.

### Conclusion

In this analysis, the researcher shows the analysis of semiotic theory, it can be conclude that the meaning of the fairy tales signs can be analyzed by using triadic concept of Pierce's semiotic theory. The type of symbols are more than one, depend on the symbols category type. These meanings can be understood by the description of characters, settings, and some important scene in the movie and fairy tales symbols were affected to understanding the storyline of creating happily ever after life.

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