

**CHILDREN'S HOPE REFLECTED BY JACK FROST'S MOTIVATION TO
BE A TRUE GUARDIAN IN PETER RAMSEY'S FILM
*RISE OF THE GUARDIANS***

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Abstract: *This article has set a goal at finding semiotic elements of sign of motivation to become the true guardian experienced by Jack Frost as the main character described in film. In conducting the research, descriptive qualitative used to find semiotic aspect of Children Hope's Symbolized by Jack Frost Motivation to be A True Guardian. The approaches used by the researcher are divided into two to analyze the data. They are structural and semiotic approach. This research shows the plot of this film consist of exposition, rising actions, climax, falling action, and resolution. The setting in film is divided into settings of place and time. The Setting of the place is Frozen Pond Town. North Pole, Jamie's House. Tooth Palace, Warren, Pitch Lair. The setting of time is 300 years after Jack's revival, Snow day, Day/Noon, Evening, Night. Last is about signs that appear at Peter Ramsey's film Rise of the Guardians classified into Icon, index, symbol. The icons that show in the film are Jack's staff, The Globe of Belief, Jack's Gold Box, Nesting Doll, Oath Book/Guardians oath, Sandy's sand, and Pitch sand. The Index are Jack's first thing to remember after revival, freezing something, Good dream becoming Bad dream (Nightmare), North advice, Jack's sister voice, fixing staff, Denying, and Accepting oath. The symbols are Frozen Pond, G shaped Jack's staff, Recall memory, Man in the moonlight. Symbol of Recall memory becomes the result of Jack being motivated to become a true Guardian that has a correlation with analysis, structural aspects, and other semiotics aspects.*

Keywords: *semiotic; symbol; motivation; Peter Ramsey; Rise of the Guardians*

The film *Rise of the Guardians* directed by Peter Ramsey tells us about children's hope that can relate to our childhood memories. According to Merriam Webster, hope is (intransitive verb): to cherish a desire with anticipation/ to want something to happen or be true, other meaning (transitive verb): to desire with expectation of obtainment or fulfillment. We always want to be happy every day and our dreams come true when we grow up. We realized when we grew up, sometimes our hope was not happened like what we wished before. People want to keep their

happiness and dream in their hope. In their hope contains so many positive life achievements (goals) such as success in everything, spirit, happiness, dream, stand firm.

People need to achieve those goals. They will do everything until it happens. All they need is motivation for their mindset. Motivation is the act or process of giving someone a reason for doing something; the act or process of motivating someone (Merriam Webster). Without it, people can't achieve it and always stuck on their fear. When fear takes over their life, they will think if their life is useless and not important anymore.

Film *Rise of the Guardians* directed by Peter Ramsey from DreamWorks Animation is America fantasy 3D film based on serial book *Guardians of the Childhood* created by William Joyce. It was released in the United States of America on November 21, 2012. According to www.imdb.com, this film has 7.3/10 rates and also won 14 awards, nominated for 1 Golden Globe, and 31 nominations such as Best Animated Female, Best Edited Animated Feature Film, Character Animation in a Feature Production, Music in an Animated Feature Production, Production Design in an Animated Feature Production, Voice Acting in an Animated Feature Production, Editorial in an Animated Feature Production, and Best Animated Feature.

The story in the film *Rise of the Guardians* begins when winter comes and Jack Frost as the main character makes some trouble again. He thinks it is fun, but inside his heart he wants to know why people can't see him. The man in the moon choose him as The Guardians. The Guardians have different job to make children happy, always full of wonder, keeps their memory and dreams, and fulfill their hope. Nicholas St. North (Santa Clause/North) as Guardians of Wonder, he keeps children wonder become real and give good children toys. E. Aster Bunnymund (Bunny) as Guardians of Hope keeps Easter always appear because Easter represent new beginnings, new life, and hope come from it. Sanderson Mansnoozie (Sandman/Sandy) as Guardians of Dream keeps everyone have a good dream and give them a pleasant dream. Toothiana (Tooth) as Guardians of Memory keeps loose

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teeth which is containing a memory of children. The last chosen Guardian is Jack Frost who still seek what his reason being Guardian for children and still curious why people still can't see him. Suddenly boogeyman coming and tell to them if he wants to start a war. Jack Frost and another Guardians don't want the war happen and they try to do anything to stop Boogeyman worst plan ever. Because their power coming from children dream, fun, wonder, memories and hope.

Peter Ramsey's Film Rise of the Guardians as the best example for a person, who lost hope because they can't pass their struggles. According to Merriam Webster, the word struggle means to try very hard to do, achieve, or that causes problems. If someone can't pass their struggle, it can become a nightmare for their goals. Nightmare in their hope can dominate their life and makes them will do a bad thing because of their fear. In this film, every character is our reflection on real life to finish up our hope and make it happen. The example of every character in our life is: the four guardians are what we believe as hope, Pitch Black as our nightmare, Children as us, and Jack Frost as our effort to pass the struggle. The four guardians need help from Jack Frost to fight against Pitch Black and protect children. It is the same as us, if we want to make our hope come true, we need effort and must work hard to protect our hope from a nightmare (our fear).

According to <https://www.britannica.com/science/semiotics> Charles Sanders Peirce's seminal work in the field was anchored in pragmatism and logic. He defined a sign as "something which stands to somebody for something," and one of his major contributions to semiotics was the categorization of signs into three main types: (1) an icon, which resembles its referent (such as a road sign for falling rocks); (2) an index, which is associated with its referent (as the smoke is a sign of fire); and (3) a symbol, which is related to its referent only by convention (as with words or traffic signals). Peirce also demonstrated that a sign can never have a definite meaning because the meaning must be continuously qualified.

The researcher uses semiotics because a lot of signs appear in *Rise of the Guardians* film. In this film, every character is unreal, especially for The Guardians. They just imagination from a child that became real in this story, not only real but also, they are reflected from our experience in life when we were children. From the explanation, the researcher can input The Guardians as data into the sign that appears in this film and separate it into Icon, Index, and Symbol. The other example of a semiotic sign is a Gold box that can relate to an icon, index, and symbol. The icon is a Gold box. The index is Fixing staff. The Symbols is G shaped staff and has meaning if he is the true guardian to protect children from fear represented by Pitch. For that phenomenon, the researchers want to explain the signs that include an icon, index, and symbol as the reference of children's hope.

There are two important studies previously done based on the film *Rise of the Guardians*. Both focus on value in the film *Rise of The Guardians*. The first study was done by Ibnu Sina Irvany Setiawan from State Islamic Studies Institute (STAIN) who conducted a study entitled "An Analysis on Moral Values as Seen in "Rise Of The Guardians" Movie" in 2014. The second study was done by Dahlia Kartika Ariesta from Diponegoro University who conducted a study entitled "American Cultural Values Reflected in the Character of Jack Frost in *Rise of the Guardians* Movie" in 2017.

Those previous studies are different from the present study. Both researchers focused on the same keyword "value", but they have a different focus. The former focuses on American culture and the latter focuses on moral. While this present study discusses semiotic analysis in this article.

According to Peck (1986: 105), "Characters in literary work are not like real-life people for they have been specially created by authors. When authors create a character, they select some aspects of ordinary people. Develop some of those aspects whilst playing down others and put them together as they please, the result is not an ordinary person but a fictional character who only exists in the words of literary works."

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In literature, character is fiction person that appears in literary works. A character has an identity to show up for the readers/viewers as a literature fiction figure in literary works.

The setting is the essential materials that built and construct a story. Defining the term setting can be started at recognizing where and when the actions of the character occur. The basic definition of setting is the circumstances in which the actions of the story take place (Meyer, 1990: 107). In literature, the setting is the part of the structure. Setting in this research is divided into the settings of place, time, and social. Someplace, time, and social can have different effects on the main character and story. For example, a character named John fishing on the pond at the night. According to the example we get the setting of places at a pond, the setting of time at the night. How about the setting of social? It depends on John's life. If he does fish, we got his setting of social as middle-low/middle high. On the other side, if John does it as a hobby, he can have the high/low social setting. Thus, settings also depend on the culture created behind the story.

Nurgiyantoro (2005:124) explains conflicts can be categorized into two kinds, namely external and internal conflicts. External conflict is the conflict experienced by an actor to something out of her/himself. While the external conflict is divided into two categories such as social conflict and element conflict. Internal conflict happened between the actor and her/himself.

There are 3 kinds major conflicts happen in this film such as:

1. Person against person
Conflicts between one person to the other person
2. Person against self
A person has conflict with himself depend on situation
3. Person against group
Conflict from a person against group of people.

According to Peirce in Floyd Merrell (2005:31), a sign may be simple or complex. Peirce develops a typology of signs which is called three trichotomies of signs; first, according to the sign in itself is a simple quality, an actual existent, or a general law; secondly, according to the relation of the signs to its object which is consist of the signs that having some characters itself or in its relation to the interpret; thirdly, according to its interpret represents as a sign of possibility or a sign of fact. In this thesis, the researcher uses the second trichotomy because this thesis focuses on relation of the signs to the object. In the second trichotomy, a sign may be termed as an icon, symbol and index.

METHODS

The data for this study is Peter Ramsey's Film *Rise of the Guardians*. The researchers focuse on two literary elements. They are intrinsic elements and extrinsic elements. Intrinsic elements: main character traits, conflict, setting. Extrinsic elements in this film are analyzed using a semiotic approach to explain signs such as Icon, Index, and Symbol reflected by Jack Frost as the main character in the film. The researchers used fourth steps to collect the data. The first watching the film as the the data source. The second, collecting the data relate to the discussion which is divided into Structural elements and Semiotic aspect. The structural elements consist of character, conflict and setting. The semiotic aspect consist of signs which relate to icon, symbol and index. Third, the researcher classify the data based on the structural elements and semiotic aspects, and anlyze the data according to the main topic of the discussion. The approaches used here in analyzing the data are structural approach and semiotic approach. Fourth, After analyzing the data, then the researcher present the anayisis on the part of discussion based on the main topic of the discussion.

DISCUSSION

After analyzing the data we found that the main character traits, conflict, setting, and the sign of Jack Frost's motivation to be a true guardian in Peter Ramsey's film *Rise of the Guardians*

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The main character trait of Jack Frost in Peter Ramsey's Rise of the Guardians (Persistent)

According to Merriam Webster Persistent is the action or fact of persisting. Jack Frost is a persistent person. He always never gives up on what happened to him. He always tries to make people believe in him. When children have faith worthy on the Guardian, he makes sure if they will not upset and lost hope. How many times Black Pitch trap him, he always never easily gives up. On one scene, Pitch tries to offer him a world that filled up with ice and dark. It means Pitch wants to trap Jack to make them to be seen again, but he rejects it. Jack knows if Pitch plan is making more children fear them, and it making Pitch get more advantages in power. Jack knowing Pitch plan, he rather to save children happiness than give them to fear itself.

Pitch : "I thought this might happen. They never really believed in you. I was just trying to show you that. But I understand."

Jack Frost : "You don't understand anything!"

Pitch : "No? I don't know what it's like to be cast out? To not be believed in? To long for a family. All those years in the shadows I thought no one else knows what this feels like. But now I see I was wrong. We don't have to be alone, Jack. I believe in you. And I know children will, too."

Jack Frost : "In me?"

Pitch : "Yes! Look at what we can do. What goes together better than cold and dark? We can make them believe. We'll give them a world where everything, everything is..."

Jack Frost : "Pitch black?"

Pitch : "And Jack Frost, too. They'll believe in both of us."

Jack Frost : "No, they'll fear both of us. And that's not what I want. Now for the last time, leave me alone."

(Rise of the Guardians, 2012: 01:01:20,427 - 01:02:38,880)

Conflict Experienced by Jack Frost in Peter Ramsey's Film Rise of the Guardians

A. Jack Frost against himself (man against self)

Jack Frost revives as the same person but he has power and he doesn't have any memories about himself. Then he goes from a Frozen Pond to a town. When he reaches that town, many people can't see him, even they can pass through his body. He thinks if something is wrong happened with his body. Then he realizes if he is invisible

The following dialogues support the above description:

Jack Frost : "Hello. Hello."
"Good evening, ma'am. Ma'am?"
"Oh, uh, excuse me."
"Can you tell me where I am?"
"Hello?"

(Rise of the Guardians, 2012: 00:00:37-00:03:36)

B. Jack Frost against Pitch Black (person against person)

Jack Frost meet Pitch Black. At first, Jack just wants to save all fairies, but then Pitch Black calls his name and tries to make Jack fear his decision.

The following dialogue support the the above description:

Pitch Black : "Don't be afraid, Jack. I'm not gonna hurt you."
Jack Frost : "Afraid? I'm not afraid of you."
Pitch Black : "Maybe not. But you are afraid of something."
Jack Frost : " You think so, huh?"
Pitch Black : "I know so! It's the one thing I always know. People's greatest fears. Yours is that no one will ever believe in you."

(Rise of the Guardians, 2012: 00:56:07 - 00:56:28)

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Setting Described in Peter Ramsey's film Rise of the Guardians

A. Setting of Place (Frozen Pond)

The film starts when Jack as the main character explained as the revive person by a man in the moon at a frozen pond. In the frozen pond, it is shown that Jack appearance has changed into the Guardians. Also, at this place Jack show he has the power to control snow, cold wind, manipulate ice and freeze anything by using his staff.

B. Setting of Time (Night)

When night comes, Pitch first strategy is trying to change Sandy's power into his weapon Nightmare (Horse of Nightmare, Black sand Scythe, and Wave of Nightmare) to attack on The Guardians army. He applies his power on Cupcake's dream to change it as his army.

Semiotic Analysis on Children's Hope Symbolized by Jack Frost's Motivation to Be A True Guardian in Peter Ramsey's Film Rise of The Guardians

A. Icon of Jack's Gold Box

Gold Box/Tooth box is an item created by Tooth, she used it as a box to protecting children memories and their teeth. She collects it from the whole world along with her fairies. This box is unique and special for children whose teeth have been collected. The only key to open it is coming from the children who have those teeth, Tooth herself, and her fairies. This Golden Box contains the owner's greatest moment of their childhood memories. Tooth keeping it in her Palace. After Tooth and her fairies collect it, they will exchange loose teeth with a gift. The appearance of it is not literally a box, but it has a cylinder shape colored gold and has a flat surface used as a door for children to open it. Each side has a picture of the owner of the teeth.

Since this item holding memories of the owner, the researcher includes Jack's Gold Box as an icon. Because it has Jack's greatest memory with his childhood. On the film shows Jack is holding his Gold Box after his encounter with Pitch at his lair. Then they meet again after Jack feels tricked, Pitch tricked him again and Jack tosses to the crevice. This scene shows Jack open it to reveal his memory (as like direction from one of the Tooth fairy). After Jack opens it, he reveals his secret from his memory. From the explanation based on the story, Jack's Gold Box represents his greatest memory/the reason he revived.

B. Index (Jack's sister voice)

Jack's sister is a person that wants to invite Jack to plays on Frozen pond. She is younger than Jack. When they play on Frozen Pond something bad happens to them. The only one that saved from that accident is Jack's sister. Then when his sister sees him drowning, Jack's sister only screams out his name because of she can't do anything to save him. When Jack opens up his eyes, he can't remember everything about his sister. After 300 hundred years, Jack encounter the guardians that lead him to any event to help them save the children. There is something happen to Jack when he wants to put Jamie's sister to her bed. At the outside of the window, Jack could hear his sister calling his name. Jack for the first time isn't realized if it is her voice since Jack doesn't have any memories of his past. Without thinking twice, he follows it sounds and leads him to the entrance of Pitch lair, under the broken bed. After the event he encounters Pitch and found the truth behind this place, Jack gets his Gold Tooth box.

The following dialogue support the the above description:

Sister Voice : "Jack!"
Jack Frost : "That voice, I know that voice."
Sister Voice : "Jack! Jack! Jack!"
Jack Frost : "Don't worry, there's still time."
Sister Voice : "Jack?"
Jack Frost : "Baby Tooth, come on! I have to find out what that is. Shh! Keep it down! I'm gonna get you out of here just as soon as..."

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Sister Voice : "Jack? Jack!"

Jack Frost : "...as I can."

(Rise of the Guardians, 2012: 00:54:29,183 - 00:55:54,609)

Then on another event, he felt upset with himself because Pitch trap him, he tossed to crevice. When on crevice, he hears his sister sound, and Tooth's fairies lead Jack to open up his memory. He knows if its sound coming from his sister sound. When Jack realizes if he is the guardians of fun after save his sister, then he wants to help Jamie.

The following dialogue support the discussion

Jack Frost : "Hey."

Sister Voice : "Jack? Jack!"

(Rise of the Guardians, 2012: 01:04:21,399 - 01:04:37,132)

The scene when Jack cornered at town alley once again Jack hear his sister sound and remember if he can save his sister by using hopscotch trick. So, he does it at Jamie to make fun on him and drive out Jamie's fear. With this trick he can save children from their fear.

The following dialogue describe the discussion

Jamie : "Jack. I'm scared."

Sister Voice : "Jack. I'm scared."

Jack Frost : "I know, I know. But you're gonna be all right."

Jack Frost : "We're gonna have a little fun instead. That's it! That's my center!"

(Rise of the Guardians, 2012: 01:15:34,280 - 01:15:56,974)

From the explanation above, the researcher includes Jack's sister voice as index. Jack has problem with his lost memory, how to save children from nightmare, and how to defeat Pitch. then his sister sound leads him to find whatever he needs. its

index is special for the main character since its coming from his greatest memories of sacrificing himself to save his sister. the researcher found if this index is lead him to find way to resolving his problem that happen on him.

C. Symbol (Recall memory)

According to <https://human-memory.net/memory-recall-retrieval/>, Recall or retrieval of memory refers to the subsequent re-accessing of events or information from the past, which has been previously encoded and stored in the brain. In common parlance, it is known as remembering. During recall, the brain “replays” a pattern of neural activity that was originally generated in response to a particular event, echoing the brain’s perception of the real event. In fact, there is no real solid distinction between the act of remembering and the act of thinking.

Jack is a person who has been chosen by man in the moon to become guardian of fun. He has been chosen after incident he save his sister from drowning in the Frozen pond (correlation with another symbol). Then he is the only guardian that has been revived and doesn’t have any memory left in him. After 300 hundred years, he tried to search his reason to be there (on Jamie’s town). Since he doesn’t have memory and no one believe in him, he tried anything to make anyone realize him exist. On one scene he encounters with other guardians to make him officially guardians but he rejected it. He felt pissed off because man in the moon doesn’t want to directly told him the reason. Then when Tooth Palace has been attacked, he tried to help her. On another scene Tooth explain if Gold Box is containing memory, and everyone has greatest memory. She also said if before they become guardians, they are a person that directly chosen by man in the moon. Jack feels confuse because of he is the only one that doesn’t know his past memory like other guardians. Then he wants to help other guardians to get his past memory and reason why he has been chosen to become guardians.

Another scene shows Jack get trapped by Pitch on his lair, he gets his Gold Box but price he paid is he didn’t even know Pitch destroy all Easter Egg that cannot make

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to reach surface. Not to try throw it, Jack decide to hold it. Then when he encounters pitch once again to make decision, he decide to save Tooth's fairy. After event he toss, Tooth's fairy gives Jack direction to open up his Gold Box. When Jack open it, he got his greatest memory of his past and he decide to become guardians and save more children. The researcher include recall memory as Symbol since this event is important for Jack to found his center, his greatest memory, and man in the moon reason to revived him. This event also Jack's turning point from a person that feel don't qualified enough to become guardians, to become a person that must save more children to belief in guardians to protect them. Also, the researcher conclude Recall memory is Jack Frost motivation to become true guardians and save children whole world. Jack's sister also represents children hope that has struggle with Pitch that represent fear.

The following dialogue support the analysis of the figure above, it described below:

- Jack Frost : "Be careful. We will. It's okay. It's okay. Don't look down. Just look at me.
- Sister Voice : "Jack. I'm scared."
- Jack Frost : "I know. I know. But you're gonna be all right. You're not gonna fall in. We're gonna have a little fun instead!"
- Sister Voice : "No, we're not!"
- Jack Frost : "Would I trick you?"
- Sister Voice : "Yes! You always play tricks!"
- Jack Frost : "All right. Well, not this time. I promise, I promise. You're gonna be... You're gonna be fine. You have to believe in me. You want to play a game? We're gonna play hopscotch! Like we play every day. It's as easy as one... Whoa! Two. Three! All right. Now it's your turn."
- Jack Frost : "One... That's it, that's it. Two. Three! Whoa!"
- Sister Voice : "Jack!"
- Jack Frost : "Did you see... Did you see that? It was me! I had a family! I had a sister! I saved her! That's why you chose me. I'm a Guardian."

(Rise of the Guardians, 2012: 01:05:06,945 - 01:07:11,077)

CONCLUSION

General description of Jack Frost as the main character in Peter Ramsey's film *Rise of the Guardians* are Self-Doubt, Mischievous, Hesitant, Caring, Persistent, Generous. Jack Frost described as Self-Doubt person since he become invisible. Jack thinks if he must get children believe to make him can be seen, and he thinks if he is not qualified much to become part of Guardians. He also declines his oath since he doesn't like anything about Guardians thing. Jack Frost described as Mischievous person since he ruins Easter Sunday used his blizzard on 1968. And also, Jack make fun on Jamie and his friend by throwing snowball to Jamie and Cupcake (a girl who always looks grumpy). Then Jack intentionally make Jack ride his sled around town and lose his tooth. He wants to does it since he must get children belief in him to become seen again. Jack Frost described as Hesitant person since he became don't know anything about his past, he become hesitant to does something better or worst. Jack Frost described as Caring person since he knows how to taking care children. And also, he trains The Guardians to taking care children beside their busy time. Jack Frost described as Persistent person since he decides to protect children far from fear. Jack also represent fun and he doesn't want to make world full of cold and fear. Jack Frost described as Generous person since he always makes thing right and his decision isn't wrong at all. It can be seen when he gives advice to take back all Gold box and The Guardians accept his idea.

The conflict experienced by Jack Frost as the main character in Peter Ramsey's film *Rise of the Guardians* is internal conflict and external conflict. The Internal conflict is against himself. The external conflicts are Jack Frost against The Guardians, Jack Frost against North, Jack Frost against Bunny, Jack Frost against Pitch.

The setting described in Peter Ramsey's film *Rise of the Guardians* is a setting of places and setting of times. The setting of places is Frozen Pond, Town, North Pole, Jamie's House, Tooth Palace, Warren, Pitch Lair. The setting of times is 300 years after Jack's revival, Snow day, Day/Noon, Evening, Night.

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The film has contained semiotics such as icon, index, symbol. The icons that found in this film are Jack's staff, The Globe of Belief, Jack's Gold Box, Nesting Doll, Oath Book/Guardians oath, Sandy's sand and Pitch sand. The indexes that found in this film are Jack's first thing to remember after revival, freezing something, Good dream becoming Bad dream (Nightmare), North advice, Jack's sister voice, fixing staff, Denying and Accepting oath. The symbols that found in this film are Frozen Pond, G shaped Jack's staff, Recall memory, Man in the moon Light. From the explanation above, it can be seen that the icon, index, symbol has correlation. For example, Frozen Pond (symbol) is the place where Jack revives and his traits develop better. Many events happen here, and the most important for the main character, Jack Frost, is Recall memory. Recall memory (symbol) is an event where Jack opens up his Gold box (icon) it reveals where Jack's sister voice (index) comes from. In Jack's memory, he saves his sister using his staff (icon). From this event Jack reveals if he has family before and lives as a human. And also, this event motivates him so much to save other children because he is the Guardians of fun. It can be seen on Nesting doll he gets from North has an image of a Jack smile (icon).

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