SEMIOTIC ANALYSIS ON FOOD IN THE NOVEL LA CUCINA BY LILY PRIOR

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A Thesis
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of study

Food is the most important daily and basic needs for people in the world.¹ They need it as the necessities of life. It gives people energy to work and to play. It makes children grow and keeps young and adult bodies strong and healthy. Food is also needed to survive. A person will die if he goes for a long time without food. Those are the main function of food.

For thousands of year, people have known that nourishing food is necessary for healthy bodies and mind.² They eat healthy food which contains vitamin, protein, and carbohydrates for their healthy bodies. According to nutritionist the functions of food are for nourishing, fuelling the body, building bones, teeth and muscle.³ It is a proof that each part of body needs healthy food which contain vitamin, protein, carbohydrates to shape a strong bones, teeth, muscle, healthy eyes, skin, and smart brain. The main purpose is to make a good and healthy body.

Besides as the daily need, foods can also be a medicine for people who have illnesses. They can eat healthy food with natural ingredients such as vegetables, bean, fruits, milk, honey and other. Many advantages that is contained in a healthy foods for example, carrot contains vitamin A, it is needed for a good eye, and potato is good for diabetes because it contains less sugar.

More over food also reveals our social and cultural perspective. Food consumption habits are not simply tied to biological needs but also mark boundaries between social classes, geographic regions, nation, culture, gender, lifestyle stages, religions and occupations. Food also distinguishes ritual traditions, festivals, seasons and times of day. Food can identify social classes between poor and rich. The rich people, who are called high class, usually consume high class food, such as meat with good quality and contain many vitamin and protein. On the other hand, the poor people who are called low class in the social life only eat simple food such as rice, vegetable and some fish if they have enough money to buy it. But if they don’t have money they only eat rice and vegetable. Their foods do not contain many vitamin and protein so that’s why they are easier to get sick.

Besides being a social and cultural perspective, food is also used in literary work. It can be the idea for the author to make a fiction for example The Ritual of Dinner by Magaret Visser, In the Red Kitchen by Michele Roberts. Both novels use food as media to show love of mother to her daughter by process of making food or feeding them. Lily Prior’s La Cucina also uses food as the idea of the novel. In this novel, food is used by the main character as media to represent her emotion. Rosa describes all of her emotion in cooking, and creating new recipes every time she experiences emotional situation. She always busies herself in the kitchen cooking something for her family or her friends. Through the process of creating food and choosing the ingredients, Rosa expresses her happiness, sadness, restless, angry and unsettled. It is appropriate to analyze the food and its process as media for representing her emotion with semiotics. Therefore, the writer would like to do

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4 Ibid
research on the food and its process which related with the representing of the main character’s emotion.

**B. Focus of the Research**

Generally, in writing this research paper, the writer would like to limit the paper on the sign of food and its meaning which is related with the main character in the novel La Cucina by Lily Prior. As explained before, food does not only have meaning as a main necessity for healthy bodies as the first concept of food, beside it has a wider meaning. Therefore in this research, through the semiotics analysis it will be explained the signs of food and its meaning in the novel La Cucina by Lily Prior through denotation and connotation meaning.

**C. Research Question**

Based on the background of the study above, the questions will be discussed in this research are:

1. In relation to its main character, what kinds of food emerge dominantly in Lily Prior’s Novel “La Cucina”?
2. What do these kinds of food mean in relation to the emotion of the main character, Rosa Fiore?

**D. Significance of Study**

The study is to increase the study of literature especially in English letters and the writer hopes the reader know semiotic meaning of food and its function which relates with the main character, Rosa in the novel La Cucina by Lily Prior based on semiotics of Roland Barthes.

**E. Research of Methodology**
1. Method of the Research

The method that is used in this research is qualitative. In the study of literary work, qualitative research is used by the writer to explain all of the text of novel La Cucina by describing and analyzing the novel as the literary work.

2. Objective of the Research

Based on the research question above, the writer has objectives of the research as following:

a) To know the kinds of food that emerge in the novel La Cucina

b) To know the meaning of those kinds of food in relation to the emotion of the main character, Rosa Fiore.

3. Data Analysis

In this research which, the writer uses qualitative method, the writer classifies data in the novel and analysis the data that has been classified by the writer in qualitative description based on the relevant theories of semiotics approximately on the Roland Barthes’s theory.

4. Unit of Analysis

Analysis unit in this research is the novel La Cucina by Lily Prior printed by Black Swan edition 2000. This novel is published in the US by Collins, 2001

5. Time and place of the research

The research is accomplished in tenth semesters 2008 in English Letters Department, Adab and Humanities Faculty. This research has been done at UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta
A. Semiotics

Semiotics as a study of sign is rooted from structuralism proposed by Saussure as the father of modern Linguistic and the founder of semiotics which has given the inspiration to semiotic science. According to Saussure, the production of meaning depends on language because language is the system of sign, Language is one of the instruments to communicate, “La langue est un system de signes” 6

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Saussure, in the science of sign, divided the signs into two elements; **Significant or Signifier** and **Signifie or signified**. Words are not symbols which correspond to referent but signs made up two elements: a mark or signifier and a concept or signified. The signifier can be heard and seen every time and everywhere, for example the word or image of mobile phone such as Nokia, Motorola, and Sony Erickson and so on, it correlates with signified of the concept of electronic product for communication. The product or photograph of DVD, also correlates with the signified the concept of portable CD or DVD cassette, MP 4 or, MP 3.

Saussure argued that the relation between signifier and signified is arbitrary not naturally because the concept or signified to which what it is referred always change, based on history, different culture, different historical moment, etc. For example, as we know the culture in various countries is different, in Indonesia country, the concept of white always connects with holly or cleans. But according to India’s people white is always connected with “a Death”. The meaning of white concept changes because of different culture between Indonesia and India. It is the fact that the relation between signifier and signified is arbitrary.

Signifier and signified represent two fundamental levels of language. The term signifier refers to the concrete word of sound and the term signified, on the other hand relates to the concept or idea expressed by the sound or icon. In other word, the two levels of language are in a relationship reciprocal. Form and content cannot be separated.

The founder of semiotic called the science of sign as Semiology which means a science that studies the role of signs as part of social life. The founder of semiotic called the science of sign as Semiology which means a science that studies the role of signs as part of social life. Semiology of Saussure studies the sign in society, but Charles Sanders Pierce, the American Philosopher

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called the science of sign a Semiotics which means as a sign is something that stands for something else and is understood by someone or has a meaning for someone⁸. Both of Pierce and Saussure is the founder of what is now more generally known as “Semiotics”.

The term of semiotics is from the Greek “Semion” which means “sign”. So, semiotics is the study of sign and everything that relates to the sign, the way of function, its connection to other sign, its sender and its receiver.⁹ Every sign has reference that connects to what sign means.

Semiotics involves the study not only of what we refer to as “sign” in everyday speech, but also anything that stands for something else. It means that Semiotics is study how meaning is made and how reality is represented.

Semiotics concern with meaning making and representation in many forms, mostly in the form of “text” and “media”. For semiotician, a text is emerged by any medium or may be verbal or non-verbal or both.¹⁰ The text refers to message, which has been recorded. It means that the text is assemblage of sign, such as word, images, sounds or gesture.

B. Types of Semiotic

1. Semiotic of Pierce

Charles Sanders Pierce gives the definition of the semiotic as a sign is something else and is understood by someone or has a meaning for someone.¹¹ Pierce

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has stated that the signs are independent to influence somebody in some respect or capacity. Therefore signs have some characteristic to be called as a sign. Those are:

1. A sign must be viewed or seen to function as a sign.
2. A sign refers to the other which connects something. This is as representative.
3. A sign is as an interpretative.

According to Pierce, one of the forms of sign is word, while the object is something, which is referred by the sign. And the interpretant is the sign in the mind of someone about the object, which is referred by the sign. If those elements interact with someone mind, the meaning will appear which is represented by the sign. Those things can be explained with the theory of meaning triangle of Pierce, which consists of sign, object, and interpretant. In the meaning triangle, it will explain how the meaning is shown by the sign when the sign is used by the people in communication. The triangle diagram of Pierce shows like this:

![Meaning Triangle of Pierce](image)

The function of essential of the sign makes something efficiency based on the explanation about the semiotic of Pierce above. Usually semiotics of Pierce uses in the part of life, such as: painting, architecture, sociology, psychology, literature and communication in the society.

2. **Semiotic of Roland Barthes**
One of Saussure’s most powerful interpreters in semiotics is Roland Barthes. Roland Barthes was born on November 12, 1915 in the town of Cherbourg in the Normandy. He was the son of naval officer Louis Barthes, who was killed in a battle in the North Sea before he reached one year of his age. His mother raised him in the French city of Bayonne, the place where he received his first exposure to culture.

Barthes follows the concept of semiotics of Ferdinand de Saussure, the father of structuralism. He has stressed that semiotics is the study of linguistic meaning which uses the sign system that is the concept of sign “signifier and signified”. He makes the systematic model in analyzing the meaning of signs. He focused his concept in “Two Order of Signification”

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First Order                                   Second Order

Source: John Fiske, Introduction to Comunication Studies, 1990.pg.88 as quoted by
Drs. Alex Sobur, M.Si, in Analisis Text Media, 2004. pg.127

Here is the diagram of Roland Barthes’s concept “Two Order Signification”. This diagram explains that the first order or the first signification is rooted from the structure of Saussure signifier and signifie. It is the relationship between signifier and signified in the sign. It means that the first order or the first signification is the main or the true meaning of signs. For example, we have a concept “a yellow flag” in our
mind, so the concept as a signified is proven into a real shape or form that is a flag with a yellow color. In this case, Roland Barthes, the owner of this concept said that the first order or the first signification as *Denotation* which means the true meaning of sign or reality meaning such as the example above, that is the concept of a yellow flag, it refers to a flag with yellow color in reality.

The second order or the second signification is *Connotation*. Barthes relates the first order or the first signification with the culture or custom. It describes the interaction when the sign interacts to the emotion of reader and to the custom and culture value which create the connotation meaning. For example, a yellow flag in form, the true meaning of it is only a flag with a yellow color, and the meaning change when it is related with the culture of Indonesian people where they define it as a Death.

Normally, denotation means the use of language to mean what it says while connotation means the use of language to mean something other that what it said. For example, the word *Black*, besides contain meaning as one of the colors, it also associated for the western societies have with the concept of dark, devil, sinful, and dangerous. The denotation meaning of *Black* as one of the colors that known well as the neutral color which is suitable with all colors. The connotation meaning is the opposite with the true meaning, it relates with the custom of western societies which they say that *Black* is dark, devil, sinful, and dangerous.

A concept of “a yellow flag” in our mind, so it’s concept as a signifier and then we prove it into a real shape or form that is a flag with a yellow color, it’s a denotation means of the phrase *a yellow flag that is* a flag with a yellow color. But it has other meaning which said Connotation meaning. Connotation meaning of “a yellow flag” is a death, it is means that there is a death when there is a yellow flag.
In the semiotics approach, not only word and images but also object they can function as signifiers in the production of meaning. Clothes, for example have a simple physical function that is to cover the body and protect it from the weather. But clothes also have double meaning. They construct meaning and carry message. For examples, an evening dress and Jeans as the clothes means things to cover and protect body. The clothes themselves are signifiers. So, the meaning of the concept of clothes that is the functioned to cover and protect body is the signified. These clothes have double meaning, an evening dress may signify “elegance” with a bow tie and tails for man and beautiful long dress for girl, Jeans may signify “casualness” with certain kind of sweater in right time or shirt and casual shoes. The meaning of dress and jeans as materials to cover and protect body is called denotative meaning; while the other meaning for dress and jeans as elegance and casualness is called connotative meaning.

Another example is food. The main meaning of food is the necessity as basic need for our life to survive. But food also has another meaning, it can be looked from its function such as identify class and status. One of the food is steak; the main function of steak is as a basic need for human being but it has other function that is can be identified social classes between poor and rich people. Steak is identified to rich people because it is one of the high class of food, we are able to recognize it from the price which is expensive. There is no matter for rich people to buy it anytime but not for poor people, they will think twice because they have not enough money to buy it. Denotation meaning of steak is as a basic need for human being and connotation meaning is classify social status.

The sifting of denotative meaning to connotative meaning is influenced by culture. The connotative meanings for the color black, yellow flag, dress and jeans
and steak are resulted from the local culture where those signifiers exist. That’s why each signifier has many connotative meaning according to the culture’s influence.

In the level of connotative meaning, Barthes uses the new terminology for signifier, signified, and sign. The purpose is to differentiate between the terminology which is used by structuralism and semiotic. Barthes uses the terminology of form for signifier, concept for signified, signification for sign. Those three new terminologies have the same meaning with the three terminologies of structuralism. Further, this thesis uses the terminology of “form, concept, and signification.”

CHAPTER III
RESEARCH FINDING

A. Introduction.

La Cucina, a novel written by Lily Prior, tells story about food, love, and family. Rosa as the main character is the only girl in her family. She is described as someone who loves cooking, creating food, making new recipes and smart in choosing the ingredients of food. By cooking and creating food, she can get comfortable heart and
mind. Every time she experience tense emotion, she always spend her time in the kitchen cooking something.

Food is people’s main necessity of life. It needs for detaining hungry in the stomach. It gives people energy to work and to play. It gives nutrition for healthy body, makes children grow, keeps young and adult bodies strong and healthy; those are the meaning of food (denotation meaning). But in this novel, food does not detain hungry or gives energy and nutrition for body only; it gives satisfaction for the main character’s heart, Rosa Fiore. It has another meaning (connotation meaning) which related to the emotion of Rosa except the main meaning of food which is mentioned below.

In the novel La Cucina there is a symbolic relationship between food and emotion. Food becomes a form of the community of Rosa’s emotion. In this opportunity, Rosa experiences moments which makes her feeling uncertain even happy, sad, restless, angry even unsettled. She describes all of her emotion in cooking, and creating new recipes every time she experiences emotional situation.

**B. Data Description**

**Foods Emerge in the Novel**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Name of Food</th>
<th>Ingredients</th>
<th>Process</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. | **Formaggio all’ Argentiera** | *Cacciocavallo cheese*  
*Garlic*  
*wine vinegar*  
*rustic bread.* | Fried slices of caciocavallo cheese with garlic until it had just melted and then sprinkled with wine vinegar and fresh oregano before piling it onto a thick slice of rustic bread. |
2. **Torta di Ricota**  
- ricotta,  
- egg yolks  
- honey,  
- sugar,  
- lemon juice, and rind  

I beat the ricotta, egg yolks, honey, sugar, lemon juice, and rind into the almonds.

3. **Pasticcio di Sostanza**  
- plump corn fed chicken  
- parsley  
- some tomatoes  
- salt,  
- pepper  
- bay leaf  

I kneaded rich pastry dough and set it aside to relax. Then I took a plump corn fed chicken that I had hanging in my larder, and setting to eat, splitting the bones then I added parsley, some tomatoes, finely chopped salt, pepper and a good bay leaf. I returned the chicken pieces to the pot and left it to simmer.

4. **Capponata**  
- aubergines  
- onion  
- some tomatoes  

sliced and salted the aubergines and left them to disgorge their bitter juices. While waiting, I chopped onion and some tomatoes and celery on the old table.

5. **Sfincione**  
- yeast  
- the passata  
- onions.  
- olive oil.  

Add the yeast to the water, stir, and leave to foment until foam develops on the surface. Add the yeast to the flour and salt and olive oil. Knead until you are hot and sweaty: it is the only way to make really good dough, and there’s nothing
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Jams</td>
<td>berries and fruits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>I made jams and preserves of berries and fruits, which then lined the shelves on the walls in the cellar, each one labeled in my own hand and bearing the date of my agony.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Panelle</td>
<td>chickpea flour, water, some herbs, salt, pepper and corn oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Put the flour in a pan, and gradually stir in the water making sure there are no lumps. Season and add the herbs then cook until the mixture thickens. Remove from the heat and pour onto a cold surface trying to keep it rectangular.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
in shape and about as thick as finger. When cool cut into squares and keep fry until golden.

8. Pane Rimacinato
   wild thyme
   fragrant rosemary
I also kneaded bread and produced the finest pane ricimato, the most delicious cabbala and focaccia that had ever been tasted in the region. Sometimes I would add wild thyme to the dough, or fragrant rosemary.

C. Analysis

In this research, the writer analyzes food according to the emotion of Rosa: happy, sad, restless, angry and unsettled. The data is put from the novel La Cucina which has been collected by the writer. It is analyzed according to semiotic. The writer uses the theory of meaning “Two Order Signification” introduced by Roland Barthes. It consists of signifier and signified. The relationship meaning of “Two Order Signification” showed like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Order</th>
<th>Second Order</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denotation</td>
<td>Signification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signifier</td>
<td>Signified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Myth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Connotation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Emotions:
1. Happy

A food which emerges when Rosa feels happy is Caponata and kind of fruits showed the feeling of Rosa when she was happy is strawberries, cherries, oranges, and lemons. Both food and fruits indicate the expression of Rosa’s emotion

Caponata is one of the food’s names. It is a delicious food made from aubergines which are lost their bitter then mix with onion and tomatoes I sliced and salted the aubergines and left them to disgorge their bitter juices. While waiting, I chopped onion and some tomatoes and celery on the old table (p.225). Caponata defines Rosa’s feeling “happy” it shows what Rosa feels after coming to Bortolomeo’s grave. She feels glad because she has confided in Bortolomeo. I felt glad I had confided in Bortolomeo. I was pleased at the symmetry: I had told L’inglese about Bortolomeo, and now I had told Bortolomeo about L’inglese. (p. 225)

The happy feeling as a concept is expressed in a form of making Caponata. The process of making the food, by disgorging the aubergines’s bitter taste to make it delicious, expresses Rosa’s emotion. Its bitter taste indicates her miserable feeling. The process of making the Caponata and the setting of time where the activity happens give another meaning that disgorging the bitter taste of aubergines to become delicious means that she leaves her miserable feeling to become happy by telling all of troubles that happened at Bortolomeo’s grave.

Caponata now has a new signification as a way to express her happiness. Beside of food, the fruits (Strawberries, cherries, oranges, and lemons) are also showing her happiness.

Strawberries, cherries, oranges, and lemons are the fruits which is needed by people, it needed for espouses our healthy body beside consume healthy food. Fruits contain many vitamin which useful for healthy and gives fresh for our body. The
fruits are conveying the emotion of Rosa “happy” while she goes to the market with her love, L’inglese. She feels happy because there are someone companies her while shopping to buy something and carries her shopping that she has never had it before and it makes her special and fresh. *I had never had a man to carry my shopping before; it made me feel special.*

Strawberries, cherries, oranges, and lemons are the fresh fruits; they show their taste and the colors of food as a form. The taste of sweet and sour which contain in that food make all people who eat it become fresh and the colors of food (red, oranges, and yellow) are the bright colors. The taste and colors are conveying the emotion of Rosa, taste of food shows that Rosa feels fresh and the colors of food shows the happiness and cheerfulness of Rosa’s feeling because she feels the moment that she never had it before.

A form that emerges from *Caponata* is the process of making food and a form of the fruits (*Strawberries, cherries, oranges, and lemons*) is taste and colors of food. The concept of making *Caponata* and buying the fresh fruits in Rosa’s mind is the concept.

So, the second order or the second signification is connotation. In this case, the writer relates the first order or the first signification with the emotion of the main character, Rosa Fiore. It describes the interaction between food and the emotion of Rosa Fiore which creates the connotation meaning that is happiness, cheerfulness, and fresh.

2. Sad or Grief
Sfincione, Pane Rimacinato, Panelle, and Preserving berries and fruits are the foods which emerges when Rosa feels sad or grief. Those foods express the emotion of the main character, Rosa Fiore.

*Sfincione* is a version of pizza; it is the recipe of Rosa’s mother. It made from caciocavalllo cheese, anchovy fillets, passata, onions, breadcrumbs, sea salt, flour, yeast, lukewarm water, and good olive oil. Such as the quotation bellow:

Add the yeast to the water, stir, and leave to foment until foam develops on the surface. Add the yeast to the flour and salt and olive oil. Knead until you are hot and sweaty: it is the only way to make really good dough, and there’s nothing like it for soothing your nerves. Knead and knead and knead. When you are sure you have kneaded well enough, shape the dough to fit a rectangular oiled baking tray. Scatter the caciocavallo and the anchovies on the top and press them into the dough, then cover with the passata and onions. (p. 195-196)

Rosa makes this dish at the time of Rosa’s birth. Rosa herself made this dish to soothe her after the shock of L’Inglese’s sudden disappearance whereas she just feels happy after making love and spending a whole day with him a day after. She has looks for him all of the room in his villa, waits for him whole day but she gets him nothing. He doesn’t come anymore, he has disappearance.

She feels sad and anger with this happened. She lost her lover for twice, Bortolomeo and L’Inglese. She would never see him anymore, finally she left the villa and she would never see it anymore too. She knows instinctively that the phase of her life was over. She mourns the loss of Bortolomeo, she mourns the loss of L’Inglese, and she also mourns the loss of her self. Finally, she comes to the kitchen, the place where she can expresses and disgorges all of her emotion and feeling by making food.

A form of *Sfincone* is the process of making it food (kneading and thumping the dough). She kneads and thumps hardly with the big power expressing her feeling in order to her sadness and anger diminished. It is proved by the quotation below:
Then I kneaded. Oh, how kneading still had the power to soothe my soul like nothing else could. Thump, thump, thump, thump. Pound, pound, pound. Pulse at the temples, sweat beading down the spine. How good this felt. I continued pounding at the dough for a long, long time, until I felt weak and my anger had, temporarily, diminished (p. 196)

The quotation above explains the emotion of Rosa. Rosa feels sad or grief because the troubles occurred in her life. She expresses her emotion by kneading, thumping, and pounding the dough. Those process need the hard power, Rosa does those process as the expression of her sadness, anger, and disappoint feeling.

Process of making the food is three times, first makes the dough of *Sfincione*, second makes the first topping, and third makes the last topping. It indicates to Rosa’s feeling. Not only a disappearance of L’Inglese the cause of her sad and anger, but also mourn of losing her first lover, Bortolomeo and her self as the cause of her emotion. Besides the process of making the food, Rosa’s feeling also seems from the ingredient which is containing the food, onions. It indicates her sadness, she feels good and able to cry by it vapor. Crying is the way for girl to loose her grief as what have been said by quotation as follow: *It felt good to cry with the onion vapors; they lent legitimacy to my outpourings of grief.* (129)

*Pane Rimacinato* is another food which defines Rosa’s emotion, sad or grief. *Pane Rimacinato* is kind of bread, the most delicious ciabbata and foccacia that had ever been tasted in the region. *I also kneaded bread and produced the finest pane ricimato, the most delicious cabbala and focaccia that had ever been tasted in the region. Sometimes I would ad wild thyme to the dough, or fragrant rosemary.* (p. 43) It function as a dish which needed by people.

Rosa expresses her emotion by kneading dough of *Pane Rimacinato* as the process. She kneads hardly and disgorges her feeling into dough until become relax and so her feeling. Kneading with the big power is able to soothe her mind then she
feels calm. *Oh, how kneading still had the power to soothe my soul like nothing else could* (p. 129). Rosa’s emotion also seems from the ingredient which contain in the food, fragrant rosemary. It gives the essence of smell and makes the food smells good, gives her composure for her mind and her soul while facing her problem. The process of making *Pane Rimacinato* and it ingredient as a form of food

"Panelle" is delicious chickpea fritters made by Rosa when her Nonno died. She expresses her sadness into making food then she is able to be calm and relax.

The process of making food and its ingredient indicates into Rosa’s emotion. Herb as the ingredient with the bitter taste indicates into the problem that she has, problem which makes her sad and bitter as the taste indicates that she feels unhappy, she doesn’t have any joy in her life. Stirring the ingredient gradually and slowly as the process of making food indicates that Rosa expresses her emotion by making a food. When people feel sad, they will do their activity slowly and so Rosa. She stirs the ingredient gradually and slowly, it is the expression of Rosa emotion. She disgorges all of her feeling into the food.

*Berries and fruits* are fresh food will make the people fresh because they are very delicious. But it defines sadness or grief for Rosa. It shows the sorrow for Rosa that happened in her life. In this novel, preservation of berries and fruits describe her agony in her life, many sorrow happen in her life, whether from her family or her love. *I made jams and preserves of berries and fruits, which then lined the shelves on the walls in the cellar, each one labeled in my own hand and bearing the date of my agony* (p. 46).

Her emotion can be seen from the process of preserving berries and fruits. Process of preserving berries and fruits needs a long time in order to get maximal result. The time to preserve describes her agony, her suffering which makes her sad. She has lost
two persons that she loves them very much. Rosa expresses her emotion by preserving berries and fruits, it indicates her feeling (sad or grief).

So, the form which emerges from those foods (*Sfincione, Pane Rimacinato, Panelle, and Preserving berries and fruits*) is the process of making food and the ingredient of food itself. The concept of its process and the ingredients which contain in those foods is the concept.

Connotation is the second order or the second signification. In this case, the writer relates the first order or the first signification with the emotion of the main character, Rosa Fiore. It describes the interaction between food and the emotion of Rosa Fiore through the form of those foods which creates the connotation meaning that is “sadness or grief”

3. Anger

The expression of Rosa’s emotion is not only showed by process of making food, the ingredients which contain in that food, the taste, aroma, or the result of food itself but it can be showed by another way. In this case, Rosa Fiore expresses her emotion “anger” by slaughtering the pig. *I slaughtered the pigs, even my pet, Miele, which looked up at me with tiny, doleful eyes, clearly doubting that I had it in me to end his life with my cleaver. (p. 46)*

The process of slaughtering the pig while Rosa makes food relate to her feeling. One of them is when she slaughters the pig, even her pet. She slaughters the pig with her anger, expresses her anger because of the agony that she feels. She likes a killer, for example she collects blood of the pig to make a sausage, sadism event. *I slit the throat of each pig and collected the blood in buckets to make into sausages. (p. 46)*

The anger feeling as a concept is expressed by slaughtering the food. The form that emerges from slaughtering the pig is the process how to slaughter that pig (killing
and collecting the blood). Killing the animal is coded with the attributes of virility, aggression and power which are symbolized as masculine. Working with dead animal is indicating into masculine relating to the strength, blood, brutality and death.

For a woman, blood is not a symbol of a wound and it is a marker of sexual differences, inspiring loathing and fear, but also pleasure and desire. Blood and feminist have a linkage, through blood produced childbirth and it is associated with women’s bodies. Therefore, feminism’s meaning of blood is motherhood and giving of life, whereas the masculine meaning of blood is strongly linked with the violence and death.

Rosa collects the blood indicates that Rosa expresses her anger, inspiring her loathing to the condition Rosa seems like a killer, collecting a blood without has any fear in her self. Feminism’s meaning of blood in her self is lost and it was changed with the masculine meaning that is violence and death which was in her self. Rosa expresses her anger by slaughtering the pig (her pet) and other animal with the same way.

The denotation meaning of slaughtering the pig as the first order or the first signification of Roland Barthes’s theory is cut its neck and makes it died. And the connotation meaning is related to her emotion that expresses her anger after happening to the sorrow in her life. It pleased her, and makes her calm. It is also as the function of the process of slaughtering the pig which relate to Rosa’s emotion.

4. Restless

*Formagio all’ Argentiera and Frittedda* are the foods that emerge when Rosa feels restless. *Formagio all’ Argentiera* is a delicious food made of caciocavallo cheese with garlic. It was fried until melted and sprinkled the wine vinegar then it
was piled onto the slice of bread. *Fried slices of caciocavallo cheese with garlic until it had just melted and then sprinkled with wine vinegar and fresh oregano before piling it onto a thick slice of rustic bread.* (P.98)

It defines Rosa’s feeling in restless, it show what Rosa feeling after meeting the man in the library, L’inglise. She got difficulty to sleep because of thinking the man in the library. *The night I found it difficult to sleep, which was, for me, most unusual.*

At three I as in my little kitchen preparing a dish of Formaggio all’Argentiera. She always thinks of him and immediately she goes to the kitchen and makes *Formaggio all’Argentiera*, she makes all of people in her apartment smell this aroma and wake their wife up from sleep to make it as the request of their husband. And the *Frittedda* is too.

*Frittedda* is a dish as a food that is needed for people. A shape of real *Frittedda* is a form and the concept is the emotion of Rosa (restless). A combination between form and concept is a connotation meaning. It is related to Rosa’s emotion that she feels restless because of feeling guilty after making a sin which has said to the priest by her “Father, forgive me, for I have sinned” (p.66). She feels shame and awareness because of this case.

The form of *Formaggio all’Argentiera* is the aroma of that food. Her feeling seems from the aroma of the food that she makes. It makes people restless by smelling its aroma. It disturbs them and makes them awaken from the sleep then follow her to make that food.

The form of *Frittedda* is the result of food itself. Rosa’s feeling seems from the result of her cooking, when she makes *Frittedda*. The result is bad, it doesn’t give her comfort for her self. It indicates that there is something wrong with her feeling and it is true that Rosa feels restless, her emotion which can not make her calm. Rosa
expresses her emotion by making food and the result is not delicious as the quotation bellow: *I could not quite quell of unease, and even the comport of preparing a dish of frittedda could not calm me. Something was very wrong if my food could not comport me.* (p. 67)

The connotation meaning of those foods define Rosa’s emotion (restless) with the different reason. *Formagio all’ Argentiera* shows that Rosa feels restless because she always thinks about her first meeting with L’Inglese in the library, and *Frittedda* shows the reason because of the sin that she has.

5. Unsettled

*Torta di Ricotta and Pasticcio di Sostanza* is the food which emerges when Rosa feels unsettled. *Torta di Ricotta* is a kind of food made of (ricotta, egg yolks, honey, sugar, lemon juice, and rind into the almonds) *I beat the ricotta, egg yolks, honey, sugar, lemon juice, and rind into the almonds.* (p.123)

It has meaning as basic need for people; however it has another meaning that indicate into Rosa’s feeling. She feels unsettled because of the man whom she met in the library at Palermo. After speaking with the man (L’ Inglese) she felt that she was followed by him. She kept looking over her shoulder but she got nothing, it made her shock as what she said bellow: *I had almost shocked my self; it was as though someone else, someone bold and unafraid, had been acting for me.* (p.123)

The form of *Torta di Ricotta* is the process of making the food (beating the dough). Rosa’s emotion or Rosa’s feeling can be seen from the process of making *Torta di Ricotta*. Beating the dough and mix all of the ingredients in the dough indicate to Rosa’s feeling in her heart, she feels afraid of him but she always thinks of him, she can not think for seeing him yet anymore. It is the reason why her feeling has
being unsettled. She beats and beats and beats hardly until the dough become relax and warmth as her feeling. Cooking and making the food makes her calm and then she can continue to sleep. So, Rosa’s emotion indicates the connotation meaning of Torta di Ricotta, unsettled.

The other food is Pasticcio di Sostanza. It is a delicious food or dish made of set it aside to relax. Then I took a plump corn fed chicken that I had hanging in my larder, and setting t to eat, splitting the bones then I added parsley, some tomatoes, finely chopped salt, pepper and a good bay leaf. I returned the chicken pieces to the pot and left it to simmer. (p.153)

Pasticcio di Sostanza is made by Rosa when she felt shocked because she got letter which informed her that her mother has shouted her step father, Antonio Calabruse after discovering him with the dairymaid, Bilbina Burcondofara in one place. Whereas, she felt happy and spent a whole day with her love (L’Inglese)

Rosa has been informed by her mother about her relationship with L’Inglese. Her mother asks her to stop her relationship with him. Those cases make her shocked because it comes suddenly. She feels unsettled and doesn’t know what she must do. Finally she comes to the kitchen and disgorges her feeling by making food.

The form of Pasticcio di Sostanza is the process of making food (kneading the dough) Kneading the dough hardly, expresses her emotion into the process of making food. The dough becomes relax and it indicates her feeling that she has relax and calm, the problem in her mind has been lessen although she must be had it more. Therefore, she makes Pasticcio di Sostanza; it gives her calm and enough time to consider the fact. The delicious Pasticcio di Sostanza was sufficiently complicated to give me enough time to consider the facts. So, denotation meaning of Pasticcio di
Sostanza a dish or food which gives her calm and relax. Its connotation meaning indicates Rosa’s feeling, unsettled.

So, the concept that emerges in those foods is Rosa’s emotion (unsettled), and the form is the process of making food itself (beating and kneading the dough). The main meaning of food is the basic daily need for people; it functions as the necessities of life, detaining hungry when it attacks to the stomach. But food has another meaning and function when it is related to the emotion. There is a symbolic relation between food and emotion. In this novel food describes the main character’s emotion when happy, sad or grief, angry, restless, and unsettled.

CHAPTER IV
CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

After analyzing the main findings, the writer is able to draw a conclusion. La Cucina is a novel written by Lily Prior, tells about food, love and family.
In this novel Lily Prior describes the interaction between food and emotion of the main character, Rosa Fiore. There is symbolic relationship between food and emotion which produce another meaning of food besides the main meaning of food itself.

Food is the important and basic daily need for people in the world; it is the necessities of life. It detains hungry in the stomach, gives people energy to work and to play. It makes children grow and keep young and adult bodies strong and healthy. Food is also needed to survive. A person would die if he goes for a long time without food. Those are the main meaning of food.

Besides as the main daily need for people and necessities for life, food also has another meaning. It can be a medicine, it gives its advantage for people who get the illnesses. Moreover food also reveals our social and cultural perspective. It consumption habits are not simply tied to biological needs but also mark boundaries such as between social classes, geographic regions, nation, and culture. Food can identify social classes between poor and rich.

According to Rosa, food is not only as the main necessity for people, detaining hungry in stomach, energy to work and to play, nutrition for healthy body which make children grow and keep young and adult bodies strong and healthy or as a medicine for the sick people but food also can be a media to express all of feeling and emotion with cooking. Rosa is not only serves her family but she also disgorges her emotion. To conclude, this novel uses food to express feeling and emotion of the main character. It means food is not only detaining hunger, but can also be used to detain emotion.

B. Suggestion

For understanding the meaning of food in Lily Prior’s Novel “La Cucina”, the reader needs to know about denotation and connotation through semiotic of Roland
Barthes. It gives the writer ease to know the wider meaning of food in the novel La Cucina.

The writer suggests that those who are interested in doing the same research particularly concerning about semiotic and literary work to read more various theory in order to get wider knowledge and deep analysis. Finally, the writer hopes the other to analyze more comprehensively using several theories of semiotic.
DEPARTEMENT OF ENGLISH LETTERS
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JAKARTA
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LEGALIZATION

The thesis entitled “Semiotics Analysis on Food in the Novel La Cucina By Lily Prior“ has been defended before the Letters and Humanities Faculty’s Examination Committee on March, 26 2008. The thesis has already been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Strata One.

Jakarta, Juni 2008

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this submission is my own work and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains no material previously published or written by another person nor material which to a substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma of the university or other institute of higher learning, except where due acknowledgement has been made in the text.

Jakarta, March 12, 2008

Ika Rosnawati
PREFACE

In the name of Allah the Beneficent, the Merciful
May peace and blessing of Allah be upon all of us

All praise be to Allah, The Lord of the Universe, who gives the writer
guidance and strength, so she could finish this paper. Peace and blessing be upon the
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Finally, the writer wishes this paper would be useful, particularly for her and for those who are interested in it.

Jakarta, March 12, 2008

The Writer

References


Pedoman Penulisan Skripsi, UIN Jakarta Press


**WEBSITE**


This research analysis Lily Prior’s novel entitled “La Cucina”. Here the writer studied the novel as the unit analysis. Semiotic of Roland Barthes is used as theoretical framework of the research. The method of the research is descriptive qualitative, which tries to explain the data of foods in the novel *La Cucina* by Lily Prior through semiotic by reading and analyzing the novel.

The research is aimed at finding out the connotation meaning of foods based on semiotic of Roland Barthes and its meaning which related to the emotion of the main character, Rosa Fiore. From this research, it was known that food is not only as the main necessity or basic need for people. In Rosa’s life, food has another meaning, it conveys the emotion of Rosa. Food is the expression of Rosa’s emotion.

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A. Background of study

Food is the most important daily and basic needs for people in the world. They need it as the necessities of life. It gives people energy to work and to play. It makes children grow and keeps young and adult bodies strong and healthy. Food is also needed to survive. A person will die if he goes for a long time without food. Those are the main function of food.

For thousands of year, people have known that nourishing food is necessary for healthy bodies and mind. They eat healthy food which contains vitamin, protein, and carbohydrates for their healthy bodies. According to nutritionist the functions of food are for nourishing, fuelling the body, building bones, teeth and muscle. It is a proof that each part of body needs healthy food which contain vitamin, protein, carbohydrates to shape a strong bones, teeth, muscle, healthy eyes, skin, and smart brain. The main purpose is to make a good and healthy body.

Besides as the daily need, foods can also be a medicine for people who have illnesses. They can eat healthy food with natural ingredients such as vegetables, bean, fruits, milk, honey and other. Many advantages that is contained in a healthy foods for example, carrot contains vitamin A, it is needed for a good eye, and potato is good for diabetes because it contains less sugar.

More over food also reveals our social and cultural perspective. Food consumption habits are not simply tied to biological needs but also mark boundaries

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between social classes, geographic regions, nation, culture, gender, lifestyle stages, religions and occupations. Food also distinguishes ritual traditions, festivals, seasons and times of day. Food can identify social classes between poor and rich. The rich people, who are called high class, usually consume high class food, such as meat with good quality and contain many vitamin and protein. On the other hand, the poor people who are called low class in the social life only eat simple food such as rise, vegetable and some fish if they have enough money to buy it. But if they don’t have money they only eat rice and vegetable. Their foods do not contain many vitamin and protein so that’s why they are easier to get sick.

Besides being a social and cultural perspective, food is also used in literary work. It can be the idea for the author to make a fiction for example *The Ritual of Dinner* by Magaret Visser, *In the Red Kitchen* by Michele Roberts. Both novels use food as media to show love of mother to her daughter by process of making food or feeding them. Lily Prior’s *La Cucina* also uses food as the idea of the novel. In this novel, food is used by the main character as media to represent her emotion. Rosa describes all of her emotion in cooking, and creating new recipes every time she experiences emotional situation. She always busies herself in the kitchen cooking something for her family or her friends. Through the process of creating food and choosing the ingredients, Rosa expresses her happiness, sadness, restless, angry and unsettled. It is appropriate to analyze the food and its process as media for representing her emotion with semiotics. Therefore, the writer would like to do research on the food and its process which related with the representing of the main character’s emotion.

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15 Ibid
B. Focus of the Research

Generally, in writing this research paper, the writer would like to limit the paper on the sign of food and its meaning which is related with the main character in the novel La Cucina by Lily Prior. As explained before, food does not only have meaning as a main necessity for healthy bodies as the first concept of food, beside it has a wider meaning. Therefore in this research, through the semiotics analysis it will be explained the signs of food and its meaning in the novel La Cucina by Lily Prior through denotation and connotation meaning.

C. Research Question

Based on the background of the study above, the questions will be discussed in this research are:

4. In relation to its main character, what kinds of food emerge dominantly in Lily Prior’s Novel “La Cucina”?
5. What do these kinds of food mean in relation to the emotion of the main character, Rosa Fiore?

D. Significance of Study

The study is to increase the study of literature especially in English letters and the writer hopes the reader know semiotic meaning of food and its function which relates with the main character, Rosa in the novel La Cucina by Lily Prior based on semiotics of Roland Barthes.

E. Research of Methodology

1. Method of the Research
The method that is used in this research is qualitative. In the study of literary work, qualitative research is used by the writer to explain all of the text of novel La Cucina by describing and analyzing the novel as the literary work.

2. Objective of the Research

Based on the research question above, the writer has objectives of the research as following:

  c) To know the kinds of food that emerge in the novel La Cucina
  d) To know the meaning of those kinds of food in relation to the emotion of the main character, Rosa Fiore.

6. Data Analysis

In this research which, the writer uses qualitative method, the writer classifies data in the novel and analysis the data that has been classified by the writer in qualitative description based on the relevant theories of semiotics approximately on the Roland Barthes’s theory.

4. Unit of Analysis

Analysis unit in this research is the novel La Cucina by Lily Prior printed by Black Swan edition 2000. This novel is published in the US by Collins, 2001

6. Time and place of the research

The research is accomplished in tenth semesters 2008 in English Letters Department, Adab and Humanities Faculty. This research has been done at UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta
CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

A. Semiotics

Semiotics as a study of sign is rooted from structuralism proposed by Saussure as the father of modern Linguistic and the founder of semiotics which has given the inspiration to semiotic science. According to Saussure, the production of meaning depends on language because *language is the system of sign*, Language is one of the instruments to communicate, “La langue est un system de signes” 17.

Saussure, in the science of sign, divided the signs into two elements; Significant or Signifier and Signifie or signified. Words are not symbols which correspond to referent but signs made up two elements: a mark or signifier and a concept or signified. The signifier can be heard and seen every time and everywhere, for example the word or image of mobile phone such as Nokia, Motorola, and Sony Erickson and so on, it correlates with signified of the concept of electronic product for communication. The product or photograph of DVD, also correlates with the signified the concept of portable CD or DVD cassette, MP 4 or, MP 3.

Saussure argued that the relation between signifier and signified is arbitrary not naturally because the concept or signified to which what it is referred always change, based on history, different culture, different historical moment, etc. For example, as we know the culture in various countries is different, in Indonesia country, the concept of white always connects with holly or cleans. But according to India’s people white is always connected with “a Death”. The meaning of white concept changes because of different culture between Indonesia and India. It is the fact that the relation between signifier and signified is arbitrary.

Signifier and signified represent two fundamental levels of language. The term signifier refers to the concrete word of sound and the term signified, on the other hand relates to the concept or idea expressed by the sound or icon. In other word, the two levels of language are in a relationship reciprocal. Form and content cannot be separated.

The founder of semiotic called the science of sign as Semiology which means a science that studies the role of signs as part of social life. Semiology of Saussure studies the sign in society, but Charles Sanders Pierce, the American Philosopher called the science of sign a Semiotics which means as a sign is something that stands for something else and is understood by someone or has a meaning for someone. Both of Pierce and Saussure is the founder of what is now more generally known as “Semiotics”.

The term of semiotics is from the Greek “Semion” which means “sign”. So, semiotics is the study of sign and everything that relates to the sign, the way of function, its connection to other sign, its sender and its receiver. Every sign has reference that connects to what sign means.

Semiotics involves the study not only of what we refer to as “sign” in everyday speech, but also anything that stands for something else. It means that Semiotics is study how meaning is made and how reality is represented.

Semiotics concern with meaning making and representation in many forms, mostly in the form of “text” and “media”. For semiotician, a text is emerged by any medium or may be verbal or non-verbal or both. The text refers to message, which

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has been recorded. It means that the text is assemblage of sign, such as word, images, sounds or gesture.

B. Types of Semiotic

1. Semiotic of Pierce

Charles Sanders Pierce gives the definition of the semiotic as a sign is something else and is understood by someone or has a meaning for someone.\(^2^2\) Pierce has stated that the signs are independent to influence somebody in some respect or capacity. Therefore signs have some characteristic to be called as a sign. Those are:

4. A sign must be viewed or seen to function as a sign.

5. A sign refers to the other which connects something. This is as representative.

6. A sign is as an interpretative.

According to Pierce, one of the forms of sign is word, while the object is something, which is referred by the sign. And the interpretant is the sign in the mind of someone about the object, which is referred by the sign. If those elements interact with someone mind, the meaning will appear which is represented by the sign. Those things can be explained with the theory of meaning triangle of Pierce, which consists of sign, object, and interpretant. In the meaning triangle, it will explain how the meaning is shown by the sign when the sign is used by the people in communication. The triangle diagram of Pierce shows like this:

Sign

The function of essential of the sign makes something efficiency based on the explanation about the semiotic of Pierce above. Usually semiotics of Pierce uses in the part of life, such as: painting, architecture, sociology, psychology, literature and communication in the society.

2. Semiotic of Roland Barthes

One of Saussure’s most powerful interpreters in semiotics is Roland Barthes. Roland Barthes was born on November 12, 1915 in the town of Cherbourg in the Normandy. He was the son of naval officer Louis Barthes, who was killed in a battle in the North Sea before he reached one year of his age. His mother raised him in the French city of Bayonne, the place where he received his first exposure to culture.

Barthes follows the concept of semiotics of Ferdinand de Saussure, the father of structuralism. He has stressed that semiotics is the study of linguistic meaning which uses the sign system that is the concept of sign “signifier and signified”. He makes the systematic model in analyzing the meaning of signs. He focused his concept in “Two Order of Signification”
Here is the diagram of Roland Barthes’s concept “Two Order Signification”. This diagram explains that the first order or the first signification is rooted from the structure of Saussure *signifier* and *signifie*. It is the relationship between signifier and signified in the sign. It means that the first order or the first signification is the main or the true meaning of signs. For example, we have a concept “a yellow flag” in our mind, so the concept as a signified is proven into a real shape or form that is a flag with a yellow color. In this case, Roland Barthes, the owner of this concept said that the first order or the first signification as *Denotation* which means the true meaning of sign or reality meaning such as the example above, that is the concept of a yellow flag, it refers to a flag with yellow color in reality.

The second order or the second signification is *Connotation*. Barthes relates the first order or the first signification with the culture or custom. It describes the interaction when the sign interacts to the emotion of reader and to the custom and culture value which create the connotation meaning. For example, a yellow flag in form, the true meaning of it is only a flag with a yellow color, and the meaning change when it is related with the culture of Indonesian people where they define it as a Death.
Normally, denotation means the use of language to mean what it says while connotation means the use of language to mean something other than what it said. For example, the word *Black*, besides contain meaning as one of the colors, it also associated for the western societies have with the concept of dark, devil, sinful, and dangerous. The denotation meaning of *Black* as one of the colors that known well as the neutral color which is suitable with all colors. The connotation meaning is the opposite with the true meaning, it relates with the custom of western societies which they say that *Black* is dark, devil, sinful, and dangerous.

A concept of “a yellow flag” in our mind, so it’s concept as a signifier and then we prove it into a real shape or form that is a flag with a yellow color, it’s a denotation means of the phrase *a yellow flag that* is a flag with a yellow color. But it has other meaning which said Connotation meaning. Connotation meaning of “a yellow flag” is a death, it is means that there is a death when there is a yellow flag.

In the semiotics approach, not only word and images but also object they can function as signifiers in the production of meaning. Clothes, for example have a simple physical function that is to cover the body and protect it from the weather. But clothes also have double meaning. They construct meaning and carry message. For examples, an evening dress and Jeans as the clothes means things to cover and protect body. The clothes themselves are signifiers. So, the meaning of the concept of clothes that is the functioned to cover and protect body is the signified. These clothes have double meaning, an evening dress may signify “elegance” with a bow tie and tails for man and beautiful long dress for girl, Jeans may signify “casualness” with certain kind of sweater in right time or shirt and casual shoes. The meaning of dress and jeans as materials to cover and protect body is called denotative meaning; while the other meaning for dress and jeans as elegance and casualness is called connotative meaning.
Another example is food. The main meaning of food is the necessity as basic need for our life to survive. But food also has another meaning, it can be looked from its function such as identify class and status. One of the food is steak; the main function of steak is as a basic need for human being but it has other function that is can be identified social classes between poor and rich people. Steak is identified to rich people because it is one of the high class of food, we are able to recognize it from the price which is expensive. There is no matter for rich people to buy it anytime but not for poor people, they will think twice because they have not enough money to buy it. Denotation meaning of steak is as a basic need for human being and connotation meaning is classify social status.

The sifting of denotative meaning to connotative meaning is influenced by culture. The connotative meanings for the color black, yellow flag, dress and jeans and steak are resulted from the local culture where those signifiers exist. That’s why each signifier has many connotative meaning according to the culture’s influence.

In the level of connotative meaning, Barthes uses the new terminology for signifier, signified, and sign. The purpose is to differentiate between the terminology which is used by structuralism and semiotic. Barthes uses the terminology of form for signifier, concept for signified, signification for sign. Those three new terminologies have the same meaning with the three terminologies of structuralism. Further, this thesis uses the terminology of “form, concept, and signification.”
A. Introduction.

*La Cucina*, a novel written by Lily Prior, tells story about food, love, and family. Rosa as the main character is the only girl in her family. She is described as someone who loves cooking, creating food, making new recipes and smart in choosing the ingredients of food. By cooking and creating food, she can get comfortable heart and mind. Every time she experience tense emotion, she always spend her time in the kitchen cooking something.

Food is people’s main necessity of life. It needs for detaining hungry in the stomach. It gives people energy to work and to play. It gives nutrition for healthy body, makes children grow, keeps young and adult bodies strong and healthy; those are the meaning of food (denotation meaning). But in this novel, food does not detain hungry or gives energy and nutrition for body only; it gives satisfaction for the main character’s heart, Rosa Fiore. It has another meaning (connotation meaning) which related to the emotion of Rosa except the main meaning of food which is mentioned below.

In the novel *La Cucina* there is a symbolic relationship between food and emotion. Food becomes a form of the community of Rosa’s emotion. In this opportunity, Rosa experiences moments which makes her feeling uncertain even happy, sad, restless, angry even unsettled. She describes all of her emotion in cooking, and creating new recipes every time she experiences emotional situation.

B. Data Description
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Name of Food</th>
<th>Ingredients</th>
<th>Process</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. | Formaggio all’ Argentiera | Caciocavallo cheese  
Garlic  
wine vinegar  
rustic bread. | Fried slices of caciocavallo cheese with garlic until it had just melted and then sprinkled with wine vinegar and fresh oregano before piling it onto a thick slice of rustic bread. |
| 2. | Torta di Ricota      | ricotta,  
egg yolks  
honey,  
sugar,  
lemon juice, and rind | I beat the ricotta, egg yolks, honey, sugar, lemon juice, and rind into the almonds. |
| 3. | Pasticcio di Sostanza | plump corn fed chicken  
parsley  
some tomatoes  
salt,  
pepper  
bay leaf | I kneaded rich pastry dough and set it aside to relax. Then I took a plump corn fed chicken that I had hanging in my larder, and setting to eat, splitting the bones then I added parsley, some tomatoes, finely chopped salt, pepper and a good bay leaf. I returned the chicken pieces to the pot and left it to simmer. |
| 4. | Capponata            | aubergines  
onion  
some tomatoes | sliced and salted the aubergines and left them to disgorge their bitter juices. While waiting, I |
chopped onion and some tomatoes and celery on the old table.

| 5 | Sfincione | yeast, the passata onions, olive oil. | Add the yeast to the water, stir, and leave to foment until foam develops on the surface. Add the yeast to the flour and salt and olive oil. Knead until you are hot and sweaty: it is the only way to make really good dough, and there’s nothing like it for soothing your nerves. Knead and knead and knead. When you are sure you have kneaded well enough, shape the dough to fit a rectangular oiled baking tray. Scatter the cacciocavallo and the anchovies on the top and press them into the dough, then cover with the passata and onions. Toss the breadcrumbs and oregano over the top and sprinkle with olive oil. Leave in a warm place to rise until it is swollen and magnificent. Bake for 30 minutes until browned and the topping is crisp. |
| 6 | Jams | berries and fruits | I made jams and preserves of berries and fruits, which then lined the shelves on the walls in the |
cellar, each one labeled in my own hand and bearing the date of my agony.

7. **Panelle**

- chickpea flour
- water
- some herbs
- salt, pepper and corn oil

Put the flour in a pan, and gradually stir in the water making sure there are no lumps. Season and add the herbs then cook until the mixture thickens. Remove from the heat and pour onto a cold surface trying to keep it rectangular in shape and about as thick as finger. When cool cut into squares and keep fry until golden.

8. **Pane Rimacinato**

- wild thyme
- fragrant rosemary

I also kneaded bread and produced the finest pane ricimato, the most delicious cabbala and focaccia that had ever been tasted in the region. Sometimes I would add wild thyme to the dough, or fragrant rosemary.

C. Analysis

In this research, the writer analyzes food according to the emotion of Rosa: happy, sad, restless, angry and unsettled. The data is put from the novel *La Cucina* which has been collected by the writer. It is analyzed according to semiotic. The writer uses the theory of meaning “Two Order Signification” introduced by Roland
Barthes. It consists of signifier and signified. The relationship meaning of “Two Order Signification” showed like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Order</th>
<th>Second Order</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emotions:</td>
<td>Myth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Happy</td>
<td>Denotation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A food which emerges when Rosa feels happy is *Caponata* and kind of fruits showed the feeling of Rosa when she was happy is *strawberries, cherries, oranges, and lemons*. Both food and fruits indicate the expression of Rosa’s emotion.

*Caponata* is one of the food’s names. It is a delicious food made from aubergines which are lost their bitter then mix with onion and tomatoes *I sliced and salted the aubergines and left them to disgorge their bitter juices*. While waiting, *I chopped onion and some tomatoes and celery on the old table* (p.225). *Caponata* defines Rosa’s feeling “happy” it shows what Rosa feels after coming to Bortolomeo’s grave. She feels glad because she has confided in Bortolomeo. *I felt glad I had confided in Bortolomeo. I was pleased at the symmetry: I had told L’inglese about Bortolomeo, and now I had told Bortolomeo about L’inglese. (p. 225)*

The happy feeling as a concept is expressed in a form of making *Caponata*. The process of making the food, by disgorging the aubergines’s bitter taste to make it delicious, expresses Rosa’s emotion. Its bitter taste indicates her miserable feeling. The process of making the Caponata and the setting of time where the activity...
happens give another meaning that disgorging the bitter taste of aubergines to become delicious means that she leaves her miserable feeling to become happy by telling all of troubles that happened at Bortolomeo’s grave.

Caponata now has a new signification as a way to express her happiness. Beside of food, the fruits (Strawberries, cherries, oranges, and lemons) are also showing her happiness.

Strawberries, cherries, oranges, and lemons are the fruits which is needed by people, it needed for espouses our healthy body beside consume healthy food. Fruits contain many vitamin which useful for healthy and gives fresh for our body. The fruits are conveying the emotion of Rosa “happy” while she goes to the market with her love, L’inglese. She feels happy because there are someone companies her while shopping to buy something and carries her shopping that she has never had it before and it makes her special and fresh. I had never had a man to carry my shopping before; it made me feel special. (p.129)

Strawberries, cherries, oranges, and lemons are the fresh fruits; they show their taste and the colors of food as a form. The taste of sweet and sour which contain in that food make all people who eat it become fresh and the colors of food (red, oranges, and yellow) are the bright colors. The taste and colors are conveying the emotion of Rosa, taste of food shows that Rosa feels fresh and the colors of food shows the happiness and cheerfulness of Rosa’s feeling because she feels the moment that she never had it before.

A form that emerges from Caponata is the process of making food and a form of the fruits (Strawberries, cherries, oranges, and lemons) is taste and colors of food. The concept of making Caponata and buying the fresh fruits in Rosa’s mind is the concept.
So, the second order or the second signification is connotation. In this case, the writer relates the first order or the first signification with the emotion of the main character, Rosa Fiore. It describes the interaction between food and the emotion of Rosa Fiore which creates the connotation meaning that is happiness, cheerfulness, and fresh.

7. Sad or Grief

Sfincione, Pane Rimacinato, Panelle, and Preserving berries and fruits are the foods which emerges when Rosa feels sad or grief. Those foods express the emotion of the main character, Rosa Fiore.

*Sfincione* is a version of pizza; it is the recipe of Rosa’s mother. It made from caciocavalllo cheese, anchovy fillets, passata, onions, breadcrumbs, sea salt, flour, yeast, lukewarm water, and good olive oil. Such as the quotation bellow:

Add the yeast to the water, stir, and leave to foment until foam develops on the surface. Add the yeast to the flour and salt and olive oil. Knead until you are hot and sweaty; it is the only way to make really good dough, and there’s nothing like it for soothing your nerves. Knead and knead and knead. When you are sure you have kneaded well enough, shape the dough to fit a rectangular oiled baking tray. Scatter the caciocavallo and the anchovies on the top and press them into the dough, then cover with the passata and onions. (p. 195-196)

Rosa makes this dish at the time of Rosa’s birth. Rosa herself made this dish to soothe her after the shock of L’Inglese’s sudden disappearance whereas she just feels happy after making love and spending a whole day with him a day after. She has looks for him all of the room in his villa, waits for him whole day but she gets him nothing. He doesn’t come anymore, he has disappearance.
She feels sad and anger with this happened. She lost her lover for twice, Bortolomeo and L’Inglese. She would never see him anymore, finally she left the villa and she would never see it anymore too. She knows instinctively that the phase of her life was over. She mourns the loss of Bortolomeo, she mourns the loss of L’Inglese, and she also mourns the loss of her self. Finally, she comes to the kitchen, the place where she can expresses and disgorges all of her emotion and feeling by making food.

A form of *Sfincione* is the process of making it food (kneading and thumping the dough). She kneads and thumps hardly with the big power expressing her feeling in order to her sadness and anger diminished. It is proved by the quotation below:

> Then I kneaded. Oh, how kneading still had the power to soothe my soul like nothing else could. Thump, thump, thump, thump. Pound, pound, pound. Pulse at the temples, sweat beading down the spine. How good this felt. I continued pounding at the dough for a long, long time, until I felt weak and my anger had, temporarily, diminished (p. 196)

The quotation above explains the emotion of Rosa. Rosa feels sad or grief because the troubles occurred in her life. She expresses her emotion by kneading, thumping, and pounding the dough. Those process need the hard power, Rosa does those process as the expression of her sadness, anger, and disappoint feeling.

Process of making the food is three times, first makes the dough of *Sfincione*, second makes the first topping, and third makes the last topping. It indicates to Rosa’s feeling. Not only a disappearance of L’Inglese the cause of her sad and anger, but also mourn of losing her first lover, Bortolomeo and her self as the cause of her emotion. Besides the process of making the food, Rosa’s feeling also seems from the ingredient which is containing the food, onions. It indicates her sadness, she feels good and able to cry by it vapor. Crying is the way for girl to loose her grief as what have been said
by quotation as follow: *It felt good to cry with the onion vapors; they lent legitimacy to my outpourings of grief.* (129)

*Pane Rimacinato* is another food which defines Rosa’s emotion, sad or grief. *Pane Rimacinato* is kind of bread, the most delicious ciabatta and foccacia that had ever been tasted in the region. *I also kneaded bread and produced the finest pane ricimato, the most delicious cabbala and focaccia that had ever been tasted in the region.* Sometimes I would ad wild thyme to the dough, or fragrant rosemary. (p. 43) It function as a dish which needed by people.

. Rosa expresses her emotion by kneading dough of *Pane Rimacinato* as the process. She kneads hardly and disgorges her feeling into dough until become relax and so her feeling. Kneading with the big power is able to soothe her mind then she feels calm. *Oh, how kneading still had the power to soothe my soul like nothing else could* (p. 129). Rosa’s emotion also seems from the ingredient which contain in the food, fragrant rosemary. It gives the essence of smell and makes the food smells good, gives her composure for her mind and her soul while facing her problem. The process of making *Pane Rimacinato* and it ingredient as a form of food

*Panelle* is delicious chickpea fritters made by Rosa when her Nonno died. She expresses her sadness into making food then she is able to be calm and relax.

The process of making food and its ingredient indicates into Rosa’s emotion. Herb as the ingredient with the bitter taste indicates into the problem that she has, problem which makes her sad and bitter as the taste indicates that she feels unhappy, she doesn’t have any joy in her life. Stirring the ingredient gradually and slowly as the process of making food indicates that Rosa expresses her emotion by making a food. When people feel sad, they will do their activity slowly and so Rosa. She stirs the
ingredient gradually and slowly, it is the expression of Rosa emotion. She disgorges all of her feeling into the food.

*Berries and fruits* are fresh food will make the people fresh because they are very delicious. But it defines sadness or grief for Rosa. It shows the sorrow for Rosa that happened in her life. In this novel, preservation of berries and fruits describe her agony in her life, many sorrow happen in her life, whether from her family or her love. *I made jams and preserves of berries and fruits, which then lined the shelves on the walls in the cellar, each one labeled in my own hand and bearing the date of my agony (p. 46).*

Her emotion can be seen from the process of preserving berries and fruits. Process of preserving berries and fruits needs a long time in order to get maximal result. The time to preserve describes her agony, her suffering which makes her sad. She has lost two persons that she loves them very much. Rosa expresses her emotion by preserving berries and fruits, it indicates her feeling (sad or grief).

So, the form which emerges from those foods (*Sfincione, Pane Rimacinato, Panelle, and Preserving berries and fruits*) is the process of making food and the ingredient of food itself. The concept of its process and the ingredients which contain in those foods is the concept.

Connotation is the second order or the second signification. In this case, the writer relates the first order or the first signification with the emotion of the main character, Rosa Fiore. It describes the interaction between food and the emotion of Rosa Fiore through the form of those foods which creates the connotation meaning that is “sadness or grief”

8. Anger
The expression of Rosa’s emotion is not only showed by process of making food, the ingredients which contain in that food, the taste, aroma, or the result of food itself but it can be showed by another way. In this case, Rosa Fiore expresses her emotion “anger” by slaughtering the pig. *I slaughtered the pigs, even my pet, Miele, which looked up at me with tiny, doleful eyes, clearly doubting that I had it in me to end his life with my cleaver.* (p. 46)

The process of slaughtering the pig while Rosa makes food relate to her feeling. One of them is when she slaughters the pig, even her pet. She slaughters the pig with her anger, expresses her anger because of the agony that she feels. She likes a killer, for example she collects blood of the pig to make a sausage, sadism event. *I slit the throat of each pig and collected the blood in buckets to make into sausages.* (p. 46)

The anger feeling as a concept is expressed by slaughtering the food. The form that emerges from slaughtering the pig is the process how to slaughter that pig (killing and collecting the blood). Killing the animal is coded with the attributes of virility, aggression and power which are symbolized as masculine. Working with dead animal is indicating into masculine relating to the strength, blood, brutality and death.

For a woman, blood is not a symbol of a wound and it is a marker of sexual differences, inspiring loathing and fear, but also pleasure and desire. Blood and feminist have a linkage, through blood produced child birth and it is associated with women’s bodies. Therefore, feminism’s meaning of blood is motherhood and giving of life, whereas the masculine meaning of blood is strongly linked with the violence and death.

Rosa collects the blood indicates that Rosa expresses her anger, inspiring her loathing to the condition Rosa seems like a killer, collecting a blood without has any fear in her self. Feminism’s meaning of blood in her self is lost and it was changed
with the masculine meaning that is violence and death which was in her self. Rosa expresses her anger by slaughtering the pig (her pet) and other animal with the same way.

The denotation meaning of *slaughtering the pig* as the first order or the first signification of Roland Barthes’s theory is *cut its neck and makes it died*. And the connotation meaning is related to her emotion that expresses her anger after happening to the sorrow in her life. It pleased her, and makes her calm. It is also as the function of the process of slaughtering the pig which relate to Rosa’s emotion.

**9. Restless**

*Formagio all’ Argentiera* and *Frittedda* are the foods that emerge when Rosa feels restless. *Formagio all’ Argentiera* is a delicious food made of caciocavallo cheese with garlic. It was fried until melted and sprinkled the wine vinegar then it was piled onto the slice of bread. *Fried slices of caciocavallo cheese with garlic until it had just melted and then sprinkled with wine vinegar and fresh oregano before piling it onto a thick slice of rustic bread.* *(P.98)*

It defines Rosa’s feeling in restless, it show what Rosa feeling after meeting the man in the library, L’inglese. She got difficulty to sleep because of thinking the man in the library. *The night I found it difficult to sleep, which was, for me, most unusual. At three I as in my little kitchen preparing a dish of Formaggio a; ’Argntiera.*

She always thinks of him and immediately she goes to the kitchen and makes *Formaggio all’Argentiera*, she makes all of people in her apartment smell this aroma and wake their wife up from sleep to make it as the request of their husband. And the *Frittedda* is too.
*Frittedda* is a dish as a food that is needed for people. A shape of real *Frittedda* is a form and the concept is the emotion of Rosa (restless). A combination between form and concept is a connotation meaning. It is related to Rosa’s emotion that she feels restless because of feeling guilty after making a sin which has said to the priest by her “Father, forgive me, for I have sinned” (p.66). She feels shame and awareness because of this case.

The form of *Formagio all’ Argentiera* is the aroma of that food. Her feeling seems from the aroma of the food that she makes. It makes people restless by smelling its aroma. It disturbs them and makes them awaken from the sleep then follow her to make that food.

The form of *Frittedda* is the result of food itself. Rosa’s feeling seems from the result of her cooking, when she makes *Frittedda*. The result is bad, it doesn’t give her comfort for her self. It indicates that there is something wrong with her feeling and it is true that Rosa feels restless, her emotion which can not make her calm. Rosa expresses her emotion by making food and the result is not delicious as the quotation bellow: *I could not quite quell of unease, and even the comport of preparing a dish of frittedda could not calm me. Something was very wrong if my food could not comport me.* (p. 67)

The connotation meaning of those foods define Rosa’s emotion (restless) with the different reason. *Formagio all’ Argentiera* shows that Rosa feels restless because she always thinks about her first meeting with L’Inglese in the library, and *Frittedda* shows the reason because of the sin that she has.

10. Unsettled
Torta di Ricotta and Pasticcio di Sostanza is the food which emerges when Rosa feels unsettled. Torta di Ricotta is a kind of food made of (ricotta, egg yolks, honey, sugar, lemon juice, and rind into the almonds) I beat the ricotta, egg yolks, honey, sugar, lemon juice, and rind into the almonds. (p.123)

It has meaning as basic need for people; however it has another meaning that indicate into Rosa’s feeling. She feels unsettled because of the man whom she met in the library at Palermo. After speaking with the man (L’ Inglese) she felt that she was followed by him. She kept looking over her shoulder but she got nothing, it made her shock as what she said bellow: I had almost shocked my self; it was as though someone else, someone bold and unafraid, had been acting for me. (p.123)

The form of Torta di Ricotta is the process of making the food (beating the dough). Rosa’s emotion or Rosa’s feeling can be seen from the process of making Torta di Ricotta. Beating the dough and mix all of the ingredients in the dough indicate to Rosa’s feeling in her heart, she feels afraid of him but she always thinks of him, she can not think for seeing him yet anymore. It is the reason why her feeling has being unsettled. She beats and beats and beats hardly until the dough become relax and warmth as her feeling. Cooking and making the food makes her calm and then she can continue to sleep. So, Rosa’s emotion indicates the connotation meaning of Torta di Ricotta, unsettled.

The other food is Pasticcio di Sostanza. It is a delicious food or dish made of set it aside to relax. Then I took a plump corn fed chicken that I had hanging in my larder, and setting t to eat, splitting the bones then I added parsley, some tomatoes, finely chopped salt, pepper and a good bay leaf. I returned the chicken pieces to the pot and left it to simmer. (p.153)
*Pasticcio di Sostanza* is made by Rosa when she felt shocked because she got a letter which informed her that her mother has shouted her step father, Antonio Calabrase after discovering him with the dairymaid, Bilbina Burcondofara in one place. Whereas, she felt happy and spent a whole day with her love (L’Inglese)

Rosa has been informed by her mother about her relationship with L’Inglese. Her mother asks her to stop her relationship with him. Those cases make her shocked because it comes suddenly. She feels unsettled and doesn’t know what she must do. Finally she comes to the kitchen and disgorges her feeling by making food.

The form of *Pasticcio di Sostanza* is the process of making food (kneading the dough) Kneading the dough hardly, expresses her emotion into the process of making food. The dough becomes relax and it indicates her feeling that she has relax and calm, the problem in her mind has been lessen although she must be had it more. Therefore, she makes *Pasticcio di Sostanza*; it gives her calm and enough time to consider the fact. The delicious *Pasticcio di Sostanza* was sufficiently complicated to give me enough time to consider the facts. So, denotation meaning of *Pasticcio di Sostanza* a dish or food which gives her calm and relax. Its connotation meaning indicates Rosa’s feeling, unsettled.

So, the concept that emerges in those foods is Rosa’s emotion (unsettled), and the form is the process of making food itself (beating and kneading the dough). The main meaning of food is the basic daily need for people; it functions as the necessities of life, detaining hungry when it attacks to the stomach. But food has another meaning and function when it is related to the emotion. There is a symbolic relation between food and emotion. In this novel food describes the main character’s emotion when happy, sad or grief, angry, restless, and unsettled.
A. Conclusion

After analyzing the main findings, the writer is able to draw a conclusion. *La Cucina* is a novel written by Lily Prior, tells about food, love and family.

In this novel Lily Prior describes the interaction between food and emotion of the main character, Rosa Fiore. There is symbolic relationship between food and emotion which produce another meaning of food besides the main meaning of food itself.

Food is the important and basic daily need for people in the world; it is the necessities of life. It detains hungry in the stomach, gives people energy to work and to play. It makes children grow and keep young and adult bodies strong and healthy. Food is also needed to survive. A person would die if he goes for a long time without food. Those are the main meaning of food.

Besides as the main daily need for people and necessities for life, food also has another meaning. It can be a medicine, it gives its advantage for people who get the illnesses. Moreover food also reveals our social and cultural perspective. It consumption habits are not simply tied to biological needs but also mark boundaries such as between social classes, geographic regions, nation, and culture. Food can identify social classes between poor and rich.

According to Rosa, food is not only as the main necessity for people, detaining hungry in stomach, energy to work and to play, nutrition for healthy body which make children grow and keep young and adult bodies strong and healthy or as a medicine for the sick people but food also can be a media to express all of feeling and emotion with cooking. Rosa is not only serves her family but she also disgorges her emotion.
To conclude, this novel uses food to express feeling and emotion of the main character. It means food is not only detaining hunger, but can also be used to detain emotion.

**B. Suggestion**

For understanding the meaning of food in Lily Prior’s Novel “La Cucina”, the reader needs to know about denotation and connotation through semiotic of Roland Barthes. It gives the writer ease to know the wider meaning of food in the novel La Cucina.

The writer suggests that those who are interested in doing the same research particularly concerning about semiotic and literary work to read more various theory in order to get wider knowledge and deep analysis. Finally, the writer hopes the other to analyze more comprehensively using several theories of semiotic.
DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this submission is my own work and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains no material previously published or written by another person nor material which to a substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma of the university or other institute of higher learning, except where due acknowledgement has been made in the text.

Jakarta, March 12, 2008

Ika Rosnawati
PREFACE

In the name of Allah the Beneficent, the Merciful
May peace and blessing of Allah be upon all of us

All praise be to Allah, The Lord of the Universe, who gives the writer guidance and strength, so she could finish this paper. Peace and blessing be upon the messenger of Allah, Prophet Muhammad SAW, his families, his relatives, and all his followers.

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Finally, the writer wishes this paper would be useful, particularly for her and for those who are interested in it.

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The Writer
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