A Semiotics Analysis on *Sucker Punch* Film

A Thesis
Submitted to Letters and Humanities Faculty
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Strata One

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JAKARTA
2014
ABSTRACT


This research analyses the sign in *Sucker Punch* film. Here, The writer studies the sign as the unit analysis by using Roland Barthes Theory in semiotics as theoretical framework of the research. The method of the research is descriptive qualitative, which tries to explain the connotative meaning and denotative meaning in the *Sucker Punch* film through semiotic by analyzing the thing as a sign.

From the data analysis, the writer finds some signs that have important roles in this film. There are map, match, knife and key. The map is the sign for understanding the situation, the match is the sign for attention, then the knife is the sign for safety and the last is the key as the sign for freedom. All the signs are helping Babydoll as the main character for escaping from the Lenox House. This film shows that the things are signs that have the other meanings.

Keywords: *Sucker Punch*, signs, Semiotics, connotative meaning and denotative meaning.
APPROVEMENT

A SEMIOTICS ANALYSIS ON SUCKER PUNCH FILM

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Submitted to Letters and Humanities Faculty in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Strata one (S-1)

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2014
LEGALIZATION

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The thesis entitled above has been defended before the Letters and Humanities Faculty’s Examination Committee on July 17th, 2014. It has already been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of strata one.

Jakarta, July 17th, 2014

Examination Committee

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DECLARATION

I hereby 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 substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma of the university or other institute of higher learning, except due acknowledgment has been made in the text.

Jakarta, July 2014

Nopi Royani
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the name of Allah, the most Gracious, the most Merciful.

There is no nice word to say at first, but thanks to the God who has given the writer opportunity to finish this paper. Without his blessing, it is impossible that this paper can be present. Then, may peace and blessing of Allah be upon the prophet Muhammad SAW, who has guided as how to be a good and successful person in this world.

The writer would like to express her gratitude to her parents (Robin and Sri Mulyani) for their love, care, their support and for all of their contribution in the writer’s life especially in finishing the thesis. They are great parents in the world. Her beloved brothers, they are Oki Rawangsa and Ridwan Maulana. May Allah love and bless them.

The writer needs to express her deepest gratitude to her advisor Akhmad Zakky, M.Hum. For having guided in doing this thesis. May Allah bless and give happiness for him and his family.

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2. Drs. Asep Saefuddin, M.Pd, the Head of English letters Department.
3. Mrs. Elve Oktaviyani, M.Hum, the Secretary of English Letters Department.

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Finally, nothing is perfect and she realizes that this thesis is far from being perfect. It is a pleasure for her to receive some constructive critics and suggestion to make it better. The writer hopes this thesis will be useful for everyone who reads it and will be one of references in semiotics field.

Ciputat, June 2014

The Writer
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Film is a series moving picture, usually shown in a cinema or on television and often telling a story that produced by recording camera using animation techniques or visual effects.\(^1\) From oxford student's dictionary of English, definition of film is [mass noun] a thin flexible strip of plastic or other material coated with light-sensitive emulsion for exposure in a camera, used to produce photographs or motion pictures a story or event recorded by a camera as a set of moving images and shown in a cinema or on television.\(^2\) Besides, Film is both an industry and art. It is an industry because film is combination between business people and artist that produce commercial considerations. Film is also the art form, it is a pair of picture, music and has a story based on phenomena in the real life or only in the imagination.

Film has the same elements with short story, novels, drama or poetry. Like poetry, film communicates with imagery and symbol. Like drama, film shows with action and gesture. Like short story and novel, film has a conflict and plot. Actually, film shares many elements same as short story and novel. The character, point of view, conflict, plot, setting and symbol are elements that can be analyzed by using literary theory. Perceptive film analysis rests on

\(^1\) [http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/british/film_1](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/british/film_1), accessed on 26 September 2013 at 01.00 PM.

the principles used in literary analysis. Literature and films do share and communicate many elements in similar ways. Literature shows the power of imagination and the product of fictional imagination stories with not about the real word. Literature is about life or human life as the writer sees or something they believe to be real. In brief, narrative story of film can be also analyzed by using literary theory.

The writer chooses *Sucker Punch* (2011) directed by Zack Synder and the production of Warner Bros Picture. The writer is interested in analyzing the signs that contains in this film. The signs in this film are important things and also by these signs, the writer can find another signification of things. The writer believes that the signs contain a lot of meanings that have significant role in this film.

*Sucker Punch* tells about a girl, called Babydoll, whose stepfather is a murderer. The beginning of the film shows the death of Babydoll’s mother. Her mother gives all of her wealth only for her two children; they are Babydoll and her sister. As a result, Her Stepfather has hatred. Her stepfather thinks of a cruel planning for Babydoll. If he kills Babydoll, he can get the all of the wealth. The first step that her Stepfather does that he wants to hurt the sister of Babydoll. Babydoll takes a gun and fire, but the shot is misplaced. She shoots her own sister. Because of that tragedy, her stepfather reports it to police and he said that Babydoll is depressed because of her mother's death.

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Babydoll’s father takes her to the Lenox House. The Lenox House is a place for lobotomy.¹

Lenox House is described like a jail with many doors. The doors are made from steel and locked. Lenox House also has a very large building and very difficult to find the way out. It is an impossible thing to go out from the house. There are many sexy women in Lenox House. In this house, Babydoll and other women must do such a kind of sex job everytime there are guesses coming. They must dance erotically in front of men in order to make them happy. However, at the time when Babydoll must dance, she always does a weird thing. She uses her imagination as if she was in another world or in war. By using her imagination, she can perfectly and beautifully dance in front of many men.

Babydoll tries to escape from Lenox House to get out from this place. She and her four best friends always make some effort to get out, although she must prepare their soul. By imagination, Babydoll finds a good idea, that they must have four objects. They must take a map to find the exit door, a match to make fire, a knife to survive and the last one is a key for open the door. Four objects that she uses to escape from Lenox House are the form of signs. In other words, like gesture, words, image, advertisement, film, painting and photography are also the form of signs that we can study about it in semiotics. It can be said that the film of Sucker Punch can be analyzed by semiotics theory.

¹ From medical definition, lobotomy is surgical severance of nerve fibers connecting the frontal lobes to the thalamus performed especially formerly for the relief of some mental disorders (http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/lobotomy, accessed on 26 September 2013 at 01.00 PM).
Semiotics is the theory of sign. The word “sign” comes from *Semion* whose meaning a sign. This theory was developed by Ferdinand Saussure. The term from Saussure is the theory of sign. Theory of sign are about *sign*, *signifier* and *signified*. The Saussure theory of sign becomes a basic to develop the semiotics theory. Meanwhile the concept of Semiotics from Saussure and Roland Barthes is also very different. Roland Barthes uses the term *form* as *signifier*, *concept* as *signified* and *signification* as *sign* in his theory. Semiotics from Roland Barthes can explain the other signification of signs. Not only we can find denotative meaning but also find the connotative meaning.

From the explanation above, the writer is interested in analyzing the signs. Babydoll tries to escape from Lenox House in this film using some signs to get her purpose. Signs are a part of sign that semiotic theory can explain and describe the meaning. One sign is everything can be used as a signifier that has the important meaning to substitute something else. From the signs in this film, the writer will analyze the signs which covered in the focus by using semiotics theory from Roland Barthes.

**B. The Focus of the Research.**

This research will focus on the things that consider as signs in the *Sucker Punch* film and the objects that used for her escaping from the Lenox House. The writer thinks that it is necessary to analyze the film using

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semiotics theory from Roland Barthes. This film uses the four objects that used by Babydoll to go out from the Lenox House. The objects like a signs that has a meaning.

C. The Research Question of the Study

Based on the background of the study and the focus of the study above, the writer would like to propose the statements of the problems as:

1. What are the things which become signs in *Sucker Punch* Film?
2. What are the denotative and the connotative meanings of the four things in this film?

D. The Significance of the Study

The writer hopes this research can be useful for readers to increase the knowledge and the comprehension about the analysis film by using semiotics theory. The writer also hopes that this research can also be benefit for readers who want to understand more about theory semiotics from Roland Barthes, especially signification of denotative meaning and connotative meaning.

E. The Objective of study

The objective of research is intended to:

1. Describe the things which become signs in *Sucker Punch* film.
2. Describe the signification of denotative meaning and connotative meaning of the things as signs in *Sucker Punch* film.
F. The Method of the research

The method that is used in this research is qualitative method, specifically, descriptive analysis. Descriptive analysis focuses on signs that gathered in *Sucker Punch* film. The writer describes significance of the signs and analyzes them based on the Semiotics Theory.

1. The Technique of Data Analysis

   In this research, the writer uses Semiotics Theory. First, the writer looks for any signs in *Sucker Punch* Film. Then, the writer tries to unveil the meaning in every signs by using semiotics theory. Finally, the signs will be analyzed through descriptive analysis technique.

2. The Instrument of the Research

   Instrument that is used in this research is the writer herself by reading, understanding, identifying and analyzing the related data.

3. The Unit of Analysis

   The writer uses an interesting film of *Sucker Punch* film published by Warner Bross Picture as the analysis unit for the research. The film is directed by Zack Synder, and released on March 25, 2011.

4. The Time and Place of Research

   The writer started this research on July  in 2013. The place of the research is done in some libraries, such as Library of Adab and Humanities Faculty, Library of UIN Syarif Hidayatullah, Library of Indonesia University and any natural places which support the composure to think and find the ideas.
CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

A. Definition of Semiotics

The term semiotics is derived from the Greek word ‘Semion’ which denotes a sign. In modern usage the concept of semiotics refers to a theory of signification.\(^6\) Semiotics as a study of sign is rooted from structuralism proposed by Ferdinand De Saussure as the father of modern Linguistics and the founder of semiotics which has given the inspiration to semiotics science. In the research of Semiotics, Saussure gives the foundation system of language. Ferdinand De Saussure, quoted by Guiraud, defines Semiotics as:

“Language is a system of sign that express ideas, and is therefore comparable to writing, to the deaf mute alphabet, to symbolic rites, to codes of good manners, to military signal, etc. it is simply the most important of these systems. A science that studies the life of signs in society is therefore conceivable: it would be a part of general psychology: we shall call it semiology (from the Greek Semeion, sign). Semiology would teach us what sign are made of and what laws govern their behavior. Since this science does not exist, no one can say quite what it will be like, but it has a right to exist and it has a place staked out in advance. Linguistics is only a part of general science of semiology: the laws discovered by semiology will be applicable to Linguistics, and the latter will therefore find itself linked to a well-defined area within the totally of facts in the human sciences.”\(^7\)

From explanation above, Saussure use the term of Semiology, then Peirce called Semiotics. Both of term is similar, now both of the words are synonymous. According to Saussure, the production of meaning depends on

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the language, because language is the system of sign, language is one of the instruments to communicate, “La langue est un system de signes”\textsuperscript{8}

One of the broadest definitions is by Umberto Eco, who states that semiotics which is concerned with everything that can be taken as a sign.\textsuperscript{9} Moreover, Semiotics is the study of sign and symbols and their meaning and use, especially in the writing, or method to analyze the sign.\textsuperscript{10} Symbol is the most overburdened in the field of humanities, it is broadest sense, and symbol is synonym of sign.\textsuperscript{11} Symbol as signs used in human communication and gave words, images, gesture, drawings or mimetic sounds as examples.\textsuperscript{12} Our world is filled with symbols that people often fail to notice. Symbols help to enlighten work of art, advertising and human communication. People see everything surrounding them as signs that have to be interpreted.\textsuperscript{13}

According to Roland Barthes, semiology or semiotics has any signs system as its research object, not only in substantial forms but also in non-substantial forms such as pictures, behavior, melodious sound, concrete objects, and complicated substances found in rites, protocols or performances. In fact, all of them constitute signs system.\textsuperscript{14} Barthes actually said, the

\textsuperscript{9} Ibid, p.7.
\textsuperscript{10} Alex Sobur, Semiotika Komunikasi, (Bandung: Remaja Rosda Karya, 2003), p.45.
\textsuperscript{11} Winfried Noth, Handbook of Semiotics, (Bloomington: Indiana University Press,1990), p.115
\textsuperscript{13} Benny H. Hoed, Semiotik dan Dinamika Sosial Budaya, (Jakarta: Komunitas Bambu,2011), p.3.
\textsuperscript{14} Sunardi, Semiotika Negative, (Yogyakarta: Kanal, 2002), p.45.
semiotic basically wants to discuss how human signifies things. In this study, the signs are tools we used in seeking the way around the human. By definition above, it can be concluded that semiotics is in principle of discipline studying everything which can be used in order to lie.

Semiotics tries to explain combination of sign: systematically explains the essential, character, and form of sign, and the process of its signification. Semiotic gives big attentions to everything that can be esteemed as a sign. One sign is everything which can be used as a signifier that has an important meaning to substitute something else. That something must not exist or that sign obviously exist in the place at particular time.

B. The Theories of Signs

1. Ferdinand de Saussure

Ferdinand de Saussure (1857-1913) is one of the European linguist experts who live in the beginning of the twentieth centuries. Saussure studied academically about the concept and the paradigm of sign. He is a linguist who uses semiology term in studying sign as the Continental Europe’s line of thought rather than semiotics term. He is the most influential thinkers on language and a well-known as father of the modern Linguistics, put his thought about general linguistic in his book *Course in General Linguistic*. Saussure starts his theory of sign by identifying a language as a system of sign that express ideas, and therefore comparable

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15 Ibid. p. 12.
to a system of writing, the alphabet, symbolic rites, polite formulas, military signal and many more. But it is a language as the most important of all these systems. There are opinions about definition of sign from Saussure.

The signifier and signified are the important concepts from Saussure about sign. One of sign is divided into two parts, Signifier and Signified. Saussure describes the two inseparable sides as a sheet of paper which is cut by a scissor.

“Just as it is impossible to take a pair of scissor and cut one side of paper without at the same time cutting the other, so it is impossible in a language to separate sound from thought, or thought from sound. To separate the two for the theoretical purpose takes us into either pure psychology or pure phonetics, not linguistics.”

It is clearly stated that the signification or the relation between signifier and signified, which in the quotation called by the sound and the thought, could not be separated and it supports each other. There is no sound without thought and also there is no thought without sound.

Sign is totally one unity between signifier and an idea or signified. In other word, Signifier is the material aspect of language; what we say or hear and what we write and read. Signified is the description of mental, thinking, or concept. And then, signified is the mental aspect of language.

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18 http://Semiotics forBeginners/ signs, htm. Accessed on 8 Dec 2013 at 10.00PM.
Signifier without signified is nothing, because it is not a sign; in contrary, the signified is impossible to be delivered or understood without the signifier.

2. Roland Barthes

Roland Barthes is one of the leading theorist of semiotics. He is following the approach of Saussure. He 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 French city of Bayonne, the place where he received his first exposure to culture.

According to Barthes, signs always come in form of text or context. In its process of existence, myth concept becomes crucial. Myth itself is not an object, but it is a form of communication system in delivering messages. Myth is a speech, so all things can be considered as a myth as long as they appear in the context. Myth is determined by its way of delivery. Thus, myth is a message not only in verbal form but also in other forms, such as advertisements, film, paintings and photography. in our daily life. All of them are usually used in delivering messages.21

Barthes also described what he considered as the second meaning, which was built above the current system.22 Literature is one of the clear examples of his method, where it is built by the language. The first

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signification was called denotative and the second system by Barthes was called connotative. He strictly put this second system in a different part than denotative or the first meaning system.

Roland Barthes developed two systems of semiotics, there are denotation and connotation. Besides, Barthes saw the deeper meaning in his system where its meaning relates to myth. Barthes makes use of Saussure’s theory of the sign and signification. The sign is therefore a compound at a signifier and a signified. The plane of the signifier constitutes the plane of expression and that of the signified the plane of content, here is semiotics scheme of Roland Barthes:

(Source: Theory signification of Roland Barthes)²³

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The first order of signification is that of denotation. Denotation is described as the definitional, ‘literal’, ‘obvious’, or ‘commonsense’ meaning of a sign.\textsuperscript{24} Denotative meaning is the meaning from dictionary. For example, crown in oxford advance leaner’s dictionary means a circular ornament, usually made of gold and jewels, that a king or queen wears on his or her head on official occasions. In other term, denotation is what an image actually shows and is immediately apparent, rather than the assumption an individual reader may make about it.

At this level there is a sign consisting of a signifier and a signified. Signifier is like a physical object, for example, a sound, printed word, advertisement, and the signified is a mental concept or meaning conveyed by the signifier.\textsuperscript{25}

Connotation is a second-order of signification which uses the denotative sign (signifier and signified) as its signifier and attaches to it an additional signified. It is the act which binds signifier and the signified, an act whose product is the sign.\textsuperscript{26} In this framework connotation is a sign which derives from the signifier of a denotative sign (so denotation leads to a chain of connotation). This tends to suggest that denotation is an underlying and primary meaning. Barthes himself later gave priority to connotation and noted that it was no longer easy to separate the signifier

\textsuperscript{26} Sunardi, Op. Cit., p. 42.
from the signified, the ideological from the literal. For example the connotation meaning of crown is a power. Crown connotes position of a functionary, as illustrated in the scheme below:

The Signification of a Crown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Signifier (E₁)</th>
<th>2. Signified (C₁)</th>
<th>Denotation</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Crown</td>
<td>An ornament made from gold and jewels</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. Sign (meaning)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Signifier (E₂)</td>
<td>II. Signified (C₂)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An ornament usually queen or king wears in their head</td>
<td>The power</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FORM</th>
<th>CONCEPT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>III. Sign</td>
<td>The power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIGNIFICATION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Theory signification of Roland Barthes)\(^{28}\)

From the signification above, the word crown can symbolize as a power. The first signification or denotative meaning of crown is an ornament made from gold and jewel that usually queen or king wears in head. And then, the second signification or connotative meaning of the crown is show the sign of power. Someone who wears a crown in her or his head usually has a power.


We could see, from all the explanations, that the Barthes semiotics approach has a structural characteristic because they have assumption about hierarchy of sign system. He provides detailed analyses of short texts, passages and single images so as to explore how they work. Barthes using connotative concept for explaining the other meaning of signs.

29 Ibid. p. 70.
CHAPTER III
RESEARCH FINDINGS

A. Data Description

In this chapter the writer would like to analyze the sign in the *Sucker Punch* film, and then the writer will describe the meaning of the signs in this film to show connotative meaning of the sign. The writer will analyze four objects used by Babydoll for escaping from the Lenox House. The writer begins to analyze by explaining the first signification, and then finding the second signification. The pictures below are the data that the writer is going to use:

![Picture 1. Map](image1.png) ![Picture 2. Matches](image2.png) ![Picture 3. Knife](image3.png) ![Picture 4. Key](image4.png)

From the pictures above, there are four objects of signs in the *Sucker Punch* film that is used by the writer to analyze. The writer considers map,
key, fire and matches as the signs that have important meaning to substitute something else. All of the objects are collected step by step from Babydoll’s friends until the objects are completed. The objects will be used for survival when Babydoll and her four friends escaping from the Lenox house.

The next step, the writer will analyze four objects, by focusing on the map, matches, knife and key. The things are as the signs that have a meaning and correlation with the signification theory from semiotics by Roland Barthes. He explains about denotative and connotative theory. By using the theory, the writer will find the other meaning of sign that Babydoll use for say something. The first signification is denotative meaning and the second signification is connotative meaning.

B. Data Analysis

Babydoll tries to escaping from Lenox House for get something that missed from herself, it is a freedom. Step by step Babydoll getting something for her mission. The first map is using for looking the place. The matches is using for make a burn. The knife is using for hit someone when she survives and then the key for open the door. All that things are also have the other meaning and the writer will anayze.

1. Map

One important thing that Babydoll uses for escaping from the Lenox House is a map. It is the first thing that Babydoll’s idea for escaping from Lenox House. Definition of “map” word, according to
Oxford Student’s Dictionary of English is a drawing or plan of the earth’s surface or part of it, showing countries, towns, rivers and so on. We usually use map for searching the location that they want to go. From the map, we can see how the situation for our aim. In this film, map is used by Babydoll for seeing where the place for escaping. The map is always on the wall of Blue’s office, the owner of the Lenox House. We can see all the room and places of Lenox House from the map, we can see in the picture below:

![Map of Lenox House](image)

- Babydoll: “okay, so the first thing we need is a map, to figure out where all the exits are, where the guards are located.”
- Rocket: “Blue has that in his office. It’s behind his desk.”

One night in make-up room, Babydoll is discussing with her friends, they are Rocket, Amber, Blondie and Sweet Pie. They are talking about how to escape from the Lenox House, because this place is like an underground prison and then Babydoll has a good idea. From her idea, she finds several things that can help to escape. The first thing that she must

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do is getting a map. We can see in the picture and dialogue above, Babydoll explains the first thing that they do which is getting a map. The reason why she must find a map for going out from Lenox House because the place is like a prison with many locked doors and each of doors are guarded by a strong man. It is very impossible to find the exit without the map. This map is used to find the exit and it is in Blue’s office, the wall behind his desk.

The Signification of Map

1. Signifier (E₁)
   A map

2. Signified (C₁)
   A large piece of paper that showing location

Denotation

3. Sign (meaning)
   I. Signifier (E₂)
   Looking for find location and need a clue for it

   II. Signified (C₂)
   Understanding the situation

Connotation

FORM

III. Sign
Understanding the situation

SIGNIFICATION

From the scheme above, we can see the signification of map. Denotative meaning or the first signification of map is a large piece of paper that showing a location, usually used for finding a place. A large piece of
paper which shows a location as signified of map. To look for the location and
it needs a clue as the sign of the first signification and also as signifier for the
second signification of the map. From the first signification, we can find a
sign for the connotative meaning or the second signification. The connotative
meaning from a map is an “understanding of the situation.” The map as a sign
for understanding the situation, from map we can see how the place situation
from the location that we want to get.

Based on the signification of the map and the escaping of Babydoll
from Lenox House in Sucker Punch film, a map is as a sign for Babydoll to
understand the situation in the Lenox House. By understanding it, Babydoll
knows the next things that she needs for her struggle. By looking and studying
the map, Babydoll can see how the situation and the next step to take for
escaping from Lenox House.

2. Matches

The next thing that Babydoll used for her struggle is matches. It is the
second thing that Babydoll said in her opinion for escaping from Lenox
House. Definition of “matches” word, according to Oxford student’s
dictionary of English is for lighting fires, a small stick made of wood or card
board that is used for lighting a fire or cigarette.\textsuperscript{31} We usually use the matches
for making a spot fire and then burning something that we need. In this film,
matches are used by Babydoll for making a spot of fire and becoming a burn

\textsuperscript{31}Ibid, p.402.
for getting distraction from the guards. This is the action for helping her to escape from Lenox House. The matches can be got from a smoker guest of Lenox House that will come in several days later. The matches that Babydoll needs can be seen in the picture below:

![Picture of matches](image-url)

(00:34:52-00:34:56)

*Babydoll:* “second thing we need is something to start a fire with, as a distraction for when we escape. Plus, the fire should disable all the checkpoints.”

The discussion in the make-up room also gives some good idea and it is continuoing until Babydoll said that she also needs fire, and then a thing that can make fire, which is a matches. We can see the picture and dialogue above, Babydoll told that the second thing that she needs for her mission is a matches. She uses the matches to make fire as a distraction when they are escaping. The fire is used for burning when she and the other friends are escaping. If she burns the Lenox House, all attention of people will focus on the burn so the door will not be guarded and it makes easy for escaping from the Lenox House.
The Signification of Matches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Signifier ( (E_1) )</th>
<th>A matches</th>
<th>2. Signified ( (C_1) )</th>
<th>A thing for making a fire</th>
<th>Denotation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

3. Sign

- **I. Signifier \( (E_2) \)**
  - Spot fire that can making a burn

- **II. Signified \( (C_2) \)**
  - Give a attention

Connotation

**III. Sign**

- Attention

**SIGNIFICATION**

From the scheme above, we can see the signification of matches. The first signification or denotative meaning of matches is a thing for making a spot fire that can be used for burning something. A thing for making a fire is a signified form of matches. The sign of the matches is a spot fire that making a burn, it is also as the signifier for the second signification. From the first signification or denotative meaning, we can find the sign for the second signification or connotative meaning of matches. The signified for the second signification is giving an attention. In other word, the connotative meaning for
the matches is attention. The match is as a sign for turning the sight of attention by making a burn.

Based on signification of matches and the struggle of Babydoll for escaping from Lenox House in *Sucker Punch*, she is using the matches as a sign of attention. The matches can make a burn, and it can turn the attention of door guards. Because of it, all the guards will see the burn and go away from the door. It is the time when the door is out of the guards’ attention, and makes Babydoll and friends easily go to escape from Lenox House.

3. **Knife**

Another important thing that Babydoll needs for her struggle to escape from Lenox House is a knife. It is the third thing that Babydoll shares for escaping from Lenox House. Definition of “knife” word, according to *Oxford student’s dictionary of English* is a sharp blade with handle, used for cutting or as a weapon.\(^{32}\) We usually use the knife for activities when cooking. In this film, the knife is used to hurt somebody who bothers when escaping. The knife can be got in the kitchen, we can see in the picture below that a knife is found at the kitchen:

Babydoll: "and, the the third things is knife, in case we run into trouble."

Rocket: "the cook. We can do it."

The next discussion is about a plan to escape from Lenox House which is still in the make-up room. They are talking about the next idea, it is the third thing. Based on the picture and dialogue above, we can see that a knife is the third thing. Babydoll gives her opinion for the third thing that is a knife, it is in the kitchen. She explains that this knife is used for running from a trouble and she can survive from the man who guards the door of Lenox House. This knife can also hurt him especially Blue, the owner of the Lenox House. Babydoll and her friends are sure that knife can make them weak, and then make easy to escape.
The Signification of Knife

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Signifier (E₁)</th>
<th>2. Signified (C₁)</th>
<th>Denotation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A knife</td>
<td>A tool for cutting or chopping</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I.  Signifier (E₂)</th>
<th>II. Signified (C₂)</th>
<th>Connotation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinds of danger thing and can hurt the body when fighting someone who disturbs</td>
<td>Safety for the body</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FORM</th>
<th>CONCEPT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>III. Sign</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safety</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the scheme above, we can see the signification of a knife. The first signification or denotative meaning from a knife is a kind of danger thing that usually used for cutting and it can also hurt the body. A tool for cutting or chopping something as the signified the form of knife. Then, a kind of danger thing and can hurt the body when fighting someone who disturbs as the sign of the first signification, and then it is also as a signifier for the second signification. From the first signification or denotative meaning we can find the signifier of knife. And then, a signified for the second signification is safety of our body. The second signification or connotative meaning of a
knife is safety. The knife as a sign of safety, it is a tool that we can use for surviving our self.

Based on signification of knife and Babydoll’s struggle for escaping from Lenox House in *Sucker Punch* film, she is using a knife as a sign of safety. The knife can hurt the body of guards and it is also used for hurting the people who disturb their plan to escape. This knife is using when Babydoll hit the owner of the Lenox House, Blue, for getting something from him. The knife can help Babydoll’s struggle and it succeeded giving safety for her. Because of it, the knife is used as a sign for the safety.

4. **Key**

The most important thing that Babydoll used for her struggle for escaping from Lenox House is a key. It is the last thing that Babydoll shares in her discussion with her other friends for escaping. Definition “key” word from Oxford Advanced Leaners Dictionary is tool for locking, a specially shaped piece of metal used for locking a door or starting a car. We usually use a key for opening something locked. In this film, the key is only one and it is always in Blue, he also brings it everywhere he goes. We can see in the picture below that the key is always on the neck of Blue:

---

Babydoll: “the last thing is a key. Blue wears a key around his neck.”
Blondie: “I think it’s a master key.”

In the same place and also the same time, they are still talking about a plan how to escape from Lenox House. Babydoll told the last thing that is a key. Based on the picture and dialogue above, the key is used for opening the door. This key is also used for opening all the locked doors in the Lenox House. There are so many doors in the Lenox House, but it only needs one key. This key is with Blue, the owner of this Lenox House. Blue wears this key around his neck and brings it to everywhere he goes. We can imagine how difficult to get it from Blue.
The Signification of Key

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Signifier (E₁)</th>
<th>2. Signified (C₁)</th>
<th>Denotation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A key</td>
<td>A things for open something locked</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Sign (meaning)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I. Signifier (E₂)</th>
<th>II. Signified (C₂)</th>
<th>Connotation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Someplace or something that locked</td>
<td>Go out and get free</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>III. Sign</th>
<th>SIGNIFICATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freedom</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the scheme above, we can see the signification of key. The first signification or denotative meaning of key is a thing for opening that something locked. A thing for opening something locked is a signified form of key. The sign of the key is something or someplace that locked, it is also as the signifier for the second signification. From the first signification or denotative meaning, we can find the sign for the second signification or connotative meaning of key. The signified for the second signification of key is going out and getting free. In other words, the connotative meaning for the key is freedom. The key is a sign of freedom from a place.
Based on signification of key and the struggle of Babydoll for escaping from Lenox House in *Sucker Punch* film, she is using the key as a sign of freedom. The key can open all the door that locked in the Lenox House, and then Babydoll can escape from Lenox House. The key is the most important thing for her plan to escape. In other words, the key is a sign of freedom from a place, especially from Lenox House for *Sucker Punch* film.

Map, matches, knife and key are the things that Babydoll need for escaping from Lenox House. The first thing is map that she uses for understanding the situation by looking some places on the map. After understanding the situation, Babydoll need something for draw attention the guards, it is a matches by making a burn. Then she also need a knife for her safety when escaping and the last thing is key for open the door. Four objects have a similar functions, it is for finding something that missed from her. It is freedom. All the things that Babydoll’s need for escaping are for one purpose, it is only a freedom for her life.
CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

This research is aimed at knowing the denotative meaning as the first signification and connotation meaning or the second signification on the things as a sign that Babydoll using in Sucker Punch film, and wants to be delivered to the reader based on Roland Barthes theory. After finding the thing as a sign in this film, the writer analyzes the things as the sign in this film, the writer is able to draw the conclusion.

Sucker Punch is directed by Zack Synder. This film is telling about one girl who has a stepfather that wants her wealth since her mother was died. Her stepfather takes Babydoll to Lenox House, a place like a jail, fulfilled by many doors inside. All the girls in this place must follow the rule of Lenox House. Babydoll wants to escape because she feels uncomfortable and dreams a freedom. She has a good idea for her escape. She must get some things and need a help from some friends to escape from Lenox House. The things are map, matches, knife and key.

The four things are needed to escape from Lenox House. They are also as signs that have important roles in this film. As a sign of the things, it has a first signification and second signification. The first signification is denotative meaning, and then the second signification is connotative meaning. By the rule of this theory, we can get more explanation from the signification theory
by Roland Barthes. He states that signification theory is for finding the denotative meaning and connotative meaning. By using this theory we can find the connotative meaning from all the things that Babydoll needs as a sign.

Based on the signification theory of Roland Barthes, denotative meaning the word of map is large piece of paper that shows a location, and then, connotative meaning of the map is an “understanding” the situation. The second thing is matches, denotative meaning of matches is a thing for making a fire and connotative meaning of the matches is getting attention. The third thing is knife, denotative meaning of this word is a tool for cutting or chopping, and then connotative meaning of the knife is for safety. The last thing is a key, denotative meaning the word of key is a thing for opening something locked, and then connotative meaning of the key is a freedom.

Babydoll uses a map for understanding the situation of Lenox House and from the map Babydoll also knows the next step that she needed for escaping. The next sign is matches that Babydoll using for take their distraction of the guards by make a burn. By using the knife Babydoll can safe her body from someone who disturbing herself, and it is also for defence. The last sign is key, it is the most important sign. She is taking a key for opening the locked door, she wants to go out from Lenox House for something that missed from her life, it is freedom. Based on explanation above, by using semiotic theory from Roland Barthes about denotative and connotative meaning of sign, we can find the signification of thing as a sign in the Sucker Punch.
B. Suggestion

Finally the writer would like to suggest for the readers especially to those who are interested in using semiotics for analyzing a film. Based on the writer experience in writing this paper, the writer suggests that when we want to analyze the sign by using semiotics theory, we need to make sure whose theory that want to use. Then, we need more references to understand the Semiotics theory especially about the signification theory. Besides, by using Roland Barthes’s theory, we can find the denotative meaning and connotative meaning, by using a scheme for showing how the first signification, as denotative meaning and the second signification as connotative meaning.

Therefore, we should choose the corpus, that has something for using as a sign and it will make us easy to find the conclusions. After we have decided it, choose the right research question that will make us easy to do research. Then, we have to classify parts of the collected data and make these as indicators from the signs that we have found to get the best result.
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Books:


**Websites**: 

http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/british/film_1. accessed on 26 September 2013 at 01.00PM.

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http://Semiotics forBeginners/ signs, htm. Accessed on 8 Dec 2013 at 10.00PM.
Sucker Punch

- **Director**: Zack Synder
- **The Characters**:
  1. Emily Browning as Babydoll
  2. Abbie Cornish as Sweet Pea
  3. Jena Malone as Rocket
  4. Vanessa Hudgens as Blondie
  5. Jamie Chung as Amber
- **Home Production**: Warner Bros Picture, released on March 25, 2011.