THE SYMBOLIC CODES, PROAIRETIC CODES, AND HERMENEUTIC CODES IN A SHORT STORY THE LAST LEAF BY O. HENRY

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ABSTRACT

The Last Leaf is a story written by O. Henry. The writer chooses this story to analyze the Lexia and the Five codes they are Symbolic, Proairetic, Hermeneutic, Semic, and Cultural or Reference code. But the writer only chooses the 3 from the five codes they are Symbolic, Proairetic, and Hermeneutic codes. The goals of this study were to find out how the main character (Mr. Behrman) struggle to get his masterpiece and to find out how the impact of the main character (Mr. Behrman) struggle in getting masterpiece to his surrounding environment. The Research method was done by library research. For the theory, the writer will gives the information about the theory of structuralism also Lexia and the five codes discussed by Roland Barthes. There are 3 steps to analyze this story. First the writer identifies the Lexia, Second is the writer interprets the Symbolic, Proairetic, and Hermeneutic codes, and the Third is analyzing the theme. For the conclusion, it can be concluded that sacrifice is needed for every one to make masterpiece because masterpiece is not only about having something in art but it is more about doing many good things to people. Just like in this story Mr. Behrman when he struggles to get his masterpiece, a picture of a leaf is to motivate his friend to keep alive and finally he sacrifice him self to save Johnsy. The impact of his struggles on the society is that people around him has judge him as an artist that has made a masterpiece and a hero that save Johnsy’s life. (F. S)

Keyword: Symbolic code, Proairetic code, Hermeneutic code, short story.