

SYMBOLIC FUNCTION ON SATANISM SYMBOLS USED BY BLACK METAL BANDS

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Abstrak

Simbol satanisme adalah simbol yang digunakan sebagai representasi untuk memuja setan. Band-band black metal menggunakan simbol-simbol ini untuk menggambarkan keberadaan Setan dalam kepercayaan mereka kepada Setan. Band black metal menggunakan simbol satanisme sebagai komponen utama dalam genre musik mereka. Simbol-simbol ini berbeda satu sama lain. Band-band black metal seperti Dark Funeral, Cradle of Filth, Gorgoroth, atau Dimmu Borgir menggunakannya dalam genre musik mereka yang mengandung unsur satanisme. Dengan demikian, simbol satanisme merupakan tanda dalam perwujudan satanisme. Simbol satanisme memiliki fungsi yang tidak diketahui oleh penggemar black metal. Berkaitan dengan fenomena tersebut, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan fungsi dari simbol-simbol satanisme yang dibawa oleh band-band black metal. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa penulis hanya menemukan dua fungsi; fungsi ekspresi dan fungsi intuisi. Fungsi konseptual tidak terlihat karena fungsi ini disajikan dalam ilmu pengetahuan saja. Proses interpretasi fungsi tanda dalam simbol satanisme adalah pesan nonverbal antara pengirim dan penerima pesan.

Kata Kunci: Semiotik, simbol satanisme, band black metal, fungsi simbolis

Introduction

Satanism means a belief in which its followers worship Satan or Lucifer that gives them power. Introvigne (2016, p. 2) also supported, "*Satanism is the veneration of the character identified with the name of Satan or Lucifer in the Bible – whether he is considered as a sentient being or a mere symbol.*" In practice, the embodiment of Satanism by the black metal bands is not manifested in Satan's form. Still, it is displayed through components or elements of Satanism, such as symbols. Therefore, to review further research on the Satanism symbol, several related studies are needed to raise the theme of black metal and Satanism.

Previous research that discusses black metal can be seen from research conducted by Fachry (2007), Thompson (2012), and Januari (2016). These three previous studies review the development of the flow of black metal in a region or country, giving rise to attitudes or influences that impact the people who hear black metal. These three studies do not refer to the development of black metal, which is closely related to the belief in Satanism, but only examine the side of its influence on the listener. In this research, black metal becomes a means of expressing the Satanism symbols in the music industry. So, this research can be a novelty to previous studies that discuss black metal.

Next, previous research that examines Satanism can be seen from the study conducted by Hjelm et al. (2009), Petersen & Dyrendal (2012), Rijani (2017), and Koleva (2020). These four studies have similarities with previous research on black metal described previously, namely reviewing Satanism through the attitudes and influences received by society on the development of Satanism in a region or country. However, what seems different is that the three studies on Satanism have looked at Satanism in the social, cultural, and belief (religious) aspects of particular communities. However, these three studies do not explain the relationship of Satanism to the development of the music industry. In this research, Satanism becomes the primary basis for developing the music industry associated with Satanism, namely black metal. Satanism and black metal are the main components in this research so that this research can be a novelty to previous studies that discuss Satanism.

Satanism symbols are the symbols used as a representative to worship Satan. The black metal bands use these symbols to describe Satan's existence in their belief in Satan. The black metal bands use satanism symbols as the main component in their music genre. These symbols are different from each other. The black metal bands such as Dark Funeral, Cradle of Filth, Gorgoroth, or Dimmu Borgir use them in their music genre containing the Satanism elements. Thus, the satanism symbols are a sign in the embodiment of Satanism. The satanism symbols have a function unknown to black metal fans. This study aims to find the function of Satanism symbols conveyed by the black metal bands connected with this phenomenon.

Material and Method

1. Material

A. Satanism Symbols

Dewi (2009, p. 61-64) summarizes some of the experts' explanations, explaining nine types of Satanism symbols: *Baphomet*, *Pentagram*, *Goat of Mendes*, *Inverted Cross*, and *The Beast 666*, *Horned Hand*, *Sigil of Lucifer*, *Fig Hand*, and *Sulfur*. These all symbols are the main aspects of Satanism. Satanism's followers bring into these symbols power, freedom, prosperity, wisdom. Satanism teaching has developed into many elements, including art and music, especially for black metal bands. Many black bands use these symbols in their music genre to show their identity as black metal bands which focus on Satanism.

B. The Theory of Symbolic Function

Each symbol has its function. In Satanism symbols, the function can represent the function used in three aspects: expression function, intuition function, and conceptual function (Hamburg, 1956, p. 85-86). The first function is expression. Expression is a feeling, behavior, or emotion that is channeled through a language. Hamburg (1956, p. 85) stated, *"The expression-modus is said to be exemplified in the domains of myth, art, and (the sub-strata of) language, and what is referred to by other contemporary philosophers, in related connotations, as "tertiary qualities," "essences," "prehensions," "significant forms," etc."* The expression function can understand someone's personality or character.

The second function is the intuition function. Intuition is something that can be owned by someone to satisfy someone's desire through a language. Hamburg (1956, p. 86) stated, *"The intuition- (or thing-perceptual, empirical) modus is said to be exemplified in the "natural world-view" of commonsense, both constituted and reflected by language."* Intuition function is also seen from something new in social life.

The third function is the conceptual function. The conceptual function emphasizes something regularly and usually presented in science. Hamburg (1956, p. 86) stated, *"The conceptual (or theoretical) modus is said to be exemplified by the order-systems of signs in which we have the world of science."* The conceptual function is also determined by logical thinking.

These functions also can be seen from symbols like Satanism symbols. Each Satanism symbol has its role that explains what part that presented on Satanism symbols. Many black metal bands use Satanism symbols that having a particular function in each sign. Based on the explanations above, the author applied the theory, which is only related to the symbolic function by Carl H. Hamburg. This theory is the appropriate one to analyze the function of Satanism symbols.

2. Method

A. Data Collection

In this study, the author uses tapping techniques and documentation in collecting data. Mahsun (2007, p. 92) said that qualitative research that utilizes linguistic data in nonverbal forms such as symbols could be associated with types of tapping techniques, namely research techniques related to documentation, note-taking, and listening techniques. One of the techniques applied in this research is the documentation technique.

Emzir (2012, p. 37) added that documentation is one of the qualitative data collection techniques. Therefore, the data collection technique used in this study is to use documentation techniques for the nine Satanism symbols found on the internet.

B. Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, the author applies the techniques based on the six steps of data analysis introduced by Creswell (2009, p. 185-189). The six steps of data analysis are as follows. First, the author observes the Satanism symbols through internet searches. Second, the author chooses symbols related to the nine Satanism symbols summarized by Dewi (2009). Third, the author identifies the nine Satanism symbols into the symbolic theory of Hamburg (1956). Fourth, the author chooses the Satanism symbols, which can only be determined by the three symbolic functions of Hamburg (1956). Fifth, the author shows two symbolic functions contained in the Satanism symbols as data findings. Sixth, the author interprets the data, which aims to find the function of the Satanism symbols based on Hamburg's (1956) symbolic theory.

Result and Discussion

Hamburg (1956) said that there are three functions of the symbol. They are expression function, intuition function, and conceptual function. In Satanism symbols, the author only finds two functions; are expression function and intuition function. The conceptual function is not contained in the Satanism symbols because this function is presented in science only. Then, the author also finds that two Satanism symbols are not included in symbolic function; they are *Fig Hand* and *Horned Hand*.

1. Expression Function

A. Baphomet

Baphomet has become the main symbol for the Satanist to worship Satan. The Satanists express this symbol as a form of their loyalty to Satan as their God. For years, Baphomet has been declared as the symbol in worshipping Satan.

B. Pentagram

Pentagram is expressed as a power giver. Five lines that formed the inverted star express a strong of Satan. The Satanists believe that this symbol can give them power, prosperity, and strong in life. Pentagram is also becoming the main component in Satanism ritual in the Church of Satan.

C. Goat of Mendes

The Satanists express this symbol as freedom of sexuality. The scene of the goat expresses wild desire and endless sex activities for the Satanist. Then, the set of the inverted pentagram describes the power to do sex for the Satanist. That is why the symbol of *Goat of Mendes* is expressed as freedom of sexuality.

D. Inverted Cross

The Satanists express this symbol as Anti-Christ. The symbol of the Inverted Cross becomes the main component in Satanism ritual in the Church of Satan. That is why the Satanists describe this symbol as the disagreement of Jesus Christ's teaching.

E. The Beast 666

666 is Satan's number. The Satanists express this symbol as strong, powerful, and perfect. They believe that this symbol appears in a human being's body, delegated as Satan's offspring.

F. Sigil of Lucifer

Lucifer is described as an angel who God curses. The Satanists express Lucifer as a power giver to a human being. They honor Lucifer for what Lucifer has done because of his arrogancy and defy God's command.

G. Sulfur

This symbol is expressed as the correlation between human beings and Satan, which they believe that Satan gives unlimited power to a human being.

2. Intuition Function

A. Baphomet

The Satanist uses this symbol to worship Satan, but this symbol has become a fashion, trend, accessories in their life society. The unique form and Goat image of Baphomet has functioned as a trend, creating this symbol for a necklace, tattoo, or a picture in a t-shirt, and even in album covers of black metal bands.

B. Pentagram

This symbol also becomes a fashion, trend, and accessories for the Satanist. The unique form and stars image of pentagram is a trend such as creating this symbol for a necklace, tattoo, or a picture in t-shirt, and even in album covers of black metal bands.

C. Goat of Mendes

This symbol also becomes a fashion, trend, and accessories for the Satanist. The unique form and Goat image with Inverted Pentagram is the symbol of Goat of Mendes is

functioned as a trend such creating this symbol for a necklace, tattoo, or a picture in t-shirt, and even in album covers of black metal bands.

D. *Inverted Cross*

This symbol also becomes a fashion, trend, and accessories for the Satanist. The unique form of Inverted Cross has functioned as a trend, such as creating this symbol for a necklace, tattoo, a picture in a t-shirt, and even in album covers of black metal bands.

E. *The Beast 666*

The symbol of The Beast 666 is also becoming a fashion, trend, and accessories for the Satanist. The unique number forms The Beast 666 is a trend such as creating this symbol for a necklace, tattoo, or a picture in t-shirt, and even in album covers of black metal bands.

F. *Sigil of Lucifer*

The Satanist honor Lucifer by making his statue. Satanists worship the figure in the Church of Satan. The unique image of Lucifer has functioned as a trend, such as creating this symbol for a statue, necklace, tattoo, a picture in a t-shirt, and even in album covers of black metal bands.

G. *Sulfur*

The scent of sulfur is used in Satanic rituals in the Church of Satan. The Satanists believe that this scent can make them strong by breathing the Satanic's element or Satan's aroma into their body and their mind.

Conclusion

Black metal and Satanism are two inseparable things where the personnel of black metal bands uses sure signs or symbols as an embodiment of satanic worship. From the explanation above, seven Satanism symbols functioned as expression functions and intuition functions; they are *Baphomet*, *Pentagram*, *Goat of Mendes*, *Inverted Cross*, *The Beast 666*, *Sigil of Lucifer*, and *Sulfur*. These Satanism symbols can function as expression function because the Satanist express these symbols as a representation of Satan that connects their belief, emotion, and feeling to Satan. Then, These Satanism symbols can function as intuition functions because the Satanists use these symbols as a fashion, trend, and accessories in their social life.

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