

73. Application of Roland Barthes' Five Codes on Edgar Allan Poe's Short Story "The Black Cat"

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Abstract

This research focuses on Roland Barthes' structural theory of five codes on "The Black Cat" a short story by Edgar Allan Poe. The study examines the selected story by means of qualitative method in the light of Roland Barthes' five codes. The paper examines short critical premises of The Black Cat and then the application of the five codes as framed by Barthes' on the structure of the selected story. Based on the textual analysis, it indicates that the selected story covers all the five codes such as Proairetic, hermeneutic, semantic, symbolic, and cultural codes. The selected story begins with an enigma and the story includes many linguistic elements that reflect connotative and hidden meaning. It also includes cultural references of Greek and Roman Mythology. In addition, symbolic code in other words binary oppositions play significant role in the lexico grammatical pattern of the story in terms of love and hate, illusion versus reality, the entirely black cat versus the black cat with white spot on the skin, poor versus rich, sense of innocence versus sense of evil. The research concludes that the author creates a balance in the story by means of the five codes of Barthes. The study suggests that the unnamed narrator's inner world, viewpoints and his perception of the reality constructs the basic structure and content of the story.

Keywords: Roland Barthes, Five Codes, The Black Cat, Edgar Allan Poe

Roland Barthes'in Beş Kodunun Edgar Allan Poe'nun Kısa Öyküsü Kara Kedi'ye Uygulanması

Öz

Bu araştırma, Roland Barthes'in beş kodlu teorisinin Edgar Allan Poe'nun "Kara Kedi" adlı kısa öyküsüne ilişkin yapısal kuramına odaklanmaktadır. Çalışma seçilen öyküyü Roland Barthes'in beş kodu ışığında nitel yöntemle incelemektedir. Makale, hikâyenin eleştirel öncüllerini ve ardından Barthes'in çerçevelediği beş kodun seçilen öykünün yapısına uygulanmasına odaklanmaktadır. Çalışma metinsel analize dayalı olarak, seçilen hikâyenin proairetik, hermeneutik ya da yorumsama, semantik ya da anlamsal, sembolik ve kültürel kodlar gibi beş kodu da kapsadığını göstermektedir. Seçilen hikâyeye bir gizemle başlar ve hikâyeye çağrışımsal ve gizli anlamı yansıtan pek çok dilsel öge içerir. Aynı zamanda, Yunan ve Roma Mitolojisinden kültürel referanslar içerir. Ayrıca, sembolik kod, diğer bir deyişle ikili karşıtlıklar, aşk ve nefret, yanlısamaya karşı gerçek, kara kediye karşı derisi beyaz benekli kara kedi, fakirlik zenginlik ve masumiyet kötülük tezatlığı açısından hikâyenin oluşumunda kelime ve dilbilgisi açısından önemli yer tutar. Araştırma sonucunda, yazarın, Barthesin beş kodu aracılığıyla bir denge oluşturduğu görülmektedir. Bu çalışma, bilinmeyen anlatıcının iç

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dünyasının, bakış açısının ve gerçeklik algısının, öykünün içeriğini ve temel yapısını oluşturduğunu öne sürmektedir.

Anahtar kelimeler: Roland Barthes, Beş Kod, Siyah Kedi, Edgar Allan Poe

Introduction

Roland Barthes is a French structuralist and linguist and in his book *S/Z* (Barthes,1974) he explained methods of literary analysis. He analyzed Balzac's story "Sarrasine" and he described five codes. These are hermeneutic code, proairatic code, semantic code, symbolic code and cultural code. According to him, text and its meaning are constructed by these codes (Barthes,1975). In this respect, the study applies Barthes five codes in order to analyze Poe's short story *The Black cat* to understand how far Roland Barthes' structural theory is applicable and relevant Poe's "The Black Cat" in terms of social and cultural context. Poe's short story "The Black Cat" short story is selected for multiple reasons. Despite of the fact that it is a short story, it can be considered as enigmatic for the target readership. It includes many actions and it focuses on symbolic and cultural references. The selected short story introduces contrasting personalities of unnamed narrator. The unnamed narrator reflects two different personalities. In the beginning, he is considered as innocent and pure in the end his personality returned into an evil character. These two different personalities are considered as binary oppositions. In other words, ranging from love to hatred plays significant role in the short story. His different personalities and different mindset are linguistically visible in the text. In this study, the researcher tries to interpret the story by means of Barthes' five codes in order to explore theme and structure of the story.

Theoretical Framework

Roland Barthes ' Five Codes

Barthes introduces theory of five codes in order to understand the structure of the narrative. According to Barthes, there are two types of text. These are readerly and writerly texts. In the readerly text the meaning is determined and constructed by the author and reader is taken to final conclusion. Readerly text is considered as closed text with a limited and determined meaning, they are already written texts, whereas writerly texts guide the readers to produce meanings. Writerly text has multiple meanings and it is based on reader's background knowledge, culture and interpretation about the text (Barthes,1975). Based on this, Barthes suggests that five codes are the important elements in order to understand the structures of a text or narrative. By means of these five codes, hidden meaning and connotative meaning can be explored and revealed in a literary text or language. The five levels of coding are explained below.

The Hermeneutic Code/ Enigma Code

This code focuses on mysterious, puzzling aspects of the text. The reader is curious about unexplained and incomplete features of the text. They ask different questions such as what is happening in the text? What is the obstacle? Who committed the murder? In order to understand and explore the mysterious elements of the text, the reader uses his or her mental representation or mental faculty in order to construct and reveal these enigmatic elements in the text (Allen,2003).

Some enigmatic features are answered in the end of the text some enigmatic codes are not answered and they are mystery for the reader. As it is mentioned before, if the text is readerly text, the enigmatic codes determined and revealed in the end of the narrative are considered as closed text. On the other hand, if

the text is writerly text, the enigmatic features are not revealed in the end of the story and the reader uses his or her mental faculty in order to realize the meaning (Sturrock,2003).

The Proairetic Code / Action Code

Proairetic code, in other words, code of actions constructs suspense in the narrative or text and it establishes the interest of the reader (Danesi,2004).“What happens next?” is a basic question in order to keep the interest of reader for coming actions. This code reflects chronological sequence in the story. This code constructs sequential logic of action and behaviour in the text. This code is important for readerly closed texts, namely traditional literary texts (Allen,2003). In traditional literary texts, chronological sequence is found in the text in terms of actions, and characterization of the narrative. The readers can understand the logical chronological sequence of actions in the story by means of action code, whereas the hermeneutic code guides the readers to explore the enigmatic features such as and mysterious puzzling situations in the story. The plot of the narrative or subject matter of the text can be revealed by using these two codes (Danesi,2007:143).

The Semantic Code/ Connotative Code

The semantic code reflects additional meaning or connotative meaning in the story (Danesi,2004)

The semantic code in other words connotative meanings are often seen in the characterization but this code is also related with theme (Sturrock,2003).

The Symbolic Code

This code is also called the antithetic code. This code is related to semantic code but its function is deeper than the semantic code. It constructs meaning by means of binary oppositions or antithesis. The concept of polarities is based on the theory of structuralism. Through binary oppositions a structuralist can perceive the reality of the text (Danesi and Sebeok,2000:223).

The Cultural Code / the Referential Code

It reflects common knowledge. By means of this code, the readers have physical, medical, literary or historical knowledge. Cultural codes related to cliches, proverbs and popular statements in the narrative (Chatman,1978).

Statement of the Problem

Proairetic code, hermeneutic code, cultural code semantic and symbolic code are some hidden codes in semiotic. It is hard to perceive these codes in texts because they are not seen explicitly. In order to explore these semiotic codes the researcher tries to analyze the actions, ideologically and politically Oriented lexis, and their images of the character in the story. Therefore, the researcher uses Roland Barthes' semiotics theory (five codes) in order to explain these codes because these codes reflect implicit and explicit and implied meaning. The researcher uses this theory because this theory is suitable to examine the meanings that are hidden behind the five codes.

Objective of the Study

The researcher focuses on this study in order to explore the codes that exist in the selected short story to understand the meaning of the work. By means of semiotic perspective, the readers can perceive and get the implied and hidden meaning deeply in the selected story.

Research Questions

The study focuses on the five codes that are related to words, images, sounds, acts and objects. Based on this, this study conducts on these two research questions.

- 1.What are the types of hidden codes found in the Black Cat by Edgar Allan Poe?
2. What are the implied, explicit and implicit meaning behind the codes in the Black Cat by Edgar Allan Poe?

Method of Research

The five codes that are implied in the actions, words and images of the character are analyzed in the selected story. The five codes and their usage and functions are described in the selected story. The implied, hidden meaning of the selected story are explored through semiotic perspective. In the final stage, the researcher presents the analysis using qualitative descriptive method.

Application Of Roland Barthes' Codes / Discussion

The Hermeneutic / Enigma Code

Horror stories include hermeneutic codes (Chatman,1978). The Black Cat is one of the Poe's significant stories and it is considered as classic example of the gothic literature. Multiple themes and concepts are employed in the story. The concept of insanity, supersitition, and alcoholism are the sense of horror and mystery and the can be considered as enigmatic codes of the story. The narrator is full of hatred and broken empty soul and his psychological state creates enigma in the story. The hermeneutic code reflects enigmas in the narrative (Sebeok,2001) The title of the narrative, the Black Cat reflects mystery in the story. It seems like an enigmatic code to the readers. At the beginning, the reader can ask why the story is entitled as the black cat. The enigma is explored in the first monologue when the narrator introduces himself as an animal lover. "*I was especially fond of animals.*" (Poe,2004:4) Poe's "The Black Cat" constructs setting of horror, guilt, death, and darkness to the reader. The supernatural atmosphere creates mystery and suspense in the narrative. Supernatural happenings, andan inexplicable madness in the narraitve are the characteristic of the text. The nameless narrator is seen in the text and he introduces himself to the reader as a nice, docile, average man, he had a pleasant home and he was married to a pleasant lovely wife and he loved animals.

All these good qualities change during the story when he is influenced by alcohol. The pysical transference creates enigma in the story. Narrator's perception of reality changes during the course of the story which is basic enigmatic code for the reader. Because this pysical transference is explained with the concept of alcoholism and it is an enigmatic code for the reader that why the psyche of the narrator range from love to hatred. The theme of madness, irrational behaviour, psyche of the narrator and his antisocial behaviour establishes suspense and enigma also these enigmatic features also

explore the dark hidden aspects of human nature. Gloomy, decaying atmosphere of the story reflects enigmatic nature of the narrative. It can be noted here that, psychological transformation of the narrator's psyche from love to hatred, intimacy and disgust and his gloomy nature are the basic enigmatic codes of the story.

Proairetic Code

Proairetic codes include plot points (Chatman,1978). It is interesting to note that almost all the action in the narrative is performed by unnamed unreliable narrator. The black cat and wife are passive in the story. As it is mentioned before, the story is told by unnamed unreliable narrator and this is narrative technique of the story. The narrator does not hope the reader to believe him.

"For the most wild yet most homely narrative which I am about to pen, I neither expect nor solicit belief." (Poe,2004:1)

One more point about the main character is that in spite of the horrible deeds he has committed such as cutting the black cat's eye, killing his wife and he denies being looked at as a mad man:

"Mad indeed would I be to expect it, in a case where my very senses reject their own evidence. Yet, mad am I not- and very surely do I not dream" (Poe,2004).

Based on this quote, the narrator is a round character. The narrator's background is not known. At the beginning of the story he introduces himself as a mild domestic person who is obsessed with pets, in the end of the story he turns into a murderer.

It can be noted here, his psyche is motivated by alcoholism. Sudden change in his character can be explained by "the instrumentality of the Fiend Intemperance" (Poe,2004:8). The concept of the cat and the concept of the alcohol play important role in the story for his psychological process.

The story takes place in the three main settings. The narrator's house where he, his wife and pets live, the another setting is the old house and this house has a cell and he, his wife and another cat live in poverty. The final setting is the prison where the narrator tells his story to the reader before the execution. As mentioned before the story is narrated from first person point of view. The usage of first person point of view establish intimacy between the reader and the narrative. The narrative uses Simple Past Tense. The past verbal patterns are the stylistic narration of the story. Simple Past tense points out that the events finished and completed in the past no one can change the past. Based on this, The gothic features of gloom, mystery, death, superstition play significant role action code of the story.

In the beginning of the story, he introduced himself as a nice and avarage man. He had a sweet home, he was married to a pleasant wife, he loved animals. These good things turned into negative form when he was influenced by the alcohol. The first symptom of addiction to alcohol was seen when he maltreated to the family cat. Beloved black cat named Pluto is seized by the narrator when he was in a heavy drunken. The narrator cut out one of Pluto's eyes. The cat's wound healed but the emotinal relationship between narrator and the cat was destroyed. The narrator hated himself and the cat became the symbol of weakness. At the moment of his insanity, the narrator hung the cat by the neck from a tree.

After a short while the narrator's house was destroyed by the fire. The narrator, wife and servant escaped from the house. The image of a cat hanging around its neck was seen by the neighbours. One night the

narrator began to search out a second black cat to replace Pluto. Another black cat appeared in the story. This cat resembled Pluto, but the cat had white spot on its chest. The narrator took the cat home and his wife was very happy. After a short while his wife showed the narrator that the white spot on the cat's fur grew. The narrator as afraid of cat and he detested the new cat. One day he and his wifwe went down the cellar of the house, the cat followed them. He was irritated by the cat and the state of madness returned and the narrator tried to kill the cat by an axe. The wife stopped him and the narrator killed his wife with the axe. Rather than breaking down with remorse the narrator concealed the body in a space behind the cell wall. The cat was nowhere to be seen. Even though, he killed his wife he slept peacefully for the first time. The police came and searched the house and they found nothing, when they were about the leave, the narrator talked about the shape of the house and how well the house was. He took his cane and he hit the wall where his wife's body was hidden. When the narrator hit the wall horrible and desperate sound were heard. The police took down the wall and they found the dead body. In addition, the cat on top of its head. At the end of the story, the readers understood that why the narrator was in the prison and sentenced to death by hanging. The narrator uses first person point of view therefore the narrator frequently uses subject pronoun "I" because the narrator openly explains his own experience and existence in the story. As it is mentioned before, the story is told by unnamed narrator and he commits serial of murders and in the end of the story he was sentenced into death.

The narrator in the story is the participant and the doer of the all actions. He is considered as focal character because he conveys his murderous actions to the reader by means of written confession. The gothic features of gloom, supersitition, death and mystery seen as action code of the story.

To summarize, exposition is the starting point of the story and the narrator introduces himself as the major character. In complication part, the conflict is presented to the reader. The conflicts occur between the major character and the two black cats. First, the conflict happened between the narrator and the black cat called Pluto. The narrator cut out the black cat's eye when he was influenced by the alcohol. Second, the conflict occured when another black cat which had a white spot on its chest. The narrator was afraid of its existence and he was disturbed by the cat and he wanted to kill the second cat. Third, the conflict happened between the narrator and his wife. When the narrator was about to kill the second cat his wife stopped him and the narrator killed his wife.

In the climax, the turning point of the story is happened. There are two turning points in the story. First, the narrator kills Pluto, second, the narrator kills his wife. At the beginning of the story the narrator introduces himself as a docile and pleasant man and protagonist's psyche changes from love to hatred during the story, in this respect, murderous actions create the turning point in the story. In the falling action part, the conflict which occured between the unnamed narrator and his wife. The narrator focuses on how can he conceal the wife's dead body? By killing his wife the angriness, sadness, hatred and self-loading is dissappread. Because that night, the narrator sleeps peacefully for the first time. In resolution part, the conflict is resolved in the text. The police finds the dead body with the cat on top of its head. Proairetic Code is resolved in the text.

The Semantic code /Connotative code

The semantic code focuses on connotations rather than denotational level. Most of the features in the story have connotative meaning. The black cat is a more than the title of character, the black cat reflects connotative meaning. In Poe's gothic story the black cat reflects bad omen of the legend and it symbolizes narrator's psyche in terms of insanity. The black cat connates double image for example the black cat

with white spot on the skin in the course of the text. The first connotative meaning is conveyed of the animal by the narrator's wife. She said that "All black cats as witches in disguise." (Poe,2004:8). The black cat is personified by the narrator. We had birds, gold-fish, a fine dog, rabbits, a small monkey, and a cat. This latter was a remarkably large and beautiful animal, entirely black, and sagacious to an astonishing degree (Poe,2004:4). The concept of beautiful and intelligence are used for the black cat. As a reader we can understand that the black cat is more than animal. In this respect the existence of the black cat dominates the narrator's psyche and his perception of reality. The black cat has many substitutions. Such as Pluto, pet, animal, and beast. The narrator uses he, him, it and its on the level of pronoun. As critical readers, we can figure out that the black cat does not only connote the mammal beast in the story it is also associated with death, gloomy, mystery, darkness and superstition. The connotative code of darkness and death are conveyed by the narrator's murderous actions. the second cat is narrated with nouns and pronouns.

She followed

The cat followed me

Aimed a blow at the animal (Poe,2004 7-9)

These lexico grammatical pattern connotes the narrator's psychological trauma and psychological transformation from love to hatred in other words from intimacy to hate. The signifier Pluto reflects the abstract idea of darkness and death and it becomes dominant connotative code in the text. As it is mentioned before, alcohol also reflects connotative code. The narrator's mentality is shaped by his alcohol addiction. The narrator's addiction to drinking causes the mental decline. Murderous actions are done when he is influenced by the alcohol. In addition, the concept of house and home are important codes in the story. The concept of home sweet home is seen in the beginning of the story. Because the narrator introduces himself as a docile, average married man. In the beginning of the story the house is the place of safety and security. Later, it becomes a dark, wild and tragic place of insane and murder. The narrator kills his favorite pet Pluto, and he tries to kill its replacement and he kills his wife. In the beginning of the story the concept of the house is center of the healthy and happy home however in the end of the story it turns into wild, strange and darkish place. The fire has connotative meaning, the narrator's house burns down. It symbolized death in the story. The white spot on the second cat's fur has connotative meaning.

It was now the representation of an object that I shudder to name—and for this, above all, I loathed, and dreaded, and would have rid myself of the monster had I dared—it was now, I say, the image of a hideous—of a ghastly thing—of the GALLOWS!— oh, mournful and terrible engine of Horror and of Crime—of Agony and of Death! (Poe,2004:8)

It reflects the image or concept of gallows. the gallows is a wooden device and it is used for hanging people. In this respect, the white spot on the cat's fur reflects death. In the end of the text, the narrator is sentenced to death by hanging. The narrator's cognitive state of mind is seen in the narrator's language. His alcohol based hallucinations are seen narrator's broken phrases. The code of horror, crime agony and death are employed by his discourse. The narrator's discourse is shaped by narrator's psychopathic state of mind. As mentioned before, denotatively meaning, gallows is used for criminals who are sentenced to death. Based on connotative code, gallows becomes an object that I shudder to name—then it becomes a ghastly thing. In this respect, gallows represents physical punishment but the sign of the gallows connotes psychological and emotional punishment and torment before the narrator's physical death. The concept of prison has connotative code in the story. In the beginning of the story, the narrator is physically in the jail. It can be noted here that, his state of mind and his psyche was

already imprisoned by the paranoia, insanity, alcohol- motivated abnormality, and self -loathing and destructive obsession before he commits murderous actions. The wife has connotative code in the story. As a reader, we know that, the narrator gets married and his wife loves animals too. The wife reflects humanity of feeling. The wife is passive during the story. All the actions are performed by the narrator. In this respect, she does not save him, she does not help him or at least she does not escape with her life and she becomes an example of innocence. Based on this perspective, she is considered as loyal, faithful and kind and she obeys rules of patriarchal sytem in terms of marriage institutions. It can be noted here that, the wife becomes the victim of patriarchal society.

The Symbolic Code

The symbolic code focuses on thematic and structural devices of the text. The symbolic code deals with contrasting signs and different semantic codes. As mentioned before, the symbolic code focuses on binary opposites and binary constrastng signs reveal the characters and settig of the story (Trask,1993:439). The writers use antithesis in order to reveal symbolic codes. In Poe's story there are many symbolic codes. The black cat represents not only the mamal creature but also it represents concept of death and darkness. The second black cat with the white spot on his chest can be considered as innocent naive side of the narrator. Because in the beginning of the story the narrator is fond of animals. Based on this, the binary opposition love and hate are the symbolic codes of the story. In the beginning of the story the narrator loves his pets and his wife but course of the story he is getting worse and worse and he loathes everyting. Sane and insane reflect binary oppositions in the story. The narrator's psyche is healthy and happy in the beginning of the story, in the end madness, paranoia are appeared in the story. This establishes binary oppositions in the text.

Transformation and turns into insanity

"I knew myself no longer. My original soul seemed, at once, to take its flight from my body; and a more than fiendish malevolence, gin-nurtured, thrilled every fiber of my frame." (Poe,2004:8)

Justice and truth and conceal are other symbolic codes of the story. The narrator tries to hide the body and he tries to hide the truth but justice are established by means of the voice of the black cat. In this sense, black cats represent darkness and death, but also they represent innocent, justice and truth. Illusion versus reality are the symbolic codes of the story.

"For the most wild, yet most homely narrative which I am about to pen, I neither expect nor solicit belief."(Poe,2004:1) The alcohol represents and hallucinations illusions, paranoia and violence.

On alcoholism

"...my disease grew upon me—for what disease is like Alcohol!—and at length even Pluto, who was now becoming old, and consequently somewhat peevish—even Pluto began to experience the effects of my ill temper." (Poe,2004:12)

The narrator's perception of reality is broken by means of his addiction. The fondness for animals and fondness for his wife are destroyed by means of alcohol. The narrator's state of mind represents rational rejection, actually the narrator is not able to see in other words the narrator refuses to see a connection between his murderous acts and his addiction. As it is mentioned before, Pluto is the narrator's favourite animal and there is a special relationship between the animal and the narrator. In the course of the story, a significant change is seen in terms of his behaviour and his inner world.

"I grew, day by day, more moody, more irritable, more regardless of the feelings of others." (Poe,2004:4). Based on this discursive pattern, it can be noted here that, narrator's perception of reality is shattered. This creates binary opposition between reality and illusion. From this perspective, the narrator writes first person in order to explain his mental and emotional and psychological state. The narrator writes in first person because he hopes that his readers will understand his actions and he is afraid of accepting the truth. As it is stated in the story, the narrator is a killer and he is full of hatred and it can be noted here that, the black cat represents the narrator's imagination, and it represents his inner dark world, wicked thoughts that he is trying to ignore.

To summarize, in the beginning of the story the narrator uses gentle discourse and voice about animals and his wife but in end of the story he uses abusive language. In the beginning, the narrator is a optimistic lovely person in the end of the story his emotional state is shattered. In the first part of the story, he loves his wife in the end of the story he loathes both of them. In the beginning, he has clarity of mind in the end of the story he is confused and unrealistic. The concept of poor and rich can be considered as binary oppositions in the text. In the beginning of the story, the narrator is not poor and he has beloved home but his house is burnt and in the end he lives in shattered house. In the beginning of the story, he is passive and he is receiver of the action and in the end of the story he is active and all murderous actions performed by the narrator. In addition, the concept of wife and husband creates binary oppositions. The wife is passive during the story and the husband is active in terms of wicked thoughts. The concept of wife reflects loyal and faithful and kind and good manner partner the concept of husband reflects darkness, death and mental decline. The binary opposition intimacy to disgust based on narrator's psyche can be analysed in terms of verbal language in the text. For instance, the use of Pluto, pet, animal and beastr on the level of pronoun "he" "him" "it" and "its" are used. The usage of pronoun and noun level for the second cat are she, cat the animal. The usage of pronoun and noun for the first and the second cat creates binary opposition, in terms of love and hatred in other words intimacy to disgust.

She followed

The cat followed me

Aimed a blow at the animal (Poe,2004, 7-9)

The Cultural Code

The cultural code reflects social, psychological references (Danesi,2007). Based on this, the story includes many cultural references. Superstition can be considered as the cultural code in the story.

On superstition:

"In speaking of his intelligence, my wife, who at heart was not a little tinctured with superstition, made frequent allusion to the ancient popular notion, which regarded all black cats as witches in disguise." (Poe,2004:3)

Poe's gothic story reflects Victorian gothic genre, death, reanimation of dead, darkness. The black cat reflects bad luck and his wife employs popular notion "All black cats as witches in disguise." The other popular notion in the story is the belief that a cat has nine lives. This popular notion becomes integral part of the story because the second cat can be considered as reincarnation of the previous cat named Pluto. The second black cat's the white spot on its fur reflect Gallows. This represents cultural code of legal system and law. In addition, it represents death and psychological punishment for a physical crime.

It can be noted here, it reflects narrator's sickness of mind and his eternal suffering. The black cat reflects death and darkness in the cultural code. Based on mythology the cat is also associated with supernatural beast. The Egyptians think the cat associated with the moon and it is condired as sacred holy thing in addition it symbolizes the guardian of marriage (Cirlot,1971). The cat's colour black is also significant cultural code in the story. The black cat reflects darkness and death (Cirlot,1971:39). The cat's name Pluto reflects cultural connotation. In Greek and Roman mythology, Hades, god of the dead and the underworld also named Ades, Aides, Pluton (Cirlot,1971). In this sense, the name Pluto reflects code of death. based on semiotic analysis Pluto is a signifier the pyschical existence of the black cat the idea of death is signified that is an important part of the horror code. The concept of crıme the narrator's murderous actions, angry (He hates animals in the end of the story) corpse (the cats' dead bodies and his wife dead body), gallows (graves) are the cultural code (culture of horror) of the Poe's gothic story. The binary opposition of real and supernatural reflect psychopatic cognition of the narrator. The insanity of the narrator reflects supernatural which is based on supernatural explanation. For example, the cat's voice is heard from the basement walls and it is hard to believe that it would remain silently in the wall for a long time.

Conclusion

In the end, it can be concluded that the analysis of the story based on Barthes' codes maintains a deep insight perceiving the structure and theme of the story. Barthes' five codes can be easily seen in the text. The text includes enigmas in order to keep target readers' curiosity while they are reading the text. The reader tries to understand unnamed narrator's psychopathic human nature and the existence of black cats. There are many examples of deadly deeds and actions that establish suspense. The unnamed narrator's sickness of mind creates mystery during the story. The notions of horror, guilt, evil and darkness in other words culture of horror dominate the story. The symbolic code plays a significant role in the text. The plot of the story is based on the binary oppositions. The concept of love and hate, sane and insane, illusion versus reality, poor versus rich, contrasting personalities of unnamed narrator are present in the text. To conclude, there are many references to things, values, beliefs related to cultural code.

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