



Semiotic Analysis In The Anime A Silent Voice As A Representation Of Bullying On The Bstation Application

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Abstract

Aims. This study aims to analyze semiotics in the anime A Silent Voice as a representation of bullying on the Bstation app from Kyoto Animation studio.

Methods. Directed by Naoko Yamada, this study uses Charles Sanders Peirce's semiotics theory, which consists of three elements of meaning or the Triangle of Meaning, namely Sign, Object, and Interpreter, using several data or scenes in the anime "A Silent Voice" as units of analysis, as well as using information sources in the form of documentation from the anime "A Silent Voice".

Result. The results of the study show that the anime "A Silent Voice" has a meaning of bullying categorized into three types, from Signs such as hearing aids, the "X" symbol, body gestures, representations of teacher authority, and the arrangement of space and atmosphere that function as signs that mediate the characters' experiences. The Object includes sensory disabilities, social rejection, group interaction mechanisms, school institutional structures, and mental pressure. The Interpreter includes the construction of differences, internalization of guilt, experiences of isolation, and psychological trauma.

Conclusion. This anime can bring positive values to the audience watching the film by showing how bullying can be seen from the dimensions of Signs, Objects, and Interpreters by identifying and observing each scene shown in the film on the two characters, Shoko Nishimiya and Shoya Ishida.

Keywords: A Silent Voice, Semiotics, Bullying, Anime Movies, Visual.



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INTRODUCTION

A Silent Voice (Koe no Katachi) is a Japanese animated film, better known as an anime drama, which tells the story of Shoko Nishimiya, a deaf girl who is the victim of bullying, and Shoya Ishida, the bully who tries to make amends for his mistakes. This film explores complex themes such as bullying, disability, redemption, mental health, and empathy. A brief synopsis of the film is that when Shoya Ishida was in elementary school, he bullied a deaf transfer

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student named Shoko Nishimiya. Eventually, Nishimiya transferred schools, and Shoya Ishida's actions caused him to be shunned by his friends. Years later, Ishida finally seeks out Nishimiya to apologize and make amends for his past actions. In addition to focusing on bullying, this film also focuses on Shoya Ishida's efforts to repair his relationship with Shoko Nishimiya. This film also highlights the impact of bullying on victims and perpetrators, as well as the struggle for forgiveness and self-acceptance. (Sapatulloh et al., 2024)

Bstation is a video streaming platform popular among today's younger generation, providing a variety of entertainment content such as anime. This platform is popular in Southeast Asia and offers anime with Indonesian subtitles, HD video quality, and community features that allow users to interact. The app is officially available on the App Store and Play Store and can be used free of charge by users who want to watch entertainment such as anime. Bullying is a social issue that society does not want to happen. Social issues do not only concern one or two people, but also involve many people and the wider community. For example, in schools, where social problems often occur, one of which is bullying. Bullying is a condition where a group of people or individuals tend to do this because they think they are better than others and they misuse their power or advantages. The phenomenon of bullying has certainly inspired filmmakers to represent bullying in a film, one of which is a pop culture animated film (Anime) titled *A Silent Voice*. (Maulana, 2023)

The phenomenon of bullying is becoming increasingly prevalent in the real world and on social media. The anime *A Silent Voice* represents the issue of bullying. As a popular medium, anime contains signs, symbols, and messages that can be analyzed using semiotics. It is important to examine how bullying is deconstructed through signs and meanings.

Anime, which is popular among the younger generation today, is not only entertainment, but also a means of representing bullying as depicted in the anime *A Silent Voice*. Like Devita Sastriawati's work, the anime film *A Silent Voice* is not only intended for entertainment, but also shows the critical perspective of young people. (Saleha & Yuwita, n.d.) Bullying as represented in the anime can be understood and interpreted through signs, symbols, and interpreters. The theme of bullying is clearly evident in the storyline, with social issues occurring in *A Silent Voice*, such as Ishida constantly bullying Nishimiya. Semiotics is a method of analysis or social science in understanding a sign. Semiotics itself studies that signs can be used to convey a message to form a system for that message to be conveyed or a specific meaning to the audience. Sometimes the meaning of language or symbols can cause tension,

and when linked to ideology, it can become the background of the communicator so that they interpret the message. According to Wibisono & Sari (2021), [Click or tap here to enter text.](#) film is a very important area of research for semiotic analysis because films are constructed with different characters. Semiotics is a scientific study or method of analysis to examine characters in the context of scenarios, images, texts, and film scenes that can be interpreted. The animated film *A Silent Voice* not only provides audio-visuals that audiences greatly enjoy, but also a storyline inspired by social issues in everyday life, namely bullying. The conflict raised in this animated story is still very relevant to the current situation. In fact, the phenomenon of bullying still exists today. The anime *A Silent Voice* shows the bullying committed by Ishida towards Nishimiya in the anime. The bullying depicted in the anime *A Silent Voice* is still prevalent and relevant. Therefore, the researcher aims to examine the representation of bullying in the anime *A Silent Voice*.

Bullying is a behavior in which a group of people or individuals abuses their superiority. This phenomenon inspired researchers to examine and analyze the film *A Silent Voice* to see how bullying is portrayed in the film (Kartini et al., 2022)

The purpose of this study is to analyze the meaning of bullying representation from signs, objects, verbal, and nonverbal interpretations in the anime *A Silent Voice*.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Concept of Communication

Communication is the process by which messages are conveyed from the communicator to the recipient. The communicator conveys messages indirectly, either implicitly or explicitly. (Malik et al., 2021) There are various media that communicators can utilize or use to convey a message, one of which is video, specifically films. Films are chosen because they have distinctive characteristics: they are a modern medium and, at the same time, convey meanings we can construct from the signs, symbols, and meanings (Nugraha, 2019) contained within them. According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), communication is defined as the sending and receiving of information, news, or messages between two or more people so that the intent or message can be understood. Communication is a process in which an idea is transferred from one source to one or more recipients with the aim of changing behavior (Nasirin & Pithaloka, n.d.)

Based on the above definition, the author concludes that communication is the exchange of information, conveying messages, discussions between one or more people directly or indirectly, and obtaining feedback.

Charles S. Pierce's Semiotics (Representation, Object, Interpretant):

This theory consists of three important aspects, so it is often referred to as a triangle and has three elements of meaning or the Triangle of Meaning (Littlejohn, 1998). The first is (1) Sign, which is the main concept used as the basis for analysis. A sign contains meaning as an interpretation of a message. Simply put, a sign can be seen visually or physically and is captured by the human senses. (2) Object, which is the social context that is used in its implementation as a meaning referred to by the sign. (3) Interpretant, which has the concept of thinking from a person who uses a sign to a certain meaning or what is in a person's mind about the object referred to by a sign (Dan Marxisme & Sayyid Santoso Kristeva, n.d.) For example, the meaning in a film must be understood as the film represents a meaning (Puspita Dewi, n.d.). To understand a meaning, we must have indicators, such as social and environmental indicators, as well as indicators in a sign, something that has a cause-and-effect relationship or physical evidence with what it represents. For example, smoke must indicate fire. Finally, a symbol is something whose meaning must be learned culturally and does not have a cause-and-effect relationship. For example, the letter A does not physically resemble its sound.

The Concept of Bullying

Bullying is an act of aggression related to violence, such as rape, torture, and beating, which is done intentionally with the aim of causing harm that causes others to suffer (Fahreyza et al., 2025). In the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), violence is defined as an act by a person or group of people that causes others to suffer loss and injury or even death, which can damage the physical well-being or property of others. Behavior that endangers others or oneself is called violence (Siti et al., n.d.). Violence is a formula used in the performing arts to attract audiences. Like the media, which has undergone a revolution to become a culture whose main purpose is to advertise popular performances, violence rarely takes into account educational and moral aspects and can cause trauma to the audience (Odyn et al., 2024). Bullying also exists in non-physical forms, such as bullying that does not involve physical contact but uses methods to hurt the victim, such as cynical stares, condescending expressions, and there are

also types of bullying that are covert and not immediately visible, such as social bullying that isolates and spreads gossip and writes insulting comments that can harm the victim.

Based on the above definition, the author concludes that bullying is physical and non-physical violence committed intentionally or unintentionally by a person or group of people with the aim of hurting the victim. It is repeated and can cause psychological harm to others.

Anime A Silent Voice

A Silent Voice (Koe no Katachi) is a Japanese animated film, better known as an anime drama, which tells the story of Shoko Nishimiya, a deaf girl who is the victim of bullying, and Shoya Ishida, the bully who tries to make amends for his mistakes. This film explores complex themes such as bullying, disability, redemption, mental health, and empathy. A brief synopsis of the film: in elementary school, Shoya Ishida often bullied a deaf transfer student named Shoko Nishimiya, who eventually transferred schools, and Shoya Ishida's actions caused him to be shunned by his friends. Years later, Ishida finally seeks out Nishimiya to apologize and make amends for his past actions. In addition to bullying, this film also explores Shoya Ishida's efforts to repair his relationship with Shoko Nishimiya. This film also highlights the impact of bullying on victims and perpetrators, as well as the struggle for forgiveness and self-acceptance.

METHOD

The research is a qualitative descriptive study, in which the researcher aims to collect data in the form of dialogues and images. In applying a qualitative approach that uses non-quantitative data collection and analysis methods, such as interviews or observations, the researcher focuses on non-hypotheses, so there is no need to formulate hypotheses in the research steps. Data was collected through interviews and comprehensive observation of the research object, namely by watching the anime A Silent Voice, with the aim of identifying parts that contain elements depicting bullying. The interpretation will then be adjusted to the signs shown through semiotic analysis (Hidayatul Hasanah & Fauzan Aulia, 2023)

The subject and object are the sources of research aimed at finding data where the data is obtained. The subject of this research is the anime A Silent Voice, which has a duration of 130 minutes. The focus is on the representation of bullying against the character Nishimiya in the film. The object of this research is to find sources for the researcher to collect data related

to the researcher's discussion. The researcher will conduct observations at Grage City Mall Cirebon, West Java, at 10:00 a.m. Western Indonesian Time.

Researchers also use supporting instruments to search more deeply into sources to be collected, such as interview guidelines, writing instruments, and recordings.

The technique of selecting informants using the Purposive Sampling approach is the main technique that researchers will use in qualitative methods. Researchers select informants based on certain considerations that are in line with the research objectives. These include those who have direct experience, knowledge about the film, or a position related to the topic being studied.

Primary Data Analysis Techniques, which are the main data used in this study, were obtained from the anime A Silent Voice with Indonesian subtitles. Secondary Data is supporting data obtained through studies, such as reference books, the internet, or articles related to the study being researched.

Data Collection Techniques This study focuses on social issues such as bullying depicted in the anime A Silent Voice, perpetrated by Ishida against Nishimiya, who has a hearing disability. Data analysis will be conducted in sequence from the beginning to the end of the study.

Reduction is the data analysis process of conducting comprehensive monitoring of the anime A Silent Voice and systematically summarizing it into interpretable, meaningful data without losing the value of the collected data. Data presentation is a process that explains the overall results and data obtained by classifying specified scenes and presenting classifications of social issues, such as bullying of the character Nishimiya in the anime A Silent Voice.

DISCUSION

The researcher took eight screenshots from the 129:43-minute anime. Secondary data from the anime A Silent Voice was successfully obtained and is ready to be discussed as follows:



Figure 1. Minutes 10:17-12:50,
Copyright: <https://bili.im/SNsVwJO>
Shoya Ishida took Nishimiya's hearing aid



Figure 2. Minute 13:17,
Copyright: <https://bili.im/SNsVwJO>
Shoya Ishida threw sand in Nishimiya's face



Figure 3., Minutes 14:00-14:31,
Copyright : <https://bili.im/SNsVwJO>
Nonverbal bullying against Nishimiya

Scene 1

In the anime A Silent Voice, there are several scenes that show Shoya Ishida and his friends committing acts of aggression, such as Shoya Ishida taking Shoko Nishimiya's hearing aid and throwing sand at Nishimiya's face. Then there is non-verbal bullying where his friends and Ishida laugh at Nishimiya's disability because she cannot speak like normal people.

Peirce's Analysis

From a semiotic perspective, Charles Sanders Peirce's Triangle of Meaning consists of (1) Sign, (2) Object, and (3) Interpretant. The hearing aid worn by Shoko Nishimiya can be understood as a sign that directly depicts Nishimiya's condition of hearing loss since childhood. Referring to image 1, at 10:17–12:50, there is a sign that Nishimiya is holding her ear in pain due to Ishida taking her hearing aid. Object: In Figure 2, at 13:17, there is a scene showing Ishida

throwing sand at Nishimiya's face, signifying that Nishimiya is the object of Ishida's bullying. Interpretant: In Figure 3, at 14:00 – 14:31, there is a scene where Ishida treats Nishimiya as “different,” which leads to non-verbal bullying. In this scene, Ishida also laughs, which is a form of superiority complex.

Representation Meaning :

The hearing aid worn by Shoko Nishimiya serves as a visual sign that directly confirms her hearing disability, while also becoming a marker of her social identity in the school environment. When Shoya Ishida snatches the hearing aid, causing her pain, this action not only demonstrates physical aggression, but also confirms how signs of disability become a point of vulnerability.



Figure 4. Minutes 08:33 – 10:45,
Copyright : <https://bili.im/SNsVwJO>
Ishida shouting at Nishimiya



Figure 5. Minutes 12:50 – 13:22,
Copyright : <https://bili.im/SNsVwJO>
Teachers who are not firm enough

Scene 2

Scenes showing authorities aware of bullying and disruption in the classroom, but their response is minimal, inadequate, and lacking in firmness

Peirce's Analysis

Within the framework of semiotics, Charles Sanders Peirce has the elements of the Triangle of Meaning, namely (1) Sign, (2) Object, and (3) Interpretant. Teacher authority can be understood as a Sign that represents the formality of the role as well as the institutional figure in the educational environment in image 5, minutes 12:50 – 13:22. In this scene, it is shown that the teacher, who is depicted as a visual authority, does not take decisive action/sanctions due to his

attitude of indifference and apathy towards bullying in the classroom. because, fundamentally, school authority is a system of social legitimacy. The object, in Figure 4, minutes 08:33–10:45, shows a scene in which Ishida yells at Nishimiya, using a rolled-up book as a tool to bully Nishimiya as his object of bullying. The Interpretant dimension, the meaning that is formed, shows a discrepancy between the symbol of authority and its ideal function, where the school is not fully capable of playing a protective role for students. Thus, Peirce's triadic relationship suggests that the presence of formal authority does not automatically guarantee the creation of social protection, but can indicate gaps in institutional practices that should maintain individual safety and welfare.

Representation Meaning :

The teacher serves as a visual symbol of formal authority and institutional legitimacy in the school environment. However, the attitude of indifference displayed in the scene presents a paradox, because the symbol of authority is not accompanied by decisive protective action. Meanwhile, Ishida's behavior of yelling at Nishimiya with a rolled-up book confirms Nishimiya's position as a victim of bullying, while also showing how bullying occurs in the face of a social structure that should prevent it. The Interpretant meaning that emerges leads to a critical reading that the presence of formal authority is not always synonymous with effective protection. This representation, therefore, does not merely describe interactions between characters, but also highlights gaps in the institutional function of schools, where social legitimacy and the ideal role of authority appear to be out of sync with the reality of classroom practices.



Figure 6, Minutes 15:47 – 16:00,
Copyright: <https://bili.im/SNsVwJO>
Ishida's friend blamed Ishida



Figure 7, Minutes 16:15 – 16:50,
Copyright: <https://bili.im/SNsVwJO>
Ishida's friend blamed Ishida



Figure 8, Minutes 17:15 – 17:50,
Copyright : <https://bili.im/SNsVwJO>
Scapegoating against Ishida

Scene 3

The scene shows Shoya Ishida's friends, who were initially friends with Shoya, eventually turning completely against Shoya Ishida.

Peirce's Analysis

From a semiotic perspective, Charles Sanders Peirce's Triangle of Meaning consists of (1) Sign, (2) Object, and (3) Interpretant. Ishida's apparent isolation from his friends functions as a sign that represents the dynamics of social relations within the group. This sign refers to image 8, minutes 17:15–17:50, in which Ishida's friends' gazes depict their social rejection of Ishida and his position as someone who feels alienated by his friends. The object is the social mechanism at work in group interactions, including patterns of acceptance, rejection, and distribution of social positions. At the Interpretant level, the meaning formed shows that groups tend to maintain their internal stability through practices of exclusion, even at the expense of certain individuals. Peirce's triadic relationship confirms that social isolation is not merely a personal phenomenon, but rather the result of a social construction that reflects the way groups maintain their order and balance.

Representation Meaning :

Ishida's apparent cornering amid the stares of his friends serves as a visual sign confirming social rejection, while also marking a change in his position within the group structure. The object referred to is the social mechanism in collective interaction, particularly related to patterns of acceptance and exclusion that regulate the distribution of roles and individual status.

At the Interpretant level, the meaning that emerges shows that the group seeks to maintain internal stability by creating distance from certain individuals, even if it means sacrificing one of its members. This representation confirms that social isolation is not merely a personal experience, but a social construct that reflects the way groups maintain order, balance, and power dynamics within their relationships



Figure 9, Minutes 22:22 – 24:32,
Copyright : <https://bili.im/SNsVwJO>
Social exclusion against Ishida



Figure 10, Minutes 30:01 – 30:25 ,
Copyright : <https://bili.im/SNsVwJO>
Ishida who hides himself

Scene 4

A scene showing Shoya Ishida looking at people's faces marked with an “X” symbol as a form of anti-social behavior.

Peirce Analysis

Within the framework of semiotics, Charles Sanders Peirce has the elements of the Triangle of Meaning, namely (1) Sign, (2) Object, and (3) Interpretant. The symbol “X” can be understood as a Sign in image 10, minutes 30:10 – 30:25, which represents the experience of social rejection, signifying a lack of interaction and isolation within Ishida's social circle. The sign “X” also signifies rejection and the severing of social relations. The Object is the act of exclusion and negative labeling that emerges in social relations. The Interpretant dimension shows that Ishida experienced a process of dehumanization, both socially and mentally. Thus, Peirce's triadic relationship shows that the symbol not only functions as a visual element but also mediates a deeper meaning about alienation, loss of social recognition, and psychological pressure experienced by individuals.

Representation Meaning :

The presence of the “X” sign serves as a visual marker that articulates the experience of social rejection, while also symbolizing the severance of interaction and relationships in the social space experienced by Ishida. The object referred to is related to the practices of exclusion and negative labeling that operate in the dynamics of social relationships. At the Interpretant level, the meaning that is formed leads to the reading that Ishida is in a process of dehumanization, where he is not only socially alienated, but also experiences deep psychological pressure. Thus, the symbol transcends its purely aesthetic function, as it mediates a more complex understanding of alienation, loss of social recognition, and the mental burden experienced by individuals in their social structure.



Figure 11, Minutes 30:35 – 30:40,
Copyright: <https://bili.im/SNsVwJO>
Face covered and eyes lowered



Figure 12, Minutes 31:25 – 32:53,
Copyright: <https://bili.im/SNsVwJO>
Avoid direct eye contact



Figure 13, Minutes 40:00– 40:54,
Copyright : <https://bili.im/SNsVwJO>
Ishida ran away when someone recognized him

Scene 5

A scene showing Shoya Ishida in class, holding his head with both hands and looking down so that his face is hidden from view. When someone recognizes him, he runs away, unable to look at the person who recognized him.

Peirce Analysis

From a semiotic perspective, Charles Sanders Peirce has the Triangle of Meaning, which consists of (1) Sign, (2) Object, and (3) Interpretant. In the scene showing Ishida's face covered by his palms and his downcast gaze in the classroom in image 11, minutes 30:35 - 30:40, it is a Sign of someone withdrawing from society and isolating himself, which is caused by his past actions and has an impact on Shoya Ishida's psychology. In image 12, minutes 31:25 - 32:53, there is also an Object, namely the symbol X, which is interpreted as a barrier to communication, where Shoya Ishida limits his connection with his social circle because he accidentally hears someone recognize him and Shoya Ishida tries not to make direct eye contact. In the Interpretant Dimension, the meaning that is formed shows a tendency to withdraw from social life, which is rooted in the psychological burden of past actions. Peirce's triadic relationship confirms that these gestures are not merely nonverbal expressions, but manifestations of social and emotional meanings that reflect guilt, anxiety, and alienation.

Representation Meaning :

The scene depicting Ishida covering his face with both palms and lowering his gaze represents social withdrawal, which is interpreted as a sign of isolation and psychological reflection. This gesture is not merely an emotional expression, but a visual marker of the burden of the past that continues to affect his mental state. The presence of the "X" symbol in the next scene serves as an object that articulates a barrier to communication as well as a limit to social relations, showing how Ishida actively creates distance from his surroundings. His attempt to avoid eye contact after realizing he has been recognized reinforces the Interpretant meaning that the alienation he experiences is not only the result of external pressure, but also the result of internal defensive mechanisms. Thus, this series of signs represents the experience of social isolation as a construction of meaning that combines psychological, relational, and symbolic dimensions in the dynamics of Ishida's life.



Figure 14, Minutes 76:45 – 77:39,
Copyright: <https://bili.im/SNsVwJO>
Nishimiya always felt guilty



Figure 15, Minutes 81:30 – 82:01,
Copyright: <https://bili.im/SNsVwJO>
Always apologizing even when it's not her fault



Figure 16, Minutes 90:59 – 91:28,
Copyright : <https://bili.im/SNsVwJO>
Nishimiya always blames herself

Scene 6

The scene shows Shoko Nishimiya, who always feels guilty and thinks that people around her could get into trouble because of her past experiences as a victim of bullying. This ultimately causes pressure and psychological effects on Shoko Nishimiya, which leads her to always apologize even though it is not entirely her fault. Shoko Nishimiya internalizes social guilt.

Peirce Analysis

Within the framework of semiotics, Charles Sanders Peirce has the Triangle of Meaning, namely (1) Sign, (2) Object, (3) Interpretant. In image 15, at 81:30 – 82:01, there is a Sign where Shoko Nishimiya is using sign language and apologizing, which represents that Shoko Nishimiya always feels guilty even though she is not entirely at fault, showing Nishimiya's condition of always internalizing social mistakes. In image 16, at 90:59 - 91:28, there is an Object that shows an emotional condition where Nishimiya says, “You will have bad luck if

you stay with me.” This shows that Shoko Nishimiya is an object that brings bad luck to everyone because Nishimiya was a victim of bullying in the past, which ultimately affected her mental state. In the Interpretant Dimension, the resulting meaning indicates that Nishimiya, as a victim, tends to internalize social guilt and express it through repeated apologies. Peirce's triadic relationship confirms that this expression is not merely a linguistic act but a reflection of social pressure and the individual's internalized guilt.

Representation Meaning

This scene represents the construction of meaning formed through the relationship between signs, objects, and interpreters. Shoko Nishimiya's use of sign language while apologizing signals her tendency to internalize guilt, positioning herself as the responsible party even when she is not entirely to blame. Nishimiya's statement that being with her could bring bad luck then acts as an object that reflects a form of negative labeling of the self, while also showing the impact of past experiences of bullying on her emotional state. At the Interpretant level, the meaning that is formed leads to the understanding that social trauma has shaped a fragile self-perception, characterized by feelings of unworthiness and the belief that her existence can harm others.



Figure 17, Minutes 97:13 – 97:59,

Copyright: <https://bili.im/SNsVwJO>

Nishimiya went up to the balcony at night



Figure 18, Minutes 98:00 – 98:13,

Copyright : <https://bili.im/SNsVwJO>

Suicide attempt

Thus, the representation of this scene not only describes the character's emotional state but also reveals the psychological mechanisms that arise from experiences of exclusion and prolonged social pressure.

Scene 7

The scene showing Shoko Nishimiya climbing onto the balcony at night, accompanied by fireworks and a quiet atmosphere, is one of the climax scenes that represents the impact of bullying.

Peirce Analysis

From a semiotic perspective, Charles Sanders Peirce's Triangle of Meaning consists of (1) Sign, (2) Object, (3) Interpretant. In image 17, at 97:13 – 97:59, which shows Shoko Nishimiya standing on the balcony at night, is the Sign of Shoko Nishimiya's psychological condition, which is very depressed, which refers to the Object in image 18, at 98:00. - 98:13, the psychological condition experienced by Shoko Nishimiya, namely mental pressure, guilt, and despair due to her past experiences. In the Interpretant dimension, the meaning formed shows that bullying has the potential to damage self-esteem and leave deep trauma. Peirce's triadic relationship confirms that the visual setting is not merely a backdrop for the scene, but a medium of meaning that communicates the complexity of the character's emotional burden.

Representation Meaning

The scene depicting Shoko Nishimiya standing on the balcony at night represents a constructed meaning, intertwined through the relationships among signs, objects, and interpreters. Nishimiya's position in a high and silent space serves as a visual sign that articulates intense psychological conditions, especially inner pressure and emotional isolation. The objects referred to in this series of scenes are related to a mental state overwhelmed by guilt, despair, and the accumulation of traumatic experiences from the past. At the level of the interpreter, the meaning that is formed leads to the reading that this scene does not merely describe a dramatic situation, but mediates an understanding of the complexity of the character's internal suffering. This representation confirms that Nishimiya's psychological pressure is the result of prolonged social experiences, while also showing how the visual language in *A Silent Voice* constructs deep emotional meaning through the symbolism of space, gestures, and atmosphere.



Figure 19, Minutes 122:25 – 122:30,

Copyright: <https://bili.im/SNsVwJO>

Ishida began to open his eyes and see people's faces



Figure 20, Minutes 122:50 – 123:25,

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The X mark is starting to disappear in some people



Figure 21, Minutes 123:50 – 124:01,

Copyright: <https://bili.im/SNsVwJO>

Ishida cried as he made peace with himself

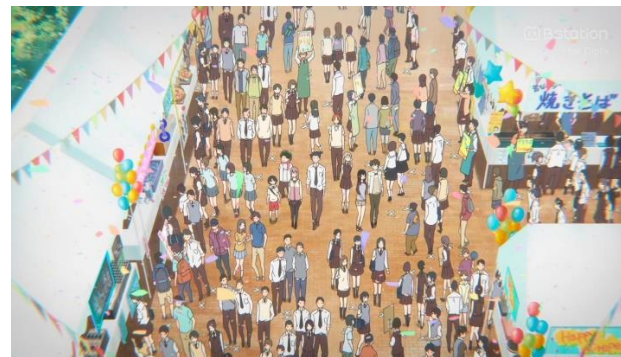


Figure 11, Minutes 124:10 – 125:10,

Copyright: <https://bili.im/SNsVwJO>

Social reintroduction

Scene 8

The final scene in this anime shows how Shoya Ishida is rebuilding his social trust after the trauma caused by his past actions in order to reintegrate himself into society.

Peirce Analysis

Within the framework of semiotics, Charles Sanders Peirce has the elements of the Triangle of Meaning, namely (1) Sign, (2) Object, (3) Interpretant. In image 20, at 122:50 – 123:25, an “X” begins to disappear from the faces surrounding Shoya Ishida, illustrating his shift toward the social dynamics he avoids and his reluctance to make direct contact with anyone. This also refers to the Object in Figure 21, minutes 123:50 – 124:01, which shows Shoya Ishida crying amid social dynamics. This is a process of social acceptance that marks a reduction in exclusion and rejection, as Ishida is positioned as an object who accepts himself

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and makes peace with his past actions. In the Interpretant dimension, the meaning that is formed shows the restoration of identity and improvement of social relations after a traumatic experience. Peirce's triadic relationship confirms that this visual transformation is not merely a narrative element, but a medium of meaning that reflects reconciliation, acceptance, and reintegration of individuals into their social environment.

Representation Meaning :

This series of scenes represents a change in meaning constructed through the relationships among signs, objects, and interpreters. The disappearance of the symbol “X” on the faces around Shoya Ishida serves as a visual sign of a shift in his social experience, particularly the transformation from isolation to connection. The object referred to appears in the scene where Ishida cries in the midst of social interaction, which articulates the release of emotional burdens as well as openness to his surroundings. At the level of the interpreter, the meaning that is formed leads to the reading that the crying is not merely an expression of sadness, but a symbol of internal reconciliation and self-acceptance. This representation confirms that the reduction of the symbol “X” and Ishida's emotional expression mediate an understanding of the reduction of social exclusion, the restoration of interpersonal relationships, and the process of coming to terms with past experiences that previously created psychological and social distance within him.

CONCLUSION

Researchers view the series of semiotic analyses described above as an attempt to trace how meaning is constructed through the relationships among signs, objects, and interpreters within a narrative. This approach focuses not only on what is visually apparent or audibly audible but also on how these elements represent social reality and the characters' psychological experiences. Through the framework of Charles Sanders Peirce's thinking, I attempt to reveal the connection between symbols, social context, and the process of meaning-making that gives rise to an understanding of stigma, rejection, trauma, and recovery. Thus, this analysis serves as a basis for reflection before drawing conclusions that summarize the study's overall findings.

Sign

Various visual and verbal elements in the narrative, such as hearing aids, the symbol “X”, body gestures, representations of teacher authority, as well as the arrangement of space and atmosphere, function as signs that mediate the characters' experiences. These signs are not merely aesthetic details, but representational devices that direct the audience's attention to deeper meanings. Through their presence, signs become gateways to interpreting the social and psychological realities experienced by the characters.

Object

These signs refer to concrete and conceptual objects, including sensory disabilities, social rejection, group interaction mechanisms, school institutional structures, and mental pressure. Objects in this semiotic relationship represent the reality that serves as a reference for meaning, whether in the form of factual conditions or the social dynamics that underlie the characters' experiences. Thus, objects become the basis of reference that stabilizes the relationship between representation and reality.

Interpretant

At the Interpretant level, the meaning formed develops into a broader social and emotional understanding, including the construction of differences, the internalization of guilt, experiences of isolation, and psychological trauma. Interpreters show how the reality referred to by objects is interpreted within a social context, including stigma, exclusion, and symbolic aggression. On the other hand, changes in signs—for example, the disappearance of the “X” symbol—lead to new interpretations, including social acceptance, identity recovery, and the reconstruction of interpersonal relationships.

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