

# THE ANALYSIS OF SIGNS IN THE FILM EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE BY THE DANIELS

Analisis Tanda dalam Film Everything Everywhere All at Once Karya The Daniels

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**Abstract**

Everything Everywhere All at Once is considered one of the best films in 2022, as it has received 7 Academy Awards 2023 in the United States, including the prestigious Oscar categories of Best Picture, Actor in a Leading Role, Actress in a Leading Role, Actor in a Supporting Role, Actress in a Supporting Role, Directing, Writing (Original Screenplay), and Film Editing. In this film, we can observe intriguing symbols such as googly eyes and recurring appearances of bagels. The purpose of this research is to explore the elements of representamen/sign, object, and interpretant/interpretation using Charles Sanders Pierce's Semiotics Theory.

## INTRODUCTION

Film is a work of art that exists in modern life after the existence of media, films in their development transform from social life which is quite influential on human development (Prasita, 2008). A film is a captivating sequence of dynamic visuals that seamlessly convey messages, transition between scenes, and evoke a range of emotions. These mesmerizing images are skillfully captured by a camera, which also captures symbols and expressions capable of deeply engaging the audience (Irawanto & Indra, 2017).

One of the best and talked-about movies in 2020 around the world and has received various awards is Everything Everywhere All at Once. Everything Everywhere All at Once is an action, sci-fi, and comedy movie directed by Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert (Salsabilla, 2023). The film tells the story of a middle-aged Chinese immigrant who goes on a crazy adventure where he has to save the civilization of the world by traveling through another universe that is connected to the universe in which he lives.

The film grossed 107.6 million USD on its release date of June 22, 2022. It also received 7 awards at the 2023 Academy Awards in America in the Oscar categories of Best Picture, Actor in a Leading Role, Actress in a Leading Role, Actor in a Supporting Role, Actress in a Supporting Role, Directing, Writing (Original Screenplay), and Film Editing (Annur, 2023).

One of the semiotic theoretical frameworks is Charles Sanders Pierce's semiotics which consists of three important aspects so it is often called the triangle of meaning, namely: (a) Sign (Representamen), In semiotic studies, the sign is the main concept used as material for analysis. In the sign there is meaning as a form of interpretation of the intended message. In simple terms, signs tend to be visual or physical forms captured by humans. (b) Sign Reference or Object, Object is a social context which in its implementation is used as an aspect of meaning or referred to by the sign. (c) Sign User (Interpretant), The concept of thought of the person who uses the sign and uses the

sign and derives it to a certain meaning or the meaning that exists in a person's mind about the object that a sign refers to (Prasetya, 2019).

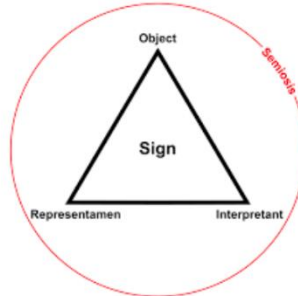


Figure 1. Trichotomous relation

In the movie *Everything's Everywhere All at Once*, there are many unique signs that often appear, namely the Bagel sign and also Googly Eyes that continuously appear. In this study, the author aims to try to interpret the Bagel sign and also Googly Eyes in the movie *Everything's Everywhere All At Once*.

**METHOD**

In Greek, semiotics etymologically means *Semion* which means sign. Signs can be interpreted as the basis of social conventions that have been built from the past. Therefore, semiotics can be defined as the study of signs in the form of words, images, sounds, objects, and gestures (Narung & Permadi, 2019).

Symbols are also a means used in non-verbal communication. According to Charles Sanders Peirce's view, a sign is a concept that is used as a means or material for analysis where in a sign there are various meanings as a result of the interpretation of the message of a sign.

This definition is used as the basis for study in the field of communication science. Semiotics is the science of signs. Peirce divides semiotic analysis into three types, including: 1. Representamen (ground), object, and Interpretant. The three types of categories are referred to as trichotomous relations in semiotics. The relation can also be interpreted as a semiosis where semiosis is the process of interpreting a sign from the base, this is called the representamen or ground, then proceeds to an object, then ends with the name of the interpretant process.

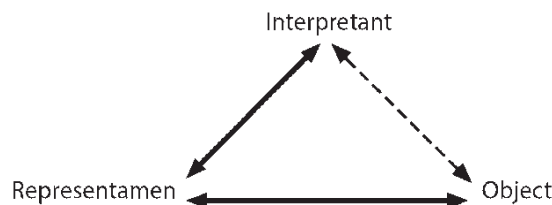


Figure 2. Charles Sanders semiotics

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

**Synopsis**

*Everything Everywhere All At Once* is an action, comedy, and sci-fi movie directed by Daniel Scheinert and Daniel Kwan. The movie tells the story of an old woman named Evelyn Quan Wang

(Michelle Yeoh) who is an immigrant from China and also her husband named Waymond Wang (Ke Huy Quan) who lives in America and runs a laundry business.

Evelyn has a lot of problems in her life, from a divorce suit from her husband when her father is visiting her, to her daughter Joy Wang (Stephanie Hsu) who turns out to be a lesbian and is dating a woman named Becky (Tallie Medel). One day, Evelyn has to go to an agenda called the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to take care of her taxes. While at the tax officer's desk, her husband suddenly turns into someone else. Waymond introduced himself as Alpha Waymond, which is Waymond from another universe called the Alphaverse.

Alpha Waymond informs Evelyn about the multiverse and he informs Evelyn that the multiverse is being threatened by a villain named Jobu Tupaki. He asks for Evelyn's help so that he can face Jobu Tupaki. Alpha Waymond gives Evelyn a device that allows her to do verse-jumping, which is a method where a person can borrow another version of themselves in another universe to use against Jobu Tupaki.

Evelyn and Waymond also need to fight Jobu Tupaki's army. They also come face to face with Jobu Tupaki, and it turns out that Jobu Tupaki is their own child, Joy. Joy kidnapped Evelyn and then created a black hole called "Bagel" to destroy reality and herself. Joy did this because she felt frustrated with her life in every universe. Evelyn was taken by Joy to her original universe, where Evelyn decided to sign her divorce papers with Waymond. Evelyn always thought Waymond was a man who could not do anything without her.

Over time, Evelyn also observed Waymond in each other universe and she realized that Waymond really loved her and tried his best to give the best for Evelyn. She also, who initially almost gave up on Joy who wanted to destroy herself, finally turned to fight to prevent Joy from entering the Bagel. Finally here Evelyn also managed to save the multiverse and try to accept the reality of her life in her own universe and also fight for Joy from her desire to destroy herself.



Figure 3. Movie Poster Everything Everywhere All at Once (2022)

### **Scenes with Googly Eyes**

In the movie *Everything's Everywhere All At Once* there are many scenes that show googly eyes, these googly eyes are a representation of Waymond in Evelyn's eyes and also a representation of Waymond in looking at life. In this movie Evelyn repeatedly gets rid of googly eyes that are right in front of her, this is a symbol that Evelyn feels she doesn't need Waymond. Here are some examples of the scenes:



Figure 4. Scene Googly Eyes 1

Category	Sign
Representamen/Sign	Evelyn removes googly eyes from a customer's laundry
Object	In the scene Evelyn puts away her googly eyes while blaming Waymond for being incompetent in taking care of the customer's laundry, she also mumbles
Interpretant/ Interpretation	Here Evelyn shows that she considers Waymond to be useless and feels the need to get rid of him.



Figure 5. Scene Googly Eyes 2

Category	Sign
Representamen/Sign	Evelyn removes googly eyes from the washing machine
Object	In this scene Evelyn has googly eyes while telling Joy how annoying Waymond is,
Interpretant	Here Evelyn assumes that Waymond would be nothing without her.



Figure 6. Scene Googly Eyes 3

Category	Sign
Representamen/Sign	Evelyn started wearing googly eyes when she was in a precarious situation
Object	In this scene Evelyn is fighting with Jobu Tupaki and his army, she starts to put on googly eyes and manages to defeat all the enemies in front of her.
Interpretant/ Interpretation	The use of googly eyes here can be interpreted as Evelyn already accepting Waymond and also his perspective, with that Evelyn can also be said to have accepted Waymond and fully appreciate Waymond..

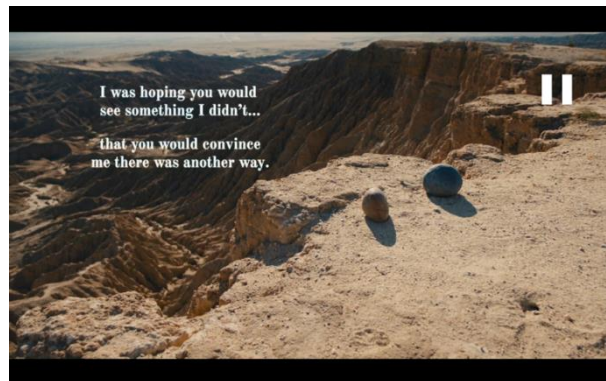


Figure 7. Scene Googly Eyes 4



Figure 8. Scene Googly Eyes 5



Category	Sign
Representamen/Sign Object	Evelyn's rock that was originally just a rock started using googly eyes In this scene, Evelyn's stone is talking with Joy's stone, it turns out that Evelyn started using googly eyes
Interpretant/ Interpretation	The use of googly eyes here shows that Evelyn is starting to use Waymond's perspective on life, which always wants to be good to people.

### Scenes with Bagels

In this movie, there are many signs of bagels to represent something. Bagels are unique breads that are shaped like rings. At first glance, bagels look similar to donuts (Kustiani, 2021). However, in this movie this bagel is depicted as a symbol of despair from the figure of Joy, she is fed up with her life and wants to enter the black bagel. Joy also uses this accessory several times. Here are some scenes depicting the bagel itself.



Figure 10. Bagel 1

Category	Sign
Representamen/Sign Object	The bagel here is a place that Joy is passionate about In this scene Joy/Jobu Tupaki explains that the bagel is all her hopes and goals into the bagel.
Interpretant/ Interpretation	The bagel illustrates that Joy or Jobu Tupaki continues to be in the same circle, all her wishes and hopes never change and are achieved, this is because Evelyn is always blocking Joy's wishes.



Figure 10. Bagel 2

Category	Sign
Representamen/Sign	Joy uses accessories with bagel symbols
Object	In this scene, Joy/Jobu Tupaki shows Evelyn her destination, Bagel.
Interpretant/Interpretation	The bagel illustrates that Joy or Jobu Tupaki continues to be in the same circle, all her wishes and hopes never change and are achieved, this is because Evelyn is always blocking Joy's wishes.



Figure 11. Bagel 3

Category	Sign
Representamen/Sign	The giant bagel that is the destination of Joy
Object	In this scene Joy/Jobu Tupaki tries to enter this giant Bagel
Interpretant/Interpretation	This bagel symbolizes the termination of the relationship between Joy and Evelyn, so Joy wants to enter the bagel.

## CONCLUSION

In this study there are at least 2 signs that have meaning or interpretation, namely googly eyes and bagels. In the end, googly eyes itself is a representation of Waymond and his principles in living life. Although life is confusing, Waymond and googly eyes will always think positively in looking at the world, this is what later makes Evelyn realize and use the googly eyes. For bagel, bagel means an endless circle that Joy feels no matter which universe she lives in. For Joy, her relationship with Evelyn is an endless torment because in every universe Evelyn always blocks Joy's wishes and cannot make Joy happy. This is why Joy wants to end her life and enter the black bagel.

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