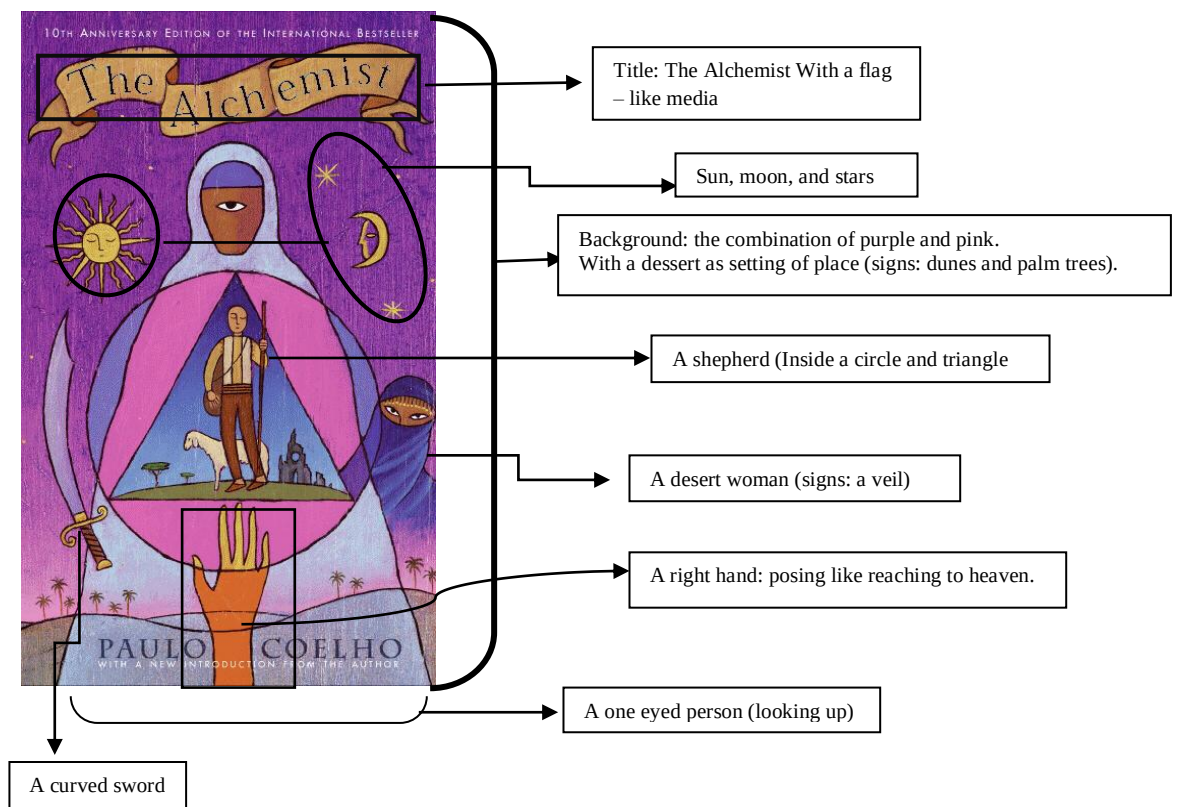


CHAPTER IV

Analysis

This research is describing the significance between the cover layout and the novel's theme in three Paulo Coelho's novels. The writer compares the analysis of content analysis in the novel's text with the novel's cover layout analysis with interpretative analysis and other supporting theories.

4.1 The Alchemist



The Alchemist cover novel

Figure 4.1

The cover layout of 'The Alchemist' above (figure 4.1) has eight signs. Those signs – the title, sun, moon, one eyed man, a veiled woman, a curved sword, a hand, and desert – give a glimpse description about the characters, setting of place, and the atmosphere of the story. The signs illustrated in the cover are analyzed deeply to show the signification to its theme.

First analysis begins with the title of the novel. As stated in chapter 2 about Peirce's theory about signs, he divided the signs into 3 parts – icon, index, and symbol. The signs which come from the result of convention such as alphabetic symbols and numeric signs are called symbol (Chandler 2002, 39). The title of the novel, '*The Alchemist*', consists of the sequence of alphabetic symbols which has meaning agreed by people. The denotative meaning of alchemist refer to the Oxford Dictionary is a person who studied alchemy which trying to turn lead to gold (Oxford advanced learner's dictionary 2003).

Same definition given by the Merriam Webster online dictionary, stated that alchemist is a person who studies or practices alchemy which sought a philosopher stone and elixir of life. A philosopher stone and elixir of life is a stone or substance thought by alchemists to be able transforming base metals into gold and a universal medicine supposedly containing a recipe for the renewal of youth (Free online dictionary) A rather similar description of the alchemist do also stated in the novel.

In one he had read that, many years ago, a famous Arabian alchemist had visited Europe. It was said that he was more than two hundred years old, and that he had discovered the Philosopher's Stone and the Elixir of Life.

(Pg. 45. 2nd paragraph)

Besides, there is another characteristic of *the alchemist* which has found in the novel,

That's why I'm here. I have to find a man who knows that universal language. An alchemist."

(Pg. 47)

The title of this novel is presented in a flag – like banner which could catch the attention among the parties of signs. The banner definitions is a long strip of flexible material displaying a slogan, advertisement, etc (The American Heritage Dictionary of English Language) or a tools that is used to represent idea, or concepts (<http://www.catholic-saints.info/catholic-symbols/banner-christian-symbol.htm>).

So, among the signs in the cover layout, the banner which is used to present the title is a tool to catch the attention and carry abstract ideas about anything written in it at the same time. The ideas carried by the banner are about the meaning of *the alchemist*.

The alchemist, which works turning lead to gold in his laboratory had made him gave up for the arrogance of the world (Pg. 55) considered as a wise man who contemplating the work of god. Later, he met Santiago and made him his disciple. He made Santiago understand that he could do miracle if he could immerse himself to the soul of the world which is written by the same hand, the hand of god.

Related to the power of god which becomes the themes of the novel, it is illustrated in the cover layout as *sun* and *moon*. Related to Chapter 2, *sun* and *moon* have a direct connection to the real sun and moon in the universe which called as icon to the real things. Besides, also mentioned in chapter 2, there are signs which interpretation derived from the previous knowledge or it is given from generations called symbol.

To relate the previous signs to the ‘god power’ meaning, the interpretation of *sun* and *moon* as the representation of masculine and feminine power of god which could be found in ancient Egypt culture – Ra considered as the sun God and the supreme judge

(<http://www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/prehistory/egypt/religion/mythology.htm>) – and in roman culture – Diana is a moon goddess and a fertility goddess (<http://www.unrv.com/culture/major-roman-god-list.php>).

Related to the representation above, as affirmed in *A handbook of critical approach to literature*, the sun is the inspired power, the wisdom symbol and also the father principle – masculine power – along with *moon* which associated with female or mother principle (Wilfred: 149, 1992).

Below the both picture of *sun* and *moon*, there is *a curved sword* below the *sun* picture and *a veiled woman* under the *moon* illustration. The position of both picture are parallel to the symbol of universal power or God power. *Sun* represents the masculine power and the curved sword which is a native weapon of Bedouin people as its manifestation. As the *sun*, below the *moon* there is a veiled woman –

also a representation of a desert woman which could be related to the Bedouin woman clothes – which illustrates the manifestation of feminine power.

These two connected signs explain that the universal power or God power has its manifestation wherever in the world. The only thing for human is to comprehend and use it in order to gain his dream.

"The wise men understood that this natural world is only an image and a copy of paradise. The existence of this world is simply a guarantee that there exists a world that is perfect.

(Pg. 88, 3rd paragraph)

From the statement above, it could be interpreted that the world is a perfect manifestation of heaven itself. The perfect and balance of God's power in cover layout illustrated with *circle* which represents the wholeness and the unity (Holman, 1999). The *circle* could interpret merely as the illustration of the earth, but the deep interpretation of the *circle* refers to the harmony of universal power that envelope the world.

Aside, the completeness illustrations is the opposite meaning delivered by the background image, *the desert*. The empty dry land that has a very little life survive in it is a different message given by the *circle* sign. Back again to the first interpretation of god powers which consist of a perfect balance, the interpretation of desert is the balance form of the wholeness of *circle* sign.

Holman stated that *the desert* illustration is the representation of spiritual barrenness, hopelessness (1992). The hopelessness feeling had ever caught Santiago on his first day obtaining his dream.

There was a moment of silence so profound that it seemed the city was asleep. No sound from the bazaars, no arguments among the merchants, no men climbing to the towers to chant. No hope, no adventure, no old kings or destinies, no treasure, and no Pyramids. It was as if the world had fallen silent because the boy's soul had. He sat there, staring blankly through the door of the café, wishing that he had died, and that everything would end forever at that moment.

(Pg. 33 – 34)

The hopelessness which illustrated with the remote place like *desert* could also interpreted as the place for testing those who are brave enough to cross the dry land in order to find an oasis they dreamed of.

"You must not let up, even after having come so far," he continued. "You must love the desert, but never trust it completely. Because the desert tests all men: it challenges every step, and kills those who become distracted."

(Pg. 77, 2nd paragraph)

As stated in the novel, those who brave enough to face the challenge to obtain his dream will be helped by luck or beginner's luck. So, challenge awaits those who dare to fight the hopelessness in order to get the treasure. Related to the balance power of universe, the beginner's luck which fire the brave souls to obtain his dream is accompanied by the severe test comes in the end of the journey.

"Every search begins with beginner's luck. And every search ends with the victor's being severely tested."

The boy remembered an old proverb from his country. It said that the darkest hour of the night came just before the dawn.

(Pg. 92, 2nd paragraph)

As stated above that the beginner's luck will make one enthusiastic to start the quest and the severe test will confirm either he deserves for the result or not.

Without forgetting the denotative meaning of *the desert*, it is a direct illustration of the place that Santiago will go, to the current location of Pyramid in Sahara desert, Egypt. As told by the gypsy woman to Santiago that he should go to that Pyramid in order to make him a rich man.

"And this is my interpretation: you must go to the Pyramids in Egypt. I have never heard of them, but, if it was a child who showed them to you, they exist.

There you will find a treasure that will make you a rich man."

(Pg. 11, 1st paragraph)

The 'rich man' which stated by the gypsy woman could interpreted in two ways. First is material rich which having a lot of money or property while the other meaning is the spiritual rich when one realize his unity with the universal soul, discard his tendency with the material world, and raise his awareness to get a higher spiritual consciousness.

A higher spiritual awareness, in the cover layout, is symbolized by the combination of *purple* and *pink* color. In general culture the use color *purple* and *pink* has a same goal which is to show the spiritual aspect and the balance of material existence and spiritual awareness (<http://www.squidoo.com/colorexpert>).

"When a person really desires something, all the universe conspires to help that person to realize his dream," said the alchemist, echoing the words of the old king. The boy understood. Another person was there to help him toward his destiny.

(Pg. 79, 8th paragraph)

The awareness of Santiago as shown above illustrated with the combination of both *purple* and *pink* as the background color. It described the atmosphere of the story is about one's destiny to find a spiritual path to complete the material world he live in. In <http://www.dreammoods.com/dreamthemes/colors.htm>, stated that *purple* color representing one's devotion and compassion. It is showing the awareness of Santiago about his decision to obtain his dream, as the old king told to Santiago,

When someone makes a decision, he is really diving into a strong current that will carry him to places he had never dreamed of when he first made the decision.

(Pg 46, 4th paragraph)

For *pink* color, it refers to bliss; happiness, affection, and kindness which refer to situation Santiago get into. He finds his love, obtains his dream, and understands the language of universe at the end of his journey.

...a language the boy had used throughout the time that he was trying to improve things at the shop. It was the language of enthusiasm, of things accomplished with love and purpose, and as part of a search for something believed in and desired.

(Pg. 42, 5th paragraph)

It's true; life really is generous to those who pursue their destiny.

(Pg. 116, 2nd paragraph)

With the journey Santiago took to obtain his dream, it means that he was in the god's blessing in realizing his dream. As mentioned by the alchemist on the

way to the pyramid, he said that every soul search for its dream it will get closer to god.

“And that no heart has ever suffered when it goes in search of its dreams, because every second of the search is a second’s encountered with God and with eternity.”

(Pg. 90, 5th paragraph)

The statement above explains the omnipotent of god which always accompanying those searching his dream. The symbolization of god in the cover layout could also be seen in the *triangle shape* which located inside the *circle shape*. It symbolizes the trinity, fire, male power, and the counterfeited power of god (<http://www.crossroad.to/Books/symbols1.html>).

Referring to the previous interpretation about *the circle*, *the triangle* is located inside the representation of the unity of universe which could be interpreted as the god power represented with *the triangle* is a complete and perfect power of god.

The triangle itself is a quick representation to Santiago’s destination to fulfill his dream, a pyramid. In the novel as stated previously by the gypsy woman, it is clearly stated that he dreamt a treasure hidden under the pyramid.

The illustration of God power is not stopped in those pictures and symbol. There is a *one eyed man* stand in the center of the cover layout dominating the whole cover.

The one eyed man, by looking to its clothes illustration, could be interpreted as the alchemist himself. The clothes illustration is a typical of Bedouin clothes and in the novel also stated that the alchemist mentioned lives in the desert.

"He lives at the Al-Fayoum oasis," his friend had said. "And people say that he is two hundred years old, and is able to transform any metal into gold."

(Pg. 45. 2nd paragraph)

Chandler stated that a symbol is a sign which has most people agree with its representation (2002, 38). *The one eye* is a universal symbol representing spiritual sight, inner vision, higher knowledge, insight into occult mysteries.

"Perhaps, if you were in a laboratory of alchemy, this would be the right time to study the best way to understand the Emerald Tablet. But you are in the desert. So immerse yourself in it. The desert will give you an understanding of the world; in fact, anything on the face of the earth will do that. You don't even have to understand the desert: all you have to do is contemplate a simple grain of sand, and you will see in it all the marvels of creation."

(Pg. 88, 6th paragraph)

A sign of *one eye* also found in Masonic symbol, *the one eye* is a representation for the all-seeing eye of god – a mystical distortion of the omniscient (all-knowing) Biblical God (<http://www.crossroad.to/Books/symbols1.html>). In this *one eyed man* picture are also lies some symbol that are previously explained, *the triangle and circle shape*, and also another picture illustrating *a shepherd* with his sheep in a meadow near *the abandoned church*.

This complex illustration could be interpreted that Santiago, a humble shepherd having a dream that he find a treasure, which has a desire obtaining his dream get the Almighty's blessing. It is shown by Santiago's picture inside *the*

triangle shape which represents the trinity power and also the triangle itself is enveloped by *the circle shape*. The combination of *triangle* inside *the circle* shape is wholeness, the completeness of the trinity power. *The abandoned church* could be the interpretation of the abandoned faith in spiritual realm. It is shown when Santiago wept at the first day of his journey and get robber.

But now I'm sad and alone...I'm going to hate those who have found their treasure because I never found mine. And I'm going to hold on to what little I have, because I'm too insignificant to conquer the world.

(Pg. 28, 4th paragraph)

But god loves his follower and will always aid his follower; show them a way out to solve their problem.

If you pay attention to the present, you can improve upon it. And, if you improve on the present, what comes later will also be better. Forget about the future, and live each day according to the teachings, confident that God loves his children. Each day, in itself, brings with it an eternity."

(Pg. 71, 1st paragraph)

This interpretation symbolized by the illustration of *a shepherd with his sheep*. For the whole illustration of the one eye man interpretation is god the omniscient will bless those who seek their treasure.

As the novel stated that the universe will conspire for those who want to obtain his dream (Pg. 16) which means everyone who knows and eager to obtain his dream they will be somehow helped. The will to reach one's dream is illustrated as *the right hand* which poses as if wants to reach something.

That illustration shows that Santiago has a clear destination that is obtaining his treasure which appears in his dream twice. Santiago had ever want to stop his desire to get his treasure, but as advised by the old king he has to follows his heart and sees omen which leads him to his treasure.

"You must always know what it is that you want," the old king had said. The boy knew, and was now working toward it. Maybe it was his treasure to have wound up in that strange land, met up with a thief, and doubled the size of his flock without spending a cent.

(Pg. 38, 1st paragraph)

The pose of *the right hand* is going up to the sky, it shows that dreams is something that have to be reach with effort and challenge. Every quest to obtain one's dream means the quest to strengthen one's connection to God.

...because every second of the search is a second's encountered with God and with eternity."

(Pg. 90, 5th paragraph)

As a result, 'The Alchemist' cover layout is indeed shows a hint about the characters, setting of place and of course the theme of the novel. As for the characters illustration, there are Santiago depicted as *a shepherd*, Fatima – the twin soul of Santiago – illustrated as *a veiled woman*, and the alchemist who lived in the Al – Fayoum oases shown as the biggest image in the cover layout.

Setting of place also illustrated in the cover layout, it is *a desert* where the most action and life lesson for Santiago taken place and also the illustration where the pyramid located.

From the explanation above, the theme of the story – god’s power helps dreamer to obtain his dream – is implicitly glued in the cover illustration. Start from the ‘universal power’ or ‘God’s power’. It symbolize with *sun* and *moon* which the dualism symbol representing the balance of universal power and it manifests in the world objects, which illustrated by *the curved sword* and *a veiled woman*.

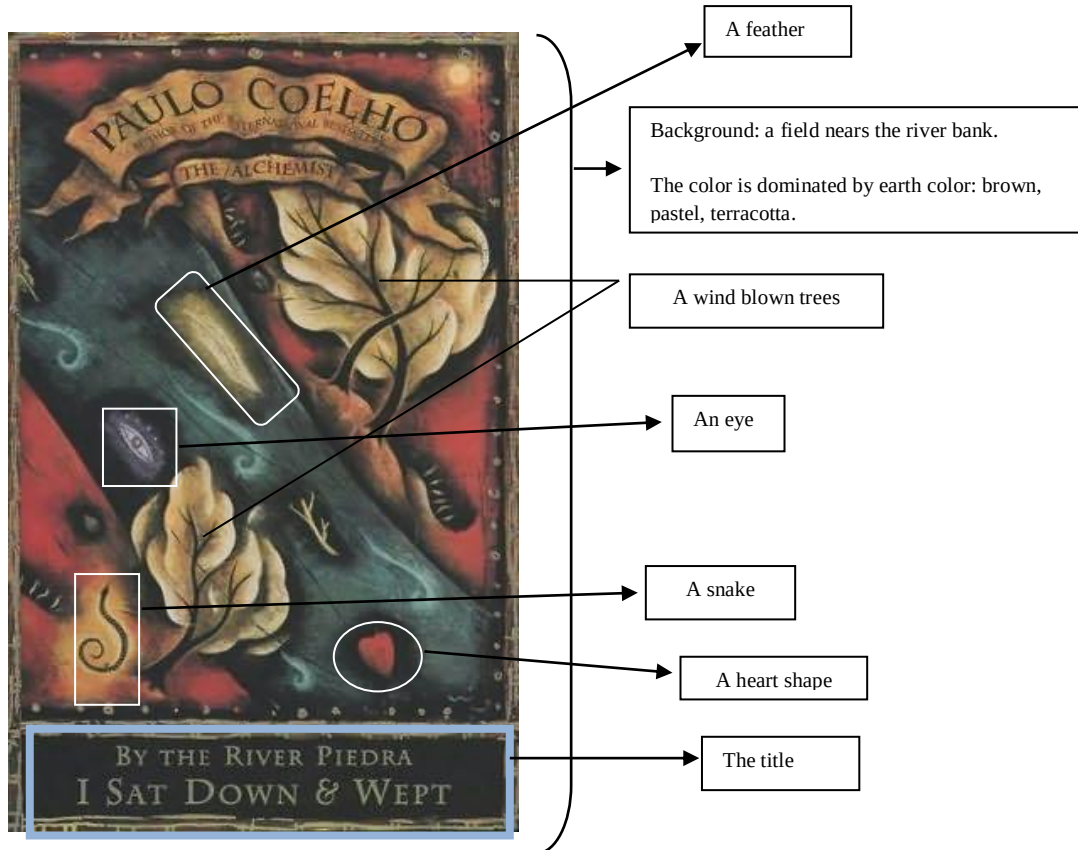
The theme of the novel is closely related to the title, *the alchemist* which defined as one in search of mysterious substance that could turn lead to gold. It could be an analogous interpretation of the spiritual atmosphere and symbols scattered in the cover layout. It is about the spiritual quest where Santiago beside his journey to obtain his treasure, he also found his valuable treasure – his twin soul, Fatima – he also enhanced his awareness to the universal soul which made him put aside material stuff and step to the higher spiritual state.

The treasure Santiago seeks could be a material stuff buried in *the abandoned church*, but could also an allegory of ‘his self’. Santiago does turn himself to an alchemist which along his journey to find his material treasure he also turn his old self which considered as doubtful self and poor in spiritual understanding to the new advance self which could immersed into the soul of universe.

The boy reached through to the Soul of the World, and saw that it was a part of the Soul of God. And he saw that the Soul of God was his own soul. And that he, a boy, could perform miracles.

(Pg. 106)

4.2 By The River Piedra I Sat and Wept



By The River Piedra I Sat and Wept cover layout

Figure 4.2

The next Paulo Coelho's novel which cover layout will be analyzed is 'By The River Piedra I sat and Wept'. As stated in chapter 2, the series of signs which has meaning in general society such as alphabet called symbol. Thus, series of alphabet which create the title of the novel as seen in figure 4.2 has its own meaning. 'By the river Piedra I sat and wept' could be the general illustration of the cover layout which illustration dominated with river image.

The title, '*By The River Piedra I sat and Wept*', is a statement which could be found in the opening narration of the story.

By the river Piedra I sat down and wept... and I could finally forget.

By the river Piedra I sat down and wept. The winter air chills the tears on my cheeks...

(Pg. 7, 1st and 2nd paragraph)

Come along with the title, there are some signs such as trees, a river, an eye, a heart, and a feather completing the cover layout. The first sign will be analyzed is the most dominating image on the cover layout, the river. A river is a natural body of flowing water that continues in a long line across land to the sea (Oxford Advanced Learner Dictionary).

As Wilfred stated in his book, a river is a symbolization of the beginning and the ending, the transitional phase of the life cycle, and also the flowing time to the eternity (1999, 150). The above interpretation supported by the meaning of the water symbol proposed by Harmon and Holman, they stated that water symbolizing the cleansing, the purity and also the initial and the final journey (1999).

Even in the novel stated that river is only the agent of change, the one that change is everything surround the river.

"They are like the mountains," I said. "The mountains are beautiful. Anyone who beholds them has to think about the grandness of creation. They are living proof of the love that God feels for us, but their fate is merely to give testimony.

They are not like the rivers, which move and transform what is around them."

(Pg. 86, 4th line)

According to earlier interpretation, *the river* refers to the beginning and the ending of something. It could refer to the setting of place used in the beginning and the ending of the story. The previous quotation is the opening narration of the story and it ends with the same location, the river Piedra.

I gazed at the River Piedra all afternoon.

(Pg. 107)

Based on the interpretation given, *the river* might also refer to the love feeling involving Pilar and her childhood friend. Their feeling starts from the childhood friendship, grows along their trip in the celebration of the Immaculate Conception, and evolves to the current situation. The condition of the love feeling expressed in below paragraph,

This was the kiss I had waited for so long—a kiss born by the rivers of our childhood, when we didn't yet know what love meant. A kiss that had been suspended in the air as we grew, that had traveled the world in the souvenir of a medal, and that had remained hidden behind piles of books. A kiss that had been lost so many times and now was found. In the moment of that kiss were years of searching, disillusionment, and impossible dreams.

(Pg. 91)

Since the novel talks about the manifestation of love, there is also mentioned about the manifestation of God's love, especially from the god feminine side. It is said in one of the dialogue between Pilar and Brida that water is the manifestation of feminine side of God, in this case is the Great Mother.

We made it to the fountain at almost the same time; my heart was pounding, but she had a smile on her lips. "Water!" she exclaimed. "Water is Her manifestation."

(Pg. 14, 6th paragraph)

It is analogous to Holman and Harmon statement *that river* is a symbol of purity and an illustration of eternity time flow. It gives the calm sensation to the surround and a life sources. Along with that, the background color also gives the same atmosphere, the calm feeling. As background picture, it is dominated by *earth color (brown, red – chocolate, and terracotta)*. As explained in A Handbook to literature, *brown* has an archetypal meaning symbolizing the nature earth, the comfort, stability, stability of its nature and also confusion (Harmon & Holman, 1999).

Accompanied by *some trees* in the river banks, it denotes the life of the universe (Cirlot, 1962). *The trees* are representing the consistence growth, creation, and also immortality. On the upper right, there are two trees blown by the wind. That trees show as if they grow together and supporting each other. It is the opposite condition of the bottom left tree. It stands alone but accompanied by the image of snake.

The upper right trees could be a portrayal of Pilar's childhood friend, which stated in the novel growing up abandoning 'the other' and let 'the children' take over his action in everyday life.

In spite of the fact that my friend had long ago expelled the Other from his life...

(Pg. 35, 1st paragraph)

At last, as if fate wanted to show me that the story of the Other was true—and the universe always conspires to help the dreamer—we found a house to stay in...

(Pg. 35, 3rd paragraph)

It is said that Pilar's childhood friend has a stable state of mind or could be said that he is sure about everything he wants. Even in some part in the novel illustrated that he was afraid to tell Pilar about his feeling to her. In his finding the meaning about his feeling to Pilar he entered the seminary. The waves of his feeling is illustrated with the blown wind that shakes the trees and it is also happen to Pilar's.

The tree itself is a symbol of the constant growth which represents the constant growth of love in both Pilar and her childhood friend feeling.

"So you can read my heart, Padre. And you know I love him, with a love that is growing every minute. We discovered the world together, and together we remain in it. He has been present every day of my life—whether I wanted him there or not."

(Pg. 76, 20th line)

The lone tree located on the bottom left accompanied by *snake* is representing Pilar that growth with 'the other' on her side. While the other was said that it make one's safe but not helping one's to be oneself.

"The Other is the one who taught me what I should be like, but not what I am.

The Other believes that it is our obligation to spend our entire life thinking about how to get our hands on as much money as possible so that we will not die of hunger when we are old. So we think so much about money and our plans for

acquiring it that we discover we are alive only when our days on earth are practically done. And then it's too late."

(Pg. 34, 3rd paragraph)

The snake illustration is representing 'the other' which has two – sided nature. As stated in *A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature*, snake is a symbolization of evil, corruption power, destruction, mystery, and also the unconscious state of one's mind (Willfred Pg. 151: 1992). The snake is the symbolization of the two sided face or a traitorous signs. It could be interpreted as the unconscious mind that corrupting the conscious mind. The bottom left tree could be the representation of Pilar's state of mind.

I knew it, I said to myself. I knew he was going to turn my world upside down. My brain warned me, but my heart didn't want to take its advice. I've paid a considerable price for the little I have gained. I've been forced to deny myself many things I've wanted, to abandon so many roads that were open to me. I've sacrificed my dreams in the name of a larger dream—a peaceful soul. I didn't want to give up that peace.

(Pg. 29, 2nd paragraph)

Pilar is described as a woman who already sure about her philosophy of life, but at the time she met her childhood friend after twelve years separated, she began to doubt her own feeling and step by step change her thinking of life and love.

But he was wrong. Because I had fought with my heart and defeated it long ago. I was certainly not going to become passionate about something that was impossible. I knew my limits; I knew how much suffering I could bear.

(Pg. 31, 6th paragraph)

Doubt is still controlling Pilar's heart, for example Pilar feels comfort with her relationship with her childhood friend that are now went out of town to find his dream. But when she at last met each other after twelve years separated she began to doubt her heart.

I was even more surprised when I saw him enter the room. He was quite different from the boy I had known—but of course, it had been twelve years; people change. Tonight his eyes were shining—he looked wonderful.

(Pg. 9, 7th paragraph)

Her doubt growth when she met a girl and tell her about the feeling she felt.

"I can read your eyes. I can read your heart. You are going to fall in love. And suffer."

"I am?"

"You know what I'm talking about. I saw how he was looking at you. He loves you."

This woman was really nuts!

(Pg. 15, 11th line)

At that moment Pilar started to doubt her feeling and also her childhood friend feeling to her. Without any of them realize something is growing inside them both Pilar and her childhood friend took a journey to celebrate the holiday of the Immaculate Conception in Bilbao. Starting from there, they were in journey of convinced each of other feeling. Like a river flow, they were in the current of time to meaning of the real meaning of love.

The 7 days journey to celebrate the Immaculate Conception was the journey about the rise and fall, the test of both feeling towards each other. Along the way, both Pilar and his childhood friend are in a journey to confirm and rebuild the past relationship.

Pilar's childhood friend was ensuring himself about his feeling for Pilar.

So I promised myself that I would return the medal to you only when I was able to complete the sentence that I'd begun that day almost twenty years ago. For a long time, I've tried to forget it, but it's always there. I can't live with it any longer."

He put down his coffee, lit a cigarette, and looked at the ceiling for a long time.

Then he turned to me. "It's a very simple sentence," he said. "I love you."

(Pg. 19, 3rd paragraph)

He had asked about the medal. I knew that he was hoping we'd get back to our conversation at the cafe. But I was afraid of hearing something I didn't want to hear. I won't get into it, I won't bring up the subject.

(Pg. 26, 8th line)

"Don't kid yourself," I said. "We can talk about it if you like. You're mistaken about my feelings."

He stopped fooling with his glass and looked at me. "No, I'm not mistaken. I know you don't love me."

(Pg. 30, 11th line)

This uncertain feeling also happens to Pilar. The vague feeling is symbolized by *a heart shape* drifted in the river. *A heart shape* is the universal signs symbolizing love, a feeling that could bring either happiness or sadness. *The heart shape* is drawn drifted in the river, based on the previous explanation *river* is a representation of beginning and the ending also the purification signs. Since *the river* is also consist of water.

This could be interpreted as the start and the finish moment for both Pilar and her childhood friend feeling and they are in the journey to purify their love feeling so they could start a new pace of love together.

God, I am trying to recover my faith. Please don't abandon me in the middle of this adventure, I prayed, pushing my fears aside.

(Pg. 55, 3rd paragraph)

"I have always loved you," he began. "I kept the medal, thinking that someday I would give it to you and that I'd have the courage to tell you that I love you.

Every road I traveled led back to you. I wrote the letters to you and opened every letter of yours afraid that you would tell me you had found someone.

(Pg. 56, 1st line)

This illustration could be interpreted as the beginning of love, from the doubtful and fearful love into a sincere love.

"All love stories have much in common. I went through the same thing at one point in my life. But that's not what I remember. What I remember is that love returned in the form of another man, new hopes, and new dreams."

(Pg. 106, 3rd line)

This shows the liberation from all doubt clouded both feeling of their love. Drift along with the river flow is *a feather*. *The feather* that illustrated drifted in the river could be the description told by Pilar in the beginning of the story.

There is a legend that everything that falls into the waters of this river—leaves, insects, the feathers of birds—is transformed into the rocks that make the riverbed.

(Pg. 7)

The fallen feather could be representing the free bird that already escape from its bound or ready to face the heads challenge. The combination of *the fallen feather* drifted in *the river* could be described as the liberation of something, in is related to the Pilar's acceptance to her feeling and her childhood friend's choice for both of their future.

Thy will be done, my Lord. Because you know the weakness in the heart of your children, and you assign each of them only the burden they can bear. May you understand my love—because it is the only thing I have that is really mine, the only thing that I will be able to take with me into the next life. Please allow it to be courageous and pure; please make it capable of surviving the snares of the world.

(Pg. 54, 6th paragraph)

"May that love grow in me and in the man to whom it is dedicated. Let us say an Ave Maria."

We prayed together, and again I felt a sense of freedom. For years, I had fought against my heart, because I was afraid of sadness, suffering, and abandonment.

But now I knew that true love was above all that and that it would be better to die than to fail to love.

(Pg. 64, 4th paragraph)

The freedom could also be represented by *the wind* which blows everywhere it desires but still goes as God wants.

The gods throw the dice, freeing love from its cage. And love can create or destroy—depending on the direction of the wind when it is set free. For the moment, the wind was blowing in his favor. But the wind is as capricious as the gods—and deep inside myself, I had begun to feel some gusts.

(Pg. 35, 2nd paragraph)

It is God who controls everything and also controls *the river* flow which brings *the heart shape*, *the feather* and also *the eye* along with its current. There are some curved lines in the river illustration which show the effect of the flowing water. It shows that *the river* is the dynamic thing, same as someone's faith.

With its currents, *the river* brings along *the heart shape* which is interpreted as the submission of Pilar's heart to faith and it will be purified along the way. Along with *the heart shape* there is *an eye* drifting in the river current. It is said that *the eye* is the window to the soul; this could explain the reason symbolic

meaning of eye tends to be of a spiritual aspect (<http://www.whats-your-sign.com/symbol-meaning-of-eye.html>). It talks about the vision of the future, the perception, and the awareness. But the illustration *of eye* and *heart shape* were also stated in one of novel narration,

If only I could tear out my heart and hurl it into the current, then my pain and longing would be over, and I could finally forget.

The winter air chills the tears on my cheeks, and my tears fall into the cold waters that course past me. Somewhere, this river joins another, then another, until far from my heart and sight all of them merge with the sea.

(Pg. 7)

The eye that is drifted only one eye instead of a couple of eye. This could be interpreted as the imperfection of vision had by Pilar's. But along the story, she evolves and accepts her imperfection. Since the interpretation of *the eye* could be the mental picture of the future, this illustration could be representing Pilar's thought about the great mother acceptance of her son's doing since she knew it will happen.

...all the pain and suffering of Her destiny; even though Her heart's eyes could see Her beloved son leaving the house, could see the people who would follow Him and then deny Him; but
"Thy will be done,"

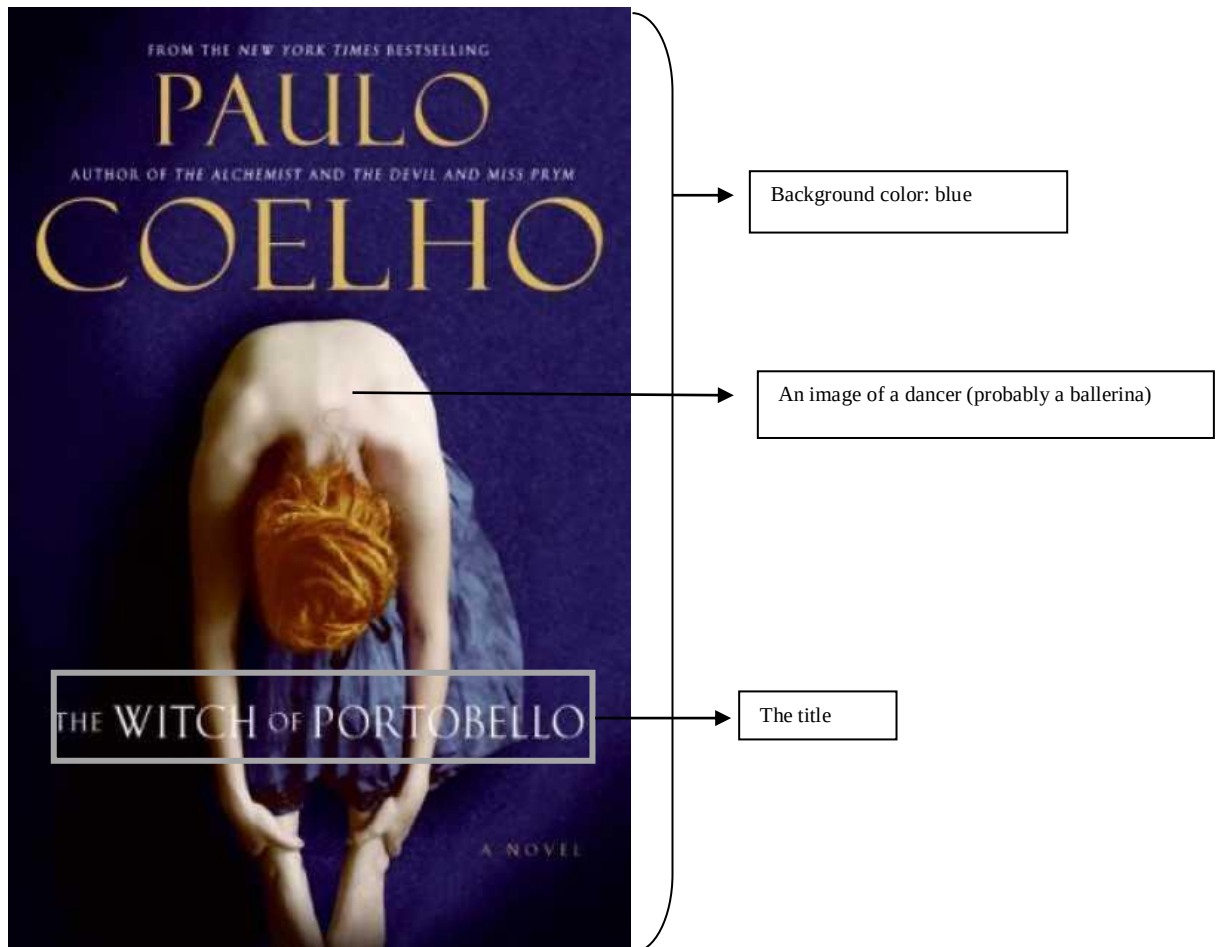
(Pg. 53, last line)

Thus, 'By the river Piedra I sat and wept' cover layout analysis found that its cover indeed shows the place stated in the title, the Piedra River. The cover layout shows the melancholic atmosphere by the color choosing and the effect caused by the wind blow. The theme of the novel itself also emerges in the layout.

'By the river Piedra I sat and wept' is talking about the journey finding love. The journey of the love itself is depicted by the river. The river flow takes everything with it, and leads everything along with it to somewhere. The journey taken makes things that come along learn and evolve.

The heart drifted in the river current is a symbol that the love in the story is taken a journey to evolve itself. Along the way, it finds a liberation which symbolize by a feather picture. It is not only the thing drift along the river that changes but also everything around the river. They all cherished, nourished and purified by its current.

4.3 The Witch of Portobello



The Witch of Portobello cover layout

Figure 4.3

In ‘The Witch of Portobello’ novel, its cover illustration has a simple yet a significant interpretation. Different from the two previous cover layout, ‘The Witch of Portobello’ cover layout has less signs. As could be seen in the above picture, there are 3 boxes pointing the signs, each of them pointing to the title, the only picture, and the background color.

Related to the chapter 2, human being is a meaning maker and it makes every sign could trigger one interpretation after another. So, looking to first sign in the above picture is its title, '*The Witch of Portobello*' leads the interpretation to the witch craft which related to a witch. The title above actually has a direct link to the main character's nickname given by people.

She would never have regained her peace of mind after the events that earned her the nickname 'the witch of Portobello'.

(Pg. 6, 7th paragraph)

The main character got her nickname not by accident; she got that name because she is doing the thing she love, dance. In the cover layout, there is *a woman dressed as a ballerina or a dancer* posing in stretching position. The woman in dress could be a representation of Athena who has a strong enthusiasm in dancing.

Athena was able to study at good schools, she attended dance classes – because dance was her passion – and when she'd finished at secondary school...

(Pg. 15, 5th paragraph)

An enthusiasm of the dancer is illustrated by the pose of the woman in stretching position. A stretching position is a condition where arms or legs are put straight and tighten the muscles (Oxford Learner's Dictionary). This position makes the dancer's body longer and looser.

By looking how the dancer's body move it is shown that dancing is a motivating activity. A dance itself is an activity which allows ones to let his or her

stress out. With dance, ones could explore herself through the grace movements and sometimes manipulate other to come along to feel the joy of dance. It represents Athena's capability to explore her mind and body through dance.

Whenever we met, whether it was to perform some magical ceremony or to meet for a drink, I was conscious of her power. It was so strong I could almost touch it. Initially, I was fascinated and wanted to be like her.

(Pg. 8, 4th paragraph)

The significance of dance, is a way of the affection of spiritual truth, and signifies its pleasantness or gladness. Long time ago, gladness of heart was showed not only by musical instruments and songs, but also by dances. And as in ancient times the enthusiasm which excelled all others were spiritual gladness (<http://www.biblemeanings.info/Words/Activity/Dance.htm>), that shows how Athena could channel herself to the power outside herself and gain knowledge from it.

'Yes, when I dance, I'm a free woman, or, rather, a free spirit who can travel through the universe, contemplate the present, divine the future, and be transformed into pure energy. And that gives me enormous pleasure, a joy that always goes far beyond everything I've experienced ... There was a time when I was determined to become a saint, praising God through music and movement...

(Pg. 26, 7th paragraph)

By dancing, besides ones could free from their stress they could also strengthen our connection to the universal power or God. As cited in the novel, which there is a community does dance in order to get them closer to God.

Then, all I could see was this young woman dancing on the dunes and her son watching her in joyous amazement... she asked if I had enjoyed it.

I said that I had. There is a sect in our religion which uses dance as a way of getting closer to Allah – blessed be His Name. (*Editor's note: The sect in question is Sufism.*)

(Pg. 37, 18th line)

The activity Athena's doing while she dance is considered as witchcraft, it could be seen in one of the statement in the novel in a form of a newspaper article about Athena's activity.

According to Rev. Buck, a group of suspicious individuals have been keeping the neighbourhood awake every Monday night for the last six months, Monday being their chosen night for invoking the Devil. The ceremonies are led by a Lebanese woman, Sherine H. Khalil, who calls herself Athena, after the goddess of wisdom.

(Pg. 104)

Athena herself never wants to create such a large group of dance activity. These feeling of Athena could be illustrated by the pose of *the dancer* with her face unseen. It shows the will of Athena not to expose her life. She had been called as witch and in the twentieth century, a punishment for those who has weird ability is an irony and oppression.

A new witch-hunt is starting to gain ground. This time the weapon isn't the red-hot iron, but irony and repression. Anyone who happens to discover a gift and dares to speak of their abilities is usually regarded with distrust.

(Pg. 5, 6th paragraph)

In the novel stated that Athena's obsession is dancing and with dance she could express herself and channel herself with her inner self. By looking the definition of dance taken from Ardictionary.com is one of an artistic form of nonverbal communication. But her passion in dance is not considered as a normal act by most of the community. This is why she got her nick name as a witch.

Athena herself never wants to have that kind of calling for, but it stated that she live between her own world and people's perceptions.

...it's best that Athena left when she did rather than descend into the infernos of this world. She would never have regained her peace of mind after the events that earned her the nickname 'the witch of Portobello'. The rest of her life would have been a bitter clash between her personal dreams and collective reality...she would have battled on to the end, wasting her energy and her joy on trying to prove something that no one, absolutely no one, was prepared to believe.

(Pg. 6, 7th paragraph)

The background and dress color, *color blue*, shows symbolize the state of religious feeling, nobility and harmony (Guerin, 151). It is shown by the priest statement for Athena said that she was a good church community.

Athena had always intrigued me. Ever since she first started coming to the church, it seemed to me that she had one clear ambition: to become a saint.

(Pg. 18, 1st line)

The *blue* color could be related to the Throat chakra, also known as Visuddha. The Throat Chakra is connected with speech and hearing, and encourages spiritual communication (<http://www.sensationalcolor.com>). This

interpretation related to the most of Athena's occupation while she is searching her identity.

She was a supermarket checkout girl, a bank employee, a property dealer, and in each of these positions she always revealed the priestess within. I lived with her for eight years, and I owed her this: to recover her memory, her identity.

(Pg. 10, 8th paragraph)

As represented in the novel's illustration, a dancer is an energetic being which could be a slight description of Athena's being. Athena always restless and always searching and trying something new as if a dancer always tries to find a new step of movements.

Athena brought to the surface the immensely rich world we all carry in our souls, without realizing that people aren't yet ready to accept their own powers.

We women, when we're searching for a meaning to our lives or for the path of knowledge, always identify with one of four classic archetypes.

The Virgin ... The Martyr ... The Saint ... Finally, the Witch justifies her existence by going in search of complete and limitless pleasure.

Normally, a woman has to choose from one of these traditional feminine archetypes, but Athena was all four at once.

(Pg. 9 – 10)

She was a supermarket checkout girl, a bank employee, a property dealer, and in each of these positions she always revealed the priestess within. I lived with her for eight years, and I owed her this: to recover her memory, her identity

(Pg. 10, 8th paragraph)

It refers to Athena's way to find her true identity using she believes. It relates to her true root as Gypsy's daughter which stigmatize as witches. Along her way finding her identity, she had learned a lot how to balance herself through movements and stillness. But, not all people agree with Athena's way of expressing herself. It is illustrated by the image of the novel cover, *a lonely dancer*.

I'm not surprised that her life ended as it did: she was always flirting with danger. They say that extroverts are unhappier than introverts, and have to compensate for this by constantly proving to themselves how happy and contented and at ease with life they are. In her case, at least, this is absolutely true.

(Pg. 8, 8th paragraph)

The explanation about the cover layout could be as simple as previously explained. The cover layout of 'The Witch of Portobello's novel is describing about Athena's self searching and her acceptance to the universal energy. As dancing, people dance in order to express themselves, the self repressed by public opinion and perception.

However much we try to be independent individuals, a part of our memory is the same. We all seek the ideal of beauty, dance, divinity and music.

(Pg. 81, 1st paragraph)

The whole cover only filled with one image of a dancer with velvet blue background. The illustration as if triggered our imagination to go exploring the unknown place in order to reveal the simple meaning of the image. It is also stated in the novel how vast our imagination is.

‘Our imagination is larger than the world around us; we go beyond our limits. ..

(Pg 83, 9th paragraph)

The cover layout, even it has less signs than the previous cover layout, brings out the theme of the story in a complex way. The theme of the novel itself is about one’s journey in finding her identity. The theme emerges first by the illustration of a dancer in a blue dress showing the elegance of a woman. The dancer is representing Athena’s elegance in facing her life between the two worlds and identity.

Athena has to face that she is a Gypsy daughter adopted by a Lebanese parents. It is illustrated by the dancer who became either another person or herself while dancing. While the hidden face of the dancer picture represents Athena’s will not to expose herself with all of her ability in channeling herself to what she called divine state of herself, Haigha Sophia. It is shown by the end of the story which explicitly said that she fake her death in order to find peace she seeks.