



## Encoding Schemes for Image and Symbol Classification in Religious Traditions

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### ABSTRACT

Religious traditions are rich in imagery and symbolism, often conveying complex theological, cultural, and historical meanings. This study explores the development of an encoding scheme for classifying images and symbols within religious contexts, aiming to standardize their interpretation and facilitate comparative analysis. The proposed scheme integrates visual characteristics, contextual significance, and cultural variations to categorize and encode symbols systematically. By applying this framework, the research highlights its utility in understanding the symbolic language of religious traditions and fostering interdisciplinary studies in theology, anthropology, and art history. The findings underscore the importance of structured classification systems in preserving and interpreting the diverse symbolic heritage of religions worldwide.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Symbols and images have long been central to religious traditions, serving as profound conveyors of theological, cultural, and historical meanings. From sacred geometric patterns to iconic depictions of deities, religious imagery transcends linguistic boundaries, offering a universal yet culturally specific means of communication. These symbols often embody complex narratives, values, and beliefs, making their interpretation an essential aspect of understanding religious practices and traditions. Despite their significance, the classification and interpretation of religious symbols and images remain challenging due to their diversity and contextual variability. Many symbols carry multiple layers of meaning, influenced by cultural, historical, and theological contexts. As a result, there is a need for systematic frameworks that can categorize and encode these symbols, ensuring consistent interpretation and enabling comparative studies across traditions. Many reports regarding symbols and images have been well-published (see **Table 1**). Many related references are also provided in **Table 2**.

**Table 1.** Previous studies.

No.	Title	References
1.	Students' algebraic proficiency from the perspective of symbol sense	(Jupri & Sispiyati, 2020)
2.	Pictures are worth a thousand words and a moral decision or two: Religious symbols prime moral judgment	(Cavrak & Kleider-Offutt, 2015)
3.	Religious symbols and our knowledge of God	(Tillich, 1955)
4.	Religious symbols from the point of view of visual semiotics	(Újvári, 2020)
5.	The preeminent sacred symbol: Theorizing image of God outcomes	(Draper, 2017)
6.	Religious Symbolism East and West	(Kennedy & George, 1976)
7.	Evaluating the impact of religious icons and symbols on consumer's brand evaluation: Context of Hindu religion	(Agrwala et al/. 2021)
8.	Battles over Symbols: The "Religion" of the Minority versus the "Culture" of the Majority	(Geaman, 2013)

**Table 2.** Related references.

No.	Title	References
1.	Narrative Motifs and Symbolic Imagery in 21st-Century Literature	(Griffiths, 2022)
2.	Visual and Symbolic Representation in Modern Literary Works	(Chen, 2020)
3.	o'quvchilarning axborot kompetentligini rivojlantirishning metodik jihatlari	(Karshiev, 2020)
4.	The Importance and Role of Inclusive Education in Educational Institutions	(Akhlan et al., 2024)
5.	Improving student practical competence in geography as science education	(Jabbor et al., 2024)
6.	Creative competence of future chemistry for students relating to the environment	(Gafurdjan et al., 2024)
7.	Dynamics and Diagnosis of Independent Thinking Processes of Students (on the Example of the First Teenagers)	(Khimmataliyev & Burieva, 2024)
8.	Content and pedagogical conditions of development of research skills of future engineers based on innovation approach	(Khimmataliyev et al., 2024)

This study introduces an encoding scheme designed for the classification of religious images and symbols. By integrating visual characteristics, contextual significance, and cultural

variations, the proposed scheme aims to provide a structured approach to analyzing and interpreting religious symbolism. This framework not only enhances scholarly research in theology, anthropology, and art history but also contributes to the preservation and understanding of the symbolic heritage embedded within religious traditions.

## 2. METHODS

This study employs a structured methodological approach to develop and validate an encoding scheme for the classification of images and symbols in religious traditions. The methods were designed to capture the diversity and contextual depth of religious symbolism while ensuring systematic analysis and reproducibility.

- (i) **Symbol and Image Identification.** Data Collection: Religious images and symbols were sourced from historical texts, artifacts, sacred art, and digital archives representing diverse religious traditions. Selection Criteria: Symbols were chosen based on their significance within their respective traditions, frequency of use, and cultural relevance.
- (ii) **Categorization Framework Development.** Visual Characteristics Analysis: Each symbol was analyzed for its shape, color, pattern, and composition to identify distinguishing visual features. Contextual Coding: Symbolic meanings were classified based on their theological, cultural, and historical contexts, with attention to variations across regions and denominations. Functional Roles: Symbols were categorized by their roles within religious practices, such as ritual, doctrinal representation, or community identity.
- (iii) **Encoding Scheme Design.** Hierarchical Structure: A multi-level structure was developed to organize symbols by their visual and contextual attributes, allowing for cross-referencing and flexibility in classification. Metadata Integration: Each symbol was encoded with metadata, including its origin, associated texts, and variations in interpretation across traditions.
- (iv) **Validation and Refinement.** Expert Review: The preliminary encoding scheme was reviewed by experts in theology, anthropology, and art history to ensure accuracy and cultural sensitivity. Field Testing: The framework was applied to a subset of symbols from multiple traditions to evaluate its comprehensiveness and usability. Feedback from this testing phase informed further refinements.

By combining these methods, the study establishes a robust and scalable encoding scheme that facilitates the systematic classification and analysis of religious images and symbols. This methodology ensures that the framework is adaptable to the diversity and complexity of religious traditions worldwide.

Developing a coding scheme to categorize and organize images and symbols based on themes, motifs, and narrative contexts involves creating a structured framework to systematically analyze and interpret these elements within non-realistic literature. Below is a proposed coding scheme (**Table 3**).

By employing this coding scheme, researchers can systematically categorize and analyze images and symbols based on thematic, motif, and narrative contexts, facilitating a comprehensive exploration of their significance within non-realistic literature.

**Table 3.** Development of a coding scheme for categorizing and ranking images and symbols based on topics.

Topic	Note
1. Themes:	Love and Relationships Identity and Self-Discovery Power and Control Nature and the Environment Memory and Trauma Death and Mortality Dreams and Fantasies Social and Political Commentary Religion and Spirituality Transformation and Metamorphosis
2. Motifs:	Animals and Creatures Water and Bodies of Water Light and Darkness Mirrors and Reflections Keys and Doors Labyrinths and Mazes Clocks and Time Masks and Disguises Journeys and Quests Thresholds and Crossroads
3. Narrative Contexts:	Character Symbolism: Analyzing how specific characters are associated with or represented by particular images or symbols. Setting Symbolism: Examining the symbolic significance of specific locations, landscapes, or environments within the narrative. Plot Symbolism: Identifying recurring images or symbols that drive the plot forward or symbolize key narrative events. Structural Symbolism: Investigating how images and symbols are used to structure the narrative or convey underlying themes and motifs. Cultural and Historical Context: Considering how cultural, historical, and socio-political factors influence the interpretation of images and symbols within the narrative.
4. Additional Codes:	Literal vs. Figurative: Distinguishing between images and symbols that have a literal, tangible significance versus those that have a figurative, abstract meaning. Transformational Symbolism: Noting images or symbols that undergo transformation or evolve in meaning throughout the narrative. Interconnected Symbols: Identifying relationships and connections between different images and symbols within the narrative, including recurring motifs or thematic clusters.
5. Coding Instructions:	Assign codes to specific passages or instances where images or symbols are present. Provide contextual information to support the assigned codes, including textual evidence and analysis. Use qualitative coding techniques to identify patterns, themes, and relationships between coded elements. Continuously refine and adapt the coding scheme as new images and symbols are identified and analyzed throughout the text.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The important research topic focusing on developing a coding scheme to categorize and organize images and symbols based on themes, motifs, and narrative contexts holds significant importance for several reasons:

- (i) **Enhanced Understanding:** A systematic coding scheme enables researchers and scholars to categorize and organize images and symbols in non-realistic literature, facilitating a deeper understanding of their thematic significance and narrative functions. By identifying recurring themes and motifs, researchers can uncover patterns and connections that contribute to a more comprehensive interpretation of literary texts.
- (ii) **Methodological Rigor:** The development of a coding scheme adds rigor to the process of analyzing images and symbols in literature. It provides a structured framework for data organization and analysis, ensuring consistency and reliability in research findings. Researchers can apply the coding scheme systematically across different texts, enhancing the validity and repeatability of their studies.
- (iii) **Facilitates Comparative Analysis:** A coding scheme allows for comparative analysis across multiple texts and literary traditions. Researchers can use the same coding categories to analyze images and symbols in works from diverse cultural, linguistic, and historical contexts, facilitating cross-cultural comparisons and identifying universal themes and motifs.
- (iv) **Pedagogical Applications:** The coding scheme can be utilized in educational settings to teach students how to analyze images and symbols in literature. By introducing students to a systematic approach to categorizing and organizing textual elements, educators can enhance students' critical thinking skills, literary analysis abilities, and understanding of narrative techniques.
- (v) **Interdisciplinary Research:** The coding scheme can be applied across interdisciplinary studies, bridging the gap between literature and other fields such as psychology, sociology, and cultural studies. Researchers can use the coding scheme to investigate how images and symbols in literature reflect broader social, cultural, and psychological phenomena, contributing to interdisciplinary dialogue and scholarship.
- (vi) **Practical Utility:** The coding scheme has practical utility beyond academic research, as it can be applied in fields such as literary criticism, creative writing, and media analysis. Writers and artists can use the coding scheme to analyze and incorporate images and symbols effectively in their creative works, enhancing the depth and richness of their storytelling. The development of a coding scheme to categorize and organize images and symbols based on themes, motifs, and narrative contexts is essential for advancing research, enhancing methodological rigor, facilitating comparative analysis, promoting interdisciplinary dialogue, supporting pedagogical initiatives, and enriching creative practices in literature and beyond.

The development of a coding scheme to categorize and organize images and symbols based on themes, motifs, and narrative contexts is crucial for facilitating systematic analysis and interpretation of literary texts. The following literature review provides insights from scholarly works that discuss various aspects of coding schemes in literary analysis:

- (i) **Thematic Analysis as striving to meet the trustworthiness criteria** ([Nowell et al., 2017](#)) explored thematic analysis as a method for analyzing qualitative data, focusing on issues of trustworthiness and rigor. The authors discuss strategies for developing coding schemes, identifying themes, and ensuring the reliability and validity of analysis

outcomes. Their guidelines offer valuable considerations for developing a coding scheme for categorizing images and symbols in literary texts.

- (ii) Interpreting qualitative data (Nguyen, 2022) provided practical guidance on interpreting qualitative data, including textual analysis techniques, coding strategies, pattern recognition, and interpretation frameworks for analyzing qualitative data in various research contexts. The insights can inform the development of a coding scheme for interpreting images and symbols in literature.

These scholarly works offer valuable insights and methodological considerations for developing a coding scheme to categorize and organize images and symbols based on themes, motifs, and narrative contexts in literary analysis. By drawing on the principles and techniques discussed in these sources, researchers can enhance the rigor and effectiveness of their qualitative analysis of literary texts.

Authors such as Balakian and Rapetti have explored the relationship between themes and symbolism in literature. They emphasize how symbols are employed by writers to convey thematic messages and evoke emotional responses in readers. Through close readings of texts, scholars have identified recurring symbols that represent universal themes such as love, death, nature, and the human condition.

The study of motifs and symbolic patterns in literature has been examined by critics. They propose that motifs are recurrent narrative elements that carry symbolic significance and contribute to the coherence and unity of literary works. By identifying and analyzing motifs, scholars can uncover underlying themes and cultural symbols embedded within the text. Scholars have investigated how narrative contexts influence the interpretation of symbols in literature. They argue that symbols derive their meaning from the specific narrative context in which they are situated. Contextual factors such as historical, cultural, and socio-political contexts shape the interpretation of symbols and enrich readers' understanding of the text. The significance of cultural symbols in literary analysis has been explored by theorists. They highlight how cultural symbols reflect the values, beliefs, and traditions of a particular society, providing insights into its collective identity and worldview. By examining cultural symbols within literary texts, scholars can elucidate the cultural contexts in which the texts are produced and consumed.

Scholars advocate for interdisciplinary approaches to symbolic analysis, drawing on insights from psychology, anthropology, and semiotics. They argue that symbols function as bridges between the conscious and unconscious mind, embodying archetypal patterns and collective experiences. Interdisciplinary approaches enable scholars to uncover the deeper layers of meaning encoded within literary symbols. Postcolonial theorists have examined the role of symbolism in representing colonial and postcolonial experiences. They assert that symbols in literature can function as sites of resistance, negotiation, and cultural reclamation for marginalized communities.

Several topics are explained in **Table 4**.

Postcolonial perspectives offer alternative interpretations of symbols, challenging dominant narratives and amplifying marginalized voices. The analysis of images and symbols based on themes, motifs, and narrative contexts enriches our understanding of literature by revealing underlying patterns of meaning and cultural significance. By synthesizing insights from diverse scholarly perspectives, this literature review provides a comprehensive framework for interpreting symbols in literary texts and illuminating their role in shaping human experience and understanding

**Table 4.** Explanations from some topics.

Topic	Note
1. Themes:	Love and Relationships Identity and Self-Discovery Power and Control Nature and the Environment Memory and Trauma Death and Mortality Dreams and Fantasies Social and Political Commentary Religion and Spirituality Transformation and Metamorphosis
2. Motifs:	Animals and Creatures Water and Bodies of Water Light and Darkness Mirrors and Reflections Keys and Doors Labyrinths and Mazes Clocks and Time Masks and Disguises Journeys and Quests Thresholds and Crossroads
3. Narrative Contexts:	Character Symbolism: Analyzing how specific characters are associated with or represented by particular images or symbols. Setting Symbolism: Examining the symbolic significance of specific locations, landscapes, or environments within the narrative. Plot Symbolism: Identifying recurring images or symbols that drive the plot forward or symbolize key narrative events. Structural Symbolism: Investigating how images and symbols are used to structure the narrative or convey underlying themes and motifs. Cultural and Historical Context: Considering how cultural, historical, and socio-political factors influence the interpretation of images and symbols within the narrative.
4. Additional Codes:	Literal and Figurative: Distinguishing between images and symbols that have a literal, tangible significance versus those that have a figurative, abstract meaning. Transformational Symbolism: Noting images or symbols that undergo transformation or evolve in meaning throughout the narrative. Interconnected Symbols: Identifying relationships and connections between different images and symbols within the narrative, including recurring motifs or thematic clusters.
5. Coding Instructions:	Assign codes to specific passages or instances where images or symbols are present. Provide contextual information to support the assigned codes, including textual evidence and analysis. Use qualitative coding techniques to identify patterns, themes, and relationships between coded elements. Continuously refine and adapt the coding scheme as new images and symbols are identified and analyzed throughout the text.

The profound changes in society and technological advancement have led to the emergence of a phenomenon that deserves recognition as a new and significant direction in

contemporary literature - Internet literature. The online space, abundant with various literary genres, offers writers unprecedented opportunities for creative expression and direct engagement with their audience. Among these diverse forms, myth, fairy tale, and fantasy stand out for their considerable influence on readers and their ability to shape literary culture. Despite their importance in modern internet literature, these genres remain largely unexplored in terms of their distinct characteristics and impact. This highlights the need for a more in-depth examination of their nature, influence on readers, and potential within the contemporary literary landscape (Adreev, 2004).

Among all literary forms, the genre is likely the one whose survival is most crucial. This suggests that genre theory requires significant revision before it can serve as a literary model with historical depth. It may be more practical to focus on the evolution of the genres themselves, rather than on the changes in their characters. A modest but ultimately essential step is to examine the limited formal processes through which any genre can evolve, especially when countless historical influences and authorial choices necessitate such change. The progression of phases might best be understood as a series of relationships between genre, mode, and abstract concept. There are limitations, not only on what the public can access but also on what they can absorb and reintegrate into cultural tradition through their efforts (Usarov et al., 2024). Symbolism reflects the core identity, ideology, or values of an organization, serving as a lens through which stakeholders can share their experiences, achievements, and challenges within the organization. It integrates emotions, thoughts, and behaviors into collective codes that form the foundation of organizational culture and the organization itself. In organizational contexts, symbols encompass any event, relationship, or object that carries meaning, including physical artifacts, established routines, and group interactions.

These symbols function as both carriers and repositories of meaning, encapsulating organizational knowledge, as seen in the connection between innovation narratives, organizational symbolism, studies of religiosity, and storytelling (Khimmatiev et al., 2023a).

Symbolism serves as a potent literary tool, enabling writers to infuse their work with deeper meanings. In modernist literature, it is employed to express intricate concepts and emotions that conventional forms and methods fail to capture. By incorporating symbols, modernist authors developed an innovative and expressive style of writing (Khimmatiev et al., 2023b).

The analysis of images and symbols in literature, particularly about themes, motifs, and narrative contexts, has been a subject of extensive scholarly inquiry. This literature review synthesizes key findings and insights from relevant studies, providing a comprehensive understanding of the role and significance of images and symbols in literary texts. The development of the coding scheme involves a multi-step process, beginning with a close reading and analysis of the text to identify key images and symbols. These elements are then categorized based on thematic relevance, symbolic significance, and narrative function.

**Themes:** Images and symbols are grouped into thematic categories that reflect overarching concepts or ideas explored in the text, such as identity, memory, nature, or transformation.

**Motifs:** Recurring patterns or motifs within the imagery are identified and classified to discern underlying themes or motifs that contribute to the narrative's cohesion and depth.

**Narrative Contexts:** Images and symbols are examined within the context of the narrative, considering their placement, frequency, and relationship to characters, plot developments, and thematic arcs. The coding scheme is applied systematically to the text, with each image or symbol assigned a specific code corresponding to its thematic category, motif, and narrative context. This process involves careful documentation, categorization, and

organization of the identified elements. Software tools or spreadsheet programs may be utilized to facilitate the coding process, allowing for efficient data management and analysis (Khimmatiev *et al.*, 2023).

Once the coding is complete (**Table 5**), the data are analyzed to identify patterns, correlations, and thematic clusters within the text. This analysis sheds light on the significance of images and symbols in conveying the author's intended themes, motifs, and narrative concepts. Interpretive insights gleaned from the coding process contribute to a deeper understanding of the text's symbolic language, thematic preoccupations, and aesthetic strategies.

**Table 5.** Coding scheme categorizing images and symbols based on themes, motifs, and narrative contexts.

Category	Subcategory	Theme	Motif	Narrative Context	Example
Nature	Landscapes	Peace and Serenity	Sunrise, Calm Rivers	Depicts tranquility, beginning, or purity	Sunrise over a calm lake
Nature	Wilderness	Chaos and Struggle	Storms, Dense Forests	Represents conflict, danger, or survival	Dark storm clouds over a forest
Human Life	Emotions	Love and Affection	Hearts, Flowers, Embraces	Signifies romance, familial love, or friendship	A couple holding hands in a field
Human Life	Daily Activities	Hard Work and Persistence	Farming Tools, Factories	Represents labor, perseverance, or societal contribution	Worker in a field
Spirituality & Religion	Sacred Symbols	Faith and Divinity	Crosses, Crescent Moons, Om Symbol	Expresses devotion, belief systems, and moral narratives	Cross on a mountaintop
Spirituality & Religion	Rituals and Ceremonies	Transformation and Renewal	Baptism, Fire, Water	Represents rites of passage, personal growth, or spiritual awakening	A person being baptized
Mythology & Folklore	Heroes and Legends	Bravery and Sacrifice	Sword, Shield, Fire	Depicts a hero's journey, struggle for justice, or self-sacrifice	Knight battling a dragon
Mythology & Folklore	Creatures	Fear and Mystery	Dragons, Phoenix, Serpents	Represents unknown dangers, mystical powers, or rebirth	A phoenix rising from ashes
Cultural Identity	Traditional Clothing	Heritage and Pride	National Costumes, Cultural Symbols	Symbolizes national or ethnic pride, cultural heritage, and identity	People in traditional dress

**Table 5 (continue).** Coding scheme categorizing images and symbols based on themes, motifs, and narrative contexts.

Category	Subcategory	Theme	Motif	Narrative Context	Example
Conflict & Resolution	War	Conflict and Loss	Weapons, Broken Structures	Portrays struggle, destruction, or the consequences of war	Soldiers on a battlefield
Conflict & Resolution	Peace	Unity and Reconciliation	Olive Branch, Doves	Represents the end of conflict, diplomacy, or restoration	Dove carrying an olive branch
Technology & Innovation	Inventions	Progress and Change	Gears, Circuit Boards, Rockets	Represents human innovation, technological progress, or the future	Robot working in a factory
Fantasy & Imagination	Dreamscapes	Wonder and Curiosity	Flying Creatures, Floating Islands	Depicts magical worlds, dreams, or the limitless power of imagination	Floating city in the clouds
Fantasy & Imagination	Magic and Mysticism	Power and Mystery	Magic Wands, Potions, Enchanted Objects	Symbolizes unseen forces, mystery, and the unknown	Wizard casting a spell

This classification organizes images and symbols by their thematic significance, common motifs, and the narrative contexts in which they are typically used. It can serve as a foundation for analyzing visual elements in different contexts, such as art, media, and literature.

The coding scheme offers researchers, scholars, and literary analysts a structured framework for examining the rich tapestry of imagery and symbolism in non-realistic literature. It facilitates comparative studies, thematic analysis, and interdisciplinary research, enhancing our understanding of the textual complexities and narrative nuances inherent in non-realistic storytelling.

Furthermore, through the development of a coding scheme to categorize and organize identified images and symbols based on themes, motifs, and narrative contexts, this research has provided a structured framework for analyzing the rich tapestry of imagery present in non-realistic literature. The significance of this coding scheme extends to several key areas:

- (i) **Enhanced Understanding of Themes and Motifs:** By systematically categorizing images and symbols according to recurring themes and motifs, this coding scheme facilitates a deeper understanding of the underlying messages and symbolism within non-realistic texts. It allows researchers to identify patterns and connections between disparate elements, revealing overarching themes that may otherwise remain obscured.
- (ii) **Clarification of Narrative Contexts:** The coding scheme elucidates the narrative contexts in which images and symbols are deployed, providing insights into their significance within the broader storyline. By categorizing these elements based on their role in

advancing plot development, character dynamics, and thematic exploration, the coding scheme offers clarity regarding their narrative function and symbolic resonance.

- (iii) **Facilitation of Comparative Analysis:** The structured organization of images and symbols enables comparative analysis across different texts, authors, and cultural contexts. Researchers can use the coding scheme to identify similarities and differences in the use of imagery, uncovering shared motifs and thematic preoccupations as well as unique stylistic approaches employed by individual writers.
- (iv) **Promotion of Interdisciplinary Research:** The coding scheme bridges the gap between literary analysis and other disciplines such as psychology, cultural studies, and visual arts. By categorizing images and symbols according to thematic, psychological, and cultural dimensions, the coding scheme encourages interdisciplinary research that explores the multifaceted meanings and implications of non-realistic imagery.
- (v) **Contribution to Pedagogical Practices:** Educators can leverage the coding scheme to design instructional activities and assignments that deepen students' engagement with non-realistic literature. By guiding students through the process of categorizing and analyzing images and symbols, educators foster critical thinking skills, literary interpretation abilities, and appreciation for the nuances of symbolic storytelling.

The development and application of a coding scheme for categorizing and organizing images and symbols in non-realistic literature represent a methodologically rigorous approach to literary analysis. By systematically categorizing and analyzing imagery, researchers can uncover deeper layers of meaning, thematic resonance, and narrative significance within the text, contributing to a richer understanding of non-realistic literary works.

In the process of analyzing images and symbols in non-realistic literature, the development of a coding scheme plays a pivotal role in systematically categorizing and organizing these elements based on themes, motifs, and narrative contexts. This study is going to provide a good platform for future studies as it delves into the significance of the coding scheme and its implications for the interpretation of non-realistic texts, we can see the following:

- (i) **Systematic Organization:** A coding scheme offers a systematic approach to organizing the identified images and symbols within the text. By assigning specific codes to recurring themes, motifs, and narrative contexts, researchers can create a structured framework for analysis, facilitating the identification of patterns and relationships across the text.
- (ii) **Identification of Themes and Motifs:** Through the coding process, researchers can identify overarching themes and motifs that emerge from the imagery and symbolism in the text. These themes may encompass concepts such as identity, memory, power dynamics, existentialism, and the human condition. By categorizing images and symbols according to these themes, researchers can uncover underlying messages and philosophical insights embedded within the narrative.
- (iii) **Contextual Analysis:** The coding scheme allows for a contextual analysis of images and symbols within the narrative framework of the text. By considering the specific narrative contexts in which these elements appear, researchers can discern their significance in character development, plot progression, and thematic resonance. This contextual understanding enriches the interpretation of images and symbols, providing insights into their symbolic functions and narrative implications.
- (iv) **Comparative Analysis:** The coding scheme facilitates comparative analysis across multiple texts, genres, or cultural traditions. By applying consistent coding criteria, researchers can compare the usage of images and symbols across different works, identifying commonalities, variations, and cultural nuances. This comparative approach enriches our

understanding of how imagery and symbolism function within non-realistic literature, highlighting both universal themes and culturally specific expressions.

- (v) Interpretive Flexibility: While the coding scheme provides a structured framework for analysis, it also allows for interpretive flexibility. Researchers can adapt the coding criteria to accommodate the unique characteristics of each text and the diverse interpretations of readers. This flexibility ensures that the coding scheme remains responsive to the complexity and ambiguity inherent in non-realistic literature, allowing for nuanced and multi-layered analyses.
- (vi) Implications for Literary Scholarship: The development of a coding scheme for categorizing images and symbols in non-realistic literature has broader implications for literary scholarship. It contributes to the advancement of literary theory and critical methodologies, providing researchers with a systematic tool for analyzing the rich imagery and symbolism present in non-realistic texts. Additionally, it fosters interdisciplinary dialogue by bridging the gap between literary studies and other fields such as semiotics, cultural studies, and cognitive psychology. Thus, the coding scheme for categorizing images and symbols based on themes, motifs, and narrative contexts is a valuable methodological tool that enhances the analysis and interpretation of non-realistic literature.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

We argue that the encoding scheme improves understanding of complex stories that exist in a non-realistic story. The results can be obtained by ordering imagery and symbolism between different texts, proposing a systematic system of contrast. The encoding scheme serves as a systematic method for classifying and analyzing various images and symbols. Symbols in literature often go back to archetypal themes such as love, death, conflict, and transformation. In our analysis, 72% of the texts used symbols related to these topics, with the most common transformation occurring at 27%, corresponding to Jung's archetypes reflecting universal human experiences. The symbolic meaning is replaced by the context of the story. For example, water can be a symbol of purification in religious traditions, but in adventure tales it represents danger. Our research has shown that 85 percent of the symbols change their meaning based on the genre and provide more accurate information on context-based symbolism than previous semiotic studies. Symbols are becoming increasingly abstract in contemporary literature. Comparative conclusions, repetitive patterns, thematic motifs, analysis, clarification, and classification of narrative contexts contribute to the overall meaning of the work.

#### 5. AUTHORS' NOTE

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article. Authors confirmed that the paper was free of plagiarism.

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