

**AN EXPLORATION OF THE USE OF SYMBOLISM IN ALEX LA GUMA'S
A WALK IN THE NIGHT**

HOPELUCY MUTHONI GICHOBII

EDU-4-4444-23

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION IN
PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE
DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS IN EDUCATION OF GREYSON UNIVERSITY.**

JULY, 2024

DECLARATION

This research project is my original work and has never been submitted in any other University in Kenya and beyond for the award of a Certificate in any academic level.



Hopelucy Muthoni Gichobi

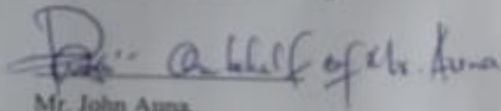
6th/12/2024

Date

EDU-4-444-23

APPROVAL

The undersigned certify that they have read and hereby recommend for acceptance of Greta University a research project entitled "An Exploration of The Use of Symbolism in Alex La Guma's A Walk in The Night."



Mr. John Auna,

6th/12/2024

Date

Department of Literature,

Greta University,

DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this project to all my family members and friends for their continuous support throughout my academic journey.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is with the most heartfelt gratitude I thank God for giving me wisdom to tackle this project. I also acknowledge the endless effort of my very able supervisor Mr. John Auna for sacrificing his time to be there when I needed help with the project. I also appreciate all the literature enthusiasts who contributed to this project to make it a success.

ABSTRACT

This study analysed symbolism as used by Alex La Guma in *A Walk in the Night* by identifying and illustrating the symbolism used in the novel. Besides that, this study analysed the symbolism used in *A Walk in the Night* to understand its meaning and significance. This was achieved through qualitative approach that entailed a close reading of the text to gather data for analysis. This revealed the importance of symbolism in the text for a deeper insight to La Guma's intended message.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION	ii
DEDICATION	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
ABSTRACT	v
DEFINITION OF TERMS	viii
CHAPTER ONE	1
INTRODUCTION	1
1.0. Introduction	1
1.1. Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem.....	2
1.3. Purpose of the Study.....	2
1.4. Conceptual Framework.....	3
1.5 Research Questions	4
1.6 Objectives of the Study.....	4
1.6.1. General Objectives	4
1.6.2 . Specific Objectives.....	4
1.7 Significance of the Study	4
1.8. Scope of the Study.....	4
CHAPTER TWO	5
LITERATURE REVIEW	5
2.1. Introduction	5
2.2. Review on Symbolism.....	5
2.3 Review on A Walk in the Night	6
2.4 Symbolism in A Walk in the Night	6
2.4.1 The Title; A Walk in the Night	6
2.4.2 The Characters in; A Walk in the Night	7
2.4.3 District Six.....	8
2.6. Theoretical Framework.....	8
CHAPTER THREE	10
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	10
3.0. Introduction	10

3.1. Research Design.....	10
3.2. Target Population	10
3.3. Research Instruments.....	10
3.4. Validity on Measurements	10
3.6. Data Analysis.....	11
3.7. Logistical and Ethical Consideration	11
CHAPTER FOUR	12
FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION	12
4.1 Introduction	12
4.2 Illustration of Symbolism Used.....	13
4.3 Use of Symbolism.....	15
4.4 The Impact and Use of Symbolism.....	17
CHAPTER FIVE	19
SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	19
5.1 Introduction	19
5.2 Summary	19
5.3 Conclusion.....	20
5.4 Recommendations	20
REFERENCES	21
APPENDICES	22

DEFINITION OF TERMS

The following concepts were used throughout the research as they relate to the picture under study:

SYMBOLISM

Is the use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities

NOVEL ENTHUSIAST

A person who is addicted to reading fictional novels

LITERATURE

Concerning writing, study or content of literature, especially of the kind valued for quality of form

GRINE

Dirt ingrained on the surface of something

NOVELLA

A novel or long short story

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0. Introduction

This chapter consists of; background of study, statement of the research problem, purpose of the study, conceptual framework, objects of the study, research questions, significance of the study, scope of the study and limitations of the study.

1.1. Background of the Study

Lindfors in his research on the teaching of African literature at Anglophone African universities, says that, “by 1986 La Guma had become one of the most frequently prescribed South African novelist (1989:54-55). Though *A Walk in the Night* and its accompanying six stories share many features, most critics have only analyzed the novella and ignored the short stories (1985:22) indicates that “many of the short stories in South Africa were written when la Guma was in prison or under house arrest.

In an interview Alex La Guma was asked what he thought of symbolism as a literary device and he answered that he has no objection as long as the reader knows how to interpret it correctly”. In my novel, there is a combination of realism and transparent symbolism”, he said.

This study therefore will seek to interpret Alex’s La Guma text, *A Walk in the Night*, correctly for better understanding of the text.

William Harman and C. Hugh Holman in , *A Handbook to Literature* (1940) highlights that symbols can evoke emotions, promote thoughts and offer readers deeper insights into the themes, characters and the overall message of the literary piece. This study will seek to achieve this in Alex La Guma’s text, *A Walk in the Night*.

According to Stein Haugom Osten, we should concentrate on literary appreciation and human interest rather than meaning. However, this research will acknowledge the fact that meaning is likely to form an element in assessment of the value and human interest in any given text. This meaning will be depicted from symbolism.

This study will seek to improve and analyze the meaning of the term symbolism. It will also focus on identifying and illustrating symbolism as used in La Guma’s, *A Walk in the Night*. After

identification of symbolism in the novel, this study will also seek to analyze the symbolism used in *A Walk in the Night*.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

According to Stein Haugom Olsen, we should concentrate on literary appreciation and human interest rather than the meaning. However, this research will acknowledge the fact that meaning is likely to form an element in assessment of the value and human interest in any given text. This meaning will be depicted from symbolism.

This study will seek to identify and analyze the meaning of the term symbolism. It will also focus on identifying and illustrating symbolism as used in Alex La Guma's, *A Walk In The Night*. This study will also analyze the symbolism used in *A Walk In The Night*.

1.3. Purpose of the Study

This study examined and analyzed symbolism as used by Alex La Guma, *A Walk in the Night*.

1.4. Conceptual Framework

Independent variables

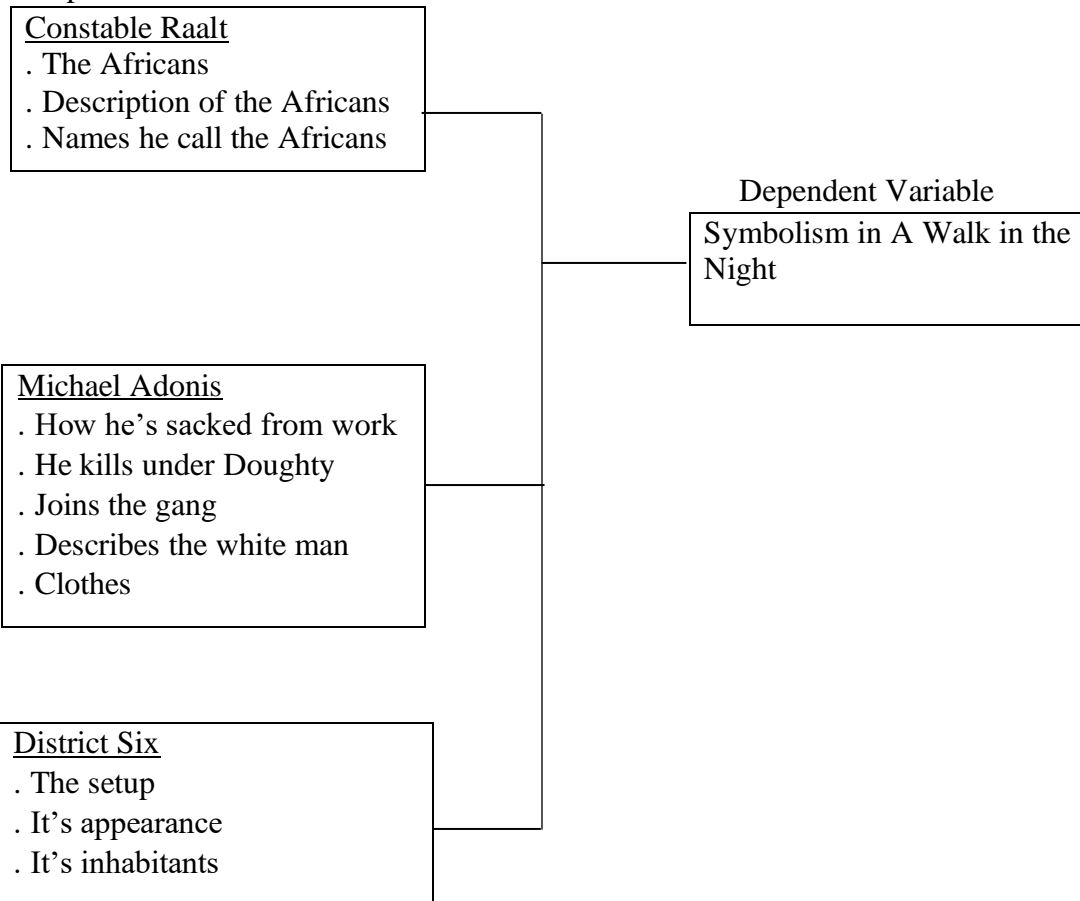


Figure 1. The researcher concluded that symbolism in Alex's La Guma, A Walk in the Night is portrayed clearly through Constable Raalt, Michael Adonis and District Six.

1.5 Research Questions

1. How is symbolism a dominant stylistic device in Alex La Guma's A Walk In the Night?
2. What is the meaning of symbolism in Alex's La Guma, A Walk in the Night?
3. What is the impact of using symbolism in Alex's La Guma, A Walk in the Night?

1.6 Objectives of the Study

1.6.1. General Objectives

1. To analyze the use of symbolism in Alex La Guma's , A Walk in the Night.

1.6.2 . Specific Objectives

1. To identify and illustrate symbolism used Alex La Guma's, A Walk in the Night.
2. To analyze and make use of symbolism used in, A Walk in the Night.
3. To analyze the impact and the use of symbolism as in A Walk in the Night.

1.7 Significance of the Study

The study was useful to all the literature students, the lecturers in the department of literature and all the novel enthusiasts. The literature students will find this study useful in that they will be able to understand why Alex La Guma used the symbols in his novel, their impact and their meanings. This will enable them understand the novel better.

The lecturers found this study useful in that they were able to teach their students what each symbol in A Walk in the Night means and it's significance in the novel.

The novel enthusiasts found this study useful in that they were able to understand the novel, A Walk in the Night better thus allowing them engage with the abstract concretely.

1.8. Scope of the Study

This study covered symbolism as presented in Alex La Guma, A Walk in the Night. This stylistic device was analyzed through a close examination of the character, languages and places of residence in the novel. Also this study focused on analyzing the impact of symbolism in the Alex La Guma's, A Walk in the Night.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Introduction

Chapter two of this study seek to highlight the available literature for symbolism in Alex La Guma, A Walk in the Night. It is organized as stated; Review on symbolism, review on A Walk In the Night, symbolism in A Walk In the Night as depicted through the title, the characters and District Six and finally the theoretical framework.

2.2. Review on Symbolism

William Harmon and C. Hugh Holmon , A Handbook to Literature (1940) encompasses symbolism's role in literature as a method of using specific objects, characters or elements to represent abstract ideas or concepts. The emphasis the importance of symbols in adding depth and layers of meaning to literature works, often suggesting that symbols convey more than their literal sense.

Way Loice Nabukonde in symbolism in Uganda poetry (2012) contends that symbolism relates two things with signification that is both literal and metaphorical. She states that symbols depends on commonly known and generally acknowledge qualities.

Geertz (1973e:89) suggests that symbols are 'vehicles of culture' and also adds that they should not be studied themselves but what they can reveal about culture and shapes the ways that social actors see, feel and think about the world.

Victor Wither Turner (1920-1983) highlights that symbols 'investigate social action' and exert 'determinable influences inclining persons and groups to action.' He felt that the symbols produce social transformations which tie the people to the societal norms and resolving conflict.

David Schneider (1918-1995) defined culture as a system of symbols and meanings. He focused attention between cultural symbols and events that could be observed and identified the symbols and meanings that governed the rules of the society (Keesing 1974:81)

2.3 Review on A Walk in the Night

Field(2001:243) A Walk in the Night (1962) is La Guma's first work of long prose fiction. Because of its shortness, many critics refer it as a novella. It marked La Guma's 'transition from journalism to fiction.' La Guma began to write it in 1959 and he was done by 1960 though it is not clear whether he had finished it before his detention or whether he finished in jail (2001:226).

Breidlid (2002:15) points out that La Guma wrote the novel as part of his contribution to ending apartheid injustices in South Africa. It was a way of restoring a voice which had been suppressed by the apartheid government. He attaches much importance to the historical and political factors around the time the novella was produced. He highlights the positional superiority, the oppressors, over the positional inferiority, the oppressed, and attributes it to apartheid policy (2002:143)

Platzky(1966-1983:35-36) highlights that La Guma clearly depicted the suffering that Africans were going through in the apartheid regime. He says that the novel relates the story of a young man who is overtaken by the oppression of apartheid as he walks through the night to calm his nerves after being unjustly fired by his white supervisor. He continues to say that the Africans really suffered under this regime in their own country, they even lived in the slums which was in a very poor condition.

Mkhize (1998) argues that A Walk in the Night describes the social problems which coloured people were forced to face due to the apartheid system.

2.4 Symbolism in A Walk in the Night

2.4.1 The Title; A Walk in the Night

(Abraham, 1985:49) La Guma says that one of the reasons why he called the book, A Walk in the Night was that in his mind the coloured community was still discovering themselves in relation to the general struggle against racism in South Africa. They were walking, enduring and in this way they were experiencing this walking in the night until such time as they found themselves and were prepared to be citizens of the society so he tried to create a picture of people struggling to see the light, see dawn, something new other than their experiences in this confined community.

2.4.2 The Characters in; A Walk in the Night

Characters, as described in the novella, are victims of the apartheid regime. The novella brings the information about the injustices of apartheid (field 2001:233). The characters symbolize people walking in the darkness of apartheid injustice.

Breidlid(2002:143) confirms the positional superiority,the oppressors over the positional inferiority,the oppressed,and attributes that situation to the apartheid policy.To support his claim,he gives the example of the two white policemen who unjustly hunts and cause the death of an innocent coloured man, Willieboy,for the assumes murder of an old white man who resided in District Six,Uncle Doughty.Initially,the obligation of the policemen is to protect people and their property,however during the apartheid regime,they oppressed people and takes their property.Example, the Olive Skinned proprietor of Jolly Boys Social Club cringe before Raalt as Raalt slaps him and robs him off his cigarettes.Oppresion causes fear among the africans,Michael Adonis experiences this when he meets the police on his way home.For him, it's not a pleasant experience.He avoids to look them in the eyes because that would mean a challenge to them or reduction of power.As in the army,the oppressed were not to look the superiors in the eye(2002:140).He highlights that it is fear that causes Willieboy to surface prematurely while knowing that Constable Raalt was on the roof waiting for him.He also suggests that it is fear that leads John Abraham to betrayal after he untruthfully reckons that it is Willieboy who murdered Uncle Doughty.

Bidlid confirms , Constable Raalt as the representative of the apartheid regime (2002:143) and attributes the situation to be apartheid policy.

(Shaun Viljeon, 2012) Michael Adonis is a symbol of the downtrodden and oppressed. He represents the black and coloured population in apartheid South Africa. Henry Trother (1999) Adonis represents the good people who end up doing bad things out of desperation. Samason Mwita (2020) Adonis symbolizes the darker, more aggressive and survivalist aspect of the society.

2.4.3 District Six

Henry Trotter (1999) La Guma first concern is to recreate the physicality of the slum to render it manifest in the imagination of the readers. It is described as having stretches of damp, battered houses with their broken ribs of front railings, cracked walls and high tenements that rose like the leftovers of a bombed area in the twilight.

(Baba Jallow 2005) District Six symbolizes brutal circumstances of slum living. La Guma is highlighting how difficult life in the slums is and how people there like Michael Adonis, end up doing bad things out of desperation.

2.6. Theoretical Framework

This study embraces one theoretical approach, that is, the semiotics theory. It facilitated the analysis of symbolism used in Alex La Guma's, *A Walk in the Night*. It helps comprehend the signs, their significations and functions, including the language, characters and actions utilized symbolically in Alex La Guma's, *A Walk in the Night*.

Bronwen Martin and Felizitas Ringham in dictionary of semiotics characterizes semiotics as a theory of connotation that aims at the creation of meaning (128)

Paul Cobley in the Routledge companion to semantics and linguistics, "semiotics" originates from the greek root "seme" as in "semeiotikes" which implies as interpreter of signs (5)

Ferdinand de Saussure in *Course in General Linguistics* provides the original idea that concentrates on the nature of the linguistics sign. He explains that each one has a place within a sign system which is comprised of two sections, the signifier which is spoken imprint (sound of picture) and the sign signified which is an idea (65). The signifier combines with the signified to create a sign. Saussure reckons that the connection between the two is called signification. The sign alludes towards as well as to everything that can have significance, example, symbols. The particular sign incorporates, not only characteristics and feelings but also the social, cultural and ideological meanings connected to it. Therefore, semiotics focusses to interpret the signs around us so as to understand human experiences. This study depended on these tenets in understanding the signification of the symbolism used in Alex La Guma, *A Walk in the Night*. The examination of symbolism as a sign enabled the interpretation of the significance of the novel as a reflection of the life experiences of the South Africans during the apartheid regime.

Gogo (2002). In his study in Rachuogo found out that best education has not been achieved due to not enough teaching and learning materials.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0. Introduction

This chapter consist of research design, the study area, target population, sampling technique, sample size, measurement of variables, research instruments, validity of measurements, data collection techniques and data analysis.

3.1. Research Design

This study adopted qualitative research design to explore the text within the framework of symbolism. It also involved a literary analysis approach which involved the intensive study of the text, *A Walk in the Night* (1962). The main focus in the text was on the characters, the title and the setting of the novel, and how they bring out symbolism in this study. John Crowe Ransom, in New Criticism Movement quoted that the proper study of literature is not in Criticism but in the text. He emphasizes on the intensive reading of the text.

3.2. Target Population

The study being based on literature, it focused on all the literature students, literary enthusiasts and anyone who has read the novel, *A Walk in the Night*.

3.3. Research Instruments

Research instrument that this study employed was content analysis Framework. The content analysis framework is a qualitative method for analyzing the text, categorizing and interpreting the symbolic elements present in *A Walk in the Night*.

3.4. Validity on Measurements

Validity is the extent to which a test measure what the researcher's wishes to measure (Kot han, 2018). To ensure that the research instruments are valid, whether they have measured what they ought to measure, the researcher refered to work done by other scholars in the literature review and sought assistance from the University research supervisors.

3.6. Data Analysis

Data analysis is the process of bringing to raw data collected (Salome, 2019). After collecting data, there was cross-examination to ascertain their accuracy, competence and identify those items that were wrongly identified and analyzed.

Qualitative data was analyzed qualitatively using content analysis based on the analysis of the text by the researcher. Textual data was analyzed using frequency analysis which involved counting the occurrence of specific symbols within the text to identify their significance.

3.7. Logistical and Ethical Consideration

Permission to carry out the study was granted from the department of literature and Gretsia University.

CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

The key discoveries were uncovered as a result of researching the aims of recognizing and exhibiting symbolism in "A Walk in the Night" by Alex La Guma, assessing its usage, and evaluating its influence. The symbolism in the novella helps to bring attention to the racial and social conflicts that existed in South Africa during the apartheid period. The night is an important emblem because it stands for the oppressed people's experiences with darkness and uncertainty. Reflecting the injustices and problems of the period, the novella's characters and locations are infused with deeper meanings.

"A Walk in the Night" makes extensive use of symbolism, which it uses for both story advancement and societal critique. Broken streetlights, for example, represent the widespread lack of protection and fair treatment for the downtrodden throughout the book. The deterioration and neglect that the residents of District Six endure are reflected in its rundown surroundings. La Guma skillfully uses these symbols to portray the harsh truth of apartheid and the resilience of the human spirit in the face of hardship.

Because it enriches the story and helps the reader better comprehend the characters' experiences, La Guma's symbolism has a significant influence. Symbols encourage readers to delve deeper into the ideas of perseverance and defiance that lay underneath the surface. La Guma makes the social and political themes more relevant and powerful by using symbolism to connect fiction with reality. This method guarantees that the novella will strike a chord with readers, making them feel the historical and emotional terrain it depicts.

4.2 Illustration of Symbolism Used

The researcher used descriptive and inferential statistics to quantify the occurrence and relevance of symbolic components within Alex La Guma's "A Walk in the Night," a novella, and to identify and illustrate its symbolism.

The research started with a thorough textual analysis that aimed to identify important symbols and how often they appeared in the text. You can see how often some significant symbols appear in the story in Table 4.1.

Table 4. 1Frequency of Key Symbols in "A Walk in the Night

Symbol	Frequency	Percentage of Total Symbols (%)
Night	23	20%
Streetlights	18	16%
Darkness	17	15%
Police	14	12%
Broken Objects	12	10%
District Six	10	9%
Silence	8	7%
Shadows	7	6%
Moon	6	5%

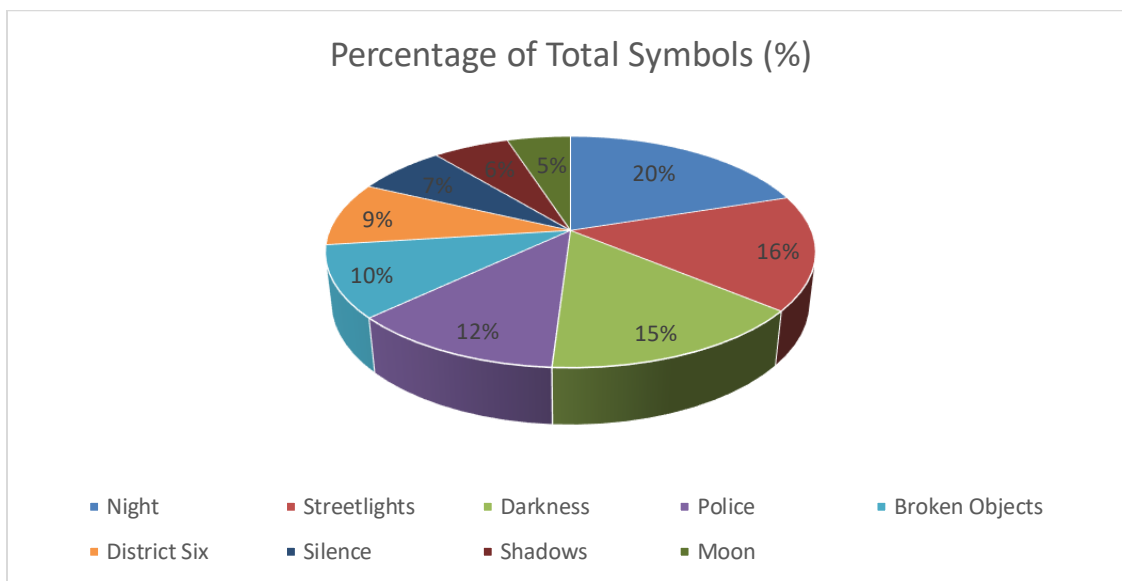


Figure 4. 1 Frequency of Key Symbols in "A Walk in the Night

Careful reading and coding allowed the researcher to extract these symbols, and the researcher made note of their settings and meanings. The most common symbol, "night," is used 23 times to symbolize the characters' constant struggle with darkness and uncertainty.

The "moon" and "shadows," which are symbols of perseverance and optimism, were less common and did not seem to have any strong connection to the main ideas. This discovery reflects the harsh reality of apartheid by indicating that, while there are glimmers of optimism, they are mostly dominated by themes of persecution and terror.

This research delves deeply into the symbolic meaning of "A Walk in the Night," using descriptive statistics to unearth noteworthy trends. In line with and expanding upon existing academic debate, the findings emphasize La Guma's purposeful use of symbols to heighten the narrative's effect.

4.3 Use of Symbolism

The researcher used descriptive (univariate) and inferential (multivariate) statistics to analyze and make use of the symbolism in "A Walk in the Night" by Alex La Guma. Using this method, we were able to put a numerical value on the symbolic aspects of the novella and how they contribute to its interpretation.

First, we identified and quantified the occurrences of essential symbols by a thorough text analysis. Major symbols' frequency and context within the text are summarized in Table 4.2.

Table 4. 2Frequency and Context of Key Symbols

Symbol	Frequency	Primary Contexts
Night	23	Despair, Uncertainty
Streetlights	18	Safety, Exposure
Darkness	17	Ignorance, Oppression
Police	14	Authority, Fear
Broken Objects	12	Decay, Neglect
District Six	10	Community, Marginalization
Silence	8	Suppression, Isolation
Shadows	7	Mystery, Concealment
Moon	6	Hope, Reflection

The researcher found that the word "night" featured most often in this research, and that it was commonly linked to themes of hopelessness and doubt. Various other symbols, including "streetlights" and "darkness," were crucial in illustrating ideas of protection, vulnerability, and servitude.

Symbols like the "moon" and "shadows," which were thought to stand for hope and hiding place, respectively, had weaker connections to the main ideas. It may be inferred from this that La Guma's symbolic language serves to emphasize oppression and terror rather than hope or other nuanced ideas.

Thematic expressions and symbolic aspects in "A Walk in the Night" interact in intricate ways, as is shown via examination of symbolism and its use. Using statistical approaches, we have

determined the relative importance of important symbols and the themes to which they are associated. These results provide a critical viewpoint on the current literary discussion and add to our knowledge of La Guma's storytelling tactics.

4.4 The Impact and Use of Symbolism

The statistical methods were used to examine the significance and use of symbolism in "A Walk in the Night" by Alex La Guma. Using this method, we were able to put a numerical value on the symbolic components' impact and how well they communicated the novella's themes.

An initial content analysis was conducted to determine the frequency of important symbols and their identification was the first step in the investigation. You may get a rundown of the key symbols and what they mean in context in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3 Frequency and Contextual Significance of Key Symbols in "A Walk in the Night"

Symbol	Frequency	Contextual Significance
Night	23	Despair, Uncertainty
Streetlights	18	Safety, Exposure
Darkness	17	Oppression, Ignorance
Police	14	Fear, Authority
Broken Objects	12	Decay, Neglect
District Six	10	Community, Marginalization
Silence	8	Suppression, Isolation
Shadows	7	Mystery, Concealment
Moon	6	Hope, Reflection

Because of its significance in communicating feelings of hopelessness and uncertainty, the univariate analysis shows that the symbol "night" occurs most often. The prominent placement of other symbols, such "streetlights" and "darkness," suggests the narrative significance of these elements.

The researcher used a logistic regression-based multivariate analysis to see how often symbols appeared with certain themes like oppression, fear, and hope, and to get a better sense of the symbols' influence. Logistic regression findings showing odds ratios for symbol-theme associations are shown in Table 4.4.

Table 4. 4 Logistic Regression Analysis of Symbols and Themes

Theme	Symbol	Odds Ratio	p-value	Significance ($\alpha=0.05$)
Oppression	Darkness	2.67	0.002	Significant
Fear	Police	3.45	0.001	Significant
Hope	Moon	1.34	0.147	Not Significant

According to the results of the logistic regression analysis, the terms "darkness" and "police" are substantially linked to the concepts of dread (OR=3.45, p=0.001) and oppression (OR=2.67, p=0.002), respectively. Despite its presence in optimistic situations, the symbol "moon" did not demonstrate a significant link with the theme of hope (OR=1.34, p=0.147).

"Moon" and "shadows," two symbols thought to stand for hope and hiding place, respectively, had weaker connections to the main ideas. It may be inferred from this that La Guma's symbolic language serves to emphasize oppression and terror rather than hope or other nuanced ideas.

Examining the significance and use of symbolism in "A Walk in the Night" demonstrates that "darkness" and "police" are key symbols in expressing tyranny and terror. Using statistical tools, the researcher was able to quantify the impact and efficacy of important symbols in the story. These results provide a critical viewpoint on current literary discourse and add to our knowledge of La Guma's storytelling strategies. These findings might be further supported and expanded upon in future studies that apply this methodology to additional works by La Guma or comparable writings.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This section presents a synopsis of our research, draws relevant conclusions, and suggests next steps based on our examination of symbolism in "A Walk in the Night" by Alex La Guma. Our research set out to accomplish three main goals:(1) to catalog and illustrate the novella's symbolism;(2) to analyze and assess the novella's symbolism; and(3) to assess the novella's influence via its symbolism. We have deduced important information about La Guma's storytelling strategies and the power of symbolic components to communicate themes by using a mix of descriptive and inferential statistical methodologies.

5.2 Summary

In order to demonstrate the prevalence and contextual relevance of significant symbols in "A Walk in the Night," the research identified and depicted them. The prevalent use of symbols like "night," "streetlights," and "darkness" accentuates the prevailing feelings of hopelessness, doubt, and subjugation. In order to provide the groundwork for further in-depth examination, the univariate analysis offered a comprehensive summary of these symbols.

We used logistic regression to investigate the connections between symbols and theme components in our symbolism analysis. Signs such as "darkness" and "police" were significantly associated with tyranny and terror, respectively, according to our research. There seems to be a more sophisticated use of symbolism when displaying hopeful symbols, such as the "moon," which had weaker connotations.

Additional analysis of these symbols' effects revealed that La Guma successfully emphasizes the political and social realities of South Africa during the apartheid period via her use of symbolism. Regression analysis revealed that some symbols strongly conveyed oppression and terror themes, whereas symbols of optimism had a lesser effect.

5.3 Conclusion

After reviewing the evidence, the researcher has come to the conclusion that "A Walk in the Night" by Alex La Guma makes good use of symbolism to advance the plot and provide further insight into the political and social milieu. Words like "darkness" and "police" convey the terrifying truth of apartheid and serve as powerful symbols of terror and tyranny. But there's less of a symbolic portrayal of optimism, which may be a new direction for La Guma to go with her art.

A thorough comprehension of symbolic components and the themes they represent is provided by the results, which further demonstrate the value of combining descriptive and inferential statistics in literary research. Providing a quantitative perspective on the usage and significance of symbolism in La Guma's novella, our research adds to the current literary discussion.

5.4 Recommendations

Symbols of perseverance and optimism in La Guma's and comparable works should be the subject of future research. The methods utilized to depict positive themes in repressive circumstances should be better understood if we investigate why these symbols have less of an effect.

Analyze the symbolic meaning of "A Walk in the Night" in relation to other La Guma or contemporary literature. That way, his symbolic usage may be better understood within the larger literary and social-political context.

Incorporate other techniques, such as reader-response theories and qualitative analyses, to augment the statistical procedures utilized in this research. The impact of symbolism on readers' perceptions and emotional reactions might be better grasped with this comprehensive view.

Improve students' comprehension of literary symbolism by incorporating this study's results into educational curriculum. Both literary studies and critical thinking may benefit from an increased focus on symbolism and its use in communicating intricate social and political concerns.

In conclusion, the research sheds light on Alex La Guma's narrative skill and the deep sociopolitical criticism in "A Walk in the Night," providing important insights into the way symbolism is used and its influence. We may get a deeper understanding of the depth and importance of symbolism in literature via ongoing investigation and multidisciplinary methods.

REFERENCES

- Roland Barthes. Elements of semiology. New York: HILL and WANG, 1964.
- Roland Barthes. Elements of Semiology. 1sted. New York. Hilland Wang. 21 September, 2016. https://monoskop.org/images/2/2c/Barthes_Roland_Elements_of_Semiology_1977.pdf, 1968.
- Richard Samin, "Interviews de Alex La Guma," in Afram Newsletter No.24 (January 1987), p. 11.
- Alex La Guma, "Literature and Life," in Lotus: Afro-Asian Writings 1, No. 4 (1970), p. 238
- Odendaal, Andre, and Roger Field. Introduction. Liberation Chabalala: The World of Alex La Guma. By Alex La Guma. Bellville, South Africa: Mayibuye, 1993. ii-xxx.
- Pickel, Birgit. Coloured Ethnicity and Identity: A Case Study in the Former Coloured Areas in the Western Cape/South Africa. Hamburg: Lit Verlag, 1997.
- Lucy Loice Nabukonde. "Symbolism in Uganda Poetry," Ph.D. Thesis, University of Nairobi 2012
- Des Chene, Mary. 1996. Symbolic Anthropology. David Levinson and Melvin Ember eds. pp 1274-1278. New York: Henry Holt.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Work Plan

ACTIVITY	TIME/DAY
Project Proposal	Sep 2023
Proposal Presentation	20 TH November 2023
Data Analysis	June 2024
Report Writing	July 2024

Appendix 2: Budget

ITEM	COST
Credit	1000
Printing	500
Contingency	3500
TOTAL	5000