

**COMPARISON OF THE BLACK CAT MYTH IN AMERICA AND IN
INDONESIA THROUGH THE NOVEL "THE BLACK CAT"
BY EDGAR ALLAN POE**

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Abstract

The current research juxtaposes the two assumptions regarding the black cat, which arose in America and Indonesia, and ties them to the short story by Edgar Allan Poe titled "The Black Cat." The objective of the current research is to pinpoint the myth or meaning pertaining to black cats in each nation. A qualitative method will be employed in this inquiry. Edgar Allan Poe's short story "The Black Cat" hires a myth or meaning that arose in the Americas, wherein black cats are thought to be witches.

Keywords: *Myth, Culture, Novel.*

Abstrak

Penelitian saat ini menyangdingkan dua asumsi mengenai kucing hitam yang muncul di Amerika dan Indonesia, dan mengaitkannya dengan cerita pendek karya Edgar Allan Poe berjudul "The Black Cat." Tujuan dari penelitian saat ini adalah untuk mengetahui mitos atau makna kucing hitam di setiap negara. Metode kualitatif akan digunakan dalam penyelidikan ini. Cerpen Edgar Allan Poe "The Black Cat" menggunakan mitos atau makna yang muncul di benua Amerika, dimana kucing hitam dianggap sebagai penyihir.

KataKunci: *Mitos, Budaya, Novel.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Language roles as both an outlet of communication and a distinguishing factor amongst dialects. "Language is a system of meaningful and articulated sound symbols (produced by speech organs) that are arbitrary and conventional, which are used as a means of communication by a group of humans to give rise to feelings and thoughts" Wibowo (2001) Language is a component of culture, Liliweri (2002:8) "culture is a way of life from a group of people in the form of behavior, beliefs, values, and symbols that they receive unconsciously, all of which are passed down through the communication process from one generation to the next." Short stories rank among those pieces of literature that incorporate culture. Sayuti (2000:9) asserts that "short stories are works of prose fiction that can be finished reading in one sitting and the story is enough to evoke a certain effect in the reader" . A short tale, per Heri (in Rahayu, et al., 2021), is a composition of literature that depicts human existence in a particular setting and era (Heri, 2019). The existence of short stories is not only because the length is shorter than short tales exist partly because they're shorter than novels but also because the queries they might tackle are increasingly restricted. Short stories are an assortment of literary creation that, in Hidayatiopinion (in Arianti, 2020), has a small capacity and can be read quickly, thus it doesn't take a long time to read. As noted by Limbong (2018), literary works in the realm of prose fiction with an average word length of 750–10,000 can generally be classified as short tales. In all likelihood, a short story is a narrative or story that is legitimately brief in scope and inventiveness, and its coherence can be discerned from the constituent parts. Cultural values, particularly mythical culture, circulate in short stories. Myths are folktales with gods or semi-divine graphs that take root in another realm or the past and deemed by the story's patrons to be genuine. The word myth arises from the Greek word *muthos*, which means oral creed or, to put it bluntly, an illicit yarn passed down through a tribe from one generation to the next (Christensen, 2008). Auditing the myth in Edgar Allan Poe's short story "The Black Cat" is the objective of this inquiry. Edgar Allan Poe was an American poet, critic, editor, and writer of short stories who was well-known for his cultivation of the macabre and elusive. Born in Boston, Massachusetts, on January 19, 1809, he passed away in Baltimore, Maryland, on October 7, 1849. In National Literature, "The raven" (1845) is his finest poem.

2. METHODOLOGY

The present inquiry leverages Creswell (2014)'s qualitative research techniques to get the best findings potential. He states that "qualitative research is research that explores and understands the meaning of individuals or groups who have social problems".

Qualitative research is a scientific research process that is intended to understand human problems in a social context by creating a comprehensive and complex picture that is presented, reporting detailed descriptions from information sources, Creswell (in Herdiansyah, 2014: 8).

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

There is a mtyh in America and Indonesia regarding the cultural significance of black cats.

Table 3.1 The myth of the black cat from America and Indonesia

No.	The Myth / Meaning of Black Cats in America	The Myth / Meaning of Black Cats in Indonesia
1.	It's still a widespread notion in North America that witnessing a black cat implies calamity. However, good fortune shall come your way if encounter a white cat. Furthermore, it is also thought that if a black cat dotted during cremation, another family member will pass away thereafter. There is a myth that black cats are witches incognito. It all kick off when a black cat was spotted leaping inside a house that was undoubtedly haunted by a witch. Thus, people refer to a black cat that is encountered solitary around at night as a witch that has donned the Gestalt of a pet.	The mythology in Indonesia involving black cats restoring bad luck tends to be correlated with misdeeds. Any harm done to a black cat now will culminate in horrible things later on. If a black cat is killed, the bad luck can persist for three months. A different viewpoint holds that sighting a black cat crossing the street symbolizes a life-ending tragedy for the observer and is interpreted as a prophetic sign. One of the most renowned paganism in the nation is that if a black cat claws on a corpse, it will rise again and take on the traits of the evil spirit that carried it
2.	Thirteen percent of Americans think so, pursuant to a Journal of Applied Animal Welfare poll. Anyone who encounters a black cat at the pedestrian crossing will have bad luck. That's one cause why owning black cats seems odd to many people there. In America, black cats are the most popular breed.	The mythical tale in Indonesia about black cats restoring bad luck generally comes with sins. Like, unfavorable things will happen in the future if you cause any harm to a black cat.If a black cat is killed, the bad luck can even extend for three months. A belief also exists that states that if see a black cat crossing the street, it means that life will

		come to an abrupt end.
3.	National geographic indonesia holds, "European folklore states, cats are considered magical creatures who help witches" and "In the document, black cats are stated to be the incarnation of Satan," said Layla Morgan Wilde, author of Black Cats Tell: True Tales and Inspiring Images.	"Berita 99" adds that an Indonesian cat myth holds that if a black cat is hit till its owner injures it, the owner's the lack will steadily decline for a period of two years.

It is evident from a comparison of the aforementioned myths that a black cat has the same symbolic meaning in Indonesia and America that is, it brings misfortune to whoever encounters, possesses, or retains one. But the connotation "The Black Cat" of this short story is not the same as it is in Indonesia. In this short story, Edgar Allan Poe explores the meaning of black cats or the myth of black cats by drawing on American folktales in which black cats are associated with witchcraft. This tale has a gothic aesthetic in addition to a dreadful vibe. The setting of this short story is at night as a subtle nod to horror. The narrator speculates that since terror overtakes him every time, he might have gone insane. The cat, he was certain, was a spirit that had at last seized control of his thoughts. The narrator's beloved pet, a black cat he calls Pluto, morphs into a ghost for him.

At the last point of the story, when the police proceed to raze the wall where it is rumored that the narrator's wife's body lurks, an odd black cat reappears. Together with his wife, the narrator inadvertently buries it in the wall. He feared that the black cat had taken possession of him. The narrator adheres to Pluto has cursed him for his demise. The narrator also discovered that Pluto had renewed; however, since he remembered killing his black cat, which later materialized as the narrator's wife, he saw this as the labor of a witch or a ghost. His wife sounded to him like the cat he had assassinating, due to the consequences of the alcohol the narrator acquired, the curse brought about by the cat caused the narrator to become insane and lose control. In a nutshell the narrator senses that the black cat is a witch that has the ability to change into both his wife and his deceased pet black cat, Pluto.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Black cats correspond to bad luck in both America and Indonesia; however, there is one difference between the two: in America, black cats are thought to be witches, whereas in Indonesia, they are thought to be carriers of evil spirits or negative auras. This is further explained in Edgar Allan Poe's short story "The Black Cat," where the black cat that the narrator kills is thought to be a witch because it incarnates as Pluto and the narrator's wife, whom he killed. Thus, the meaning/myth of the black cat in the short story "The Black Cat" depends heavily on American mythology.

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