

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the research which covers background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation. Each of subchapter is explained in detail because they are important to be informed completely in conducting this study.

1.1 Background of The Study

Nowadays, magic genre is an interesting part in a fiction story. Magic can be impossible thing that happens in real world and it can be affected the people's mind. Statement that proposed by Marcel Mauss' describing that 'magic, like religion, is viewed as a totality; either you believe in it all, or you do not' (Mauss, 1976:91). It means people can believe about a magic or not, it depends on the people perception. According to Todorov (1975), magic is the fragility of the limit between matter and mind which not in any explicit way the domain of spirit or mystery (p.106). It tells about magic and reality, fantasy beyond reality It means, both of them are opposite things. According to Tzvetan Todorov (1975) defined a fantasy as below:

“In a world which is indeed our world, the one we know, a world without devils, sylphides, or vampires, there occurs an event which cannot be explained by the laws of this same familiar world“(p.31)

It means, most of fantasy also uses magic or other supernatural elements as a main plot element, theme or setting. Moreover, magic stories are develop rapidly in the novel.

There is so many stories telling about a magic and full of fantasy, one of which is thegenre of dark fantasy. Dark fantasy is a subgenre of fantasy literary. It often combines fantasy with elements of horror or has a gloomy, dark atmosphere, or a sense of horror and dread. Based on this definition itmeans that dark fantasy is a term used to describe a fantasy story with a pronounced horror element. Elements of horroralso apply in genre of gothic literature, and ithasa dread atmosphere but more mystery. The supernatural often appears in gothic literature, particularly ghosts and unexplained manifestations. In some Gothic novels, these elements ultimately have a rational explanation, but the implication always suggest something not of this world.

Based on the definition above, there is a novel telling about dark fantasy entitled *Coraline* by Neil Gaiman published in 2002. It is an interesting story that tells about a little girl that still on eleven years old and this story actually depicts an adventurous girl finding an idealized parallel world behind a secret door in her new house, unaware that the alternate world contains a dark and sinister secret. She starts all her adventures after the first time she opens the small door in secret. Many of supernatural events occurred in this novel and that event cannot be understood by logic.

Coraline brings a supernatural elements then its storyline portrays an interplay into the practical world and the phenomenal realm. In the quite real ball

concerning the story, the younger heroine is surrounded via enchantment the old actresses whoever may prewise half upcoming activities or execute occupy a magical objective or the singing mice yet the sensible assisting cat. It is passed off so the preceding Coraline tired regarding her workaholic mother and father whoever operate not exhibit the care then fancy he desires, Coraline wishes to bear a greater interesting life. By finding the bricked access then coming into the extra special world, it seems that her want is granted, that meets the other mother, whichever appears to stay semi-identical after Coraline's real mother.

For Example;

“It sounded like her mother... she looked a little like her mother. Only...only her skin was white as paper. Only she was taller and thinner. Only her fingers were too long...and her dark-red fingernails were curved and sharp... Her eyes were big black buttons.” (Gaiman, 2002:27-28)

Furthermore, many of literary work particularly novel contains a magic elements. Neil Gaiman is a author of this novel. He brings a supernatural element or magical object inside magical realism that talk over about myth to create the fiction story to be more interesting to read and it can be found in a fiction stories of Neil Gaiman's *Coraline* this novel reflecting the supernatural elements. Hence, the writer is interested to analyze this novel because this novel is so popular to be read and this novel illustrate supernatural element or magical object .

Coraline is a dark fantasy children's novella by British author Neil Gaiman, published in 2002 by Bloomsbury and Harper Collins. It was awarded the 2003 Hugo Award for best Novella, the 2003 Nebula Award for Best Novella, and the 2002 Bram Stoker Award for best work for young readers. *Coraline* has been

compared to Lewis Carroll's *Alice Adventure in Wonderland* and has been adapted into a 2009 stop-motion film, directed by Hendri Selick. It means, the writer uses this novel as the source of data in this study by using supernatural elements and magical realism theory. This novel is so worthy to be analyzed and informed to readers because this novel illustrated supernatural elements. Supernatural elements is a part of magical realism that examining a magical object that as the writer know this world full of uncomprehensible wonders precede of human experience and unacceptable something to human being.

Previous studies of supernatural has been conducted by Pamela Partch Mehl (1978). A thesis of supernatural written by Pamela Partch Mehl (1978) From Iowa State University. Her study entitled "The Supernatural in Popular Gothic Romance" she analyzed about supernatural shape-changers, ghost and other phenomena in gothic literature. Then, magical realism has been conducted by Saeede Hosseinpour and Nahid Shahbazi Moghadam (2016) from *Prague Journal of English Studies* Volume 5, No. 1, 2016. With the title "Magical realism in Neil Gaiman's *Coraline*" they analyzed about five elements of magical realism using Wendy B Faris's theory.

This study presents supernatural elements depicting in the novel *Coraline* in details analysis. Henceforth, the writer only analyzed and examines supernatural elements which focus on the utterances of the characters and the narrator by using the theory of magical realism proposed by Bowers, A. M (2004). This study has a different primary discussion to other previous studies.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

How are supernatural elements depicted in Neil Gaiman's *Coraline*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

To figure out supernatural elements depicted in Neil Gaiman novel entitled *Coraline*

1.4 Significance of the Study

The study is expected to give both theoretical and practical contributions. Theoretically, the results of this study are expected to give a better understanding about magical realism especially in supernatural element. The writer also hopes this study can assist readers and other students who plan or look for references about magical realism.

The purpose of this study is to give obvious explanation about what magical realism is, so that the reader can readily understand the concept of supernatural element in magical realism. In addition this study can be a reference for readers who are interested to analyze the same theory of magical realism.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study discusses magical realism in *Coraline* by Neil Gaiman that published in 2002. The scope of this study is Magical realism theory which focuses on supernatural elements. The theory used in this study is mostly proposed by Maggie Ann Bowers. The writer limited this study only in the magical realism especially in supernatural elements which is considered sufficiently to answer research question. Moreover, the writer also limited and

focuses on the utterances of the characters and the narrator containing supernatural elements in this novel.