

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the study, the statement of problems, the objectives of the study, the significances of the study, and scope and limitation of the study.

1.1. Background of study

Children's worlds are the place where imagination takes the largest part. Sometimes children see something real, then adding their own picture of perception to create something new. The new pictures that exist on children's mind are sometimes too exaggerated, so the adults are often laughing and ignoring their imagination. In fact, children's imaginations are very important. Child-development experts stated that imagination is very important for children in the role of understanding reality. That is because imagination is needed for learning people and circumstances which they never experienced before (Harris: 2000, 67).

The problem occurs because sometimes children's imaginations are hard to control. Yet, there are several ways to control their imaginations. One of the ways is by determining what they read. Lev Semenovich Vyogatsky stated "The creative activity of the imagination depends directly on the richness and variety of a person's previous experience" (2004: 14). The experience stated here is not only experience on the real world, but also experience that they get on reading a book. When reading a book, the children will imagine something or events that exist in the book. Those become their reading's experiences. Their reading's experiences would become 'ingredients' to produce imaginations. The children intended to

imagine and imitate everything which they read. Therefore, it is really important to choose what book that can teach them about the goodness.

Paul Hazard in O'Sullivan gives a clear understanding that children loves to imagine something,

‘Give us books,’ say the children; ‘give us wings. You who are powerful and strong, help us to escape into the faraway Build us azure palaces in the midst of enchanted gardens. Show us fairies strolling about in the moonlight. We are willing to learn everything that we are taught at school, but, please, let us keep our dreams.’ (2005: 6).

Children prefer to read the book that can make them fly to their own worlds. They love to learn something, but in their own way by involving the imagination. Therefore, most of children's literature involves and using elements that are irrational in adult's mind. The appearing of animal creatures that can talk, the existence of magical things such as fairy, elf for instance, all of them are nonsense for adult, but it is very interesting for children. Those characteristics of children's literature drive the authors unconsciously create literary works that are retold version from the prior literary work. If the readers aware of that, they would find that sometimes they read the same idea, but in the different style and packaging.

Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Roald Dahl's *James and The Giant Peach* and Michael Ende's *The Neverending Story* are literary works that tell children about world and children's imagination. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* was published in 1865. It included in literary nonsense genre. So, it can be called as adult literature and children's literature. Children's literature is the literature which is made intended for children. The reason why *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* includes in nonsense genre is because the

essence of this novel is about the searching of self identity but the settings and supporting characters that are built by Carroll is purely children imagination. Besides, when explores Wonderland Alice uses her logic to judge everything in there.

“Carroll relied on the normality and common sense of Alice to give the reader some kind of perspective on the bizarre creatures he had invented. Without her, Wonderland would surely be not intriguing and amusing, but absurd and tiresome. Her curiosity, concern or impatience, and her struggle to make sense of what she finds, makes what would otherwise be baffling twaddle into captivating nonsense” (Grenby: 2008, 151).

Carroll convinces the existence of Wonderland to the reader. He depicts Wonderland depend on Alice’s perspective. During her adventure, Alice learns to be a better person. She learns from what she has seen in Wonderland and from her interaction with the creatures in there.

James and The Giant Peach was published in 1961 and the genre is purely children’s literature. It was written for the children’s pleasure, because the story tells about boy who escapes from his cruel aunts and experiences a great adventure. He changes his fate and in the end of the story he lives happier than before, the typical ending that children expected. From the year of publishing, it refers to the end of the world war, the time when children in a great depression, traumatic and fears of wars. Therefore it can be inferred that the main purpose of producing this work is for children pleasure. It cures their trauma and depression.

The Neverending Story was first published in the 1979. It was first published in German language, but then translated in English during 1983. This novel tells about the boy named Bastian who experience a great adventure in the

Fantastica, the world where a lot of magical creatures, magical things lived. In the beginning of the story, Bastian is a sad boy who has a bad communication with his dad after the death of his mother. He is treated improperly by his friends, but then when he reads the book that he steals from Mr. Coreander everything is change. The world in the book and the real world where Bastian lived are intertwined. So, Bastian is involved into the book as the character.

Those works were published in different year. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* was in 1865, *James and The Giant Peach* was in 1961, and *The Neverending Story* was in 1979. All of them tell about children's great adventure, exploring new world that they have never been into. They also present an imaginative setting and characters. This study analyze the relation between *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *James and The Giant Peach*, and *The Neverending Story* because *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* is indicated influence Dahl in producing *James and The Giant Peach* and Michael Ende in producing *The Neverending Story*. Besides that, this study interests to proof that most of children's literatures tell the same idea, even though in different way and style.

There have been several researchers who have analyzed *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (Gorgans, 2011; Mitchell, 2009; Aas, 2004; Liskova, 2007; O'Sullivan, 2009; Soder, 2010; Johannessen, 2011; Karlsson, 2009). Most of them are interested in Alice's searching for identity, nonsense aspects, and the psyche of Alice. None of them compare *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* with *James and The Giant Peach*, and *The Neverending Story*. In fact, there is an intertextual relation between them. Therefore, this study focuses on the relation

among those novels. Comparative literature is used in this study as the approach. Since comparative is an approach, it still needs a theory to analyze the literary work. The writer is going to use the theory of intertextuality because it is intended to found the relation between those novels.

There are many explanations about comparative literature, one of them is from Zepetnek. He defined comparative literature as follow,

“Comparative literature is the study of literature in at least two ways. First, comparative literature means the knowledge of more than one national language and literature, and/or it means the knowledge and application of other disciplines in and for the study of literature. Second, comparative literature has an ideology of inclusion of the other, be that a marginal literature in several meanings of marginality, a genre, various text types” (1998: 13).

In comparing literature, the literary works itself can also be compared with other disciplines in order to get the deeper understanding. Comparative literature is not bordered by language and nation, it is a cross culture. For the second way, it can be understood that in understanding the meaning of a literary work, it should be compared with other literary works, because the ideology of comparative literature is inclusion, literary works have a connection with others.

As explained by Zepetnek about comparative literature, it can be concluded that comparative approach can discover the connection between texts. Riffaterre in Mitosinkova further explain about the concept of connection between texts

“Summary of any relations between texts of any transformation in a literary work caused because of its relationship towards the work by which it's preceded or followed, manifested on the ground of reader's perception” (2010: 64).

From what Riffaterre stated above, it can be understood that the relation between texts in the case of follow, manifest, and influence produce a new text. The new text is the transformation of the former text. The transformation depends upon reader's perception.

1.2. Statement of problems

Based on the background of the study, the research questions are:

1. What are the similarities and the differences among those novels?
2. What are the elements in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* that influence *James and The Giant Peach* and *The Neverending Story*?

1.3. Objectives of study

Based on the statement of problems above, this study is intended to figure out the elements in Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* that influence Dahl's *James and The Giant Peach* and *The Neverending Story* by:

1. Explaining the similarities and the differences of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* with *James and The Giant Peach* and *The Neverending Story*.
2. Explain elements in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* that influence *James and The Giant Peach* and *The Neverending Story*.

1.4. Significance of study

Theoretically, this study is expected to give better understanding about comparative approach and intertextual relation between a text with others. The writer also expected to build a 'place' for children's literature in readers' heart. It is because most of readers choose adult literature rather than children literature.

They consider children's literature as unimportant and meaningless rather than adult literature. Practically, this study is expected to give a contribution to the society, especially parents, teachers, and the next author. It is expected to build parents' awareness about the good impact of children's literature and to build teachers' understanding about the importance of moral value in children's literature towards their students. This study is also expected to give inspiration to the next author about Carroll's unique ideas. So, they can produce literary works by presenting the unique elements of Carroll in the new version.

1.5. Scope and limitation of study

The scope of this study is comparative literature approach and intertextuality theory. The limit of this study is the characters' utterances and authors' narrations in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *James and The Giant Peach*, and *The Neverending Story* which indicate the intertextual relation.