

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers five sub chapters that are informed in this research, namely background of the study, research question, research objective, scope and limitation, and significances of the study.

1.1 Background of the study

Have you ever heard the story of Cinderella? If you ever heard, it means your childhood was wonderful, because not all children heard about it. Nevertheless, if you have heard it, maybe you heard from your parents or television, because this story was famous and often told in the story book or television until now. This story told about the girl that had a cruel stepmother and two stepsisters. She had bad destiny at the beginning. Otherwise, it has been changed until she found a fairy mother that helped her to go to the party and met a handsome prince. In the last story, Cinderella married with the prince and life happily everlasting. This story was one of example of children literature.

Hunt (2005) stated the word literature depicts the clear problems, and the word children confirms to be equally smooth. The childhood concept modifications from some areas, such as time to time, place, and history, definition and study the concept of childhood has increase in recent years. It means, the concept of childhood is the impact from those areas. Otherwise, children literature is the literature that is written for children. It is adapted from folktales, legend, fairytales, myth and adventure story etc.

Children literature is different from other stories, because in children literature the story has some characteristics, especially it is written for children, it has pedagogical, moral values and it should be happy ending. Sometimes, the character is about fairy and magical power, and it should be containing the education aspects for children.

The story for children is always interconnected with historical aspect, because reading children story is the way to make the children learning about the country or the world. For example, in the story *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. The story showed the industrial revolution that talked about many people thought about money and working, until they forgot the religion and celebrated Christmas. The definition of historical is something connected with the past or history, such as document or monument belongs to an earlier period of history. In the children literature, historical is one of the important things, because some authors give some touches about historical in the story to give some knowledge to the children. However, historical in children literature usually is written simply to make children interesting and enjoy reading the story.

Historical fiction for young people therefore follows in the footsteps of the adult historical novel, the only difference being that it often chooses a hero of its readers' age, who has a mentality and psychology close to those of our children and teenagers (Thaler, 2003, Hunt, 2004).

Telling about children literature, we cannot neglect about its social elements, for example in Cinderella story written by Brothers Grimm. It is much influenced by the gender movement in Europe in 19s (Hunt, 2004). The meaning of social is an element of society that often exist in a story, and it is not only for

adult literature, but also in children literature. However, the social elements in children literature are different. The social stories that are told usually including devoted to parents, being good friends with friends, and being close to the teacher (Harits, 2017). Whereas in adult literature it is usually about violence, sex, and community life, which is taboo for children, for example, about the violence, in the first original story of Snow White (1812), the cruel mother was not her stepmother, but her real mother. Meanwhile in the adaptation story, it changed to become the stepmother, because it was impossible that the real mother was jealous with the beauty of her own daughter. Also, in the original story of Sleeping Beauty that was written by Giambattista Basile with the title *Sole, Luna e Talia* (1634). It was not the kiss of a handsome prince that wakes Sleeping Beauty, but she was be raped until she had children. This is occurred because children literature is considered to be an important method in children social development that must be embedded from an early age. Therefore, the social elements that exist in children literature are usually not far from children's lives, and the social elements are told in a simpler way.

One of Children's Literature author is Enid Mary Blyton, or she is known as Enid Blyton by many people. She is famous author from British. She was born on August 11th, 1897. She writes many books and her book had been one of the bestsellers in the world. Her books are still very popular until now. She writes many kinds of themes including adventure, education, history, nature, fantasy, mystery, and scriptural narrative. However, from all her books, one of the best series novels is *The Famous Five*.

One of Blyton's famous books is *The Famous Five*. It tells children story, and it has five main characters inside the story. They are Julian, Dick, George, Anne and Timmy. This book is originally written for children, even the readers are not only children, but also adult. In addition, the famous five still reads until now. It tells the five adventurers that is submitted in some series. Especially, there are 21 series that all of them have different adventure story, but I only choose three of the series that has some differences and similarities. Those are *Five on A Treasure Island* (1942), *Five Go Off to camp* (1948) and *Five on Finniston Farm* (1960).

The first series which the title is *Five on a Treasure Island* tells the holiday of three children. They are Julian, Dick and Anne. Then, they come to their cousin's house. Her name is George. She has a dog, and the name is Timmy. All of them look for a treasure in an island that has name Kirrin Island. Meanwhile, in the series whose title *Five Go Off to Camp* is different from the first series. The main story does not look for a treasure again. It is about spook train that is used for smuggling some stuff. This story tells about uncover the crime hidden behind the haunted smoke train. Furthermore, the story in series *Five on Finniston Farm* is similar with the first series. It is also about looking for a treasure, but the setting of the place is different. It is in the old farm, meanwhile in the first series is in the island.

There are three reasons why this novel is interesting to be analyzed. First, the novel is still read by some people until now, even this is old novel. The second, the novel is easy understand for children even related to some historical and social life. Third, the *Famous Five* is the first series book that become inspiration for other stories in other books. Therefore, the writer is interested in analyzing this novel.

In addition, the three series have some similarities and differences. Also, the main story of those three series gives many inspirations to many other stories in children literature. Those are about treasure and spook train or ghost, such as the story of *The Hidden Treasure Story* by Basab Ghosh and *Ghost Train* by Paul Yee.

Likewise, in the story of *The Famous Five* that is written by Blyton, there are several historical and social elements in the story, such as the history of England, the story of human life, and nature. Then, the social perspectives also exist in the story, such as the social perspectives of the social environment, gender also about the economy. All of them are covered in the adventure story.

Previously, there had been a study by using Children Literature from Imron Wakhid Harits in 2017. The study entitled *The Socio – Cultural and Historical Motifs and Types as Well as The Reconciliation of World Experiences in Czech, Slovenia and Madura Folktales/Fairy Tales to Adapt and Reconstruct the New Perspectives of the Stories for Learning*. Folktales or fairy tales across nation becomes the focus on this thesis. It is from two perspectives based on the comparative study concerning with the historical aspect, social, and cultural perspective.

Then, there is a study from Ayu Putri Bhakti from University of Trunojoyo Madura, she has a thesis about comparing children literature. “*Socio and Historical Context in Unicorn Stories: Comparative Children Literature Study*” is her thesis title in 2020. She focuses on comparing unicorn stories in different country using comparative studies in Children literature.

Therefore, this study is used historical and social approaches in Children Literature, because it is very specific theory to understand about the novel and to find the historical and social perspectives, also the source of data is from three series of Blyton's *The Famous Five*. Those are *Five on A Treasure Island* (1942), *Five Go Off to camp* (1948) and *Five on Finniston Farm* (1960).

1.2 Research Questions

Connected with the background of the study that has been formulated, there are two questions in this study as analysis of the text. The problem that is solved in this study are:

1. How are the historical and social perspectives depicted in three series of Blyton's *The Famous Five*?
2. How are the three series of Blyton's *The Famous Five* affected by historical and social perspectives?

1.3 Objective of the study

In following form with the previous statement of the research questions, the objective of the study aims to:

1. To depict the historical and social perspectives in three series of Blyton's *The Famous Five*.
2. To examine the influence of historical and social perspectives in three series of Blyton's *The Famous Five*.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

This thesis concentrations on the borderline of the three series of *The Famous Five* story from Enid Blyton. It uses children literature theory about historical and social perspectives. It aims to find out the way how Enid Blyton depicts the historical and social context in the novel. The limitation of this study is to analyze the historical and social perspectives in Blyton's *The Famous Five* which answer the research question.

1.5 Significances of the Study

Theoretically, this study supports other researches toward knowledge of children literature, especially about historical and social approaches in children literature and also giving an understanding in using novel series as the source of data.

Practically, this study is expected to deliver motivation in the development of literature, especially in analysis of children literature. The result of this study is to give inspiration to the readers that children literature also can give knowledge to the children and adult. It will be the reference of the readers specifically to the student of English Department at University of Trunojoyo Madura.