

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, the statements of the research problem, objective of the study, the significances of the study, and the scope and limitation.

1.1 Background of the study

Literary work is one of the device or way to pour human's expression at the certain time. Therefore, the reader can guess about the authors feeling at that time. Wellek and Warren (1997: 3030) state that literature is one of the human learning to explore their feeling, knowledge, and also to reflect the situational condition at the time through the written expression that is called literary works. For example this study that is going to analyze the reflection of life condition at the time through the fairytales.

One of literary genres is folktale. Folktale is a type of traditional tradition that tries to explain something that is meant to help people behave well in the world. Generally, the stories are called fiction based on its magical or supernatural element. Usually, places and events depicted are largely imaginary. Folktales are interesting in oral traditions and in the written tales which are transcribed directly (or as directly as possible) from those oral tales. It is included into the fiction stories. The story which is

full of imagination of the author such as fairytale is included into one kind of folktales.

Fairytale is fictional work of prose that is shorter in length than a novel and drama. It can be seen that fairytale is about the real condition of society or the imagination of the authors. Usually, most of fairytales contain of magic or supernatural things that is called as a myth. Therefore, fairytales have a different style from other genres, such as poetry that contains beautiful word or irony to show the story. In drama, the playwright uses a scene to show the action of the characters. While in fairytale, the author uses myth and supernatural matter to tell the story that contains the fairies or falsehood. For example Cinderella's story, the supernatural thing in this fairytale is the moment when Cinderella wants to go to the royal party. Then, a fairy mother comes to help her with a magic way and makes Cinderella more beautiful like a princess. This case often makes the reader gets some difficulties to prove that the story is a real history or just imagination of the author. However, there are many ways for readers to know and to prove the reality of the story that contains some myths.

Fairytale is one of literary genre that is interesting to be analyzed, especially based on the myth and archetype theory focuses on symbol. According to (Hirschberg, Stuart and Terry, 2004:75) symbol is one of the important aspects in the myth, therefore the writer choose the symbol to analyze the story in these fairytales that also contains of myth.

Myths become one of many important things to be analyzed in society's life because several people often have the experience that is related to the myth. Myth also becomes the traditional tradition in the society because sometime, several people included myth as the firm beliefs such as cultural, and religion by using the power of symbol. Therefore, this study is going to analyze the symbol of myth that is contained in the fairytale.

This study is going to analyze symbol that appear in the twofairytales. The first fairytale is entitled *The Spider Grandmother* which tells about the life condition in south-western of United State at the time. The author in this story tells the character by using several animals. Therefore, the writer in this study chooses the symbol by using myth and archetypal theory to analyze this story. The second fairytale is entitled *Big Trouble with Little God* which tells about the mythology in Eastern Europe. It shows the people who have a problem with a minor god. Therefore, he gets a punishment because of his mistake. The writer chooses these two stories rather than other because these stories can give knowledge for the reader about the life condition in several worlds and about the cultural of the Christianity in pass time. While the other stories just tells about the romance, hero, and fairy. Therefore, the writer chooses these stories to be analyzed.

These stories are discussed in this study to make the readers become more interested in many kinds of fairytale in this world especially entitled *The Spider Grandmother* and *Big Trouble with Little God*. These titles in this study are in the form of fiction. It means, the author writes these stories based on his own imagination

and perception. Of course when analyze it, the writer of this study must use her imagination to understand the whole story.

Based on the early observation, it is found that the observation gives the evidence for the difficulty of classifying fairytale. Generally, fairy tales tend to be classified as aliterary category in contrast to the religious or philosophical sub-grouping mythology and Fairytale (Jackquilyn, 2011:22). It means that fairytale contains unique supernatural matter. The uniqueness is that the story uses supernatural things to deliver the story.

According to (Hirschberg, Stuart and Terry, 2004:75) most of the symbolic stories are taken from the cultural, knowledge, or imagination to reflect something that is going to be shown by the authors. It means that, the story can come from the life condition or imagination or feelings of the authors. The story that contains the magic symbol is called as a myth.

The source of data of this study is the fairytale entitled *The Spider Grandmother* and *Big Trouble with Little God*, which were retold by Robin Brockman and published in 2000. There are many myths appear in these two fairytales that can be analyzed through the symbols which creates supernatural things. Based on the explanations above, to analyze the symbol it is important to understand the general meaning in order to make easier to analysis. The writer chooses this source of data as her study because this book consists of many fairytales that made the writer want to know more details about the story.

1.2.Statement of the Research Problem

Based on the background of the study, the following question is formulated due to the research problem of this study. The question is:What are the meaning of symbol inRobin Brockman's*The Spider Grandmother* and *Big Trouble Whit Little* Godsfairstales?

1.3. The Objective of the Study

This study attempts to explain and describe about the meaning of symbol in Robin Brockman*The Spider Grandmother* and *Big Trouble with Little* Godsfairstales.

1.4. Significant of the Study

Hopefully,this study gives well understanding theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study gives better understanding about how to analyze literary work by using archetype theory especially in*Spider Grandmother* and *Big Trouble Whit Little God*fairstales. Practically, this present study becomes the reference and motivate the others or the next writer to analyze symbol and myth in other literary works.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is the using ofarchetype theory from Northrop Fryeto explain and describe more about the meaning of symbol that contains myth in these fairytals. In addition, the analysis is limited on the words which reflect the symbols in the story.