

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background of the study, research questions, research objectives, significances of the study, scope and limitation.

1.1 Background

Magic is frequently founded in literary works especially in the fantasy genre, where the events and situations in the story nearly unacceptable in the human mind. Some people may not believe in the existence of magic especially in the modern era with very sophisticated technologies, people are considered hard to believe in uncommon issues. As Rave states that “Magical Realism can be difficult to understand for people who are very attached to definitions and rules that conform to the logically real world.” (Rave, 2003, p. 3).

“Magic is a part of life, existing in all moments, not just times of change. Without it, life slowly becomes separated from its source in the unseen and dies. Magic is needed to realign life, to help life to remember its higher purpose. By learning the ways of magic, we can help heal and redeem life, bring back life’s joy” (Vaughan-Lee, 2005 , p. 63)

According to the quotation above Vaughan states that Magic is a part of life. Magic can help remember the higher purpose of life as well as help heal and redeem life. According to Subbotsky (2014, p. 3) There are two ways people believe in magic, magical thinking and magical beliefs. Magical thinking operates with the idea of impossible objects, without ontological judgment about the objects being made, while magical belief is incorporate ontological judgment about the impossible objects of the belief that these objects exist or not in the real world.

Hutson (2008) People in magical thinking often admit their gut reaction although it makes no sense but they still do it, even sometimes they merge superstition into their worldview. For instance, when someone has a disease, a certain person might think that God had warned for always remember him. While Subbotsky (2014) states that magical beliefs is an old-fashioned kind that persists today only in young children and superstitious adult individuals.

For certain people, they thought that the one who believes in the existence of magic is an insane person, but somehow there are several people who still believe in those things, for instance, people who used to believe in religions that surely believe in Gods, angels, miracles and, etc. Stephen and Wen-Chin (2005) states that magic is anything that resists the empiricism, including religious beliefs, superstitions, myths, legends, voodoo, and marvelous thing, while the definition of Realism from the magic perspective is the way of grasping reality outside the matrix. However, Magic is related to religion because in religion the adherents are compulsory to believe in God which has created the entire world, where the existence and the powers of God itself are difficult to explain with the common sense of humans.

Myth was believed by religious people, because in myth usually tells history of supernatural creature created by God. Frias, Isidori & Papaellina (2015) Myth appears as an account of historical events or allegories for unexplained natural phenomena. Myths are not mere tales, people should not downplay of myth' normative potential. Faris (2004) states that sometimes legend makes reality, and becomes more believable than fact. History seems to be a warning against the

lightness and magnitude of mythical or magical creatures. Magical power and supernatural usually fill up in *The Mark of Athena* as a fantasy novel.

Rave (2003) states that magical realism is combining the fantasy and realism. Magical realism consists of two elements 'magic' and 'realism' then became a new element. A lot of incredible phenomena exist in the story which contain about Magical Realism such as magical power and supernatural phenomena. Magical powers and supernatural are attached to magical realism. Magical realism is an extraordinary thing that happens in the world which is very difficult to understand rationally and became an option for novelist writers to write a novel with fantasy genre nowadays, *The Mark of Athena* is one of fantasy novel which is popular among teenagers and adults.

Rick Riordan is the author of *The Mark of Athena* has got 1 USA Today, 1 Indie Bestseller, 1 New York Times Bestseller, and 1 Wall Street Journal Bestseller (Riordan, 2012). *The Mark of Athena* is the third series of The Heroes of Olympus with a fantasy adventure genre. The novel tells about the adventures of God's children to save the world from Gaea's revival who wants to destroy the world. The children called a demigod. Demigod is half human and half God hence the name, as in the novel *The Mark of Athena*, Rick Riordan has provided the characters with incredible powers which are often used to against the enemies. There are seven characters in the novel: Percy Jackson the son of Poseidon, Annabeth Chase the daughter of Athena, Piper Mclean the daughter of Aphrodite, Leo Valdez the son of Hephaestus, Jason Grace the son of Jupiter, Hazel Levesque the daughter of Pluto, and Frank Zhang the son of Mars. The journey was full of challenges, they put their efforts as the children of God to make their missions succeed. Since the

genre of this novel is fantasy so there are a lot of prodigious events that occur in this novel, for instance, each character has a power related to their heredity and also supernatural. The writer chooses this novel as the source of data of this study which focused on how the Magical Powers and the supernatural phenomena are described in the novel.

The writer attracted to analyze *The Mark of Athena* as the source of data of this research, because the novel not only shows the incredible events which looks like a fantasy such the existence of Gods, demigods, ghosts, and the supernatural creatures, but also shows the activities and the events that related to the real word (Riordan, 2012). Bowers (2004) states that magical realism such unique presents with the acceptance of the unreal world position intangible and material reality. Nevertheless, it seems to be an illusion for certain people, but the author succeeded in leading the readers to believe in the existence of magical and supernatural things. The novel is attractive to be read for people especially among the teenagers and adults who love adventure stories also romance among the characters.

Fritt valg, Westerheim and Tveit states that "A few studies of young people's choice of literature show us that many of the Norwegian young adults prefer adult literature and that many of them are into specific genres such as crime fiction or fantasy" (Tveit, 2012, p. 88) that is became a reason for *The Mark of Athena* is popular because the story mixed about Mythology, adventures, and romance became unity and became a unique story. Shahrullah (2012) states that there are many reason for people interesting to read a fantasy novel. The fantasy readers dissatisfied with this world so they looking for other alternatives to feel something different from the world they used to live in. Some of them finds their happiness by

reading novels and feel as if they are doing what the characters in the novels are doing.

There are several previous studies that used magical realism as a theory for instance, Emi Asmida from the University of Trunojoyo Madura entitled “*Elements of Magical Realism in Audrey Niffenegger’s the time traveler’s Wife*” (2018), and Amalia Desti Andini from the University of Trunojoyo Madura entitled “*Magical Realism of Papa Legba in Ibi zoboi’s American Street*” (2019). There are also previous study which use magical power and supernatural elements has been conducted by Lailatus Sa’adah from the University of Trunojoyo Madura entitled “*Magical Realism in Anthony Doerr’s All The Light We Cannot See*”(2016), Ika Mustika Yati from the University of Trunojoyo Madura entitled “*Portrayal of Magical Power in Grimm’s Fairy Tales*”(2015), Ulul Izma Jihadillah from the University of Trunojoyo Madura entitled “*Portrayal of Magical Powers in Rick Riordan’s Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief*” (2018) and Ulfah from the University of Trunojoyo Madura entitled “*Supernatural elements in Neil Geiman’s Coraline*”. While the previous study used the same source of data has been conducted by Munammad Ridho from University of North Sumatra entitled “*An Analysis of Theme in Rick Riordan’s Novel The Mark of Athena*” (2016), and Nur Azizah U from UIN Alauddin Makassar entitled “*Myth in The Novel “The Mark of Athena” by Rick Riordan*” (2015).

1.2 Research Question

How are the existence of Magical Power and Supernatural phenomena depicted in the novel?

1.3 Research Objectives

To describe the existence of magical power and supernatural phenomena in the novel.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this research study is magical realism especially in magical power and supernatural phenomena proposed by Maggie Ann Bowers which focus on describing the depiction of magical power and supernatural phenomena in the novel of *The Mark of Athena*.

The limitation of this study is on the analysis the utterances of the characters and the narrator of the author which show and describe magical power and supernatural phenomena in the novel *The Mark of Athena*.

1.5 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, this study gives further explanation about magical power to find how magical attached to the real world and also supernatural phenomena. Moreover, this study gives solution to find out the appropriate method to analyze a literary works which contained magical realism elements.

Practically, this study gives some understanding about magical realism theory especially in magical power and supernatural phenomena. This study will be very useful for the readers and other researcher who will use the same theory of magical power and supernatural phenomena in their researches.