

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains five subchapters. The following subchapters are background of the study, statement of the problems, objective of the study, significances of the study, and scope limitation of the study. 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

Novel is a story of an individual written in the form of narrative text. The narrative text has two types namely the epic and the romance narrative. The epic narrative is traditional story about myth, history and fiction, while the romance narrative is the life story of the characters including the adventure life in the society involving internal and external aspects. According to Goodyer (2008) a novel is defined as below;

Novel is like the documentary, is a hard genre to define. Through history, the term 'novel' has been applied to writings that cover a plethora of topics, that employ numerous and varied styles, and that have achieved divergent results in terms of critically, publicly, aesthetically, and economically (Goodyer, 2008: 11).

Along with the definition of novel, however there is a novel that has recently been discussed entitled *Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief*. It is an interesting novel about a half blood boy and a history of Greek mythology presented in modern story related to two different settings which are the setting of Ancient Greek and this century. The combination of those settings trigger the discussion of myth in Greek which is so sacred. The Greek mythology in this

novel brings a religious sense about the nature of Gods and Heroes. The Greek Mythology affected the origin of myths and legends of Gods and Heroes. The nature of Gods and Heroes believed as super human. Many of supranatural events occur in this novel and that event cannot be understood by logic.

This novel tells about Gods, Goddess and a half-blood boy are believed in Greek mythology. In Greek mythology there are three main Gods who have strong positions. The three main Gods are well known as Zeus (the god of heavens), Poseidon (the god of the sea) and Hades (the god of the underworld). On the other hand, there are several goddess and demigods are portrayed in Greek mythology, for instance: Athena is the goddess of warfare, wisdom, arts and craft, Aphrodite is the goddess of love, beauty and lust, Perseus is a culture hero of ancient Greece. Perseus is illustrated as Percy Jackson, a half boy who has dyslexia (dyslexia is a difficult condition of someone to read and spell) and ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) but he has a magical power which are above average of human being (Riordan, 2006)

For example :

"Taken together, it's almost a sure sign. The letters float off the page when you read, right? That's because your mind is hardwired for ancient Greek. And the ADHD—you're impulsive, can't sit still in the classroom. That's your battlefield reflexes. In a real fight, they'd keep you alive. As for the attention problems, that's because you see too much, Percy, not too little. Your senses are better than a regular mortal's. Of course the teachers want you medicated. Most of them are monsters. They don't want you seeing them for what they are." (Riordan, 2006: 88).

Based on the narrator utterance above, it shows a magical power owned and used by Percy Jackson that known as a boy who has dyslexia and ADHD.

When he could see and kill an immortal monster was known well as Minotaur (half human and half bull). He could kill that Minotaur instantly without injuring himself. Indeed, it is impossible for a boy to kill an immortal monster. His ability to kill showing a magical power that he has as a half blood. His magical power cannot be accepted by human's logic.

Due to the example above, the writer attempts to conduct an analysis of magical power in the novel fiction written by Rick Riordan entitled *Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief*. This novel can be categorized as a fiction novel and not science fiction novel because science fiction is a genre story based on real developments in science (Sarapik, 2000: 403). It means that this novel is not matched as science fiction but this novel is categorised as fiction novel that illustrates a magical power and mythology history of Greek. Magical is defined as an extraordinary thing exist in the real word. Most people believe in magic because magic affects to people's mind just the same like myth.

Furthermore, many of literary work particularly novel contains a magic elements. Rick Riordan is an author of this novel. He brings a magical power inside magical realism that talk over about myth to create the fiction story to be more interesting to be read and it can be found in a fiction stories of Rick Riordan's *Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief*. This novel reflecting the magical powers. Hence, The writer is interested to analyze this novel because this novel is so popular to be read and this novel illustrate magical powers through the story of Gods, Goddess, Nymphs based on Greek mythology.

Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief was written by an American author. This novel published in USA in 2006 and more than 1.2 Million copies novel has sold out in subsequent four years appearing on *The New York Times children's Best Seller list*. This novel listed as one of the *Young Adult Library Services Association's Best Book for Young Adults* among other awards. Hence this novel has been adopted into a film with the same title (wikipedia).

By this meant, the writer used this novel as the source of data in this study by using magical realism and magical powers theory. This novel was so worthy to be analyzed and informed to readers because this novel illustrated magical powers. Magical power is part of magical realism that examine a magical world, a world full of uncomprehensible wonders preced of human experience and unacceptable something to human being.

Previous studies of Magical realism and Magical power has been conducted by Emi Asmida (2018) and Ika Mustika Yati (2015). First, a thesis about magical realism written by Emy Asmida (2018) from University of Trunojoyo Madura. Her study entitled "*Elements of Magical Realism in Audrey Niffenegger's The Time Traveler's Wife*". She analyzed five elements of magical realism. The five elements including irreducible element, phenomenal world, unsettling doubt, merging realm and disruption of identity.

Second, a thesis of Magical powers written by Ika Mustika Yati (2015) from University of Trunojoyo Madura. Her study entitled "*Portrayal of Magical Powers in Grimm's Fairy Tales*". She investigated magical powers in three

Grimm's Fairy Tales such as Cinderella, Snow White and Sleeping Beauty. The data of her study was the characters' utterances.

Third, a journal written by B.J. Geetha (2010) from Periyar University, India. His study entitled "Magic Realism in Gabriel Garcia Marquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude*". He investigated magical realism elements relating to postcolonialism of Latin American politics and Colombian history.

However, there has been little discussion about magical powers. This study presents magical powers portrayed in the novel *Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief* in detail analysis. Henceforth, the writer only analyses and examines magical power which focuses on the utterances of both 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 Research Question

1. How are magical powers portrayed in Rick Riordan's novel entitled *Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief*?

1.3 Objective of the Study

1. To explain magical powers portrayed in Rick Riordan's novel entitled *Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief*.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, this study is essential for readers who concern the same theory about magical realism particularly in magical power. Furthermore, this study gives a valuable contribution for further study about magical realism especially about magical powers.

Practically, the findings of this study give obvious explanation about what magical realism is, so that the reader can readily understand the concept of magical power 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

The scope of this study is the magical realism theory particularly in magical power. This study focuses on magical powers portrayed in the novel entitled *Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan.

The limitation of this study only focuses on the utterances of the characters and the narrator containing magical powers portrayed in this novel.