

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains background of the study, statement of the problems, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation.

1.1 Background of The Study

Life is not only a reality, but also it can be an illusion. Something impossible, fantasy, even dangerous happens in real world are a description of illusion. This statement is also stated by Stein.

Illusion is defined as a perception that represents what is perceived in a way different from the way it is in reality. An illusion is a false mental image or conception which may be a misinterpretation of a real appearance or may be something imagined. It may be pleasing, harmless, or even useful (Stein, 1982: 662).

From the statement above, Stein argues that impossible thing that still exists in real world can be called as an illusion. It means that illusion is a part of live. Its existence that still exists in real world make people use it to imagine something. It is because illusion has close relationship with imagination. According to Stein's statement above, illusion can exists in people's imagination. It can be a pleasure, harmless, or useful something.

Magic is one of the examples of illusion. It also can be impossible thing that happens in real world. Its existence can influence the people's mind. Whether they believe or not, it depends on their perception because magic is almost same as a religion. This statement can be proven in Marcel Mauss's *A General Theory of Magic*. "Magic, like religion, is viewed as a totality; either you believe in it all,

or you do not” (Mauss, 1972: 91). He argues that magic and religion are similar. It is because magic has strength like a religion that should be believed by every person. Believe or not, it depends on each people’s perception.

Magic is an interesting part of the story. It can be proved in some fiction stories that use magical power as an interesting part of the story. For example is *Cinderella* story. *Cinderella* is a fiction story that use magical power as interesting part of the story.

Cinderella went to her mother’s grave beneath the hazel tree. She cried, “Shiver and quiver, little tree. Silver and gold throw down over me.” Then the bird threw down to her a gold and silver dress and slippers embroidered with silk and silver. She put on the dress with all speed, and went to the festival. Her stepsisters and stepmother did not know her. They thought she must be a foreign princess, for she looked so beautiful in the golden dress. They never once thought of Cinderella (Kelly, 1962: 85).

According to the statement above, magical power is impossible thing that happens in a real life, but actually it still exists. It can be seen when Cinderella cried, “Shiver and quiver, little tree. Silver and gold throw down over me”, the miracle comes to her. She gets a gold and silver dress. Then, she becomes a beautiful girl than before. Something got by Cinderella above shows that magic is an interesting part of the story. It can give influence to the story. To know about magic deeper, this study will analyze the three Grimm’s fairy tales that contain magical powers.

According to Taylor (2009: 7), Grimm or “Brother Grimm” is a nickname from the two brothers. They are Wilhelm Grimm and Jacob Grimm. Wilhelm Grimm was born on February 24, 1786 in Hanau, Germany from Dorothea and Philipp Grimm family. He has an older brother, named Jacob

Grimm. Wilhelm and Jacob are usually called by “The Brothers Grimm”. The brothers Grimm studied law at the University of Marburg from 1802 until 1806. They also studied the folklore of their region because of the influence by German Romanticism at that time. They also had work culminated in the book *Kinder-und Hausmarchen* (Children’s and Household Tales) which was published in 1812. Then the second work was published in 1815. The next collections are *Grimms’ Fairy Tales* such as *Snow White*, *Cinderella*, *The FrogPrince*, *Rapunzel*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *The Golden Goose*, and *Little Red Riding Hood*.

This study will discuss the famous Grimm’s fairy tales like *Cinderella*, *Snow White*, and *Sleeping Beauty*. Using the famous Grimm’s fairy tales, this study will describe kinds of magical power and how those are portrayed in Grimm’s fairy tales. *Cinderella* is a story tells about a girl who lives with her stepmother and stepsisters. In this story, the main character named *Cinderella* is one of examples that get influence of magical power. Besides *Cinderella*, there are some fairy tales which tell magical powers. They are *Snow White* and *Sleeping Beauty*. In *Snow White* story, the main character is *Snow White*. She also gets some magical powers from her mother. Another fairy tales get influence of magical powers is *Sleeping Beauty*.

This study also chooses three Grimm’s Fairy Tales entitled *Cinderella*, *Snow White*, and *Sleeping Beauty* because of some reasons. First, they are the fairy tales that have a similarity. *Cinderella* and *Snow White* are fairy tales that describe about torture the main character by the evil character and it is similar to what happen in colonial era. Besides, *Snow White* and *Sleeping Beauty* are the

story tells about a planning to kill the main character. After that, the main characters in those fairy tales are always get help.

A European scholar named Meinhof revealed how far African oral literature and fairy tales amended the blurring picture about the 'black man' provided by the colonists to their people at home (Nebbou, 2013: 2).

According to the statement above, it is clear that what happen in fairy tale usually as portrayal of colonial era. Therefore, the writer chooses fairy tale because it has close relationship with colonialism era and postcolonialism as a period after colonial era.

Second, the three of fairy tales are a story contains magical power. This statement can be proved on the statement below:

[Fairy tales] are, as the central fact of magic in them partially indicates, rooted in and addressed to something less rational in our natures than the impulse toward social reform (Colburn, 1998:268).

According to the Colburn's statement above, it can be known that fairy tale is a story contains magical power. Therefore, the three fairy tales entitled *Cinderella*, *Snow White* and *Sleeping Beauty* are chosen in this study because they relate with magical realism theory.

Almost some of fairy tales tell about magical power. Something related with magical powers is different from the others. Then magical power is a part of magical realism theory that is in the big line of post-colonialism study. To describe about post-colonialism, this study should describe colonialism itself because post-colonialism is era after colonialism. That is why fairy tale entitled *Cinderella*, *Snow White*, and *Sleeping Beauty* are chosen because they have close

relationship with the torture of kind character by the evil character as symbol of colonialism. After that, they are stories that contain magic, and it can be analyzed using magical realism theory.

Some of previous studies entitled "*Approaching the Real through Magic Realism: Magic Realism in Contemporary Indian Literature in English*" by Ines Mzali (2003), "*Magical Realism and Latin America*" by Maria Eugenia Rave (2003), and "*The Magic of Everyday Things: Magic Realism in the Works of Joanne Harris*" by Dawn Tindle (2007) are thesis discuss about magical realism theory.

From the previous study above, it can be found a gap that makes this study is original than before. This study discusses about forms of magical power in three Grimm's Fairy Tales entitled *Cinderella*, *Snow White*, and *Sleeping Beauty*. After that, this study explains portrayal of magical powers in the three Grimm's Fairy Tales entitled *Cinderella*, *Snow White*, and *Sleeping Beauty*. Therefore, this study is not same as the previous studies above. It can be concluded that the data or theory used in this study are original to discuss.

Actually, in this modern era, something that relates with magic almost impossible, although actually they still exist. This statement same as Zamora and Faris(1995: 109) who explains that magical realism is an amalgamation of realism and fantasy. The statement means that there are two perspectives views, they are magic and real. The magic is something that relates with supernatural can be the part of human logic, although it is not part of reality. It means that using supernatural in real world is impossible, although actually it still exists.

“Magical realism is concerned with phenomenal and spiritual regions where transformation, metamorphosis, dissolution are common, where magic is a branch of naturalism, or pragmatism” (Zamora and Faris: 1995: 109).

The statement above explains how to convey the reality to other world view that magic and spiritual are still exist. It is also defined as appearance of the supernatural in everyday life. It means that how magic can be accepted in real world. It can be known by the fact that something related with magic are almost impossible in real world, even though they still exist in real world. This study will analyze forms of magical power and portrayal of them in Grimm’s fairy tales entitled *Cinderella*, *Snow White* and *Sleeping Beauty*.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

From the explanation of the background of study above, the questions are formulated:

1. What are forms of magical power in three Grims’ Fairy Tales entitled *Cinderella*, *Snow White*, and *Sleeping Beauty*?
2. How magical powers are portrayed in three Grims’ Fairy Tales?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

From the statements of problem above, the objectives of study are:

1. To explain forms of magical power in three Grims’ Fairy Tales entitled *Cinderella*, *Snow White*, and *Sleeping Beauty*.
2. To explain the portrayal of magical powers in the three Grims’ Fairy Tales in relation with post-colonialism.

1.4 Significance of the Studies

There are two significance of the studies. The first is theoretical significance of the study and the second is practical significance of the study.

The theoretical significance of this study is to make the reader understand about the theory of magical realism. It is because magical power which happens in fiction story, actually still exists in the real life. Therefore, to understand about magical power in fiction story, the reader should study about magical realism. It also can be a reference to the reader who want to take this theory.

Then, the practical significance of this study is to make the reader get a learning of life. So, after reading this thesis the reader can be a better person like Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping beauty. It is because all of kindness will be the winner and a miracle will come on the kind people.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is post-colonialism study that focuses on magical realism theory. Then, the limitations of this study are words, phrases or sentences in three Grimm's Fairy Tales entitled *Cinderella*, *Snow White*, and *Sleeping Beauty* which are relevant with this study.