

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the research which covers background of research, statements of problem, aims of research, research methodology, data collection, data analysis, clarification of terms, and organization of research.

1.1 Background of Research

Many fantasy novels are adapted into fantasy films and get public's attention. One of them is Harry Potter film series, which was adapted into a film and was very successful. Abramowitz (2009), through her writing for Los Angeles Times, said that the first five Potter films have generated \$4.4 billion in global box-office. Searching for another 'Harry Potter'-like success, Hollywood studios adapted other fantasy novels into films. One of them was *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* film, which was released in 2009. The film was adapted from the first novel of Percy Jackson and the Olympians series, which was written by Rick Riordan, *The Lightning Thief*. According to Nielsen Bookscan, the first four books in the series have sold nearly 1.5 million copies (Rich, 2008).

After *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* was released, the comparison between Percy Jackson and Harry Potter, both of the novel and the film, arose. Chris Columbus, the director of *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The*

Lightning Thief and the first two Harry Potter films, finds the similarities between the story of Harry Potter and the story of Percy Jackson. Through an exclusive interview conducted by Spelling in 2010, Columbus argued that the comparisons were inevitable in novels or films under the same fantasy genre. It is not astonishing that the two stories share similarities as they are adapted from fantasy fiction.

The same argument was stated by Rick Riordan, the author of *The Lightning Thief*. In his personal website, rickriordan.com, Riordan said that the comparisons to Harry Potter are inevitable for any new children's fantasy. Commenting on the issue of similarities between Percy Jackson and Harry Potter, Riordan argued that these two stories are similar because they use folklore and mythology as their sources. Although these two novels share similarities, Rick Riordan considered Percy Jackson and Harry Potter as different boys, with different backgrounds, in different worlds.

The success of Harry Potter film series followed the success of the novel series, which is written by J.K. Rowling and came to public first in 1997. The Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling has become bestseller by selling more than 325 million copies around the world. It "has become one of the most successful book publishing sensations of all time" (Pooley, 2007).

Following the success of the films and the novels, some studies have been conducted to discuss both of the novels and the films, for example the study conducted by Husain (2009) and that by Barton (2006). Both of the studies reveal that the magic world of Harry Potter becomes a metaphor of non-magical world

and presents some rules, operation, and system which exist in real world, such as in colonial context (Husain, 2009) and government context (Barton, 2006)

Another study, *Harry Potter and the Fundamentals of Fantasy* written by Martin (2007), also discusses about Harry Potter novel. Martin (2007) argues that it is the limited power of magic which brings tension to the story. Limited power can be a component that makes a story work, as Harry Potter story does.

Some studies have been conducted to discuss the limitation of magic in Harry Potter series. One of them is a study which was conducted by Watts in 2006. Using the idea of Magic Law offered by Maria Nikolajeva and Gote Klingberg, Watts (2006) finds that Rowling has built a magic world which is fulfilled with rules about how magic is supposed to be used and in which ways magic are allowed to be used. In Harry Potter series, Rowling limits the magic by creating its rules in such a way that the problems on the story are not easily solved by just a spell or wand. However, Watts (2006) also finds some inconsistencies in the rules of Harry Potter world which have impacts on the story.

This research investigates what kinds of magic laws are used in *The Lightning Thief*, the functions of fantasy as evidenced in the novel, and how these elements construct the story.

1.2 Statements of Problem

This research is geared towards answering the following research questions:

1. What kinds of magic laws are found in *The Lightning Thief*?

2. What functions does the fantasy serve as evidenced in the text?
3. How do these elements work to construct the story?

1.3 Aims of Research

The research is aimed:

1. To reveal the kinds of magic laws in *The Lightning Thief*
2. To reveal the functions of fantasy as evidenced in the novel
3. To reveal how magic laws and the functions of fantasy work to construct the story.

1.4 Research Methodology

The research uses a descriptive qualitative method. The research investigates the kinds of magic laws used in *The Lightning Thief*, the functions of the fantasy as evidenced in the novel, and how these elements work to construct the story. Textual analysis is used to critically select and examine the textual evidence which serve as the answers to the research questions.

The data for this research were in the form of words, phrases, and sentences which were intentionally selected and examined from the novel to answer the research questions. The data were collected by critically selecting and examining the words, phrases, and sentences which answer the research questions.

The collected data were categorized into what kinds of magic laws are found in *The Lightning Thief*, functions of fantasy as evidenced in the novel, and how these elements work to construct the story. Magic Law theory as proposed by

Nikolajeva (1988) and Tolkien's function of fantasy (1966) are used as the framework theory to analyze the data.

1.5 Clarification of Terms

The following is the clarification of terms used in this research:

1. **Fantasy** is the work of fiction which is usually novel length and involves the supernatural or some other unreal elements (The Oxford Companion to Children's Literature, 1984, as cited in Nikolajeva, 1988). In addition, Merriam-Webster dictionary defines it as "a creation of the imaginative faculty whether expressed or merely conceived". This resembles the notion of "the marvellous" suggested by Swinfen (1984), as cited in Nikolajeva (1988), which is regarded as "anything outside the normal space-time continuum of the everyday world".
2. **Magic Law** is the laws and rules that operate in fantasy literature. According to Nikolajeva (1988), magic law is divided into limitation and consistency
3. **Limitation** is the law that magic must be limited (Nikolajeva, 1988)
4. **Consistency** means that secondary world must be constructed logically, by creating and then obeying its rules (Nikolajeva, 1988)
5. **Secondary world**, according to Lewis (1955), as cited in Nikolajeva (1988), is totally Other World with another nature, which is possibly reached only by the use of magic.

6. **Primary world** is the textual world which is resembling the human's world.
7. **Functions of fantasy**, according to Tolkien (1966), as cited in Sammons (2010), are the three advantages of fantasy which are identified in Tolkien's essay, *On Fairy Stories*. The advantages are recovery, escape, and consolation.
8. **Recovery** is the regaining of a clear view (Tolkien, 1966). By reading fantasy, the readers are able to rediscover reality, see things more clearly (Sammons, 2010), and change the view of real world (Lewis, 1982, as cited in Sammons, 2010).
9. **Escape**, according to Tolkien (1966), is the function of fantasy which focuses on the recollection of a desire for some qualities that can no longer be fulfilled in real world. Fantasy deals with what is fundamental and real and also escapes the modern world (Sammons, 2010).
10. **Consolation** is the function of fantasy in which a fantasy should give the reader sudden joyous turn of events when good triumphs (Tolkien, 1966, as cited in Sammons, 2010). Tolkien (1966) argues that the consolation of happy ending is important in fantasy.

1.6 Organization of Research

This research is organized into five chapters.

Chapter I is Background which consists of background of research, statements of problem, aims of research, research methodology, data collection, data analysis, clarification of terms, and organization of research.

Chapter II is Theoretical Foundation, which consists of the theoretical foundation related to the research. It covers the definition and elaboration of fantasy literature, fantasy and the magic laws, the functions of fantasy, the elements of fiction, and previous study of fantasy literature.

Chapter III is Research Methodology. This chapter presents the research method and the data presentation of the research. This chapter also covers research questions, subject of the research, data collection, and data analysis.

Chapter IV is Findings and Discussion which consists of findings and discussion of this research. The findings are divided into three sections. The first section is the magic laws, the second section is the functions of fantasy, and the third section is how magic laws and functions of fantasy construct the story.

Chapter V is Conclusion and Suggestion which presents the conclusion of the research, which are based on the findings and the discussion in the previous chapters. This chapter also presents the suggestion for further research on text analysis.