

CHAPTER III

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.

3.1 Research Questions

The research is geared towards answering the following research questions:

1. What kind 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?

3.2 Subject of the Research

A novel entitled *The Lightning Thief* was chosen as the subject of this research. *The Lightning Thief*, which consists of 22 chapters, is the first novel of the *Percy Jackson & the Olympians* series. This novel was written by Rick Riordan (2005) and published by Miramax Books. This research used the e-book pdf version of *The Lightning Thief* which was downloaded from *Readers Stuffz Articles & Ebooks* in March 2011.

3.3. Data Collection

The data for this research are in the form of words, phrases, and sentences taken from *The Lightning Thief*, a novel which was written by Rick Riordan and consists of 22 chapters. The data which served as the textual evidence that answers the research questions were critically selected and examined from the novel.

3.4. Data Analysis

The present research uses a descriptive qualitative method. The collected data were categorized into the kind 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 reveal the answers to the research questions.

In conducting the research, the first step taken was reading the novel critically and thoroughly. The next step was identifying, selecting, and examining words, phrases, and sentences, which serve as the textual evidence to answer the research questions. Because the research wants to reveal the magic laws used in the novel, the textual evidence which were gathered from the novel are the words, phrases, and sentences that show the existence of magic. After identifying, selecting, and examining the words, phrases, and sentences that show the existence of magic to be the textual evidence, the textual evidence were further categorized into magical characters, magical settings, and magical objects. The understanding about the elements of fiction is helpful to get the textual evidence

regarding the characters, settings, and objects from the fantasy novel. In addition, after being categorized into magical characters, settings, and objects, the textual evidence were categorized into two kinds of magic laws, using the Magic Laws theory offered by Nikolajeva (1988). Afterwards, the functions of fantasy of the magical characters, settings, and objects, which were categorized into two kinds of magic laws, were determined using Tolkien's functions of fantasy (1966).

After the magic laws and the functions of fantasy were determined, the research investigated how these elements work to construct the story. The magical characters, settings, and objects which were under the categorization of magic laws show certain functions of fantasy. The research attempts to reveals the importance of the magic laws and functions of fantasy to the construction of the story. The research interpreted the gathered data to reveal how the magic laws and the functions of fantasy work to construct the story. The next step taken was drawing conclusion based on findings and making suggestions for further research.

3.5. Data Presentation

The analyzed data are then presented in tables such as the following:

| How The Magic Laws and The Functions of Fantasy in the Lightning Thief Construct the Story | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|---------|---|
| No | Chapter/ Page | Kinds of Magic Laws | Functions of Fantasy | Magical Characters | Textual Evidence | Comment | How They Construct The Story |
| 1 | | Consistency: The Magical Characters are based on Greek mythology | Escape | | <p>A rule which is operating in the novel is that the magical characters are based on the characters of Greek mythology.</p> <p>The characters that are based on Greek mythology function as an escape because they show an escape from modernity, such as machine and technology, and instead they are rooted from ancient source such as Greek mythology. The characters depict non-rational phenomena and satisfy the desire to glimpse other world which is filled with ancient characters although it sets in modern world.</p> | | The magical characters who are based on Greek mythology and escape from modernity construct an interesting story by creating the element of wonder in the text. They construct a world sets in modern world but is filled with magical characters who are based on Greek mythology. The characters maintain the story to be interesting and keep the reader to be enchanted to the story as they fulfill desire to take a look at things which are impossible under ordinary condition. |

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| Chapter 4, page 33 | | | Mythical creatures: Satyrs | "Blaa-ha-ha! There are satyrs who would trample you underhoof for such an insult!" "Whoa. Wait. Satyrs. You mean like ... Mr. Brunner's myths?" | Percy refers Satyrs to the creatures told by his Latin teacher's myths. |
| Chapter 7, page 61 | | | Mythical creatures: Chiron | He smiled down at me. "The Chiron from the stories? Trainer of Hercules and all that? Yes, Percy, I am." | Chiron confirms himself as Chiron, the trainer of Hercules that exists in Greek mythology. |
| Chapter 4, page 33 | | | Mythical creatures: The Furies and The Fates | "Were those old ladies at the fruit stand a myth, Percy? Was Mrs. Dodds a myth?" "So you admit there was a Mrs. Dodds!" "Of course." | Grover argues that Mrs. Dodds as one of the Furies and the Fates are not merely a myth but are real. The Furies and Fates are characters that are based on Greek mythology. |

Table 3.5.1 How the magic laws and the functions of fantasy in *The Lightning Thief* construct the story

This chapter has briefly discussed the research methodology. The next chapter (Chapter IV) will explain how these theories are applied to achieve the aims of this research.

