

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the study. It includes the background of the study, research questions, the aims of the study, the scope of the study, the significance of the study, research method, data collection and data analysis, clarification of terms, and organization of the paper.

1.1 Background of the Study

There are a lot of opinions about the definitions of fantasy fiction. Generally, fantasy fiction is delineated as stories containing several invented elements, such as action, characters or settings of the story, which does or do not exist in the real world (Fitzgerald, 2008). The children and young adult's literature including those several elements, namely magical beings or events, unrealistic world, the mysterious sense, a wonder, and the destruction of the natural laws are classified into fantasy fiction (Nikolajeva, 1988). One of the examples of fantasy fiction is *The Lord of the Rings* (1954-56) series by Tolkien, whose setting is in an invented world called the Middle Earth. The world is inhabited by many creatures, such as hobbits, elves, orcs, etc. The story tells about the main character, Frodo who gets the task to bring the magical ring to the land of Mordor. During his journey, he finds many trials and also gets some magical help by the elves until the ends he succeeds to return the ring and to break it. So does, Terry Goodkind's *Wizard's First Rule* (1994) —the first book of *The Sword of Truth* series—sets in

the invented world. The main character, Richard who lives in the free land of magic called Westlands is named to be the Seeker of the Truth. He has task to find a magical box to stop evil power of Darken Rahl in the lands of magic Midlands and D'Hara. To do his task, he is supplied by a magical thing namely the Sword of the Truth, and accompanied by a wizard, a mother confessor, and a boundary warden. In the end, Richard succeeds in finding the box and killing Rahl.

Clearly, both stories *Lord of the Rings* and *Wizard's First Rules* are surrounded by various magical and imaginary features and situated in unrealistic world. Those magical elements are the important elements that characterize a text as a fantasy fiction. Nikolajeva (1988) terms magical elements as *fantasemes* which are used to introduce magic surroundings, events, figures, objects, and their interaction in a certain story where its presence constructs a text as fantasy genre (further explanations are going to be elaborated in Chapter II). Specifically, she categorizes fantasemes into four major fields among others are magic space, magic time, magic passage between two worlds, and the impact of this passage. In other words, the space, the time, the magical things, the figures, the actions, and their interactions found in *Wizard's First Rule* are fantasemes which can be analyzed to reveal how the story is constructed as fantasy fiction as the focus of this present study.

However, as the elements are interrelated, the analysis of one element cannot be separated from the others. It is in line with Nikolajeva's notion that every element is related to each other. She uses Bakhtin's notion of *chronotope* to explain the relation. According to Bakhtin (1975; cited in Nikolajeva, 1988, p.24),

chronotope means “a significant connection of temporal and spatial relations artistically assimilated by literature”. From this view chronotope is defined as the relation between place and time. Widely, contextualizing chronotope in fantasy fiction, the fantasy cronotope is the unity of different fantasemes which can be used to describe the secondary world of the story (Nikolajeva, 1988; cited in Salminen, 2009).

Besides the narrative elements or fantasemes and its relation or chronotope, fantasy has some important rules. Nikolajeva (1988) formulates the rules in the term of the magic law that consists of two main laws: limit and consistency to make a fantasy fiction logical for the readers (further explanations are going to be elaborated in Chapter II). Gates, Steffel, and Molson (2003) approve Nikolajeva’s notion of the magic law in which the limit and consistency should be involved in writing fantasy where the laws aim to help evaluating the literature which is read. The rules or the criteria of writing fantasy can help the study to evaluate the logic of the secondary world which is contained in *Wizard’s First Rule*, a literature which becomes the primary source of the study.

In line with each purpose of the above notions, this study endeavors to identify the pattern of a fantasy fiction entitled *Wizard’s First Rule* through analyzing the fantasemes.

1.2 Research Questions

Relevant to the background of the study above, this study attempts to address the following research questions:

1. How are the fantasy elements employed in constructing *Wizard's First Rule* as a fantasy fiction?
2. In what ways does the story construct the logic of secondary world?

1.3 Aims of the Study

Relevant with the research questions above, the study aims at:

1. Finding out how the fantasy elements are employed in constructing the story as a fantasy fiction.
2. Investigating the ways the story construct the logic of secondary world.

1.4 Scope of the Study

In this present study, the main focus of the writer is on narrative elements and secondary world in *Wizard's First Rule* by Terry Goodkind. It is pointed to analyze and to reveal the construction of the story as a fantasy fiction to present logical secondary world in the novel.

1.5 Significance of the Study

Fantasy fiction has become a subject for several studies. One example is Salminen's (2009) *Fantastic in Form, Ambiguous in Content: Secondary Worlds in Soviet Children's Fantasy Fiction*. It is a thesis that studied Soviet fantasy

fiction for children connected to the socio-historical of Soviet. To identify the structure of the Soviet Children's Fantasy Fiction, she applied Nikolajeva's notions of fantasemes and chronotope. It indicates that Nikolajeva's notions are an applicable theory to reveal the nature of fantasy fiction. However, this theory is rarely adopted by Indonesian researchers, particularly in Indonesia University of Education, whereas some of them used fantasy fiction as their research subject.

Therefore, this present study conduct a similar approach with Salminen's thesis, namely applying Nikolajeva's (1988) notions formulated in the magic code to identify the pattern of Goodkind's fantasy fiction *Wizard's First Rule*. Although this study applies a similar approach from the previous study, it is expected that the study provides new insights for understanding fantasy fiction through a deep analysis of the nature of fantasy in Indonesia University of Education, generally in Indonesia. Thus, the different findings and conclusions will enrich the knowledge about fantasy fiction.

1.6 Research Method

To solve the research problems formulated above, this study uses qualitative approach in descriptive form. The use of qualitative approach is appropriate because a qualitative research design focuses on specific situations or people and emphasizes on words rather than number (Maxwell, 1996). The design is considered appropriate to be applied in this study because the study is proposed to describe the construction of the story as a fantasy fiction and the logic of the secondary world constructed in *Wizard's First Rule*.

1.6.1 Data Collection

The data were collected from the fantasy novel Terry Goodkind's *Wizard's First Rule* (1994). The data were in the form of words, utterances, and dialogues that were critically analyzed and purposively selected and directed to answer the research questions.

1.6.2 Data Analysis

The collected data were categorized into how every element of fantasy which appeared in the text was related each other, thus it formed an intact narrative. The collected data were analyzed and categorized by using the framework of *the magic code* as proposed by Nikolajeva. To conduct the study, the following steps were taken:

1. Reading and re-reading the fantasy novel *Wizard's First Rule* written by Goodkind.
2. Collecting and selecting words, utterances, and dialogues which serve as textual evidence.
3. Categorizing the textual evidence into the narrative elements of fantasy proposed by Nikolajeva.
4. Analyzing the data by applying relevant theories.
5. Interpreting data.
6. Making conclusion based on findings.

1.7 Clarification of Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, the following is the clarification of the terms used in the study:

1. Fantasy

Nikolajeva (1988) disseminates that the most important feature of fantasy is the presence of magic including magical beings or events, unrealistic world, the mysterious sense, a wonder, and the destruction of the natural laws.

2. Fantasemes

Fantasemes are terms for the magical narrative elements used to introduce magic surroundings, events, figures, objects, and their interaction in a certain story where its presence constructs a text as fantasy genre (Nikolajeva, 1988).

3. Chronotope

The fantasy cronotope is the unity of different fantasemes which can be used to describe the secondary world of the story (Nikolajeva, 1988; cited in Salminen, 2009).

4. Primary World

Primary world is the usual everyday life which is recognized by readers and the protagonist (Swinfen 1984, cited in Hongyu 2006).

5. Secondary World

The secondary world is projections of authors' creative imagination and conception of wide world (Nikolajeva, 1988).

1.8 Organization of the Paper

This paper is organized into five chapters as follows:

CHAPTER I

This chapter presents the introduction of the study. It includes the background of the study, research questions, the aims of the study, the scope of the study, the significance of the study, research method, data collection and data analysis, clarification of terms, and organization of the paper.

CHAPTER II

This chapter elaborates some literary theories relevant to the present study. It involves the elaboration of the fantasy fiction, the fantaseme (the narrative elements of fantasy), and the synopsis of the novel.

CHAPTER III

This chapter presents the research methodology which encompasses the research questions, the research subject and context, the research procedure, the data collection, the data analysis and the data presentation.

CHAPTER IV

This chapter presents analysis, findings and discussion of findings which are related to the statement of the problems.

CHAPTER V

This last chapter contains the interpretation toward the result of the research in a form of conclusion and suggestion in accordance with the research.