

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the research that covers background of the study, research questions, aims of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, research methodology, clarification of related terms, and organization of the paper.

1.1 Background

When we discuss narrative, we often associate it with stories that come in different forms, such as myth, legend, fables, tales, short stories, history, tragedy, comedy, even movies, local news, and conversations (Barthes, 2008). The word narrative is derived from narrate which means to tell a story of events or experiences whether in spoken or written forms. Therefore, narrative is commonly related to the act of storytelling. Fludernik (2009) explains that narrative is associated with the act of narration when someone tells a story, for example a newsreader on the radio, a teacher at school, or the narrator in a novel.

The study about narrative is called Narratology. Narratology (Fr. *narratologie*; Ger. *Erzähltheorie*) can be described as “the science of narrative” and it is firstly introduced by Tzvetan Todorov in his book *Grammaire du “De’came’ron,”* in 1969 (Herman, 2005, p.19). Narratology is the theory of narratives, narratives texts, images, and events that “tell a story” and it constructed to understand, analyze, and examine narratives (Bal, 1997, p.3). Narratology can be defined as the study of how narratives make meaning and what the basic mechanism and procedure used to examine narratives.

Fludernik (2009) describes Narratology as the study of narrative as a genre which aims to describe the constants, variables, and combinations typical of narrative and to define how these characteristics of narrative texts associate within the framework of the theory. Fludernik (2009) implied that there are two kinds of narrative structures to analyze how the story is narrated in the novel. The first structure is external narrative structure which includes the title of page of a book, the comment about the book, short excerpts from reviews, notes about the author and his/her other works, tables of content, forewords, editorial comments, and

bibliographies. The second structure is internal narrative structure which includes implied author and implied reader, functions of the narrator, narrative frame, plot, time, presentational modes (telling and showing), and focalization.

Many studies were conducted by using Narratology. Dromnes (2010) investigates Sherman Alexie's *The Lone Ranger* and *Tonto Fistfight in Heaven* (1993). By using Narratology and hermeneutic approach, the study reveals that Narratology can be didactic and found that information and knowledge can be presented as a narrative. Moreover, Dromnes (2010) also presents the elements of narration, focalization, frame stories, and embedded narratives employed in the story.

Another study was conducted by Patton (2010) who analyzes Sherwood Anderson's works entitled *Poor White* (1921), *The Triumph of the Egg* (1922), and *Dark Laughter* (1925). By using Narratology, the study reveals the connection between Anderson's storytelling techniques and the story's frame. The study indicates that Anderson tries a different narrative method, choosing the narrator's perspective and presence within the story that will best reflect what the characters are experiencing.

From the study above, it can be seen that Narratology can be used to examine the way the story is narrated. This present study analyzes the way the story is narrated through the plot structures of a novel and to discover the meaning that can be made from the structure of the plot. According to Fludernik (2009), plot in a story is understood as sequence of events which consist of a beginning, a middle, and an end. It also creates suspense as a result of complications in the middle part that are cleared up when the conflicts are resolved in the end of the story. Furthermore, Aristotle (as cited in Culler, 1997) states that plot is the most basic characteristic of narrative that provides a pleasure because of the sequence of events that is offered. Discovering the sequence of events in narrative invites the reader to make sense of a story, such as interpreting one of the conflict in the story from his or her own perspective as the reader.

This present study uses Narratology as a theory proposed by Fludernik (2009) to analyze a novel entitled *The Suitcase Kid* (1992) by Jacqueline Wilson. Nowadays, a reader tends to understand a novel by looking at the character, setting

or focalization, however, this present study invites the reader to understand a novel by looking at its plot structure. The structure of the plot is not only used as a guide to analyze the sequence of events that happened in the story, but also used to construct the meaning that can be made from the structure of the plot.

1.2 Research Questions

This study is gearing towards answering the following questions:

1. How is the plot of the story structured in *The Suitcase Kid*?
2. What meanings can be made from the structure of the plot with reference to Narratology?

1.3 Aims of the Study

The aim of the study is to investigate how the plot of the story is structured in the novel and analyze the meanings that can be made from the structure of the plot with regard to the Narratology theory as proposed by Fludernik (2009).

1.4 The Scope of the Study

The study specifically examines the plot of the story structured in a novel entitled *The Suitcase Kid* by Jacqueline Wilson using Narratology perspective by Fludernik (2009) and analyzes the meaning that can be made from the structure of the plot.

1.5 Significance of the Study

Theoretically and practically, the study is expected to introduce Narratology that can be used to analyze narrative texts. This study is also expected to enrich literature and give more suggestions for other researchers in the similar topic.

1.6 Research Design

This study attempts to analyze the plot of the story structured in a novel entitled *The Suitcase Kid* by Jacqueline Wilson with a qualitative approach. According to Strauss and Corbin (1998), a qualitative design is a suitable approach to understand and discover any phenomenon. In addition to this, Cormack (1993) states that a qualitative approach is an approach to examine and produce descriptive data whether it is spoken or written words of people.

Since Fludernik (2009) suggested two kinds of narrative structure which are external narrative structure and internal narrative structure, however, this study is

specifically using the internal narrative structure which focuses on plot of the story as the aim to reveal how the plot of the story structured in *The Suitcase Kid* and to find the meaning that can be made from the structure of the plot. Firstly, the data were collected from the chain of plots of the story which consist of the sequence of events (beginning, complication, climax, and resolution). After the data have been collected, they were arranged and analyzed by using Narratology. In conclusion, the findings of the data are explained and discussed in order to answer the research questions.

1.6.1 Data Resource

The data were taken from a novel entitled *The Suitcase Kid* by Jacqueline Wilson. The book is a popular literary work and it became the winner of Children's Book of the Year Award (Wilson, 1992).

1.6.2 Research Procedure

The study is conducted based on these following steps:

1. Defining Narratology based on the theory proposed by Fludernik (2009) as the aim to examine the plot structure;
2. Making criteria of plot structures according to Fludernik (2009);
3. Identifying the written texts of the novel by using the structures of plot that have been made previously;
4. Interpreting the data with Narratology as a theory proposed by Fludernik (2009) to create textual evidences;
5. Concluding all the analysis.

1.7 Clarification of Related Terms

The following are some terms in this research that need to be clarified to avoid misunderstanding:

1. Narrative : Narrative is defined in terms of plot, the minimal definition being: the presence of at least two actions or events in chronological order which stand in some kind of relation to one another (Fludernik, 2009, p.158).
2. Narratology : Narratology as the study of narrative as a genre which aims to describe the constants, variables, and combinations typical of narrative

and to clarify how these characteristics of narrative texts connect within the framework of theoretical models (typologies) (Fludernik, 2009, p.8).

3. Plot : Plot is the significance of action sequences for the definition of narrative. A plot is understood as a sequence of events that has a beginning, a middle, and an end. Normally, a plot creates suspense as a result of complications in the middle part that are cleared up when these conflicts are resolved at the end of the work (Fludernik, 2009, p.5).

1.8 Organization of the paper

The organization of the research paper is divided into five chapters and they are described as follows:

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study and the introduction which highlights the theories and terms that are used in the study.

CHAPTER II THEORETICAL FOUNDATION

This chapter tells about the theories which are used to analyze and to interpret the data of the study. Some previous studies related to the issue are also involved in this chapter.

CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter provides methodology of the study to answer the research questions.

CHAPTER IV FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

This chapter consists of findings and discussions of the study.

CHAPTER V CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter is the interpretation of the results of the study. The suggestions for further study is also provided in this chapter.