

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents methodology of the research, the procedures and data resources in conducting the research. It consists of research questions, research design, subject and context of the research, data collection and research procedure, and data presentation.

3.1 Research Questions

This research attempted to elaborate the answer of the following questions:

1. What binary oppositions govern hero and heroine characters in *The Tales Of Beedle The Bard*?
2. What do the dominant binary oppositions in the tales mean in the perspective of deconstruction?

3.2 Research Design

The research utilized descriptive qualitative method with textual analysis approach. This method was chosen regarding to the object of the research which is in form of a narrative text rather than sets of numbers. According to Belsey (2002), textual analysis was essential to research in cultural criticism includes English, cultural history and cultural studies, as well as any other discipline that focuses on texts (cited in Griffin, 2005). Moreover, descriptive qualitative method was essential in analyzing the data as it aimed to seek understanding of the meaning interpretation derived from the description of characters in the text. As Maxwell (1996) suggested that the purpose of qualitative method is to find out the meaning of the events or situations in the particular context; to understand the process by which the events and

actions take place; to investigate unexpected phenomena that can lead to production of new grounded theories; and to develop causal explanation.

3.3. The Subject and Context of Research

The research investigated around the protagonist characters both heroes and heroines in five tales of *The Tales of Beedle the Bard* by J.K. Rowling. This compilation of tales was published in 2008. The first object of the research was the wizard's son and the hopping pot in "The Wizard and The Hopping Pot", then the three witches and an armored knight in "The Fountain of Fair Fortune", the noble young man and the maiden in "The Warlock's Hairy Heart", the king and the old washerwoman Babbitty in "Babbitty Rabbity and Her Cackling Stump", and the last, the three brothers in "The Tale of Three Brothers". This research focused specifically on the aspects of character in fairy tales. It also solicited the investigation only on *The Tales of Beedle the Bard* apart from its connection to Harry Potter novel.

This analysis explored further into the attempt of the author in deconstructing the central characters in creating different character type in fairy tales. It also investigated the emergence of binary opposition on the central characters of each story that constructed them into certain type of character as well as the implication of their distinctive acts in interaction to see which particular typology of character dominates the tales. As proposed by Derrida (1974) in explaining his *différance* concept, he proposed that the swaying process between interpretations, levels, or perspectives allow us to see the impossibility of ever choosing a correct interpretation because meaning is a persistent activity which always in progress, always based upon *différance* (as cited in Bressler, 1994, p.127).

3.4 Data Collection & Research Procedure

This research dealt with deconstruction phenomenon of characters in the compilation of fairy tales *The Tales of Beedle the Bard* written by Joanne Kathleen Rowling that was published in 2008. In order to do that, this research employed several theoretical backgrounds including theory of character and its categorization, with deconstruction practice and binary opposition system as the basic frameworks to analyze the data.

3.4.1 Data Collection

The data were collected from the five short fairy tales compiled in *The Tales of Beedle the Bard* written by Joanne Kathleen Rowling (2008). The fairy tales consist of “The Wizard and The Hopping Pot”, “The Fountain of Fair Fortune”, “The Warlock’s Hairy Heart”, “Babbitty Rabbity and Her Cackling Stump”, and “The Tale of Three Brothers”. All of these provide as textual evidences in form of dialogues, actions, character descriptions and some internal commentaries from the author in the story.

3.4.2 Data Procedure

Several procedures had been taken in analyzing the data. The collected data were analyzed utilizing Barry’s (1998) simplified version of deconstruction concept proposed by Derrida (1974) as the basic framework and typology of character proposed by Nikolajeva (2002). In conducting this research, the following steps had been taken:

1. Reading thoroughly and critically several times to achieve comprehensive understanding of the fairy tales.

2. Finding and collecting textual evidences from the text *The Tales of Beedle the Bard* containing the issue of deconstruction and description of characters.
3. Categorizing the findings according to their binary opposition and type of the character.
4. Analyzing the collected data by relating it to the concept of deconstruction.
5. Interpreting the data based on the textual evidences.
6. Drawing conclusion of the findings from the analysis and noting further suggestion in analyzing the issue.

3.5 Data Presentation

Data presentation was necessary to be provided in completing the procedure to analyze the data. These presentations were used to identify and to categorize the textual evidences in order to see the binary opposition pairs that dominate the central characters and to observe the process of deconstruction in constructing new type of character in fairy tales. The tables below are presented as examples of the data analysis for the next chapter:

A. Binary Opposition of Character's Types in *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*

TABLE 1.

The Wizard and the Hopping Pot

No.	Protagonists	Binary opposition (Typology of character)	Textual Evidences	Description
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1.	The Wizard's Son	Stylization	“this son was of a very different disposition to his gentle father. <i>Those who could not work magic were, to the son's mind, worthless,</i> ” (p. 2)	In this excerpt, the Son was described that he has different personality in contrary to his late father. Rather than being a natural boy, the author here signalled the way she will stylize the Son throughout the story into a bad temper person in the opposite binary to his gentle father.
2.	The Wizard's Son	Stylization	“He opened it, hoping for gold, but found instead a soft, thick slipper, much too small to wear, and with no pair ... the son cursed his father's age-softened mind, then threw the slipper back into the cauldron, resolving to use it henceforth as a rubbish pail.”(p. 3).	In reality, it is uncommon to see a son cursing his parents once they passed away. This evidence also emphasizes the stylization that shaped The Wizard's Son character in the tale.

TABLE 2.
The Fountain of Fair Fortune

No.	Protagonists	(Binary opposition) Type of character	Textual Evidences	Description
1.	Asha, Altheda, Amata & Sir Luckless	Simplicity & Literalness	<p>“Sir Luckless took out his only coin, and placed it upon the grassy hillside, but it rolled away and was lost.” (p. 26)</p> <p>“The sun rose higher and higher in the sky, and Asha, despairing, began to weep...” (p. 26)</p> <p>“Altheda, she cried, weeping the sweat...” (p. 28)</p>	In these evidences, the protagonists are thoroughly presented in melancholy situation facing their obstacles in several scenes. The lack description of their characteristics can only be interpreted literally as they were described by the narrator in the tale.

B. Textual Stage of Deconstruction of Central Characters in *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*

The Protagonists	Textual Evidences	Description
The Wizard's Son	“But from that day forward, the wizard helped the villagers like his father before	In the popular classic fairy tales, main characters occasionally constructed as closed character (Nikolajeva, 2002). On contrary,

	<p>him, lest the pot cast off its slipper, and begin to hop once more.” (p.10).</p>	<p>The wizard’s son and Babbitty are deconstructed into a more open character—they bypassed the common pattern. Both the Wizard’s Son and Babbitty have an opened ending for their characteristic development in the end of the tales. The author seems intentionally leave the reader in puzzled about the possibility of another change in their ending.</p> <p>From the excerpt, the reader may think of a possibility that the wizard’s son did not actually change into a better person after helping the villagers, he instead remain the same as an ill-mannered boy who have done the aids just because he tries to prevent a disadvantage of pot’s mayhem befell upon him again.</p>
<p>Babbitty</p>	<p>“Babbitty hopped out of the grounds and far away, and ever after a golden statue of the washerwoman stood upon the tree</p>	<p>In this excerpt, once again the readers are being left in puzzled. The reader never really know whether Babbitty eventually transformed back into human or kept her animal shape, or died of</p>

	<p>stump, and no witch or wizard was ever persecuted in the kingdom again” (p. 77).</p> <p>“Old Babbitty smiled at the charlatan and <i>assured him that she would do everything in her power to help</i>”(p. 69, emphasis added). In another time, she became sly and also tricky, “The foolish King brandished his twig and pointed it at the dead dog. But inside the bush, Babbitty smiled, and did not trouble to lift her wand...” (p.72)</p>	<p>old age or, just merely vanished anonymously as the narrator stated for her closure. The narrator seems deliberately keep reader’s perception to Babbitty’s end in hang.</p> <p>In Babbitty’s case, another evidence of incoherency in her trait development can be seen the way she was portrayed as a complex character. Particularly, her actions are different in various occasions in the tale. She is described as kind in a certain time, but tricky and sly in another time.</p> <p>It is in line with Hochmann’s (1985) argument that most of postmodern characters are constructed with incoherent quality (in Nikolajeva, 2002).</p>
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