

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the research methodology used in the present study. It encompasses the research question, research design, data source, data collection procedure, data analysis, data presentation, and a brief summary of the analyzed novel.

3.1. Research Question

As mentioned in Chapter One, the question this study aims to answer is:

How do magical events influence the development of the major character in the novel *Howl's Moving Castle*?

3.2. Research Design

In order to find out the influence of magical events to the development of the major character in the novel *Howl's Moving Castle*, this study used textual analysis approach. This approach was chosen since the collected data were produced to derive a better understanding of the meanings of the text.

Textual analysis is an approach where the researchers gather information about how people make sense of the world (McKee, 2003). According to him, by performing textual analysis on a text, we try to make an intelligent guess at the most likely interpretation that can be created of that particular text. Moreover, the result gained from this approach is more in the form of a description that inform the whole analysis rather than in a set of tables or graphs that represent the numbers.

Based on McKee (2003) explanation, textual analysis comes from a unique point of view of the researcher. Therefore, the conclusion offered will be unique as well. One researcher may have different conclusion from one to another based on the theory they use to evaluate the text. The aim of textual analysis approach is

not to provide a single correct analysis of a text, but to give an insightful and thoughtful reading that helps the reader to understand the text in a new and refreshing manner.

In a view of that, the writer believes that this method is appropriate to adopt in this study, as this study uses a novel as the object of the study to explore the major character's development through presented magical events in the novel.

3.3. Data Source

The object of this study is a novel entitled *Howl's Moving Castle* by Diana Wynne Jones. The novel was published in 1986 by Harper Collins publisher. It is the first book of The Land of Ingary trilogy, along with *Castle in the Air* and *House of Many Ways*. *Howl's Moving Castle* has 232 pages and consists of 21 chapters in total. This novel is regarded as a fantasy novel since it features a strong presence of magic. Since magic is the key element of the novel, its presence has a deep connection with other elements of the novel, especially with the character. For that reason, this novel is selected as the object of the study for the present study focuses on analyzing the development of the major character, Sophie, in relation to the presence of magic, as the fantasy element, in the novel.

3.4. Data Collection Procedure

The data were collected through reading and re-reading to the novel *Howl's Moving Castle* by D.W. Jones several times. In the first reading, the writer tried to understand the overall story-line. The second reading was carried out with the purpose of finding the major issues in the novel: the major character's personal problem with her ill-fated life. Then, the third and subsequent readings were focused on the magical events presented in the novel. Since the focus of the present study is the development of the major character, the writer therefore only highlighted the magical events that lead to the development of the major character. The major character, Sophie Hatter, was chosen since she was the one whose fate had already been decided. As the story went, she experienced a change

of appearance because of the witch's curse which impacted on her whole life. Sophie has been described as a complex and dynamic character with various characteristics. Based on Morgan's (2011) explanation, these qualities are important in order to analyze the development of the character.

The collected data were in the form of sentences and paragraphs that specifically relate to magical events. They were selected in order to analyze the influence of magical events on Sophie's character development.

3.5. Data Analysis

After collecting the data from the novel *Howl's Moving Castle*, the next step was connecting the data to Nikolajeva's (1988) the magic laws theory. Magic laws worked as tools to discover how the magic operates in the story and how it affects Sophie's character.

Each magical event was classified into two magic laws: (1) consistency, in which the secondary world has rules that must be obeyed, and (2) limitation, the idea that the use of magic must be limited. The magic laws were determined in accordance to the textual evidence served in the novel. After categorizing the magical events into magic laws, the writer then used a table that was divided into several columns to further analyze each magical event based on each magic law. The columns consisted of magical events, textual evidence, the impacts on the major character development, and the comments (see Table 3.1.). The textual evidences were then analyzed to see whether there was some changes in Sophie's character before and after the magical event happened. After it was analyzed, the writer could then see the impacts of these fantasy elements on Sophie's character. Lastly, in the comments column, the writer provided a description on how the magic laws that is portrayed in the magical events influenced the development of Sophie's character. A more detailed explanation about Sophie's character development is presented subsequently.

3.6. Data Presentation

As stated in the previous section, the collected data were interpreted and described in the form of narrative, as presented in the table below:

Table 3.1. The influence of magical events on the major character development

Limitation

No	Events	Chapter/ Page	Textual Evidence	Impacts on main character development	Comments
1	<p>The Witch of the Waste's curse:</p> <p>Limitation: The curse has limited Sophie's acts in many ways since it turns her into a 90 years old woman. However, it also shows the limitation of the magic power itself. As the witch makes the spell that restricts</p>	11	<p>That night, as she sewed, Sophie admitted to herself that her life was rather dull. Instead of talking to the hats, she tried each one on as she finished it and looked in the mirror. This was a mistake. The staid gray dress did not suit Sophie, particularly when her eyes were red-rimmed with sewing, and, since her hair was a reddish straw color, neither did caterpillar green nor pink. The one with mushroom pleats simply made her look dreary. "Like an old maid!" said Sophie. Not that she wanted to race off with counts, like Jane Farrier, or even fancied half the town offering her marriage, like Lettie, But she wanted to do something—she was not sure what—that had a bit more interest to it than simply trimming hats.</p>	Depressed, has low self- confidence	<p>Sophie feels depressed over her situation as the eldest of three. She cannot do anything rather than trimming the hats. She also wants to have a more exciting life just like her sisters. Being prisoned in the hat shop makes her feels old. It makes her have low confidence in herself. Sophie actually makes many pretty hats but when she tries to use one, she feels ugly.</p>

<p>Sophie to tell anyone about the curse, it means the Witch doesn't want Sophie to meet anyone who can break the curse; because it can be broken.</p>	11	<p>The King had quarreled with his own brother, Prince Justin, it was said, and the Prince had gone into exile. Nobody quite knew the reason for the quarrel, but the Prince had actually come through Market Chipping in disguise a couple of months back, and nobody had known. The Count of Catterack had been sent by the King to look for the Prince, when he happened to meet Jane Farrier instead. Sophie listened and felt sad. Interesting things did seem to happen, but always to somebody else.</p>	<p>Envy other people's life</p>	<p>Sophie really wants to have a better life. When she hears about the Prince's rebellions toward the King, she sees it as something interesting. She thinks the journey that is faced by the Prince is much more exciting rather than her dull life</p>
	12	<p>But when she at last put a gray shawl over her gray dress and went out into the street, Sophie did not feel excited. She felt overwhelmed. There were too many people rushing past, laughing and shouting, far too much noise and jostling. Sophie felt as if the past months of sitting and sewing had turned her into an old woman or a semi-invalid. She gathered her shawl round her and crept along close to the houses, trying to avoid being trodden on by people's best shoes or being jabbed by elbows in trailing silk sleeves... "What made me think I wanted life to be interesting?" she asked as she ran. "I'd be far too scared. It comes of being the eldest of three."</p>	<p>Low self-confidence</p>	<p>Sophie who spends most of the times in the old hat shop feels overwhelmed with the situation in the city. Her gray outfits seems old compare to the people's captivating sleeves. Seeing this, Sophie feels so little. Thus, she feels no confidence to compete with other people.</p>

		21-23	<p>“I always bother when someone tries to set themselves up against the Witch of the Waste,” said the lady. “I’ve heard of you, Miss Hatter, and I don’t care for your competition or your attitude. I came to put a stop to you. There.” She spread out her hand in a flinging motion toward Sophie’s face. “You mean you’re the Witch of the Waste?” Sophie quavered. Her voice seemed to have gone strange with fear and astonishment. “I am,” said the lady. “And let that teach you to meddle with things that belong to me.” “I don’t think I did. There must be some mistake,” Sophie croaked. “No mistake, Miss Hatter,” said the Witch... “By the way, you won’t be able to tell anyone you’re under a spell,” she said.</p> <p>She pulled her gray skirt against her legs and looked down at skinny, decrepit ankles and feet which had made her shoes all knobbly. They were the legs of someone about ninety and they seemed to be real... Sophie got herself to the mirror, and found she had to hobble.</p>	Surprised with a sudden coming from the Witch of the Waste	<p>When she tries to accept her poor life, another unfortunate event comes to her. The wicked Witch of the Waste suddenly approaches her and put the curse in her. She unfortunately is mistaken as the Hatter who challenged the witch. She is quite shocked and surprised but she cannot escape her. As a result, she is turned into a 90-year-old woman.</p> <p>However, there is something important that attaches to the spell: the witch restricts Sophie to tell anyone about the spell. It then becomes a clue that the magical power is limited.</p> <p>The body of an old woman indeed limits her movement. She finds it hard to just walk around</p>
		22	<p>“Don’t worry, old thing,” Sophie said to the face, “You look quite healthy. Besides, this is much more like you really are.” Everything seemed to have gone calm and remote. She was not even particularly angry with the Witch of the Waste.</p>	Calmer	<p>Surprisingly, as she turns into a 90-year-old woman, she feels calmer. She doesn’t even angry to the witch who turns her into an older person. She feels somehow resigned for her new look. Moreover, she feels her new look is more suitable for her. She doesn’t have any burden over her appearance anymore.</p>

		22	<p>“I can stand being like this. But I can't stay here. Fanny would have a fit”... “It was best just to go. Sophie decided she would write to both her sisters when she got wherever she was going, and shuffled on, through the field where the Fair had been, over the bridge, and on into the country lanes beyond.”</p>	Freer	<p>As the oldest of three, she never has any thought of leaving the hat shop. She knows there is no good for her if she were to find her own fortunes. The magic of Ingary will still haunt her even if she runs away from her predestined life. After experiencing the magical event, she feels freer. She is even freer to make her own choice. She, now, has a new reason to get out from that boring hat shop: to find a way to break the spell on her.</p>
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The example of the analysis above shows how the magical event, which portrays the magic law of limitation, influences the development of the major character. As it is presented in table 3.1., the major character, Sophie, experiences a magical event in which she is being cursed by the witch of the waste.

Initially she is described as someone who who feels doomed over her ill-fated life. She is also presented as someone who has lack of self-confidence and self-esteem. It is because *The Land of Ingary*, the world she lived in, has already determined her destiny to be the least successful among her siblings; since she is the eldest of three. No matter how hard she works, the future she has will not as bright as her sisters; even if she has better qualities than them. She always too focuses over her unlucky fate. Therefore, she always feels unhappy because she thinks she only has few options for her own life.

Sophie's unfortunate brings her to experience another terrible event. She is mistakenly suspected as the Hatter who had challenged the witch. As a result, she was turned into a 90 years old woman. It can be seen as it says, "*She pulled her gray skirt against her legs and looked down at skinny, decrepit ankles and feet which had made her shoes all knobbly. They were the legs of someone about ninety and they seemed to be real... Sophie got herself to the mirror, and found she had to hobble.*" (pp. 21-22). By turning into a 90-year-old woman, Sophie had lost a half of her strength. She finds it hard to just walk and need to hobble around. The magic has limited her move. Moreover, the magic also restricts Sophie to tell others that she is under the spell. It means that the magic inhibits Sophie to hurriedly break the curse. Looking at this point of view, it seems that the magic has shown its power since it limits Sophie's act in many ways. However, it actually shows the weakness of the magic itself. According to Nikolajeva (1988), by limitation, it means that the magic, or how the magic can be practiced, must be limited. This excerption, "*By the way, you won't be able to tell anyone you're under a spell,*" she said. (p. 21), gives prove that the power of the magic is limited. The witch restricts Sophie to tell about the curse because she doesn't want Sophie to easily survive her life. Thus, she makes the magic

impossible to be told to anyone. She wants Sophie to suffer by decreasing a half of her life times. The restriction the witch puts within the spell indicates that she doesn't want Sophie to meet anyone who can remove the spell; because the spell can actually be removed.

By this, it can be concluded that there are two sides of the magic shown from these excerpts; it limits Sophie's actions but, at the same time, it also limits the power of the magic itself.

Unexpectedly, after being cursed by the witch of the waste and turned into a 90 years old woman, unexpectedly, Sophie feels much freer and calmer. It is shown from this excerpt, *"Don't worry, old thing," Sophie said to the face, "You look quite healthy. Besides, this is much more like you really are." Everything seemed to have gone calm and remote. She was not even particularly angry with the Witch of the Waste.*" (p. 22). Rather than feeling depressed and blaming the witch for her 90-year-old look, she feels quite relieved about her look. She finds out that becoming old fits her style more; she doesn't need to pay attention to her appearance anymore. Moreover, her new-look offers her an opportunity to escape from her predestined fate. The magic gives her a chance to escape from her boring life as well as to find a way to break the curse by own herself.

The magic law of limitation offers Sophie an opportunity to go off from her current situation. Though the magical event happens to Sophie has limited her actions in many ways, it doesn't make Sophie become depressed over her situation. Instead, it gives the courage for Sophie to take an action she never thinks she will ever do: to escape from her predetermined destiny. The indication of limitation found from this magical event is not only revolves around object of the magic, in this case Sophie, but also to the magic itself, the curse or the spell. The power of the magic is limited. It means that the curse can be broken. For that reason, Sophie takes this opportunity to find the limitation of the magic which can help her to break free from the spell. After experience the magical event, Sophie

finds herself much calmer and freer to take an action. Before, she always thinks her life is bounded to her fate as the eldest of three. As she turns into a 90 years old woman, she feels no worry about her fate and feels much freer to choose the path of her life.

3.7. Summary of the Novel *Howl's Moving Castle*

Sets in the land of Ingary, the novel tells a story about Sophie Hatter, the eldest daughter of three siblings, who feels doomed with her own fortune. In this universe, the oldest children of the family have no good prospects ahead them. Their fate has already decided to be the most unsuccessful among their siblings. Her second sister has no better luck either. All their parents' hopes go to her youngest sister which soon will be given a chance to go on an adventure to make her own future.

One day, an infamous witch of the waste comes to Sophie's hat shop and turns Sophie into a ninety years old woman. However, the curse forbids her to tell anyone about it. Yet, it doesn't make Sophie shattered. Sophie takes this as an opportunity for her to leave her dull life and find her luck. Moreover, she also needs to find a way to break the curse. She then comes across a moving castle that happened to be the castle of a handsome wizard named Howl. Though Howl is famous for his good-lookingness, he is also rumored as a wizard who loves to eat pretty girls' hearts and steals their souls.

At his castle, she meets with Howl's fire demon, Calcifer. As soon as he sees Sophie, Calcifer realizes that she is under a curse. He then makes the bargain with Sophie to help him break his cannot-be-told contract with Howl and in return he will help Sophie to break her curse. With this bargain, Calcifer lets Sophie stays in the castle as a cleaning lady. But, Howl doesn't feel happy with Sophie's existence. He only sees her as a chatterer who keeps messing with his things. During the journey, Sophie encounters a lot of problems which force her to deal with magic. Although initially she doesn't have a good relationship with the

castle's residents, they are finally able to work together for the same purpose. Her character develops on impact as she views her life differently.

3.7.1. About the Author

Diana Wynne Jones (Aug., 1934 – March, 2011) is a British fantasy writer who has written more than 40 books. Most of her novels are written for children and usually feature things related to magic, such as sorcerer, witchcraft, or magicians.

According to Harper Collins Publishers website, her first novel published in 1973 entitled *Witch's Business*. In 1975, another novel *Eight Days of Luke* published. After that, she continues to produce many novels in several decades. Her most popular novels are the *Chrestomanci* series which consist of five books. The first book of this series, *Charmed Life*, won the 1977 Guardian Award for Children's Books. Her other popular novel is *Howl's Moving Castle* which later was turned into a successful animated film produced by Studio Ghibli in 2004.

In 1999, she won the children's section by Mythopoeic Award in the USA. She also won Karl Edward Wagner Award in the UK – the award is given by the British Fantasy Society to individuals or organizations who have made a significant impact on fantasy (Harper Collins editor, n.d.).

Though she was diagnosed to have dyslexia, she did very well in producing lots of good books. According to Encyclopedia Britannica Online, she is even considered as one of "Britain's most respected fantasy writers".

3.8. Concluding Remarks

This chapter has discussed the research method used in this study. The next chapter will further analyze and elaborate the data in order to achieve the purpose of this study. The analysis is completed by following the procedure written in this chapter.