

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with a general description of the paper. It covers background of the study, research questions, aims of the study, limitation of study, clarification of key terms and organization of the paper.

1.1 Background

Culture is one of the important elements of one nation or country. The attitude and custom of the people are usually reflected in their culture. Eastern countries usually have unique cultures and traditions. Japanese culture for example, has some interesting customs and traditions that are still appreciated and celebrated by its people, such as tea ceremony, 'ikebana' (the art of arranging flowers), 'origami' (the art of folding paper), traditional festival, folktale, folk literature, etc. Specifically, folk literature is a kind of oral tradition. One of the familiar and popular examples of folk literature is legend. According to *Merriam Webster's Encyclopedia of Literature*, legend is defined as:

"A story coming down from the past, especially, one handed down from early times by tradition and popularly regarded as historical although not entirely verifiable, also, the total body of such stories and tradition; especially the collective stories and traditions of a particular group (such as a people or clan)."

From the explanation above, legend arises in the form of oral story at the first time. Nevertheless, along with the time, there are legends that become popular among people in several countries that are written down in the form of novels or short stories. According to Klarer (1992), novels and short stories are

included to literary works. Obviously, legend is also a piece of literary works. It is related to culture and history of one country.

Japanese culture seems to have similarity with Indonesian culture. It is probably because both countries are located in the same continent. Generally, Japanese still has a strong belief toward their legends as well as Indonesian. Most of their people especially the old generation believe in spiritual things like Goddess, spirits, demon, etc. It can be seen from their legends which involve those spiritual characters. Legend is like history, even though it is not actually true or even true. It may influence people's behavior and characteristic because it keeps living in people 's mind. Like metaphors, legends may be living or dead. The vital signs of a legend depend upon its being fiercely defended as true (*Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*).

Japanese legends become interesting to be analyzed because of the following reasons. Firstly, legend is one of literary works. Therefore, by analyzing Japanese legends, it can enrich the knowledge and comprehension about the hidden ideology behind the legends. Japan now becomes the great nation among Eastern countries in every aspects of life such as economy, education, technology, and so on. Yet, Japanese still maintain their traditional culture as discussed previously, even though they had been advanced in those aspects. We can say that they can compete America. For that reason, Japan is an interesting country to be explored for example through its legends.

Secondly, as discussed before, legend can be defined as historical story. This means Japanese history may be represented in legends. The two towns in

Japan, which are Hiroshima and Nagasaki, were bombed by America in 1945, their people could pass the horrible thing by struggling and working hard together. Those towns were ruined. It influenced the economic condition and social political stability of the whole country. Yet, Japanese government surprisingly could rebuild their nation and free their people from the bad situation in short time after the bombing. The fact shows that Japanese human resources have a strong motivation and willingness in life. Hence, by analyzing legends, the characteristics of Japanese people can be portrayed.

Therefore, this research is intended to investigate Japanese legends and focused specifically on understanding gender roles and its representation. Some legends were chosen randomly from Internet as the data that will be analyzed. They are "Visu the Woodsman and the Old Priest" by F. Hadland Davis, "Little Peachling" by A.B. Mithford, also "Schippeitaro", "The Maiden with the Wooden Helmet", and "The Two Frogs" written by Andrew Lang. Gender representation becomes the focus of the research because of my curiosity toward a traditional stereotype saying that men are masculine and women are feminine.

The definition of the term 'gender' itself, as Oakley (cited by Nugraha, 2005: 8) claims that it is behavioral differences, between men and women which are socially and culturally constructed. The differences are not God's will but they are created by human being.

Talking about gender stereotype in Japan, Swenson (2003), in her article argues perceptions of Japanese men by non-Japanese women vary greatly, but one point remains constant, Japanese men are not always what is expected. In the

stereotypical view, Japanese men spend all their energy on work to the exclusion of family or “hard working and business oriented”, leaving decisions about the home to their wives.

Meanwhile, Japanese woman stereotypes are other cases. Many people still think Japanese women are subservient to men. They claim that most Japanese girls do not have their own opinion. That is why they can not be independent from men. There is an old saying; “A man is in heaven when he has an American house, a British salary, a Chinese cook and a Japanese wife”. In other words, the stereotype for Japanese wife is described as a very nice and good woman for her husband and family.

As mentioned earlier, this research focuses on understanding gender roles and stereotype existing in Japanese legends. In conducting the study, there are several theories of literature and linguistics that function to discover the meaning of a text even a discourse. This research attempts to use linguistic theory, the systemic functional grammar that is transitivity as the tool of analysis. Halliday (1994) says the transitivity system construes the world of experience into a manageable set of process types. It deals with the process of making meaning. There are three types of meanings, namely ideational meaning, interpersonal meaning, and textual meaning (Halliday: 1994).

Transitivity deals with ideational meanings. Ideational meanings are meanings about phenomena, about things, about goings on, and the circumstance surrounding these happening and doings. These meaning are released in wording through participants, processes, and circumstances (Halliday: 1994). These

legends will also be analyzed by using the theory of Nominal Group to find out gender stereotype.

Hopefully, by applying the theory of systemic functional grammar that is transitivity (process type) and the theory of analyzing the nominal group, the researcher could portray a good analysis on the five Japanese legends to draw a conclusion, which can be useful for further research in the same field.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background mentioned above, the problems to be investigated in this study can be formulated into the following questions:

- How is gender represented in Japanese legends?

To answer the above question, the writer will refer to the following guided questions:

1. What kind of gender roles that are assigned to the characters?
2. What are gender stereotypes found in those legends?

1.3 Aims of Study

With regard to those questions above, this study is aimed to:

1. figure out gender roles of the characters using transitivity (types of process).
2. reveal gender representation based on gender stereotypes and gender roles found in those legends.

1.4 Limitation of Study

This research has a purpose to figure out how the male and female characters play their role in these legends as characterized by their gender. The writer uses the functional grammar analysis that is transitivity (process types), and the nominal group analysis. The focus of this research is only legends, which are five stories written by F. Hadland Davis, A. B. Mitford, and Andrew Lang. The authors are not Japanese. The stories are not a translation from Japanese language. They are written in English and can be found in the three books entitled *Myths and Legends of Japan*, *Tales of Old Japan*, and *The Violet Fairy Book*. These legends become the data to be analyzed in this research paper.

There are some criteria in choosing the legends used in this study. The first is by choosing the legends that are written by different authors randomly. Furthermore, gender representation could be portrayed. The second, those legends have the main male or female characters and also the main animal character, which interact with other supporting characters. This is useful to see the role of each gender as a way to find out the gender representation in those legends.

1.7 Clarification of the Key Terms

- Systemic Functional Grammar: is illustrated as a functional-semantic approach to language which explores both how people use language in different contexts, and how language is structured for use as a semiotic system (Halliday: 1994).

- Transitivity: a system that construes the world of experience into a manageable set of process types (Halliday: 1994).
- Nominal Group: is defined as a group of words which has a noun (a word which names a person, place, or thing) as its head word and includes all additional information related to that noun (Gerot & Wignell, 2002: 141).
- Gender: is an individual's self-conception as being male or female, as distinguished from actual biological sex. (Encyclopedia Britannica)
- Stereotype: stereotyping reduces people to a few, simple, essential characteristics, which are represented as fixed by Nature. (Hall, 1997)
- Representation: means using language to say something meaningful about, or to represent, the world meaningfully, to other people. (Hall, ed: 1997)
- Role: is defined as the importance of function of somebody. (Anonymous, Retrieved on 15th of July 2007)

1. 8 Organization of the Paper

This paper of research will be organized into five chapters as follow:

Chapter I Introduction

This chapter clearly explains about Background of the study, Research Questions, Aims of Study, Limitation of Study, Clarification of the Key Terms, and the Organization of the Paper.

Chapter II Theoretical Foundation

In this part, the writer defines the theoretical frameworks that are relevant and suitable for the study include some literary theories on Literature and Its Genre,

Legend, also Sex, Gender and Gender Roles, and Stereotyping Gender. There are theories on Representation and ways to reveal representation, which are Discourse Study, Functional Language and Linguistics: Transitivity and the Nominal Group.

Chapter III Research Methodology

This chapter consists of Research Method and Research Procedures. In this part, the researcher tells about the procedures of analyzing the data.

Chapter IV Findings and Discussion

This chapter comprises the findings of the data analysis. After the data are clarified and gained, the writer would take as many information as possible from it to be analyzed in an organized way. Further discussion on the data is presented in this section.

Chapter V Conclusions and Suggestions

This chapter describes the writer's interpretation towards the research result in a form of conclusion and suggestion for related research.

