

Chapter I

Introduction

This chapter contains background, research question, aim of the study, scope of the study, research procedures, clarification of terms, and the organization of the paper.

1. Background

Children's books have a long history around the world, and they have absorbed into themselves elements of folk and fairy tale, and the oral tradition (Hunt: 1999: 5).

There are various issues raised in children books and the issues are usually the reflection of our daily life, such as family story, friendship, and so on. McDowell (cited in Hunt: 1999) stated that children's books are generally shorter; they tend to favor an active rather than a passive treatment, with dialogue and incident rather than description and introspection; child protagonists are the rule; conventions are much used; the story develops within a clear-cut moral schematism which much adult fiction ignores; children's books tend to be optimistic rather than depressive; language is child-oriented; plots are of a distinctive order, probability is often

disregarded; and one could go on endlessly talking of magic, and fantasy, and simplicity, and adventure.

One of interesting issues raised in a children book is child abuse. Child abuse may be defined as a state of emotional, physical, economic, and sexual maltreatment meted out to a person below the age of eighteen and is a globally prevalent phenomenon. It is a violation of the basic human rights of a child and is an outcome of a set of inter-related familial, social, psychological, and economic factors” (see India’s Ministry of Child and Women Development: 2007: 3). Child abuse is not only a part of novel’s theme, but also a fact that exists in many social lives. The abusive action that happens to children is usually done by people who have close relationship with them such as parents, teachers, and neighbors.

Children usually become a victim of abusive action because they are considered as the weak and powerless because they don’t have power over adult. Dahl (1957) defines power as A has power over B if A controls something valued by B which B cannot obtain from another source. He assumes that power is if we can get someone to do something that actually they do not like or do not want to do. Dahl’s definition of power implies that there is some conflict of interest involved in power use. Power is more likely to be used when there is disagreement about goals.

There have been studies investigating power relation as evidenced in the text like novels. For instance, Wulan (2005), who used power relation theory in her study

to find out any kinds of power exercised by the characters in the novel *Real Heroes* and to explore the establishment of resistance coming from another character. Another study discusses power relation is Sam (2006), who used power relation theory in her study to find out any kinds of power relation among characters in the novel *A Child Called It*. The issue raised is child abuse.

One of novel which raises the issue of power relation is *Matilda*. The novel has been chosen as the object of the study because it tells about the adults' power over children. The issue raised in the novel is child abuse. The novel tells about a five-year-old girl named Matilda. In her age, she has a great passion of reading a lot of books. Although she shows a strong signs of her intelligent, but her parents always underestimate her and insists her to watch television. Her parents are rude to her and they never say a good thing of her daughter. Besides, her headmaster is also rude to her and her schoolmates. The school where she learns is not like a school because all members of the school always in fear situation every day.

The researcher is interested in finding out the power relation to see the relationship among characters and see how power is exercised by the adults to the children as evidenced in the text. Besides, since the issue raised is child abuse, the writer wants to reveal the kinds of child abuse as evidenced in the novel. The researcher found that the main character is interesting because as the victim of abusive action, the main character does not like someone who become abusive

action's victim and being introvert to others instead she resist the power of her parents and her teacher by her intelligence. She does not let the abuser take control over her. The fact that she is a little girl is not an obstacle for her to resist her parents and her teacher's abuse by her intelligence.

In this present research, the researcher applies the framework of power relation theory proposed by French and Raven to identify types of power found in the novel.

2. Research Question

The study is geared towards answering the following questions:

1. What types of child abuse are evidenced in the text?
2. In what ways does the main character reacts toward adults' abusive acts as evidenced in the text?

3. Aims of the Study

Based on the research questions above, the study is aimed at:

1. Finding out the kinds of child abuse in Matilda.
2. Discovering the way the main character reacts the abusive acts done by adult characters.

4. Scope of the Study

The study is limited only to investigate the types of child abuse, ways the adults exercise their power over children, and ways the main character resist the power exercised.

5. Research Procedure

5.1. Method of Research

The study employs descriptive analysis. This study describes phenomena in the form of how child abuse issue raised and types of child abuse found in the novel. It also analyzes the power relation between the main character and the adult characters to see how power is exercised by adults over children. Besides, it investigates the ways main character resists power exercised upon her.

5.2. Data Collection

The data for this study are taken from the novel *Matilda* by Roald Dahl. The data are in the form of words, phrases, and sentences that answer the research questions. The data are collected through reading the novel repeatedly and thoroughly.

5.3.Data Analysis

The collected data are then categorized into types of abuse done to children, types of power exercised, and ways the main character resists the abuse. The data are presented in the form of table and analyzed using the framework of power relation theory proposed by French and Raven.

6. Clarifications of Terms

- **Child Abuse** : the maltreatment or injury of a child. Various forms of child abuse include physical abuse, neglect, emotional or psychological abuse and sexual abuse.
- **Power** : the ability to control over something of value to someone else.
- **Authority** : a special form of power, special in the sense that it implies voluntary acquiescence on the part of subordinates who recognize the legitimate right of their superior to give orders.
- **Resistance** : the ability to resist power.
- **Character** : a textual representation of human being (or occasionally another creature).

7. Organization of the Paper

The following is the organization of the paper that frames the study.

▪ CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION

This chapter will provide brief explanation about background, research question, aim of the study, scope of the study, clarification of terms, and organization of the paper.

▪ CHAPTER II : THEORETICAL FOUNDATION

This chapter provides the theoretical framework on the issue that is relevant with the present study. It discusses definition of child abuse, types of child abuse, definition of power, social power, power and authority, power and masculinity, power and resistance. It also presents synopsis of the novel, and biography of the writer.

▪ CHAPTER III : RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter explicates methodology on conducting the study. It consists of research questions, the research subject and context, the research method, the data collection, the data analysis, and the data presentation.

- CHAPTER IV : FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

This chapter presents the analysis, findings, and discussions of the findings of the present research.

- CHAPTER V : CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter presents the conclusion of the research, which are based on the findings and the discussion in the previous chapters. This chapter also presents the suggestion for further research on text analysis.

