

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1. 1. Background

Fairy tales are stories which have a profound and awakening effect on the children's life (Uno, 2001). It is so because fairy tales are stories which are usually read by the children. Uno (2011) further argues that fairy tales can affect the children's point of view because fairy tales teach the children's morals and values and encourage them to dream and imagine. Thus, by reading fairy tales, the children can learn how to be a good person.

One of some aspects in fairy tales which influences the children much is characters. Maggiore (2003) argues that the children idolize the characters in fairy tales. They try to emulate their favorite character's actions. It indicates that the children's favorite characters become their role model. One of the children's favorite characters is princess. A princess exists almost in all fairy tales. A princess can be defined as a beautiful woman who is able to sing beautifully, who is pure and good and who always lives happily ever after (Tony, 2010). From Tony's definition, it can be said that a princess is a perfect figure. That is why the figure of princess becomes the favorite figure for fairytale's readers, especially the girls.

The most favorable part of figures of princess is its appearance. Tony (2010) further argues that the criteria of a princess which are created by most of fairytales are tall, being long-legged, being skinny, having tiny waist, having light skin, having long hair, having skinny faces, being slim, having small lips, and

having big eyes. These criteria become the stereotypes of princess' physical appearance in most all fairy tales. These criteria of physical appearance influence the way people face the standard of beauty. Francis (1996) affirms that the portrayal of a beauty princess in fairytales has brainwashed people, especially the children, in multicultural society through media, so that it gives them similar assumption of beauty. Grauerholz (2004 as cited in Hanafy, 2004) then continues that the figure of princess in fairy tales gives message to the children, especially the girls, that having beautiful appearance is important. It affects the children's perception in which physical appearance like those of princesses in common fairy tales is something that they have to achieve. It means that those stereotypes become the standard of beauty in reality. Thus, it can be concluded that the figure of princess in fairytales can influence the reader's perception of beauty.

Unlike other fairy tales which present a beautiful princess, *Shrek* is a fairy tale which delivers different portrayal of princess. *Shrek* was published in a movie form in 2001 by DreamWorks pictures. *Shrek* has four sequels; they are *Shrek*, *Shrek 2* (2003), *Shrek the Third* (2006), and *Shrek Forever After* (2009). These movies have been also made into novels form. Each sequel of the movie is adapted by different authors.

Shrek is a fairy tale which has portrayal of a beauty princess. The story tells about an ogre named Shrek who saves the princess named Fiona. Fiona is a princess who has been cursed that when night comes she will change into an ogre. The way to cut the curse is she must be kissed by a charming prince. Unfortunately, it does not happen because she is kissed by an ugly ogre, a man

that Fiona loves. The kiss does not break the curse; conversely, it changes Fiona into a real ogre forever. Although she becomes an ugly forever, she does not feel sad because she has a man who really loves her, he is Shrek. She is not as beautiful as other princesses in well-known fairy tales. In *Shrek 2*, the story tells about the Shrek's wish to change Fiona into a beautiful princess again. But Fiona thinks it is not necessary. The most important thing in her life is she can stay together with Shrek. In *Shrek the Third*, the story focuses on Fiona who becomes a helper and motivator for other princesses. The last, in *Shrek Forever After* Fiona and Shrek have babies and they lived happily ever after. These stories definitely show that Fiona does not have the stereotypes of princess that have been mentioned before.

The existence of some deconstructions of the four stories indicates that *Shrek* the novels are extraordinary fairy tales. The major differences of *Shrek* the novels and other fairy tales is the different kind of princess. The portrayal of Fiona's physical appearance shows that the stories of *Shrek* give new perception about the appearance of princess. Fiona, as a princess, has different characteristics and it opposes to the standard of princess's beauty. Based on that reason, this phenomenon becomes a good issue to be analyzed. It triggers some questions why the appearance of Princess Fiona looks different than other princesses in other fairy tales and what the purposes of those stereotypes are. This phenomenon is also researchable because it gives new insights about the concept of beauty.

Because of the different portrayal of Princess Fiona, the focus of the research is about analyzing the physical appearance of princess in *Shrek* the novels. The issue of physical appearance is appropriate to be analyzed by using feminist perspective. Weigold (1997 as cited in Saptiani, 2009) found that women are claimed themselves as feminists view the body or appearance more positively than those who do not consider themselves as feminists. It means that feminists can more appreciate women's body. From the statement above it can be said that a body becomes the important aspect in feminism and it is also can be used as an important tool to analyze women's issue.

The feminist perspective which is concerned with body analysis is feminist poststructuralist. According to Azzarito and Solmon (2006) feminist poststructuralists see body as a vehicle to recognize identity and it shows that body is not only the object of power but also a powerful object. Azarito and Solmon (2006) further argue that feminist poststructuralists are critics who challenge and disrupt the unitary and essentialist body to free individual's identity processes and acknowledge the body as a constructed, inconsistent, and fluid entity. One of the feminist figure which focuses on analyzing women's body is Luce Irigaray. Grozz (1994) argues that Irigaray sees women's body as a site of resistance to patriarchy. It means that she believes that body is a symbol of women's power. Seeing that feminist poststructuralist view on body is related to the issue of the research, the theory is used as a tool to analyze the phenomenon about princess appearance which is contrast to the standards of beauty in fairy tales.

1.2. Reason For Choosing Topic

The analysis focuses on the analysis of physical appearance of a princess because *Shrek* the novels are fairy tales which contain the issue of body image. *Shrek* the novels seem to deconstruct the standard of other fairy tales. The most interesting aspect from *Shrek* the novels is a figure of princess which is created by its stories. It triggers some question because it delivers different portrayal of princess. That is why the three novels are suitable to be analyzed.

To reveal the portrayal of figure of princess in the three novels, the theory of feminist poststructuralist is utilized as a theoretical framework to discover how princess is portrayed in the three novels.

1.3. Scope of the Study

The research is an analysis of princess's physical appearance on *Shrek* the novels: *Shrek the Novel* adapted by Ellen Weiss (2002), *Shrek 2: The Movie Novel* adapted by Jesse Leon McCann (2004) and *Shrek the Third: The Junior Novel* adapted Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld (2007). It focuses on the issue of princess's beauty and how it is relevant to feminist poststructuralist perspective.

1.4. Research Question

In focusing on the research about princess's physical appearance, two research questions are available as a guidance to analyze that issue which arises in *Shrek* the novels. The questions are highlighted below:

1. How is Princess Fiona portrayed in *Shrek's novels*?
2. How is the portrayal of Princess Fiona relevant to feminist poststructuralist's point of views?

1.5. Objective of the Research

Since the focus of the research is analyzing the princess's physical appearance in the three novels of *Shrek*, the purposes of the research are to find the portrayal of princess in the novels by identifying the character's appearance and to see how the portrayal of princess is relevant to feminist poststructuralist perspective. Therefore, the result of the research may lead a new perception concerning the concept of beauty princess in fairy tales.

1.6. Research Procedure

The procedures used to reveal the princess physical appearances in the three novels of *Shrek* are:

1. Reading three novels of *Shrek* thoroughly and carefully. The strategy which is used is close reading. Clifton (2008) defines close reading as paying especially close attention to what is printed on the page. Clifton continues that it also involves the reader's

sensibility to all the nuances and connotations of language as it is used by skilled writers.

2. Picking up all the description of princess physical's appearance from the three novels which are described by narrator and other characters. The strategy which is used to find the data is content analysis. Truex (1996) argues that content analysis is aimed at searching structures and patterns in the data from words and phrases. Therefore, these strategies are suitable for finding the data.
3. Applying the theory of feminist poststructuralist perspectives into the portrayal of princess physical appearance. The aims of this step are to prove how the portrayal of princess in *Shrek* the novels are relevant to feminist poststructuralist's view and to reveal the message behind the portrayal of Princess Fiona which is seen from feminist poststructuralist's perspective.
4. Drawing conclusion and suggestions based on the findings of the research.

1.7. Clarification of Terms

The research contains some terms that probably will cause misunderstanding. Defining terms is needed in order to revoke different perceptions about the terms. Those terms are explained below:

1. **Fairy tale:** Story which is intended for the children. It often involves some fanciful creature and extraordinary adventure.

Contemporary fairy tales often give a moral or ethical undercurrent to the story. In other words, it is a story that gives the children a lesson (Brittany, 2004).

2. **Princess:** A beautiful woman who has the sovereign power, usually a member of royal family. In fairy tales, a princess is the one who is able to sing beautifully, woman who is pure and good to the core and the one who always live happily ever after (Tony, 2010).
3. **Physical Appearance:** The main look of humans. It is a major factor in the development of personality, because people form opinions through what they see in a person physically, and respond to that person accordingly (Popkins, 1998).
4. **Beauty:** A thing which brings enjoyment to the person who looks or contemplates. Physical beauty is always enhanced by a measure of inner beauty. A person may have all the necessary features to be physically beautiful but without inner warmth, the person will be perceived as cold. Outer beauty and appearance is made up of factors like health, youth, symmetry, average, skin, complexion, etc while defining inner beauty depends on characteristics like politeness, intelligence, charisma, elegance, personality, etc (Nair, 2010).
5. **Portrayal:** Act of showing or describing somebody or something in a picture toward words. (Hornby, 2000)

6. **Ogre:** An ogre is a bizarre and dangerous antagonist whose main ambition is to catch and devour humans (Geider, 2008, p.703 as cited in Haase,2008)
7. **Feminist Poststructuralist:** Critics who challenge and disrupt the unitary and essentialist body to free individual's identity processes and acknowledge the body as a constructed, inconsistent, and fluid entity (Azzarito and Solmon, 2006)
8. **Fractured Fairy Tale:** A fairy or other folk tale that has been modified in such a way to make us laugh at unexpected characterization, plot development or contrary point of view (Kinsella, n.d).

1.8. **Organization of Paper**

a. Chapter I (Introduction)

This chapter contains the background of the study, the reason of choosing the topic, the scope of study, the statement of problems, the aims of study, research procedure, clarification of terms and organization of paper.

b. Chapter II (Theoretical Foundation)

This chapter explains the theory which is provided to support the analysis and to reveal the analysis.

c. Chapter III (Research Procedure)

This chapter focuses on the explanation of methodology which is used in the analysis of the research. It contains the research procedure, source of data, technique of data collection, and technique of data analysis.

d. Chapter IV (Finding and Discussion)

This chapter explains further analysis of the data presentation. The data is analyzed by using the theories which are provided in chapter II.

e. Chapter V (Conclusion and Suggestion)

This chapter presents the conclusions and suggestions of the research findings.

