

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Research

Parenthood and friendship are two crucial elements in a child's life. Parents, with whom he lives in a family, might be the most influential factor in the child's personality because parents are the first reference for him when learning to live. The relationship between a child and their parents is a reciprocal relationship with interactions. Therefore, the parenting style that brings up the child is also essential.

There are three types of parenthood, as mentioned in the article entitled “Parenthood Concepts and a Principle” (1988) written by William Ruddick. They are 1) parenthood as child caring, 2) parenthood as raising children, and 3) parenthood as family making. Parenthood as child caring includes attending to them, feeding them, and protecting them. Following, feeding and protecting activities are carried out until the children no longer need protection from parents or have become adults. The second type, parenthood as raising children, is an activity to shape and guide children towards maturity. Parents must pay attention to their biology, temperament, friends, and culture. In short, parenthood as raising children means raising children from childhood to adulthood. Finally, parenthood as family making is the role of parents as a place for protection and the safest place when the child is in trouble (1-5).

Apart from family, a friend is another crucial factor in a child's life. Making

friends with other children is a way for a child to learn about themselves and their social life. Fehr (2012) says in his article "Friendship" that friendship is also described as an understudied relationship, which is influenced by several factors, like environment, situation, individual, and dyadic. The first factor is the environment. A friendship is built when someone contacts other people in the same domain. Everyone has different friendships with different backgrounds. For example, friendships at work will be different from friendships in housing. The second is the situation. The situation is divided into two: frequency of interaction and availability. These two factors greatly influence friendship. The third is the individual itself. To improve the quality of friendship, the factors of physical attractiveness, social skills, responsiveness, and shyness must be present in the individual. The fourth factor is dyadic. This factor explains that friendships can occur because they have something in common and analyze each other well (205-209).

Parents and friends, I believe, are two key elements that shape a child's personality and determine the color of their life. Thus, I choose parenthood and friendship as the topics of this research. I want to present that issues on parenthood and friendship can be seen from different perspectives. Children can also have the opposite situation to what it is supposed to be, like what happen to Matilda and Charlie. I choose two novels by Roald Dahl, namely *Matilda* and *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory* for some reasons. First, represent both genders in the main character, in *Matilda* is the girl, while in *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory* is a boy. Here we will see the difference in attitude in how the main character in the two novels solves the problem. Second,

represent different classes. In *Matilda*, her family's economy is middle class, which means that they have no difficulty eating and buying goods. In *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*, Charlie's family economy is very poor, they only eat cabbage soup, and it is not easy to meet the family's needs. Third, both children in the novel have nice parents but no friends. On the other hand, one child has a friend, but her parents do not care. For that reason, I chose both novels to investigate how issues about parenthood and friendship are presented in the novel, considering that they are very important for a child's life both novels. However, there are possibly many ironies in a child's life related to parenthood and friendship. Therefore, I decided to title this research **"Irony in Parenthood and Friendship in Roald Dahl's novels *Matilda* & *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*: A New Critical Analysis."**

### **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

Almost all of Dahl's children's books have the parents and friends role of characters. Some main characters have good parents, while some have bad parents or do not have parents at all. Some characters are kids with no friends, while others have good friends. *Matilda* and *Charlie*, unfortunately, are not always lucky when dealing with parents and friends; many bad things happen to them. *Matilda*'s parents are not as good as how parents must be. Yet she has good friends. On the other hand, *Charlie* has very nice parents and grandparents. However, he does not have any friends. Through these novels, Dahl utilizes ironies in the life of *Matilda* and *Charlie*. I believe that irony is the formal element used the most in both novels to present the issues

of parenthood and friendship.

### 1.3 The Review of Related Literature

To have the strong basic knowledge to conduct this research, I have read some analyses as references. It shows that this research does not imitate other studies and supports my idea.

The first is a thesis by Mela Meta Martharika entitled "An analysis on Mr. Wormwood's parenting style toward Matilda in Roald Dahl's novel *"Matilda"* (2015). This thesis discusses the relationship between Matilda and her father. This thesis uses psychoanalytic theory. This research shows that there are two kinds of parenting that Matilda's father does. Authoritarian parenting and parenting not involved. In analyzing the characters in the novel, Matilda's father, who has two parenting styles, forces his daughter to accept whatever he says as absolute and indisputable rules. Because of these two parenting styles, Matilda lives a life full of irony. Then this is similar to the research I'm doing on bad parenthood. This thesis also helps to increase my knowledge about parenting behavior.

The second is a thesis by Erisa Anggraeni entitled "Patriarchal practices and resistance in Roald Dahl's *Matilda*" (2016). This thesis discusses Matilda. This thesis aims to explain and analyze the intrinsic and extrinsic elements in the novel. This thesis uses the library research method. The result of this research is the representation of women who are considered to have a lower position than men in Matilda's story. It has a different impact on each member of Matilda's family and



makes Matilda choose to live with Miss Honey. This thesis helps me analyze the influence of gender in an element of the story. This thesis has similarities in the identification of the problem with my research.

The third is a thesis by Akhmad Zulfikar entitled "Representations of bourgeoisie and proletariat class in *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*" (2010). This thesis aims to determine how some characters from *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory* are portrayed to get a higher position. This thesis uses the perspective of Karl Marx to reveal the process of several characters to reach an elevated position. The results of this study indicate that Charlie and Willy Wonka represent the bourgeois and proletariat classes. This thesis helped me analyze social class, which was also a concern in the research, which also impacted Charlie's making friends because Charlie comes from a low social class.

The fourth is a thesis by Mgr. Eva tursová entitled "Precocious Children in Roald Dahl's Works" (2018). This thesis describes precocious children in two works by Roald Dahl, namely *Danny the World Champion* and *James & the Giant Peach*. Mgr. Eva tursová explains that Precocious is an attitude that can be considered different from other kids who are very intelligent, mature, and good at doing stuff. Danny and James are two precious child characters in these two books. In conclusion, precocious makes the kids solid and capable of resolving complex lives in this book. This thesis makes it easy for the reader to understand what is precious. The writer describes the argument very well, and it's easy to understand her writing. In analyzing *Matilda*, I

found one of the similarities of characters in *Danny's The World Champion* and *James & The Giant Peach* novels is the precocious Matilda.

The fifth study is an article by Margarita Georgieva entitled "Parenthood in English Literature" (2009). This article clarifies that parenthood is defined as a process for raising children. Then the form of how to become a parent is also interpreted. "Parenthood in English Literature" notes that the story's theme is several works that make parenthood the topic. The ideas adopted started level in the BC ERA to the 20th century about teaching, raising, and caring for children. Parenthood is the theme of many novels, including *Paradise Lost*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *Robinson Crusoe*, and many more. This article focuses on parenthood. Therefore, knowledge of English literature, particularly the theme of parenthood, can be increased. This article has the same discussion as what I discussed to conduct the research. The writer explains parenthood as a theme in this respect, similar to the article evaluated by Margarita Georgieva, which describes the topic of parenthood. As a result, this article can give strength to my perspective.

The sixth is an article by B Fehr entitled "Friendship" (2012). This article explains friendship's definition and four factors that influence friendship harmony: environment, situation, individual, and dyadic. The first factor is the environment. According to Fehr, friendship is built when someone contacts other people in the same domain. Everyone has different friendships in different environments. For example, friendships at the workplace will differ from friendships in living neighbors.

The second factor is the situation. The situation is divided into two: frequency of interaction and availability. These two factors greatly influence friendship. The third factor is the individual factor. To improve friendship quality, the elements of physical attractiveness, social skills, responsiveness, and shyness must be present in the individual. The fourth factor is Dyadic. This factor explains that friendships can occur because they have something in common and analyze each other well. This article is beneficial to tell what friendship is and the factors that affect harmony. This article can be helpful to my research because these factors of friendship must be present in the two novels. It will be interesting to see how those factors are presented through literary elements.

The seventh is a thesis by Sherly Dwi Putri entitled "Monstrosity and Humanity in *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley: A Formalistic Reading" (2020). This thesis explores two characters in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* book, namely monstrosity and humanity. To help analyze the theory, this study uses Cleanth Brooks's New Criticism. The findings revealed that the human and monster characters were not good or bad. Human characters portrayed as perfect can transform into monsters and show their human side. This thesis allows me to offer ideas and helps me construct the structure of analysis because it also uses new criticisms as a theoretical basis and uses organic unity to examine its studies.

#### **1.4 Research Questions**

This research is conducted by focusing on answering these questions:

1. How does Roald Dahl use irony to present issues about parenthood and friendship in *Matilda* and *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*?
2. What are the themes of the books? From the new critical perspectives, how does each element support the theme/content of the stories to build a good organic unity?

### **1.5 The Scope of the Research**

This research focuses on the formal aspect or the intrinsic elements. Since the life of Matilda and Charlie seem to be surrounded by ironies when related to parents and friends, the scope of the research is the formal elements only, particularly the irony in parenthood and friendship. Furthermore, it is also important to analyze the organic unity, whether the irony can be seen in the content/theme.

### **1.6 The Objectives of the Research**

This study aims to examine how Roald Dahl employs irony in his two novels, *Matilda* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, to convey ideas about parenthood and friendship. In addition, this research intends to use the New Criticism approach to find the theme of Roald Dahl's novel and discover how irony works to create a good organic unity.

