

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the Research

“No text is an island” is an expression most likely familiar to anyone who has studied literature. The expression basically means that every text interacts with other texts, even though readers may not always recognize the references every time they occur. The main body of the work, however, often convey some sort of significance and purpose in the literary work. It is to emphasize the meaning or importance of a specific occurrence. The most important is an objective assessment of a literary text (Kinnunen 2012:3).

The purpose of this study is to examine the narrative structure of an American masterpiece in twentieth century. It is a novel written by L. Frank Baum; one of the most popular reading that is known as *The Wizard of Oz* (1900). It is claimed as one of the world best-loved fairytales (Jahangir 2009 in Bar 2015:15). This study tries to reveal how this novel is built by understanding its internal structure. Furthermore, the research about narratology applied to this novel is not yet found. Thus, this analysis attempts to make an exposition why the structure of the novel can be matched with young reader. Since young reader has limited literary skill, the approach of the writing must be adjusted by then.

The novel *The Wizard of Oz* presents the characters those are described in the story with a very strong characterization through the events and challenges as represented by narrator in the story. However there are several problems found in the novel based on its structure. The first problem is how the narrator depicts the characters and their action contrastingly. It is shown in the Scarecrow character who is described as stupid creature but he does well in the future by using his intelligence as said in the novel as “But I do not want people to call me fool” (23) and “here is a great tree, standing close to the ditch. If the Tin Woodman can chop it down, so that it will fall to other side, we can walk across it easily” (45).

The next problem identified is how the narrator delivers the story. The narrator of the story is unknown and is never introduced in the story until the end. The author seems like taking a distance with the reader to make a mysterious atmosphere. Third, how the narrator reveals the meaning of the story, because this work is a masterpiece which contains valuable meaning, either the meanings are presented in the text (in praesentia) or the meanings which are not presented in the text (in absentia). In this case, the narrator reveals the meaning of the story in contrast way. The narrator expresses the meaning sometimes directly and in the other part indirect expression. Those problems stated above exist at the level of narrative structure. The structure of narrative should be exposed in detail to answer the problems. Due to the reason above the Todorov's narratology is used as the main theory in this study.

In general this writing is divided into four main sections. The first section, the writer introduces the reader about the background of the research, the identification of the problem, the scope of the research, the objective of the research, the review of related studies, theoretical framework, and the method of the research. The second section is the preliminary analysis that focuses on the characters explanation, setting of the story, and the theme. The third section is the analysis of the structure of the novel, and its explanation. The last section is the conclusion. After all, the writer conducts a research entitled The Narratological Study of L. Frank Baum's *The Wizard of Oz*.

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

Based on the problems stated above, the points issued in the novel *The Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum are the predicate and actant of the events, how the problem and solution are described and how the key action that builds the narrative is formulated in the novel *The Wizard of Oz*.

## **1.3 The Scope of the Research**

To focus the analysis this study formulates the problems into three questions. Based on the narratology approach the research focuses on explaining:

1. The predicate of the story.
2. The episode of the story.
3. The formula of the story.

#### 1.4 The Objective of the Research

The first objective of this research is to expose the occurrence of predicates and its implication to the story. The second objective is to explain the main episode of the story based on chronological narration. The third objective is to explain the relation between the actant and the predicate in the novel.

#### 1.5 The Review of Related Studies

In an intertextual research, Silvio Bar (2015) studies L. Frank Baum's *The Wizard of Oz* using Homer's *Odyssey* as its backdrop and hypotext. Bar finds the notos motif and the motif of wandering and homecoming. Next he believes the notos motif is a standard element of multitudinous fairy tales which all deal with the trials and tribulations of a hero/heroine who is compelled to leave his/her home so as to explore the world before returning or being brought back again. He concludes that the value of the *Odyssey* as a hypotext to this novel makes the reader equate Dorothy – a little girl – with Odysseus – an adult man and epic hero, and the reader necessarily transfers his/her idea of Odysseus as a fully grown, mature, and equally determined personality to the figure of Dorothy.

Henry M. Littlefield (1964) who explores L. Frank Baum's in *The Wizard of Oz* succeeds in bridging the gap between what children want and what they should have. He admires Baum as an imaginative writer who can teach goodness and morality without producing the almost inevitable side effect of nausea. In addition, a significant difference finds in today's children books are either saccharine and empty, or boring and pedantic.

Jonh Fuchion (2010) based on psychological prespective says that the journey of the characters come from the reaction of strange and curiosity that impulse the desire of adventure. He concludes that Baum does not so much reconcile nostalgia with cosmopolitanism as he depicts Dorothy's nostalgia for Kansas as the desire that compels her to develop a cosmopolitan ethics only as a means to return home.

In her structural research, Queen (2015) studies the smallest meaning units of characters in Chinua Achebes's *Anthills of the Savannah* by elaboration the structure of the story. Result showed according to the structure of character and theme. She concluded the meaning such as the terrible society, oppression, exploitation, wickedness, corruption, and incompetence of the government in Kangan and binary opposition of characters which are intellectual rich and illiterate poor.

## 1.6 The Theoretical Framework

The basic of this research posits in the field of structure analysis. The term 'structure' varies in its definitions, and it is used in many disciplines to refer to slightly different things. The field of structuralism contains "structure of linguistic" developed by Ferdinand de Saussure (1913-1915), "structure of anthropology" created by Claude Levi-Strauss (1950), "structure of semiotic" proposed by Roland Barthes, "structure of literary interpretation" proposed by Jonathan Culler, "structure of literary genre" created by summary of Northrop Frye, and "structure of narratology" proposed by Tzvetan Todorov, Gerard Genette and AJ Greimas (Tyson 2006:209).

In this chapter the writer introduces the main concepts and terminology which are relevant to the research. Firstly, the writer clarifies what structuralism is and then focuses on one form of structuralism, namely narratology, which is a main concept in this study. Secondly, the writer discusses the broad concept of narratological approach by Tzvetan

Todorov. Thirdly, the writer describes several terms in narratology like predicate, episode and formula.

### 1.6.1 Structuralism

According to Abrams (1979:1981 in Suharto (2002:3-27) there are four approaches to literature, namely the mimetic, the pragmatic, the expressive, and the objective criticism. The theory structuralism is an approach that is categorized as objective criticism. It means that literary work is treated as a creature that stands alone. Therefore, in this perspective to understand the literary work it must be analyzed only focuses on intrinsic structure (Pradopo, in Suharto 1995:141). Structuralism is a study of the text as a system of language that constructs meaning in it and it tends to focus on three specific areas of literary studies: the classification of literary genres, description of narrative operations and the analysis of literary interpretation (Tyson 2006:220).

### 1.6.2 Narratology

Structural analysis of narrative known as narratology. Narratology dates back to the 1920s with scholar like Vladimir Propp's *Morphology of the Folk-Tale* (1928). This work was translated to French in 1957 and English in 1968. In this work, he argued that text can be understood if we compared the subject of the sentence with the typical characters and the predicate with the typical actions in such stories. He added seven spheres of action of roles to thirty-one functions: villain, donor (provider), helper, princess and her father, dispatcher, hero (seeker or victim), and false hero.

Another scholar, A.J. Greimas in his book *Semantic Structure* (1926) offered a fundamental addition to Propp's theory. Based on Propp's seven spheres of action, Greimas proposed three pairs of binary oppositions that he called as actants, he requires: subject/object (desire, aim, or search), sender/receiver (communication), helper/opponent (auxiliary support or hindrance).

According to Genette, stories and the narrative can be known through in-between the narration (1980:29). Finding out the story and how the story is narrated, the only way is by checking the narration itself. Narratology becomes the theory which filed the method to examine the relationship among the narrator and the story, the narrator and the ways to tell story, along the story and the ways to tell story. In this point there is no narration without narrator (Todorov 1968:37). Furthermore, the theory of Tzvetan Todorov that will be explained below.

### 1.6.3 Tzvetan Todorov

Todorov concentrates on identifying three aspects to identify the literature: the syntactic aspect, the semantic aspect and verbal aspect. The syntactic aspect is the logical order or causality and the temporal order as the syntactic aspect which are needed in every literary work. The semantic aspect is an aspect which people believe as an important aspect to be analyzed. The verbal aspect is divided into four categories: category modus, category kala, category point of view and category narrative.

#### a. Predicate

Todorov draws an analogy between the structural units of narrative that is known as the predicate. On the organization of the predicate, we can know the elements of characterization and plot, and the structural units of language: parts of speech and their arrangement in sentences and paragraphs (Tyson 2006:226).

Units of narrative	<—————>	Units of language
Characters	<—————>	Proper nouns
Characters' actions	<—————>	Verbs
Characters' attributes	<—————>	Adjectives
Propositions	<—————>	Sentences
Sequences	<—————>	Paragraphs

## **b. Episode**

The episode is a narrative pattern which is summarized in outline based on important events and an place of event in the story. The narrative pattern could serve as a starting point for structural analysis of a literary work. Where the episode depicting the outline of the pattern of the story allows the reader to understand the structure of the story (Tyson 2006: 235).

## **c. Formula**

The formula is the foundation of all the novel's narrative grammar, which illuminated by the use of Todorov's schema of proposition. The function of the schema is to discover how the text is structured by the pattern of relations among the recurring action (which are analogous to verbs) and attributes (which are analogous to adjectives) associated with particular characters (which are analogous to nouns). In other words, formula is to discover how the text is structured by repetition of the same grammar in the same sentence, and to speak (Tyson 2006:235).

## **1.7 The Methods of the Research**

There are three stages in conducting this research; they are collecting data, analyzing data, and presenting the result of analysis.

### **a) Collecting Data**

In collecting data for the research, the writer uses library research method. The data are divided into two categories; primary and secondary data. Primary data are taken from L. Fank Baum's novel entitled *The Wizard of Oz* is American classic fantasy children literature which was premiered in 1900. The novel is very popular in the US even around the world. For secondary data, the writer gets the sources from library and internet which can help the writer to get information about related issues of the structure

of narrative. Some data are also from the collection of books, journals, articles, essays, and other relevant sources which are found by browsing the internet.

#### b) Analyzing Data

In analyzing the data the writer uses Todorov's narratology as the main theory of the research. After that the writer continues Todorov's framework in analyzing syntactic aspect and semantic aspect. Firstly, Todorov suggests that the first step to analyze the narrative of a work is to 'squeeze' the narration into the smallest narrative unit or predicate. After depicting the narration in the form of predicate, the analysis has to be interpreted as what is the main predicate, how predicate is arranged in chronological order and how the causal relationship between the predicate is. Secondly in the episode of analysis, the writer has to posit the predicate into the frame of narrative. The last, the analysis examines the actant, the predicate, and the attribute the adjective of the story.

#### c) Presenting Data

In presenting the data, the writer uses descriptive method. It means that the writer reports and delivers the analysis by using narrative techniques. Additionally, this research provides the table or diagram to make it easier to explain about the finding.

