

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In the process of writing a novel, an author usually has the intention of delivering a message to the readers. The content of the message may have the purpose of informing as well as entertaining the readers. Moreover, every author has his or her own way in telling a story which may be different from others. The way an author expresses his or her thoughts through the chosen words and structures shows the characteristics of his or her style.

Style itself can be found either in a spoken or written text. It may also occur not only in literary but also in non-literary works. Commonly, style has always been associated with literary works (Leech & Short, 1981, p.11). Based on this brief explanation according to Leech and Short, style is defined as “the linguistic characteristics of a particular text” (p. 12).

Under the scope of linguistics, the study of style belongs to Stylistics. Stylistics is a relatively new discipline invented by Charles Bally at the beginning of the 20th century (Herteg, 2005). Stylistics is the study of linguistic form and its

relation to literary function (Leech & Short, 1981, p.13). According to Leech and Short, there are four stylistic categories: lexical, grammatical, figure of speech, cohesion and context. These categories make it easier for us to collect data on a systematic basis (p. 75).

In this thesis, I would only focus on the use of figures of speech because it is an interesting topic to discuss. Readers will usually get more interested in reading a text containing figures of speech as they basically focus on deviations from the ordinary and literal form or meaning.

Figures of speech are mostly found in literary works such as poems, novels, and dramas. In this thesis, I choose a novel as the data source to analyze. Novel is “a story long enough to fill a complete book, in which the characters and events are usually imaginary” (Hornby, 2010, p. 1006). I choose a novel whose target readers are children because children’s mind is full of imagination. Therefore, the author should prepare an effective device to entertain the children. One of the devices is the figures of speech.

I choose a children’s novel written by Roald Dahl. Roald Dahl is a British novelist who writes short stories, poems, and film scripts. He also writes many novels for children: *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator*, *Danny the Champion of the World*, *Esio Trot*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *Matilda*, *The BFG*, *The Enormous Crocodile*, *The Twits*, and *The Witches*. Dahl has been referred to as "one of the greatest storytellers for children of the 20th century" (“Roald Dahl Biography,” 2017, para.1). He also won several awards, such as the World Fantasy Award for Life Achievement in 1983, the British Book Awards' Children's Author of the Year in 1990, and he was

ranked 16th of the 50 greatest British writers since 1945 by *The Times* in 2008 (para. 1).

Of all Roald Dahl's children novels, I choose *Fantastic Mr Fox* as the source of data in my thesis. I am interested in analyzing this novel because there are many unique figures of speech in this novel. Moreover, the storyline is interesting because of its tense and unpredictable events, which keep its readers from feeling bored, and make them want to read more. The title "Fantastic Mr Fox" also attracts me because the author uses the repetitive initial sound /f/ in the adjective 'fantastic' and 'Mr Fox'. These reasons make me decide to choose this novel.

Fantastic Mr Fox was published in 1970. This book tells about Mr Fox, who often steals from three farmers named Boggis, Bunce, and Bean. One day, the three farmers are finally wild with rage, so they plan to dig the fox out. However, Mr Fox has a fantastic plan to overcome the situation.

The significance of this study is to make people aware that figures of speech appearing in literary works have an essential role of making the text more interesting to read. Moreover, through this thesis, the readers will hopefully be given more knowledge about what is meant by figures of speech and their roles. People are also expected to appreciate figures of speech more from this analysis.

(Word Count: 712)

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In this thesis, I am going to analyze the following problems:

1. What are the figures of speech which the author uses in *Fantastic Mr Fox*?
2. What are the author's purposes in using the figures of speech in *Fantastic Mr Fox*?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purposes of this analysis are:

1. To identify the figures of speech the author uses in *Fantastic Mr Fox*.
2. To elaborate the purposes of the figures of speech used in *Fantastic Mr Fox*.

1.4 Method of Research

First, I learned the stylistic theories that are useful to analyze the text. Second, I read some Roald Dahl's novels and chose one of them as the primary text. Third, I selected and categorized the data based on the types of figures of speech. Last, I wrote the research report.

1.5 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis is divided into four chapters. Chapter One is Introduction, which consists of Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two is Theoretical Framework. Chapter Three is the analysis of the use of figures of

speech in the novel. Chapter Four is Conclusion, containing some personal opinions and comments on the findings elaborated in Chapter Three. Last, the thesis ends with Bibliography and Appendices.

