

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Everyone has their own style, whether it is the way they speak, dress, behave, etc., which makes them different from other people. This also concerns the style of writing. According to *Literary Devices*, “The style in writing can be defined as the way a writer writes and it is the technique which an individual author uses in his or her writing. It varies from author to author and depends upon one’s syntax, word choice, and tone” (Style, n.d.).

A writer’s style of writing can be detailed, while another writer’s may be simple and straight to the point. Besides, a writer may write using a narrative style if she or he wants to describe an event in sequence. No matter what the style is, it is important to notice that a style of writing has to be outstanding in order to get the readers’ attention. An ordinary style of writing has no much appeal to the readers. A piece of writing will be more intriguing if the way it is delivered is different from what is out there.

A branch of linguistics that studies style is called Stylistics. In other words, Stylistics is the study of style in language. Stylistics is the study which explores how readers interact with the language of texts in order to explain how they understand, and are affected by texts when they read the text.

There are many areas in stylistics, and narrative structure is one of them. Narrative structure is a way of telling stories. The same story told by different people will have a different effect on the readers. Similarly, when we read a narrative poem, each person has their own way of telling a story and the effect will also be different. I find this interesting and hence, I am going to focus on analyzing the narrative structure. In this thesis I decide to analyze the narrative structure of Roald Dahl's narrative poem, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, which I find atypical and captivating.

Literary Devices defines a poem as “a collection of spoken or written words that expresses ideas or emotions in a powerfully vivid and imaginative style, comprising of a particular rhythmic and metrical pattern” (Poem Definition, n.d.). There are many types of poems such as epic poems, couplet, free verse, haiku, and narrative. However, I am going to focus on a narrative poem by Roald Dahl.

Roald Dahl was born in Llandaff, South Wales on 13th September 1916. Dahl was famous as an author of children's novels. Even though Dahl was popular for his works, he was also criticized because of his harsh style in writing his works. For instance, Dahl's children's books have been the subject of some controversy. Critics and parents were also concerned about his works that show children's harsh revenge on adults that did immoral things. Dahl, however, stated that children have

a cruder sense of humor than adults, and that he was merely trying to appeal to his readers.

On 23rd November 1990 in Oxford, England, Dahl passed away at the age of 74 at Radcliffe Hospital. During his writing career, Dahl wrote nineteen children's books and nine short story collections. He also wrote movie and television scripts (Roald Dahl Biography, 2016, par. 14).

One of Roald Dahl's works is *Revolting Rhymes*. It is a book which consists of six famous fairy tales in the form of poems and they are illustrated by Quentin Blake. It was first published in 1982 and was the first of Dahl's collections of comic verses for children. The six stories featured in *Revolting Rhymes* are: *Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf, and The Three Little Pigs*.

I choose to analyze *Jack and the Beanstalk* because I find it breathtaking. The poem is similar to the common narrative versions I have read. However, Dahl's version is fresher or more entertaining for Dahl's version is significantly different from the common versions we have read, and also it is funnily twisted.

The topic is worth analyzing because it can make people aware of Dahl's style of writing. People should start realizing that the form of writing is as important as its content. Therefore, a writer's piece of writing with an outstanding style of writing deserves high appreciation.

726 words

1.2 Statement of the Problem

These are the problems that are going to be analyzed:

1. What is the narrative structure of Roald Dahl's *Jack and the Beanstalk*?
2. What is the effect of the use of the narrative structure of Roald Dahl's *Jack and the Beanstalk* on the readers?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

These are the purposes of this study:

1. To find out the narrative structure of Roald Dahl's *Jack and the Beanstalk*.
2. To find out the effect of the use of the narrative structure of Roald's Dahl's *Jack and the Beanstalk* on the readers.

1.4 Method of Research

The first step is I read some literary works and chose the unique one that can be analyzed, in this case *Jack and the Beanstalk*. The second step is I decided to use the narrative structure as the area of Stylistics to analyze the poem. Then, I analyzed the narrative structure and its effects on the readers. The last step is I wrote the research report.

1.5 Organization of the Thesis

There are four chapters in this thesis. The first chapter 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. The second chapter is

Theoretical Framework, which contains the theories used as the guidance to analyze the thesis topic. The third chapter is the analysis of the narrative structure of the poem itself. The fourth or last chapter is the conclusion of the analysis. Bibliography and Appendices are provided at the end of this thesis.

