

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

It is common knowledge that language is one of the things that differentiates human from other living creatures. Every person around the world must have acquired at least one language. Language is regarded as one of the most necessary aspects in our lives. We use it to communicate with and to convey our mind to other people (Evans, 2014).

According to Lin (2018), there are three main functions of language as a means of communication; they are informative, expressive, and directive functions. What is meant is that language enables us to give and receive information because everyday conversation is about sharing information. Language is also used to help people convey their feelings and emotions. Besides, language directs people to have norms and culture in life. Therefore, language is the central aspect of our lives.

The three functions of language are reflected in both spoken and written realms because in both realms, language usage is very important to convey things.

In written realm, one of the uses of language is to tell a story. In a story, besides informing the series of actions, language plays the same important role in making the story interesting. The writer has to think not only what ideas he wants to write about but also how he should write his ideas (“Effective Use of Language,” n.d.).

The use of language in a story may be different from one writer to another. This is because every person has different ways in conveying their messages. The writer’s way in conveying their mind in a written realm is called a writing style. In linguistics, an area which deals with style is called stylistics. The main focus of stylistics is dissecting the writer’s writing style to find out the reasons why the writer uses certain expressions and what aesthetic effects are produced from the language used by the writer (Leech & Short, 2007, p. 11).

One of the texts in which a writer’s style can be clearly seen is fiction. According to *Merriam Webster*, fiction is “literature in the form of prose, especially novels, that describes imaginary events and people” (“Fiction,” 2018b). As mentioned in *Literary Devices*, the function of fiction itself is to entertain, educate, and inspire the readers through its story (“Fiction,” 2018a). In fiction, the so-called *package* that wraps the idea of the story is also considered important. It is because the outer shell that covers the story can make the main ideas of the actions in the story become more interesting to read.

In stylistics, there is a specific area of study called narrative structure which deals with the structure of a story in a narrative. According to William Labov (as cited in Toolan, 1998), narrative structure is divided into six elements: abstract, orientation, complicating action, evaluation, resolution, and coda (pp. 137-138).

In this thesis, I would like to analyze Roald Dahl's style of narrating a story. Roald Dahl is a famous author of children's novels from South Wales. He started his writing career as a writer for magazines. In 1942 he published his first children's story which unfortunately was not really successful. He then wrote macabres and mysterious stories for adult readers. After he had a family, he always told bedtime stories to his children. It led him to his career as an author of children's stories—using his children as his experimental subjects. He opined that children lose their interest so quickly; thus, a writer has to be able to keep the story interesting enough so that the time will tick without being noticed (Biography.com Editors, 2017).

Dahl first established himself as a children's novel author in 1961 and has become a great successful children's story author since then. He also wrote other things besides children's stories. Until his death in 1990, he had published 19 children's books, nine short story collections, and several television and movie scripts (Biography.com Editors, 2017).

Many of Dahl's works become popular because he cleverly uses language to convey his ideas. His writing style is unique and worth analyzing. He uses many clever techniques to make his story interesting, especially those children's stories.

Out of all his works, I choose *The Enormous Crocodile* as my data in this thesis. *The Enormous Crocodile* is a fiction for children which was first published in 1978. It is not as popular as *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*; yet, the narrative structure in this story is unique and worth analyzing. From this story, we can see Dahl's amazing narrating style.

I believe this thesis is significant because by knowing the narrative structure and the effect of it, we can appreciate every aspect in a story more. Besides, we will also be able to appreciate authors who have unique and interesting ways in writing their stories as this is not something simple to do.

(808 words)

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In this thesis I would like to analyze the following problems:

1. What is the narrative structure of Roald Dahl's *The Enormous Crocodile*?
2. What are the effects of Roald Dahl's narrative structure in *The Enormous Crocodile* on the readers?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purposes of this study are:

1. to find out the narrative structure of Roald Dahl's *The Enormous Crocodile*;
2. to find out the effects of the narrative structure in Roald Dahl's *The Enormous Crocodile* on the readers.

1.4 Method of Research

In doing this thesis, there are several steps done. The first and the most important step which I did is deciding to analyze the narrative structure, which is in stylistics. Then, I decided to analyze Roald Dahl's *The Enormous Crocodile* as my data source. Finally, I wrote the research report.

1.5 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of four main chapters, Bibliography, and Appendices. The first chapter is Introduction, whose sub-chapters are Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two contains the theoretical framework of this study. In Chapter Three, I provide the narrative structure analysis of Roald Dahl's *The Enormous Crocodile*. The conclusion of this thesis is put in Chapter Four. In Bibliography, I list all the references used in this thesis. The last part is Appendices, in which I put all the data of the analysis.

