CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the narrative structure of Roald Dahl’s narrative poem, “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs”, I would like to give my personal opinion and comments on the findings which have been elaborated in Chapter Three. Overall, there are so many different versions of “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” and I find that Dahl’s version is the most captivating.

The first finding I would like to address concerns the six elements of the narrative structure in “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs”. In Dahl’s version, I find there are only five elements that exist, namely orientation of participants, complicating action, evaluation, resolution and coda. On the other hand, abstract and orientation of the setting of place and time cannot be found. In my opinion, the absence of abstract and orientation of the setting of place and time is what makes this poem enchanting. There is no introduction of what the story is about; thus, it may hinder the reader from feeling bored. In the beginning they may think this poem is just the same as the original; therefore, they will be surprised as well as entertained when finding the unpredictable things in this poem.
Another finding focuses on the seven complicating actions found in Dahl’s “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs”, especially the sixth and seventh actions which get totally different from the original story. In those two last complicating actions of the poem, it is told that Snow White cleans the seven dwarfs’ house and cooks for them; besides, Snow White also steals her step mother’s magic mirror to help the seven dwarfs win the gambling. Thus, it is clear that in the sixth and seventh complicating actions, Dahl does not make his narrative poem, “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” exactly the same as the original version which is about the happily-ever-after of the marriage between the major characters. Considering that the poem is intended for children, I find that the reader will realize that the story in this poem is not as naïve as other fairy tales. The ‘naughty’ side of the story is really intriguing and this, I believe, is one of the things that contribute to the great quality of Roald Dahl’s writings. I find this different part intriguing because it makes a distinctive style between Dahl’s works and the other writers’.

The next finding is the use of both external evaluation and internal evaluation that have a big impact in keeping the reader pleased. Dahl uses eight data of external evaluation having the effects of creating humor, supporting characterization, building suspense, giving additional information and emphasizing an idea. Those effects make a closer relationship between the writer and his reader, which I personally think is a brilliant strategy.

In the internal evaluation, I find the intensifying evaluation is the most dominant type in “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs”. There are twelve data of intensifying evaluation. I believe that Dahl uses the intensifying evaluation as the most dominant type to attract the reader’s attention to the important parts of the
story as well as embellishing the poem. By doing this, he can entertain children the most.

Furthermore, Dahl also uses one data of correlative evaluation and five data of explicative evaluation; however, comparator evaluation is not found in this poem. Since this poem is intended for children, I believe it is suitable for the poem will be less complicated. This is a smart strategy which makes Dahl an outstanding writer.

In the intensifying evaluation, the dominant category is repetition, namely the sound repetition in the form of rhyme couplets. The use of sound repetition is imperative to appeal the reader’s sense when reading as it makes the poem rhythmical. I find that this category plays an important part to make the reader, especially children, keep interested in reading this poem. Hence, this together with all the elements of evaluation emphasizes Dahl’s ingenious skill in using the power of language.

Another finding worth commenting on is the twisted ending in the resolution. Before the reader reads the resolution part, she or he has already noticed that “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” is different from the original version; as a result, it will naturally lead to their curiosity of the ending. In the resolution, I find that Dahl makes an uncommon and unpredictable ending. Despite it being a happy ending, the happiness lies in the fact that Snow White and the seven dwarfs become millionaires, thanks to the magic mirror which helps them in winning the gamble. The ending of his poem is funny and naughty at the same time. This definitely makes him a distinguished writer. Besides, in my opinion, this unpredictable ending contributes to Dahl’s style in all of his works, which can enrich the literary world.
As in many children’s stories, Dahl gives a lesson in the end, which is the coda. Dahl puts a lesson that gambling is not a sin as long as we win it. I believe Dahl’s point in his coda is not to tell children that gambling is a right thing. On the other hand, if the reader sees the coda implicitly and more deeply, it will be found out that Dahl’s message is more on emphasizing the realistic value in life. It can be said that in reality people still do the gambling even though they know gambling is a sin. By seeing that the intended reader is children, some people may have an opinion that this poem is rather inappropriate for children. Consequently, it is recommended that parental guidance should be done when children read this poem, in order not to make them misunderstand the main idea of this coda.

There are various effects of the narrative structure of Dahl’s “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” on the reader, which is children, namely making children curious, encouraging children’s imagination, pleasing children with humor. I believe that from these effects on children, Dahl has managed to make a big contribution in helping the children to be fond of reading literary works.

Lastly, I would like to give the utmost appreciation for Dahl’s “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs”. It is because his wittiness in using the language and the unpredictable ending and coda are superb. In spite of the fact that there are some words or actions which may be a bit inappropriate for children, it cannot be denied that “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” is Dahl’s ingenious piece of work.

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