

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION

Subsequent to what I have analysed, I would like to conclude and discuss more on my findings about the narrative structure of James Garner's *Rapunzel*. From the analysis, I found that Garner's story, although still conforms with Labov's narrative structure, has a really different plot from any other *Rapunzel* fairytales. Besides, he chooses to remake a children story into a story only adults could understand. He also puts his different style of writing which can be seen from the evaluation part of his *Rapunzel*.

The narrative structure theory that I use to analyse the story starts with the abstract, and in Garner's version, he decides not to include any abstract in the story. I think, the reason why he does not include any abstract is simply because he wants the readers to think that the story is similar with the original one, as people must have been familiar with how the story works. Thus, the readers will expect certain events to happen and will be surprised when the plot changes. This will make the readers interested about what to happen next.

In the orientation part of the story, Garner is still trying to make the characters similar with what we have known from the original story of *Rapunzel*. Despite being similar, Garner chooses to bring some differences on the story. For example, he lessens the characters' name in the story and only focuses on one character—Rapunzel—as she is the only one who is given a name. In addition, the absence of the time and place settings in this story makes it more universal, since it can happen in any place or time period. By doing so, I think Garner wants to include the readers into the story as they can identify themselves with the characters in the story. Besides, the readers can feel being in a story with characters and setting of time and place which are in accordance with what the readers can imagine.

The third structure is the complicating action, which is the beginning of the plot change. From three complicating actions that I found, the last complicating action is the most important change of the story. While the first two complicating actions are still similar to the well-known version of the story, Garner drops a hint of twist at the third complicating action when the prince convinces the witch to make Rapunzel enter music industry. As we know, the original story tells about how the prince wants to free Rapunzel and live a happy life together with her. Therefore, this complicating action hints the readers that this story is different from what they used to know.

Next is the most important point of Labov's narrative structure; evaluation. This is where we can find the writing style that Garner uses, especially in the internal evaluation. In the internal evaluation, I only focus on analysing the intensifying evaluation so as to show how the author intends to make his story looks more vivid by including some linguistic features namely lexical items related to

feminism; lexical items to describe the characters, settings, and actions; lexical items related to capitalism; exclamation; interjection; repetition and graphology. Garner delivers the vividness of the story by giving specific descriptions of some characters, settings of places, and actions of the characters. He also indirectly drops some other hints of the twist in the story by using lexical items related to feminism and capitalism in telling how the characters act or what they say.

Meanwhile, the external evaluations on this story are more about Garner's explaining that he does not want to make stereotypes in his story. Almost all the external evaluations, except one, are Garner's comments of how some characters are not to be generalized as what we have known because once again, Garner wants to show that his version of *Rapunzel* is different from other *Rapunzel* stories. After analysing both the external and internal evaluations, the evaluation part of the story takes a big role in showing how Garner uses some linguistic features as his own style to deliver his message through the story. He carefully includes lexical items related to feminism and capitalism so as to make his version of the fairy tale politically correct.

The resolution follows after the evaluation, and this can be said as the closure of the story. In this part, Garner finally shows the twist of his version of *Rapunzel*. After giving so much hints throughout the story, Garner shows a very different ending for *Rapunzel*. Uniquely written, the ending is far from the common ending, *Rapunzel*'s marrying the prince and living happily ever after. Garner chooses to let *Rapunzel* live freely on her own after being imprisoned for years doing nothing. This has changed the whole story into something that only adults can understand, the principle of woman rights to do everything freely. The last stage of the narrative

structure is coda, which Garner does not include in this story. In my opinion, Garner does not use any coda in this story is because he wants the readers of this story to think of what moral lesson they get after reading the story by themselves. This reason leads to the fact why Garner targets adults rather than children in the remake of his own *Rapunzel*.

Looking at how Garner's style of writing is shown in the story, I can conclude that Garner tends to deliver hints to the readers so that the readers would think deep inside the story instead of only understand the story from how the plot flows. Garner puts some linguistic features not only to make the story more interesting to read, but also to deliver the deep meaning of the story which is the political messages just like what the author hints in the title of this book. Moreover, what is interesting about this story is that Garner remakes the story so that the readers could relate the story more to the real situations in life, in which everyone can also experience. Even when we look at the title of the book, it can be seen that Garner tries to make the story more political and connected to real life. This is strongly shown at the end of the story when Rapunzel is told to be able to live a free life and to do what she wants after years being imprisoned and not being able to do anything. In my opinion, Garner tends to stand for female rights, that women should get out of their limitation, especially the limitation because of gender, to do everything freely.

Overall, the analysis helps me to show how Garner's writing style affects the structure of the narrative. This analysis also shows the purpose of Garner's changing the plot of children stories into something that adults could relate to their life, which results in the interesting, educative, entertaining or worth-telling story to the readers. I hope that this analysis could be informative to other researchers who also want to

analyse some author's style of writing, especially James Garner's other versions of children stories.

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