

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

As social beings, we cannot deny that everyday we interact with other human beings, including the opposite gender. Both males and females are special in their own ways and usually they have different attitudes and approaches to the things around them. In addition, sometimes males have the tendency to act like other males and females also have the tendency to act like other females. According to *collinsdictionary.com* (n.d.), these tendencies which cause particular types of persons or things to have their own fixed general images in the society are called stereotypes.

Being part of a society, human is also a cultural being, meaning that we can never ignore our culture and history as we learn and live from the past. This leads to the fact that the stereotypes of people may be different from time to time. I find this phenomenon interesting to analyze.

Ever since ages ago, it has been known that one of the ways of gaining the knowledge about gender stereotypes from generation to generation is through literary works, such as novels, poems, short stories, etc. This is due to the fact that

writers usually put what they observe or experience around them into their literary works. They may also include their viewpoints of the world in them.

When we are talking about gender stereotypes, we cannot deny that stereotyping can cause a specific gender to struggle more than the other as it receives different treatment from other members of society. United Nations Human Rights (2014) states that females have always been treated differently from males, whether it is in the family or society or even in the government, thus making them the main victim of this gender stereotyping. This fact is one of the reasons why gender discrimination is a common topic as well as one of the most sensitive issues written in literary works.

One of the famous authors who have been well known for bringing up this issue of gender discrimination is Roald Dahl. According to *bbc.co.uk* (2016), he has produced a lot of famous masterpieces and has been known for his works that were inspired by the things happening around him. Many of his works show that females are treated differently from males and one of them is "The Way Up to Heaven", which is a short story.

In this thesis, I am interested in analyzing the representation of the characters in Dahl's "The Way Up to Heaven". Representation is the portrayal of someone or something in a particular way. The way females and males are treated differently is partially because they have different representation in the society. In order to find out the representation of the male and female characters in the short story, I would like to use a semiotic approach.

Semiotics is the study of signs which are used to deliver meanings (Semiotics,n.d.). Through a semiotic analysis, we can uncover things that are explicitly and implicitly stated by interpreting the meaning of the signs in a text. Doing a semiotic analysis of a literary work is good in order to also find out the hidden meaning conveyed by the author through the deep level analysis.

A.J. Greimas (1966) proposes several semiotic theories and two of them are the actantial theory and the canonical narrative schema. The actantial theory can be used to show the representation of someone or something by analyzing the events in diagrams. The diagrams show various elements that take part in the event, which can guide one to understand how a certain gender is represented in a literary work.

Furthermore, Greimas' actantial model is confirmed by the canonical narrative schema, which divides the narrative into several logical stages. The stages in the canonical narrative schema are contract or manipulation, qualifying test, decisive test, and glorifying test. With the help of these two theories, I am going to analyze the female and male stereotypes found in Roald Dahl's "The Way Up to Heaven".

The result of my analysis is going to be beneficial for the society as stereotyping and gender discrimination are still a sensitive issue in the society nowadays. This analysis can also help readers to be more critical in reading a literary work as they can dig a deeper level of message conveyed by a writer.

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## 1.2 Statement of the Problem

With the help of the two linguistic tools Greimas proposes, I would like to analyze the following problems:

1. How is female represented in Roald Dahl's *The Way Up to Heaven*?
2. How is male represented in Roald Dahl's *The Way Up to Heaven*?
3. How is the female and male representation in Roald Dahl's *The Way Up to Heaven* related to the stereotypes of female and male in the West in the 1960s?

## 1.3 Purpose of the Study

By answering the questions above, I would like to be able:

1. to identify how female is represented in Roald Dahl's *The Way Up to Heaven*.
2. to identify how male is represented in Roald Dahl's *The Way Up to Heaven*.
3. to find out how the female and male representation in Roald Dahl's *The Way Up to Heaven* is related to the stereotypes of female and male in the West in the 1960s.

## 1.4 Organization of the Study

This analysis is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is Introduction, which includes Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem,

Purpose of the Study, and Organization of the Study. Chapter Two contains Literature Review, which includes the definition of representation, Semiotics, Greimas' Actantial Model, Canonical Narrative Schema, and the previous study. Chapter Three covers my methods of research, including the research design, data collection technique, the framework for my analysis, dan how the data is analyzed. My analysis is included in Chapter Four, which discusses the female and male representation in *The Way Up to Heaven*. The last chapter is Chapter Five, containing the conclusion of my analysis, followed by References and Appendices.

