

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION

In this chapter I would like to give my personal comments and opinion of the result of the discussion on female and male representation in "The Way Up to Heaven" by Roald Dahl, which I put in Chapter Four. Besides, I would also like to give my suggestions to future researchers concerning the research.

Previously in Chapter Four, I have divided "The Way Up to Heaven" into two sections. The first section, which is the first half of the story, consists of three important events both from Mrs. and Mr. Foster's viewpoints; whereas the second half of the story consists of two events only from Mrs. Foster's viewpoints.

Through these three events in the first half of the story, I think Dahl is being a great storyteller who wants to build up the tension in order to keep his readers' curiosity. Each event contributes up to a point where Mrs. Foster as the main character of the story has finally had enough and decides to make a change, which initiates a turning point in the story. This part is the most interesting part of the story because this is where the main actions happen. The rest, which is the second half of the story and consists of two events, is a part where the tension starts to drop and the problems start to be resolved.

Based on the structure, "The Way Up to Heaven" is a short story that has a simple, yet interesting plot. In addition to that, every event in the story is well-organized, which makes it easy for any reader to understand what the literary work is about. In my opinion, Dahl is a very experienced and outstanding writer, because through his work he can keep his readers entertained with his simple writing style without neglecting the importance of the room for readers' curiosity. In addition to that, Dahl is an expert of misleading his readers, making them unaware of the possible turnaround, which results in a surprising ending.

Another thing worth commenting on is Mrs. Foster's character development. In the first section, from the first three events, Mrs. Foster has always been depicted to be passive and obedient to her husband, and therefore, she is considered a submissive housewife. From the diagrams in the first section, it can also be seen that Mrs. Foster, despite being an obedient housewife, ends up suffering even more.

In the second section, Mrs. Foster is represented differently as an individual who is no longer passive, but decisive. This is also one of the reasons why in the diagrams in the second section, Mrs. Foster's hidden traits as a housewife, such as her decisiveness and composure, assist her more than hindering her.

Through Mrs. Foster's character development, I believe Roald Dahl wants to say something about the stereotype of women in the West in the 1960s and how women should stand more for their equal rights, which can also be related to the

rise of the second wave of feminism in the late 1960s. Dahl is really a genius in being able to read what is happening around him and put it in a piece of writing.

Furthermore, in my opinion, through Mrs. Foster's character, Dahl wants to show a sign of optimism and a hope that women can actually do many things. Through Mrs. Foster as the main character of his story, Dahl wants to show the readers a different side of women that people have either never seen before or ignored. He wants to show that it is also important for us to see the story from women's perspective to understand what they truly want and to realize that they deserve being treated as equal to men.

The diagrams analyzed in the previous chapter also allow us to see things from Mr. Foster's viewpoints. It is clear that throughout the story Mr. Foster as the subject is always pictured as a man who asserts his dominance to his wife as the object. However, little does he know that his being domineering ends up becoming the cause of his demise.

In this point, I am of the opinion that Roald Dahl wants to be satirical. Despite knowing that men possess a domineering quality, Dahl chooses to end his story with the male character's loss. This is excellent as readers can be made aware of the fact that if someone wants a change, they will have to do something to ensure that the change really takes place. It means women have to fight for their own rights because it is women who are suffering from this discrimination and men obviously enjoy their status as superior individuals.

Uncovering the hidden layer of meaning of a literary work, such as "The Way Up to Heaven", is not an easy task to do. I think it is mandatory for every

reader to have at least some knowledge of the stereotype of women and men in order to understand why a specific character behaves differently from the others. In addition to that, knowing some important events happening around the time when the literary work was written will also help the readers to understand the reasons why writers decide to choose a specific theme or create the characters for their stories with unique behaviours. All in all, without this knowledge, readers will only be able to explore the surface layer of the story.

To sum up, I believe Dahl has several important messages for all his readers. "The Way Up to Heaven" is not only meant to inform that women are submissive and men are dominant. It invites the readers to also think about how women should have been treated and how the qualities they possess can in fact be such a great contribution for many aspects of life.

I hope this analysis can be useful for future researchers who are going to try to analyze literary works using a semiotic approach. Another linguistic tool, such as Barthes' Five Codes, can be applied so as to improve the analysis since this will certainly provide a much more detailed result. For future references, a good story to analyze is a story that is not too long, but provides many interesting things to analyze. In addition to that, it is also easier to analyze if there are characters in the story that have unique behaviour that is different from other characters.

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