

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Every writer has their own style which makes their writings unique and different from one author to another. This writing style depends on some factors such as the language they use, the way they play with their choices of words, and the tone they use. By definition, the style in writing refers to “the way a writer writes. It is the technique that an author uses in his writing. It can also be described as a “voice” that readers listen to when they read the writings” (Literarydevices.net, n.d.).

The purpose of having a particular writing style is to draw the readers’ attention and make them interested to read the work of an author. The writing style of an author can also help the reader to distinguish between the work of one writer and another. In addition, it can be said that a different style of writing in retelling the same story can give different effects on the readers as well as the plot of the story itself.

In order to analyze an author’s writing style, there is a study in linguistics called Stylistics. According to Leech and Short (2007), Stylistics is a linguistic approach to literature, explaining the relation between language and artistic

function (p. 11). Stylistics also can be used to analyze anything that concerns language such as advertisement, news headlines, song lyrics, and most importantly it can be used to analyze an author style of writing through narrative structure.

The narrative structure generally means “a literary element generally described as the structural framework which underlies the order and manner in which a narrative is presented to a reader, listener, or viewer” (Definitions.net, n.d.). There are several theories which can be used to analyze a narrative. However, in this thesis, my primary focus is to analyze the writing style of an author using Labov’s narrative structure.

According to Labov (1972), a narrative structure can be divided into six elements. The first element is abstract; this is a brief summary of the story. The next one is orientation, which is an introduction of characters and both setting of time and place. The third one is complicating action, which concerns the main events in the story. Then, the fourth one is evaluation, which functions to highlight the interesting part of the story. Next is resolution which is the answer of the problem in the story, and the last is coda which is a moral lesson from the story (as cited in Toolan, 2002, pp. 137 – 139).

Although there are six elements in Labov’s narrative structure, the most important element for a stylistics analysis is the evaluation. It is due to its function which is to highlight the interesting point of the story to the readers. Besides, evaluation is the element which contains the narrative’s linguistic features such as repetition, gestures, and graphology. Evaluation is divided into two types, namely external evaluation which, contains some comments added to the story by the

writer, internal evaluation, which is used to emphasize some parts in the story. Internal evaluation is divided further into four sub types: intensifying, comparator, correlative, and explicative evaluation (Toolan, 2002, pp. 139 – 140).

In this thesis, my primary focus is to analyze the narrative structure in a narrative poem. A narrative poem is “a form of poetry which tells a story, it is often making use of the voices of a narrator and characters as well and it is usually written in metered verse” (Definitions.net, n.d.). In other words, a narrative poem is a kind of poem which has a plot structure in order to tell a story.

I choose one narrative poem titled “Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf”, which is taken from Roald Dahl’s book titled *Revolting Rhymes* to analyze in this thesis. Roald Dahl is a Welsh author who is famous for his reputation as a writer of deathly tales with unexpected twists (Notablebiographies.com, n.d.). In *Revolting Rhymes*, Roald Dahl gives his own re-interpretation of some famous fairy tales. He adds some humour in the story and elements of surprise for the ending instead of the happily-ever-after type of ending, which makes the story different and interesting to analyze.

I choose to analyze “Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf” using the narrative structure since it is an appropriate tool for the analysis. I use the narrative structure in order to know how the story is made different by the author along with some changes and twist endings. In addition, I also want to know the effect of this particular structure on the readers in terms of reading enjoyment and understanding of the story.

The significance of this study is to make people aware of the presence of the narrative structure in a story, which can be utilized to arise the readers’

curiosity and interests to read and finish the story. Furthermore, the study is important to show what effects narrative structures can give on the readers.

(821 words)

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The Statement of the Problems of the thesis are:

1. What is the narrative structure found in “Little Red Riding Hood and The Wolf”?
2. What is the effect of the use of the narrative structure to the readers?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

Based on the Statement of the Problem, these are the purpose of the study:

1. to find out the narrative structure in Roald Dahl’s “Little Red Riding Hood and The Wolf”
2. to find out the effect of narrative structures to the readers

1.4 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters. The first chapter is Introduction, which consists of Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, and Organization of the Thesis. The next chapter is Literature Review, which consists of the explanation of the theories I use in this analysis. It also presents a previous study that uses the similar theory as that of mine to analyze a narrative writing. The next chapter is Methods of Research, which consists of an explanation of a step-by-step analysis that I make for this thesis. Next, Chapter

Four consists of the analysis of the narrative structure. The last chapter is Chapter Five, which presents the conclusion of the analysis. Subsequently, I end my thesis with References, which contains a list of sources I use in this thesis. Last, I provide Appendices.

