

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Stories play an important role in the growth and development of children. It helps them improve their reading skill, vocabularies, and their way of thinking (The Writers Bureau, n.d.). A story or a narrative means a sequence of interesting events that provide the readers with a “significant change” between the beginning and the end (Toolan, 2002, p. 136). It is important for a story to be interesting in order to make the readers keep reading it until the end. There are some factors that make a story interesting: the writer’s choice of words, the content of the story, and the structure of the story (Now Novel, n.d.). However, it is still up to the writer how to wrap and present it to the readers in an interesting way.

What makes a story interesting does not depend only on the plot; it also has something to do with the writer’s writing style. Every writer has their own writing style to attract the readers in reading their stories, for example, the writing style of the famous writer of *Alice in Wonderland*, Lewis Carroll. Carroll uses “simple syntax and short sentences” (Shmoop, n.d.) with a lot of emphasizing using italics

and capital letters (Rivu, 2009). Besides Carroll, there are a lot of writers with their own unique styles in writing. Among them is Roald Dahl, who catches my attention.

Roald Dahl is a prolific writer who has written various types of works such as short stories and novels for children and adults, poems, and screenplays (Roald Dahl, n.d.). Some of his famous works are *The BFG*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *Matilda*, and *Fantastic Mr Fox*, which are stories for children. In his writing, he inserts his personal style in structuring the story as well as using various unique features that make his stories become more interesting and captivating (Charka, n.d.).

The features in an author's writing can be analysed through a linguistics branch namely Stylistics. Stylistics studies the style of writers through the language and linguistic features that they use (Mukherjee, n.d.). It is also considered a "literary criticism" which focuses on the language used by the author (Ramtirthe, 2017, p. 2). By analysing a writer's writing style, we can learn a lot about the writers, including—but not limited to—the message they want to tell the readers. There are a lot of ways in which we can analyse a writer's style; one of them is by analysing the structure of their story, or the narrative structure.

Narrative structure is the frame of a narrative that consists of six elements which are intended to make readers enjoy the story (Toolan, 2002, pp. 136-137). William Labov (1972, as cited in Toolan, 2002, pp. 137-138) proposes that there are six elements of narrative structure: abstract as a preview of the story, orientation as an introduction to the characters and the settings, complicating

action as the problem occurs in the story, evaluation as the comment given by the author, resolution as the answer of the complicating action and coda as the message from the writer (pp. 137-138). However, the most important part in Linguistics area that will be analysed in this thesis is the evaluation (p. 139). It is because the evaluation part contains the most linguistics features which will be able to reveal the personal style of the writers and it contains more “valuable information” than the rest of the elements (p. 139).

Due to Dahl’s unique style, it is believed that one can learn a lot from analysing his works. This prompts me to choose one of his works for children, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, as the data source for my analysis. The novel, which is about a young boy named Charlie, who wins the opportunity to experience a tour in Wonka’s Chocolate Factory, is going to be analysed using the theory of Narrative Structure by William Labov. I believe that there are a lot of interesting linguistics features that can be found in the novel. In addition, I would also like to see how the narrative structure of the story affects the readers’ understanding and enjoyment in reading the story.

The significance of this thesis in linguistics field is to add the number of research of literature in linguistics field, especially in the Stylistics area. The result of this thesis can also be used as a reference for future studies that want to analyse Dahl’s writing style and can be used as a comparison for future researchers who want to make a comparison between Dahl’s writing style with other authors’ writing style.

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## 1.2 Statement of the Problem

These are the problems that become the main focus of this thesis:

1. What is the narrative structure found in the novel *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*?
2. What are the effects of the use of the narrative structure in the novel *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* on the readers?

## 1.3 Purpose of the Study

Based on the Statement of the Problem, the purposes of this study are:

1. to find out what is the narrative structure in the novel *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.
2. to find out the effects of the use of the narrative structure in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* on the readers.

## 1.4 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters. The first chapter is Introduction with four subsections: Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, and Organization of the Thesis. It is followed by the second chapter, Literature Review, which consists of the theories used in this thesis—Stylistics and narrative structure—and a review of previous study. The third chapter is the Methods of Research with four subsections: Research Design, Data Collection Technique, Framework for Analysis, and Data Analysis. Chapter Four presents the analysis of the narrative structure of Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate*

*Factory.* Finally in Chapter Five, there is the conclusion of the findings. At the end of the thesis, I also attach References and Appendices.

