

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

C.S Lewis is known for his work on medieval literature, literary criticism, and fiction. It is said that “The interesting thing about C.S. Lewis is that he had a very clear picture of good and evil as direct personal, human concepts and that he could bring them to life in his writing.(APA:NESFA #33).

Lewis’ best known work today is his series The Chronicles of Narnia. The Chronicles of Narnia is a series of seven fantasy novels for children and “is considered a classic of children's literature.” (“About C.S Lewis”) The books are rich with Christian ideas which are easy to understand even by young readers; however, the books can also be read for their adventure, color and richness of ideas alone.

The Chronicles of Narnia present “the adventures of children who play central roles in the fictional realm of Narnia, a place where animals talk, magic is common, and good battles evil. His most famous works, the Chronicles of Narnia, contain many strong Christian messages.” (“About C.S Lewis”).

I choose the last series of Narnia, The Last Battle to be analysed because this last book ends and completes the whole series. Mark Baker says “[The Last Battle] is a stirring conclusion of a great series. The symbolism is strong, and I find this book one of the most interesting of the series from that stand point ... it’s a wonderful ending to a wonderful series...”

The Last Battle is rich with symbolism related to Christianity. However, in this novel common christian symbols such as the cross that symbolises christianity or Job that symbolises patience will not be found. In his novel, Lewis creates his new Christian symbols. Literary symbol is “something that means more than what it is. It is an object, a person, a situation, an action, or some other item that has a literal meaning in the story but suggests or represents other meanings as well.” (Perrine 216).The literary symbols that I will analyse in this novel are the characters.

A lot of critics relate this book to the book of Revelation. One of the critics says that The Last Battle “speaks of an end reminiscent of that foretold in the book of Revelation” (Bixodoido). Although it is true that most events mentioned in the novel alludes to the book of Revelation, I find that the symbolism employed in the novel connects more widely with the whole Bible rather than only Revelation exclusively. Thus, my analysis of the symbolism will be more based on the Bible in general. I use the New International Version Bible as the reference.

I have quoted above that this book “contains many strong Christian messages.” (“About C.S Lewis”) therefore, after analysing the symbolism, I will conclude the Christian message revealed through the symbolism.

STATEMENTS OF THE PROBLEM:

After reading the novel, I would like to analyse:

1. How do characters in The Last Battle function as symbols?
2. How does the meaning of the symbols related to the Bible?
3. What is the Christian message revealed through symbolism?

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY:

This study is done in order:

1. To identify how the characters in The Last Battle function as symbols
2. To relate the meaning of the symbols to the Bible

3. To reveal the Christian message revealed through symbolism

METHOD OF RESEARCH:

Method used in this thesis is library research. I use the New International Version Bible as the reference to reveal the Christian messages contained in the novel. I also read and compile some text that is taken from the internet.

ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS:

This thesis consists of three chapters. The thesis starts with acknowledgements. The first chapter is the introduction containing Background of the Study, Statement of the Problems, the Purpose of the Study, Methods of Research and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter two contains the analysis or hypothesis of The last Battle, and the last chapter contains conclusion. The thesis ends with Bibliography, which contains the synopsis of the novel and Biography of the author.