

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

There are many kinds of movies, depending on whom they are for. There are movies for adults, teenagers, and children. Movies for adults and teenagers are usually about romance, politics, and daily life. Meanwhile, movies for children are usually of educational content. This is because children are still in the learning phase.

There are many ways for children to learn. One of the ways is through watching cartoon movies. Children are easily bored in doing something, for example, in learning new words. If they feel bored, they will refuse to learn. That is why the makers of children's movies should be able to make the movies as interesting as possible. As a result, children will not feel bored and still they will get the moral lesson as well as the educational messages by watching movies.

Many children like to watch cartoon movies because those movies are funny and interesting. The funny and interesting things are reflected in the characters, their voices, the music, and the pictures. One of the cartoon movies for children which are funny and interesting is Winnie the Pooh movie. Mark Baker

from Santa Clarita, CA, the United States gives a comment that Winnie the Pooh is good for small children. The film is also good for pre-readers to early readers. Small children and pre-readers to early readers will get a chance to follow the words and the pictures through the characters, voices, and music in the movie. (http://www.superkids.com/aweb/pages/reviews/1st_look/wtp/kids.shtml)

Besides the characters, their voices, and the music; language play can make the movie funny and interesting, as David Elkind says:

. . . play provides a best defense against stress because it allows for the flexibility a child needs while working out of his or her questions about the perceived world. Play allows children to assimilate and accommodate at a rate that is personally satisfying. If a child has found learning to read to be stressful in any way, play is a way to help restore cognitive flexibility as well as a positive attitude. These characteristics contribute to complex nature of play and reveal the qualities that makes language play capable of serving “use of mind”, as well as language and literacy development.

(<http://www.enc.edu/org/theachered/literacy/languageplayactivities.htm>)

As Elkind says, language play helps children’s brains to improve in their language, without their realizing it especially vocabulary or even their ability to read and write.

The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh is one of the Winnie the Pooh movies which are very popular among children. This movie contains the three earlier short movies: “Winnie the Pooh and the Honey Tree”, “Winnie the Pooh

and the Blustery Day”, and “Winnie the Pooh and Tigger, Too.” By watching it, children can learn new words. In the movie, Pooh creates songs and ditties about the situations that he finds himself in and enjoyments in rhyming words. For example, Pooh says to Christopher Robin, "aim me at the bees please" when he is hanging from a balloon looking for honey. Similar to Pooh, children can also learn to be creative by formulating their own words. (http://www.superkids.com/aweb/pages/reviews/1st_look/wtp/kids.shtml)

I choose The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh as the source of my data because this is one of the funniest and most interesting cartoon movies. The funny and interesting things are shown through the characters, voices, music, and pictures. Moreover, it contains language play.

According to David Crystal, language play is ‘an action of manipulating the language by blending and breaking the rules’ (Crystal 1). Language play has hidden purposes through bending and breaking the rules, for instance enjoyment and relaxation (Cook 227). Crystal also says ‘When people tell each other jokes, make puns, recite limericks, or put on silly voices, they are doing far more than communicating ideas. They are enjoying the way in which the rules of language can be manipulated for humor or entertainment’ (Crystal 464).

There are four aspects of linguistics which I will use in analyzing language play. They are Morphology, Phonology, Graphology, and Semantics. Morphology is ‘the study which focuses on the structure of words and word formations’ (Crane, Yeager, and Whitman 96). Phonology is ‘the study of how the speech sounds are organized and how they function in language’ (Crane, Yeager, and Whitman 72). Graphology is ‘a relatively minor and superficial part of style;

concerning such matters as spelling, capitalization, hyphenation, italicization, and paragraphing' (Leech and Short 131). Semantics is 'the study of word meaning' (Crane, Yeager, and Whitman 129).

Language play in this movie helps children to learn new words. 'It will encourage them to do like Pooh does, for instance, think up words that rhyme with one another. Rhymes are the building blocks to poetry and children can have a great time thinking up simple rhyming words such as 'dog', 'log', 'fog' etc'. (<http://www.femail.com.au/learningthroughdisney.htm>)

The significance of this analysis is to find out what kinds of effects are produced on children as the movie watchers due to the use of language play in The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh movie. As a result, children will be aware not only of the story in this movie but also of the utterances which are used. The utterances are an important means through which language play can be found.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

1. Which words in The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh movie contain language play?
2. What kinds of language play are they classified into?
3. What is the effect of the use of language play on children?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

Based on the statement of the problem, the purpose of the study is:

1. To list the words in The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh movie which contain language play.

2. To identify the kinds of language play.
3. To explain the effect of the use of language play on children.

1.4 Method of Research

For the process in gathering the data, I follow a number of steps. First, I watch the movie while collecting the data which are appropriate for the analysis. In addition to taking data from the movie, I take the data from the movie script on the Internet. Second, I select the data based on the kinds of language play. Third, I analyze the data which have been classified according to the statement of the problem. Finally, I write the result of the analysis as a research report.

1.5 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of four chapters. Chapter I, the Introduction, contains Background of the Study, Statement of Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter II, Theoretical Background, presents the linguistic theories used to analyze the language play in The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh movie. Chapter III contains the analysis. Chapter IV, the Conclusion, contains my personal opinion and comments on the discussion. This thesis ends with the Bibliography and Appendices. The Bibliography presents the list of the references I use in writing this thesis. The Appendices present the tables of data.