

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

From the analysis of the origins of the spells in the first six of the Harry Potter novels, I can draw a conclusion that Rowling is truly brilliant in making the Harry Potter story. It also proves that in creating the Harry Potter novels, J. K. Rowling must have made several serious and ingenious researches. The sense of actuality of the story is felt through the use of words, specifically the spells, which seem meaningless but which are actually meaningful if further analysed.

The first six of the Harry Potter novels prove to contain spells, the origins of which can be analysed. This constant use of spells is an important element in a story of the wizards' world. The spells in the Harry Potter novels are equally crucial as the spells in the witch period in the Early Middle Ages. This, I believe, reflects the fact that Rowling aims at creating the magical sense of the Early Middle Ages. The spells in those ages, which are said to have had the powers to turn milk sour, to strike people dead, to cause powerlessness, to cause diseases,

to raise storms or to move objects, are similar to the ones in the Harry Potter novels. The magical sense of the Early Middle Ages is also created through the use of words originating in the Latin and Greek languages, as the spells in the Harry Potter novels. As we know these two languages are the languages used during the witches' period in the Early Middle Ages. This is a highly creative work as the readers will feel the sense of the reality of the English history.

Rowling's creativity in imposing her great imagination on the reader's mind through the spells that she creates and which originate from the Latin and Greek languages is closely related to the cleverness and extraordinary talent of hers in mastering the Latin and Greek languages. It makes sense when we figure out that Rowling studied French and Classics at the University of Exeter. Rowling is familiar with Latin and Greek because both of them are the Classical Languages which were used as the international means of communication in the Middle Ages.

The percentage of the use of the Latin language as the origin of the words used as the spells in six of the Harry Potter novels that I analyse is 90 %, which is much greater than that of the Greek language. In my opinion, it is because Latin has influenced the English language since before the Old English era, while Greek has influenced the English language only since the Modern English era. I think it means that the Latin language has a greater influence than the Greek language, as the Latin language had already started influencing the English language long before the Greek language did. When we relate this fact to the other fact about the popularity of the magical world at the period when the Latin and Greek languages

were used, we can see clearly how cleverly Rowling creates both the multiple effects of actuality and the great imaginations throughout the novels.

Rowling's brilliant ways in forming the spells as new invented words have so far used two basic mechanisms, namely neologism mechanism and borrowing mechanisms. The percentage of the use of the neologism mechanism is 60% and the borrowing mechanism is 40%, which shows that they are more or less used in the same portion. Both mechanisms clearly show Rowling's luminous inventiveness in dealing with word formations. It becomes one of the factors that prove that she has made the spells through several important and clever researches.

In this thesis, the spells become one of the elements that can help us understand the English history. In searching the word origins of the spells, the facts in the history that are strongly related to the meaning of the spells can be found and appreciated. Through the spells, the English history of the Early Middle Ages in 500 to 1,000 AD is revealed. In my opinion, the way of Rowling embodies history as part of the story is interesting. This approach is a positive appraisal of the history as part of human life.

Through this thesis, we can also appreciate the development of language. We can see how a language has its own history, how the meanings have developed and how the forms have improved. We can also see how cultures or customs which are popular at a particular age can have an effect on the language used and how languages have influenced each other in various ages. The vocabulary of a particular language can get wider through the passing of time as the effect of the changes of culture throughout a particular age. On the other hand, language can

also lose some of its words when there are old-fashioned words in a particular era. This is also seen in this analysis, in which the use of the Latin and Greek languages in the Early Middle Ages, the period when witches were admired, affects the use of the Latin and Greek languages as the origins of the spells in Harry Potter novels, which are also about witches, but which are only written recently. It shows that language is living. In my opinion, knowing this will make language learners and language users realise the richness of language.

Out of the three methods in Etymology, I find that in searching the origin of the spells the comparative method is applicable for all data in the analysis. By this systematic comparison of the spells and their related languages, I can detect which words are derived and which are borrowed from the ancestor language. This method has proved to be effective in finding out the origin of words. This method is helpful when it is supported with suitable sources, such as the Dictionary of Latin Language and Online Dictionary of Greek Language.