

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

A story is a piece of fiction that narrates a chain of related events. In narrating the events, the medium used is language. Language also controls the relationship between the writer and the readers. A writer puts his ideas using language and readers are supposed to get the writer's ideas when they read them.

A writer will use a certain writing style to attract the reader's attention. The writing style is important to make the writing different from the other, especially when a writer wants to make a story for children. Michael Rosen, a Children's Laureate, said that writing for children means thinking about the writer's own past, while staying in touch with children at present. Thus, a writer should think about the things he had in his childhood, but at the same time he also has to consider that many things may not be the same as before. (Rosen)

A writer of children's books has to make his/her book enjoyable for the target readers. That is why a children's book writer has to be creative in his/her writing style. Moreover, a children's book writer has to find a way to write a story not only in an understandable way but also full of interesting things.

Each of children's book writers has his/her own unique style of writing.

One of the best children's book writers is Roald Dahl. It is clear that Roald Dahl has a creative and humorous style when it comes to writing children's books. With lots of language play, sound words, interesting ways of using adjectives and humorous poems, he makes his books interesting for children. He uses specific names with interesting ways of describing things, as well as using figures of speech which complement the different characters in their personality and features. He also loves twisting words and playing with the sentence structures. Furthermore, personification is often used in his works so as to transform the characters, mainly animals, into more human-like, in which they have a mind of their own and can speak like real humans. The use of animals is used to bring closer the gap between the characters and the target readers themselves. (Liukkonen)

Much of Roald Dahl's writing is influenced by his childhood experiences. Because of those experiences, his writing style will definitely be full of excitement to attract young readers. Those are bound to capture the attention of young readers. Also, Roald Dahl makes a reader psychologically part of the story, which keeps the reader wanting to read more. He said "I have a passion for teaching kids to become readers, to become comfortable with a book, not daunted. Books shouldn't be daunting, they should be funny, exciting and wonderful; and learning to be a reader gives a terrific advantage." (Liukkonen)

Considering that Roald Dahl's children's books have a distinctive writing style, it certainly is interesting to analyze Roald Dahl's writing style and the stylistic categories or devices in his books. The reason why I choose to do a stylistic analysis is that this subfield of Linguistics is very useful and helpful to

explain why Roald Dahl chooses to write children's books in a particular way and how the linguistic description can be used in analyzing the style of Roald Dahl's children's stories.

In the analysis, Stylistics will be applied as the major theory. Stylistic analysis is part of both linguistic and literary studies. It is practised as a way of interpreting the possible meanings in a literary work. It is also generally believed that the process of analysis will reveal the good qualities of the writing. For the source of data, I will use Roald Dahl's children's book, *The Enormous Crocodile*. I decide to choose this text because I think it has a special stylistic categories or devices that can be analyzed. I will also use the theory of Stylistics to analyze the writing style and its categories or devices by using some linguistic theories in Geoffrey N. Leech and Michael H. Short's *Style in Fiction*.

This analysis is significant as it will make us have a deeper understanding of how children's book writers achieve their effects through language. Literary stylistics has the goal of explaining the relation between language and artistic function. By reading this analysis, we can also appreciate not only the story, but also how the story is written. Besides, my analysis can help readers to respond to a literary work in a more appreciative way and to observe its language.

(738 words)

## **1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The problems that I am going to analyze in this thesis are formulated as follows:

1. What are the stylistic categories which Roald Dahl uses in *The Enormous Crocodile*?

2. What is Roald Dahl's purpose of using such categories?

### **1.3 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

The purposes of this analysis are as follows :

1. To show and explain the stylistic categories that Roald Dahl uses in his children story, *The Enormous Crocodile*.
2. To find out Roald Dahl's purpose of using such categories.

### **1.4 METHOD OF RESEARCH**

I begin the research for my thesis by finding and reading the novel and some references which are related to the topic that is discussed. I also browse some further information about the topic in the Internet. Then I analyse the data based on the theory. In the end, I write the research report.

### **1.5 ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS**

I divide this thesis into four chapters. The first chapter is the Introduction, which consists of five parts: Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two contains the Theoretical Framework, which is the explanation of the theories used to analyze the data. Chapter Three contains the analysis of the use of the stylistic categories in Roald Dahl's *The Enormous Crocodile* and Chapter Four is the conclusion of the analysis. At the end of the thesis, I put the Bibliography and the Appendices.