

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

It is beyond doubt that children's world is not far from imagination; therefore, there are many authors who use their creativity to arouse children's imagination through children's literature ("Taiwan Literature"). However, only a few of them are expert at playing on words. Roald Dahl is undoubtedly the most successful children's writer in the world ("The Independent").

The fact that Roald Dahl has a creative and humorous style when it deals with writing children's books is unquestionable. His books for children such as Dahl's second book *James and the Giant Peach*, which was first published in 1961, are rich in words with extra-ordinary sounds, interesting adjectives and humorous poems. These points make his books popular among young readers, and therefore arouse my interest in analyzing one of his works.

The source of my data is a novel by Roald Dahl, namely *James and the Giant Peach* and its Indonesian translation *James dan*

Persik Raksasa by Poppy D. Chusfani. I use both novels as the data of my research. I would like to analyze the Indonesian translation of language play, compared to its source text in English. It is possible that some problems will arise when readers do not use English as their primary language; therefore, the readers need the translation to understand the novel.

James and the Giant Peach is a wonderful children's story with many adventures and outstanding characters ("Review James and the Giant Peach"). As in many of Roald Dahl's works, the central character is a poor and deprived child, so is with James Henry Totter as the central character in *James and the Giant Peach* ("Review James and the Giant Peach").

Roald Dahl is a British novelist, short story writer, fighter pilot and screen writer who wrote books not only for grown-ups, but also for children. Besides *James and the Giant Peach*, Dahl wrote *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, *The Gremlins*, and many other stories. Concerning his children's stories, he once said that wild exaggeration of his points was the only way to get through to children.

Roald Dahl is probably the most popular and best-selling children's book author since his collection of short stories has been translated into many languages and has become best-sellers all over the world ("Biography of Roald Dahl"). However, these stories are so sarcastic and humorous that adults also appreciate reading them ("Biography of Roald Dahl"). Most of Dahl's books are fantasy. There is always a little cruel, but the story is never humourless. It is an exciting combination of the silly and amusing things ("Biography of Roald Dahl"). Died in November 1990, Roald Dahl is called as one of the most widely

read and influential writers of their generation by *The Times* (“Biography of Roald Dahl”).

The topic of my thesis is Analysis of the Translation of Language Play in Roald Dahl’s *James and the Giant Peach*. As it is defined that language play is divided into two types, namely play with language form and play with units of meaning (Cook 27) and I also want to show that Dahl is great not only in one aspect of linguistics, but also in other aspects with various devices that are related to language play; therefore, I am going to analyze all linguistics aspects that I have found in the English novel. In addition, I would like to compare various data for many devices in each aspect of linguistics in the English version to the translated version; therefore, I am not going to analyze the whole data because of the limitation of words for this thesis. I only analyze the first four data (from p. 8, the beginning of Chapter 1, to p. 145, the middle of Chapter 37) to the maximum for each device in each aspect of linguistics. However, if the data found for each device is less than four, I would analyze the whole data.

In analyzing the language play, I use a linguistic approach both in the English novel as well as its Indonesian translation to explain things related to the language play. The linguistic elements in the analysis are phonology, which deals with sounds of words; morphology, which deals with word formations; and semantics, which deals with meanings of words.

Concerning translation, translators need not only accuracy, but also the ability to translate language play since language play has an important role in making a story more interesting. They have to be able to translate by noticing the

form, which is concerned with the style or structure of the words, and the sense, which is concerned with the content or meaning of the word (Hatim and Munday 10).

By analyzing language play in Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach* and Its Indonesian translation *James dan Persik Raksasa*, I would like to give the readers a better understanding of language play found in the novel and its translation in order that they can enjoy and appreciate language play as one part of linguistic aspects. By having an understanding of language play in the novel, the readers will be able to enjoy reading it better.

For other researchers, this thesis can be used as a comparison to do a better research on a similar topic. For translators, this thesis may give information about the functions of language play found in children's novels. The insight can help them to produce better sense and form in translating language play. By translating language play in the novel or other literary works accurately, translators can convey amusing and pleasant ideas to readers based on the source text.

(892 words)

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In this thesis, I am going to analyze:

1. What form(s) of language play is/are found in *James and the Giant Peach*?
2. What is the translation of the language play?

3. Which element(s) does/do the translator keep: the form, the sense, the form and the sense, or neither the form nor the sense?
4. What is /are the effect(s) of the language play and its translation on the readers?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

By carrying out the study, I intend:

1. To describe what form of the language play.
2. To show the translation of the language play.
3. To find out which element(s) the translator keeps: the form, the sense, the form and the sense, or neither of the form nor the sense.
4. To describe the effect(s) of the language play and its translation on the readers.

1.4 Method of Research

I searched for some examples of famous children's stories and chose *James and the Giant Peach* and its Indonesian translation *James dan Persik Raksasa* as my data. I read both novels and collected data from them. I analyzed all the data by using some theories from books which deal with linguistics. I also searched for other information needed from the Internet to support my analysis. Then, I wrote the report.

1.5 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of four chapters. It begins with Chapter One, the Introduction, which contains Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Next is Chapter Two, which provides the linguistic theories used as references in analyzing the language play. Then, it is followed by Chapter Three, in which I present the analysis of language play in *James and the Giant Peach* and *James dan Persik Raksasa*. The last chapter is Chapter Four, which contains the Conclusion. I list the books and other references from the Internet that I have consulted in writing this thesis in Bibliography. At the end of this thesis, there are Appendices, which consist of the list of data in a table that I have analyzed and the copy of the data from the two novels.