

Chapter I

Introduction

1.1 Background of the study

Nowadays, fantasy genre is popular among children, teenager or even an adult. Fantasy could even be a genre that uses magic and other supernatural phenomena because the primary element of plot, theme, and/or setting. Fantasy can be called as a creative imagination. Often, the plot involves magic or witchcraft and takes place on another planet or in another dimension of this world. Most often the overall theme of the setting is medieval in tone, meaning that some combination of the architecture, clothing, language, and technology resembles the European Middle Ages. Many times, the plot also involves mythical creatures or talking animals, witches or sorcerers. One of the biggest benefits of reading fantasy, is that anything can happen (a world where magic or other mystical elements are an everyday occurrence). It can also help us to appreciate our world as well because our world doesn't have some creatures that often appear in the novel.

In the fantasy genre, mythological creatures are often found to make the story more interesting for the readers. Mythological creatures are creatures whose existence is told in mythological stories, legends and fables. The creature is also related to the folklore of a tribe. Mythological creatures are generally fantastic, both in their shape or ability. Mythological creatures can be fantastic

animals, mixed animals, even hominoid creatures (shaped like humans). Hominoid creatures in myths and legends have stories of their origins; some of them have different versions but refer to one thing in common. Mythological creatures have supernatural powers (some good, some evil), powers that have no physical explanation. Many of mythological creatures in Narnia was adapted from greek mythology such as Centaur, Faun, Dryad, Mythical gods (Silenus and Bacchus), Satyr.

For examples, The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe and The Chronicles of Prydain: The Black Cauldron are use fantasy genre and have a lot of mythological creatures in the story.

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and therefore the Wardrobe is one among the novel series written by Clive Staples Lewis. It was first published in 1950 in UK. It was the first 7 published book of The Chronicles of Narnia and the best known book of the series. This book tells about the story of 4 siblings who accidentally travel into a phantasy world called Narnia. They are children who become victims during the World War 2 and evacuated from London to escape from the air raid by Nazis. They are sent to the house of Professor Digory Kirk located in English countryside. In this house, they find the wardrobe which leads them into the fantasy world of Narnia. The adventure begins soon after they meet the magical creatures who live in Narnia.

The Black Cauldron is Lloyd Alexander's second book of The Chronicles of Prydain series. The story begins in the land of Prydain, lowly pig herder named Taran dreams of becoming a gallant knight. Taran receives his heroic calling when the evil Horned King kidnaps Hen-Wen, a prophesying pig that had been entrusted to Taran. With help from his friends, Gurgi and Princess Eilonwy, Taran must take the magical black cauldron before The Horned King that might be able to use its mystical powers to summon an army of the undead.

The researcher choose those book because it will build the plot of the whole story also the book has fantasy genre and mythological creatures that makes the story more fascinating. Furthermore, those book has a lot of mythological creatures that appear to stimulate the imagination and desire that is ingrained in human nature to experience more than this physical world. This research will be discuss about the mythological creatures that appear in that two novels itself, by explaining what they do in the story and what their contribution in the story so the novels become more interesting to read. Therefore, this research uses Vladimir Propp's "Morphology of The Folktale" by applying the thirty one functions of *dramatis personae*.

Some of the other researchers have examine about the other issue with the same book (Vladimir Propp's "Morphology of The Folktale"). One of the researcher have explored Vladimir Propp's theory. Takenori Wama discuss about "Analysis and Generation of Japanese Folktales based on Vladimir

Propp's Methodology" . In his study, he analyzed Japanese folktales by using Vladimir Propp's Methodology to find the differences between Japanese folktales and Russian folktales.

With the same method, Hasina Fajri has conduct a research based on Vladimir Propp which titled " Gonggang ri Sadoqkoq: Morfologi Cerita Rakyat Vladimir Propp". She analyzes the character function, scheme and pattern of the story, and the way the characters are introduced uncover the uniqueness and the exclusivity owned by the Torajanese oral tradition using Vladimir Propp theory.

Dicky Hidayat's "Morphology Analysis of Lutung Kasarung Comic Based on Vladimir Propp Theory. This study aims to describe the functions contained in the comic, by analyzing the story on the comic morphologically. He used Vladimir Propp's method to shows what functions are available and what functions are unavailable in the story.

Another research that discuss about mythology was conducted by Egha Skinna Glory. She emphasizes "The Influences of Norwegian Myth in The Ring Symbol in The Lord of The Ring: The Fellowship of The Ring Novel". From the material object, the study emphasizes on the Norwegian myth symbol found in thiss novel and describes the influences of ring symbol in Norwegian myth.

Vincent Woolyanto explores about “Historiophoty in The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe”. This research aims to find how historiophoty interpreted in the historical events of The Chronicles of Narnia: the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. He find that there are 10 hstorical events in the novel.

Another research is Sayyed Rahim’s works on “Greek Mythology in J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter and The Sorcerer’s Stone” focus about the Greek mythological references in the novel “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone” by J. K. Rowling. He used “Mythology” written by Edith Hamilton (1969) as a source because it covers many accounts of the myths and stories of Greek mythology.

1.2 Research Question

- What Vladimir Propp's functions that appear in The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe.
- What Vladimir Propp's functions that appear in The Chronicles of Prydain: The Black Cauldron.
- To what extent Vladimir Propp's functions show similarities in The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe and The Chronicles of Prydain: The Black Cauldron.

1.3 Research Objective

- How mythological creatures portrayed in Proppian functions that influence the plot of the story in the novel.

1.4 Purpose of the study

- Examine what Vladimir Propp's functions that appear in The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe.
- Examine what Vladimir Propp's functions that appear in The Chronicles of Prydain: The Black Cauldron.
- Similarities between The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe and The Chronicles of Prydain: The Black Cauldron based on Vladimir Propp's functions.

1.5 Significance of the study

The researcher expects that this study will encourage other researcher in conducting other themes and problems found in the same novels. The researcher give an expect that this research will be useful in helping readers to better understanding of mythological creatures that appear in the novel.