

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the study

Discussing about children's literature is quite enigmatic for many definitions from the critics alike are different to one another. According to Schneider (2016) children literature is a literature that is specifically written and/or tell a story about children as well as literature that are not written for or about children but they are willingly to read it. This gives a wider definition to the genre. Furthermore, for adults to decide which of the literature for children to read is crucial. Much of the story tells about a child but the situation that the child is in it is not for children. For instance, a book entitled "*The Littlest Bitch*" by David Quinn (2010) tells about a bossy young girl who aspires to become a capitalist and have a business tycoon. It illustrates a child but the story is not for children to consume.

Lesnik-Oberstein (1999) defines children's literature is a literature genre that supposed to have a relationship with its readers which are children. It should connect with children through its language, narration, and moral value that they can reflect and those aspects should be the main concerned for writing children's literature. She added

that children's literature is a book in which good for children and in turn it indicates that in two terms: "children" and "literature. Within the label of children's literature, the two terms cannot be separated, though it has its own meaning, and when reassembled they gave "children's literature" a better understanding. The "children" in "children' literature" refer to a specific idea for children. The "literature" in "children's literature" is a special idea of literature and not related to any other literature such as "adult literature".

Peter Hunt (1995) defines children's literature a little different from other previous experts. He argues that children's literature is a literature from sixteenth century chapbook to a twentieth century computer based, interactive device. It is everything from novel, graphic novel, problem novel to folk tales. Everything from poems to picture books, from textbook to horror stories, and from classical stories to superhero comics.

In the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, children literature hit its peak and widely considered as the "Golden Age of Children's Literature", due to many of the classic stories were published then. Some of the works in the nineteenth century was *Oliver Twist* and *Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, *The Three Musketeers* by Alexandre Dumas, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain,

The Adventures of Pinocchio by Carlo Collodi, and The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling to name a few.

The Jungle Book is a collection of children stories written by Rudyard Kipling published in 1894. The stories within are fables told in anthropomorphic manner to teach children about moral lesson. One of the chapters within The Jungle Book, aside from Mowgli's Brothers, Kaa's Hunting, Tiger! Tiger!, The White Seal, Toomai of the Elephants, Her Majesty's Servants, is Rikki-Tikki-Tavi that slightly different from other chapter. The majoring theme that circles around The Jungle Book is imperialism due to the settings of the stories mirrored with the world as the Britain was colonizing India. Rikki-Tikki-Tavi using the strong theme of imperialism with the element of heroism, while other chapter revolve around the theme of abandonment and fostering. However, heroism will be looked as a way of fighting imperialism.

The researcher focuses on heroism in Rikki-Tikki-Tavi as the main topic in this study for several reasons. Firstly, is to see heroism on the other side spectrum of the story. To see right or wrong, good or bad, through the eyes of the beholder, which are the colonized. Secondly, heroism is not the majoring theme in Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book and it makes Rikki-Tikki-Tavi a unique story to analyze. To some extent,

Rikki-Tikki-Tavi was a separate story from other stories in *The Jungle Book* though it is part of chapters of the anthology. There are seven chapters in *The Jungle Book*, three of which tells a story about the adventures of Mowgli and the rest of four chapters are independent, telling stories of their own.

In this story imperialism was heavily implied as Rikki fight the natural inhabitants of the land. Imperialism marked by the strong stereotypical that the animals represent in the story and many of which are negatives (Borkfelt, 2009). For instance, snakes are represented as dangerous and sly.

There are other previous studies that the researcher used in this study. The first one is "*Heroism Research: A Review of Theories, Methods, Challenges, and Trends*" by Zeno E. Franco, Scott T. Allison, Elaine L. Kinsella, Ari Kohen, Matt Langdon, and Philip G. Zimbardo (2016). In this study they discussed the theories that are used to analyze heroism as well as analyzing the psychology of heroism and the hero itself. This research will be used as the ground theory of heroism in the current study. The second one entitled "*Colonial Animals and Literary Analysis: The Example of Kipling's Animal Stories*" conducted by Sune Borkfelt (2009). The researcher of this study analyzed how animals are represented especially animals that are found in

colonized country. However, the research has not yet analyzed the attitude of certain animal to the colonies and the attitudes toward animals on a non-metaphorical level in imperial literature. The last one is conducted by Bart Moore-Gilbert (2002) entitled “*I am going to rewrite Kipling’s Kim’: Kipling and Postcolonialism.*” In this study, the researcher analyzed Rudyard Kipling’s relationship to postcolonialism as well as his influence to the Indian literature.

The previous studies above have not yet discussed about the relation and interaction between the colonized and colonizer through heroism and postcolonialism. Therefore, the researcher of the present study will be using heroism theory and postcolonialism. Heroism theory will be used as a tool to see how the colonized portrays it in the story. On the other hand, postcolonialism will be used as a tool to see the ways in which British empire applying its concept of imperialism in the story.

1.2. Research Question

1. How is heroism portrayed through the eyes of the colonized in Rudyard Kipling's short story Rikki-Tikki-Tavi?
2. How is imperialism portrayed throughout the story?

1.3. Purpose of The Study

The researcher aims to find out the portrayal of heroism through the eyes of the colonized in Rudyard Kipling's short story Rikki-Tikki-Tavi.

1.4. Scope of The Study

This study focuses on the text of the chosen short story in which convey the act of heroism and imperialism. However, the researcher observes and analyzed heroism and imperialism of the main characters and merely using other characters as a tool.

1.5. Significance of The Study

This study is expected to provide new perspective on heroism from classic children's literature and in the literature genre of fables. The researcher hope that this study would be beneficial for English Literature Program students who want to study heroism and/or fables.