

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland is one of the most familiar classic victorian age children story by Lewis Carroll and was published by Macmillan in 1865 with the illustrations by Sir John Tenniel. It has been sold hundred-thousands of copies and got translated into many languages. Depicted by artists from Dali to Disney, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* also has been concertized, dramatized, and filmed. *Alice Adventures in Wonderland* has fascinated children and adults alike for generations. It attracts global's attention with all the aspects in it feels so puzzled and creates a somekind of new world that makes people trapped inside it.

The story begins with Alice sits on a riverbank on a warm summer day, drowsily reading over her sister's shoulder, when she catches sight of a White Rabbit in a waistcoat running by her. The White Rabbit pulls out a pocket watch, exclaims that he is late, and pops down a rabbit hole. Alice follows the white rabbit and falls down a rabbit hole, changes size unexpectedly, and attends a tea party given by a March Hare. Along the way, she meets such unforgettable characters as the Mad Hatter, the Cheshire Cat, the Mock Turtle, the autocratic Red Queen, and other fanciful folk, until finally Alice finds herself awake on her sister's lap, back at the riverbank. She tells her sister about her dream and goes inside for tea as her sister ponders Alice's adventures.

Charles Dodgson, more widely known by Lewis Carroll has created that world where Alice falls down a rabbit hole and makes us unable to distinguish which one is reality and which one is a new world as it's called in the story as Wonderland. All about the complexity of Wonderland stuffs makes *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* becomes a never-ends discussions.

In the story, Alice is a curious girl and wanted to know everything, she always into questions for many things, she feels bored with her daily activities by particularly doing her assignments from school with many subjects, she feels lonely and always wants to share her thoughts to someone, and she is strongly governed by rules like other children her age. "Rules are explicit sets of conduct which are meant for everyone to follow to maintain order" as Roni Natov discusses in the article "The Persistence of Alice" (1979 : 54-55). Alice needs a place to spill out those desires and it's turn out to the tendency of escapism. "Escapism" is the desire to retreat into imaginative entertainment rather than deal with the stress, tedium, and daily problems of the mundane world" (Wheeler, 2016). Escapism is used as a way for the main character to break away from their uncontented of daily life and into magical and mythical worlds beyond their wildest dreams and it is the tendency to escape from daily reality by indulging in daydreaming, fantasy or entertainment. Escapism shows the need Alice desires although in *Alice in Wonderland* it's debatable whether or not she actually traveled to Wonderland.

Impulsed by her desires, Alice is trapped in her own perspectual reality and trying to find what she wanted to find. The Wonderland becomes a way for

Alice to escape from her reality which reflected in her dream and becomes a medium of channelization her desires which inversely from the reality. However, Alice couldn't separates her fantasy of wonderland from her reality. She couldn't differentiates which one is real and which one is artificial.

Moreover, Alice doesn't realize that the wonderland is actually a simulation ; the creation of a reality through a conceptual model, the model is a determining factor of view of the reality someone wants to create and that's where the boundary between the simulation of wonderland with her or his reality becomes mixed and thus creating a hyperreality (Baudrillard, 1988) as the result of her wildest desires. Hyperreality is a condition in which what is real and what is artificial are collapse and blended together so that there is no clear distinction to distinguish one from the other (Baudrillard, 1988). Baudrillard argues how contemporary culture and society has come to the point in which the real has disappeared and is replaced by models. This diagnosis of that condition is what he calls Hyperreality (Mendoza, 2010 : 45).

Alice's desires take the role as the conceptual model (her desires, needs and problems) that she wants to create or it is as the simulacra ; the representation precedes and determines the real. There is no longer any distinction between the reality and its representation; there is only the simulacrum of her desires (Baudrillard, 1988). "Whether Alice is tripping or dreaming or actually in a fantastical world, her experience of reality is the same. She experiences it as if it is real" (Parker, 2010 : 140). The theme of appearance and reality emerges time and time again in the *Alice* stories. What Alice perceives to be the case is not always

what really is the case. Consider that the whole Wonderland story itself is one huge dream, since Alice's sister wakes her up for tea at the end. Alice never really visited an actual place called Wonderland; she just thought she did (Arp, 2010 : 126).

Since the precession of simulacra appears in *Alice Adventures in Wonderland*, the novel provides a simulation thus creates a hyperreality and enthuse the possibility of escapism. This novel is an example of the escapism in the context of hyperreality and shows how the different world and the characters explores the issue of escapism, therefore, the researcher wants to analyze the Alice's escapism in the context of hyperreality in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. The analysis will be conducted based on Jean Baudrillard's Hyperreality theory in order to get a further information and understanding of Hyperreality interpretation in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

There are some previous related research that already discussed about *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and the hyperreality. First, the journal entitled "The Masculinization of the Female Hero in Tim Burton's *Alice in Wonderland*" by Alex Brink (2014). Brink discussed Burton's version of challenges the notion that Alice is a feminist heroine not by forcing her to return to gender norms and expectations but instead by pushing her to surrender to patriarchal ideologies and adopt masculine qualities. The researcher's purpose is to investigate whether Alice always been a Feminist Heroine in Tim Burton's re-imagining *Alice in Wonderland*? since the film reverses the feminist ideology of female empowerment gained through imagination and agency that was present in

Carroll's original text. The researcher concludes that Burton fails in his attempt to satisfy viewers "in search of strong, indelible female roles," by making Alice as masculine in her actions and personal characteristics as possible.

The second journal entitled "Hyperreality in Fan Page Post of Facebook" by Dian Puspitasari (2013). The research analyzes the virtual couple fan pages on Facebook viewed by Jean Baudrillard's hyperreality. The study aimed to reveal the aspects of hyperreality which happen in facebook fan pages and to acknowledge the Baudrillard's concept of hyperreality with users' interaction within International facebook fan pages and its forum in K-Pop fans community. The researcher find out that posts on facebook fan pages indicate and have a relation to baudrillard's concept of hyperreality. The users of facebook fan page show hyperreality through the post in the forum.

The third journal entitled "Alice in Wonderland: Development of Alice's Identity within Adaptations" by Finn-Henning Johannessen (2011). The research analyzed the development of Alice's identity in selected adaptations of Lewis Carroll's (1832-1898) *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865) and compared them to the original book. Johannessen applied discourse theory, established by Ernesto Laclau and Chantal Mouffe, to explore how the discourses, which Alice encounters on her side of the border and in Wonderland, shape her identity. Language, discursive articulations in the form of exposition, and bodily experience are agents in shaping Alice's discourses. I have applied border theory to understand how crossing over to and from Wonderland can be seen as entering a new set of discourses. Johannessen concluded that all of the adaptations, which

he analyzed, maintain several important elements and scenes, which are presented in the book and are important for Alice's developing identity.

From the related studies above, the researcher wants to depict another view concerning *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and Hyperreality. Although Hyperreality has been discussed in the one of previous study, but the object of the study are the posts in social media and not in the literary works such as novel. Also in the others previous study even though it was discussed the *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, but the theme is Alice in a feminist heroine view in the Tim Burton's movie. Another research pointing about Alice identity and exploring how the discourses, which Alice encounters on her side of the border and in Wonderland, shape her identity and not investigates how the hyperreality process operates. Therefore, this study is conducted to get deeper investigation of escapism of Alice in the context of hyperreality in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* novel by Lewiss Caroll.

1.2. Research Question

To focus the investigation on the basis of the reasons above, this study is mainly based on the question below :

How is Alice's escapism in the context of hyperreality operates in Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*?

1.3. Purpose of the Study

Based on the problem statement above, this purpose of study is mainly focused on finding out the mechanism of Alice's escapism in the context of hyperreality operates in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

1.4. Limitation of the Study

The study is limited on analyzing Alice's escapism in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll through the narrations. Baudrillard's theory of hyperreality is going to be used in the analysis.

1.5. Significance of the Study

This study is expected to give a better understanding and information about the analysis of Alice's escapism in the context of hyperreality as reflected in Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. This study hope to be a beneficial contribution to advance research related to Baudrillard's hyperreality theory and their relation to literary works, particularly for the students of English Department, of State University of Jakarta.

