

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum is a story that chronicles the adventure of a girl named Dorothy in the land of Oz. Dorothy is a young girl who lives with her aunt, uncle, and dog, Toto, on a farm in Kansas. One day a cyclone sweeps up the farmhouse. Dorothy and Toto are caught inside the house, but they survive and land in another place which then they knew as Munchkin Country in Oz. Dorothy asks for help to get back to Kansas. The good Witch of the North tells her to go to the Emerald City to talk to the Wizard of Oz who can help her. She bravely took a journey with hope that she could turn back to Kansas. On the way to Emerald City, Dorothy encountered with the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion who also have a wish to be fulfilled by the Oz. The three of them joined Dorothy to find the Wizard of Oz to fulfill their wish.

This novel is the best-loved American children's story and has been widely translated. The New York Times praised the novel for the writing that appeal children readers and the children who could not read yet. The Library of Congress also has declared *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* to be America's greatest and best-loved homegrown fairytale, also naming it the first American fantasy for children and one of the most-read children's books (Scottholleran.com).

Baum creates all the characters uniquely to attract reader's attention especially children so they have their own images of the characters in their imagination. The characters may be looked simple but sympathetic at the same time. The Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion have won the sympathy of generations

of readers. Part of this success is the creativity of Baum in constructing the depths of personality of those fantastic creatures. The Scarecrow complains that he has no brain, the Tin Woodman seeks a heart that he feel he does not have, and The Cowardly Lion is a coward in his own eyes. Even though these three characters are not human being, but the writer treats them same as human being because the writer considers them as the representation of human being for those characters have same traits as human being. Non-human characters is any creature displaying some human characteristics to be considered as a human (Laurie, 2015). Non-human characters are often founded in fantasy stories. Fantasy stories expresses a fragmentation of self-identical referent offering a power of transformation and the ability to conquer the primary world, through secondary world, and to explore and affect the possible aspects of human life (Aichele, 2013, p. 324-25).

The three characters do not realize that they already possess what they are searching for and end up being contradicted to themselves. They do not realize the potential they have owned. They believe by getting to Oz they can fulfill their desire to be what they wanted to be. They finally involved in a journey that will lead them to their self-discovery. All of this quest is to fulfill their desire since they want to actualize themselves in their society. Only by actualizing their self can be people live a truly authentic life and people realize that they are in charge of their own destinies (Maslow, 1943, p. 374). Basically, human being have goal, desire, and dream. They must fulfill their desires by self-actualizing themselves. Self-actualization happens because of the motivation to get achievement in the society by realizing their potencies as optimal as possible, whereas those three characters do not realize their potencies.

Self-actualization refers to the fact of using one's ability to achieve the meaning of life as much as he can. Self-actualization is "becoming what one truly is" (Maslow, 1970, p. 95) and self-actualization refers to the fact of using one's ability to achieve the meaning of life, as much as he can; it means "what a man can be, he must be" (Maslow, 1943 p.378). Carl Rogers, one of the founders of humanistic approach as Maslow, believes that self-actualized people have productivity which comes from the feeling of "freedom" (Nye, 2000, p. 105). They have freedom to actualize their talents so that they will get happiness, in fact, in this novel the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion do not have freedom. They have built wrong self-concept to their own self block off their eyes to see the potencies they already have. The journey to the Oz paves the way to achieve their desire which is, according to Abraham Maslow the sign of those people who reach self-actualization.

There are some previous related research which already discussed the novel and the issue. In 2012, Carly A. Orshan conducted a research with the title "An American Tale: Incarnations of the Wizard of Oz and the Negotiation of Identity, Race, and Gender, in Popular Culture" aiming to evaluate significant adaptations of the Wizard of Oz story that have stemmed from L. Frank Baum's original children's book and to examine the negotiations of national, gendered, and racialized identity addressed in each. The results are the works of Baum and Lumet's *The Wiz* position themselves within the historical moments of their individual creation, engaging with the anxieties surrounding race and national identity of their contemporary moments. In contrast, MGM's *Wizard of Oz* and the versions of *Wicked* by Maguire, Schwartz, and Holzman engage in ideological discourses of race, framing these interventions through difference and Otherness.

Second study entitled ‘‘Actualizing Identity, Self-Actualization in Emily Dickinson’s Poetry’’ by Nasim Zahedi Doost and Leila Baradaran Jamili (2014). This paper searches for identity and tries to find how the characters reached self-actualization. The present paper uses the theory of self-actualization by Abraham Harold Maslow and Carl Rogers, to challenge and analyze different aspects of actualization, and self-actualization in Dickinson’s poetry. It proves that how Dickinson under the influence of transcendentalism and the theory of self-reliance moved toward constructing and forming her identity, reached self-actualization, and found her real identity. There are some interesting points of her life in chronological order which helps to show that how during her literary career and life her identity has been completed. It develops this idea that Dickinson, as a spiritualist and a self-actualized poet, consciously chooses such a subject for her poems. For instance, ‘‘The Soul Selects her own Society,’’ ‘‘On a Columnar Self, You’ll Know it,’’ and ‘‘I’m Ceded I’ve Stopped Being Their’s’’ are the most famous poems in which Dickinson applies her self-actualized characteristics.

From the two related studies above the writer wants to contribute to give another view to the novel and the issue. The writer is going to investigate how the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion reach their self-actualization. The writer only chooses the three major characters namely the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion by excluding another major character which is Dorothy because those three characters are the one who have specific problem with their quest of their true self. In order to get deeper understanding about self-actualization the writer chooses Abraham Maslow’s Humanistic Psychology focuses on the hierarchy of needs that will be used to analyze the three major characters to reach self-actualization. The concept of self-

actualization was brought by Maslow in his theory hierarchy of needs as the final level of psychological development. This concept can be achieved when all basic and mental needs are fulfilled and the actualization of the full personal potential takes place.

1.2 Research Question

How do the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion reach their self-actualization in L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

Based on research question above, the research aimed to reveal how the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion reach their self-actualization in L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The scope of this research is the analysis of how the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion reached their self-actualization in L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. The theory of Humanistic Psychology focuses on hierarchy of needs by Abraham Maslow is going to be used in the analysis.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to give the student of English Department of State University of Jakarta a new insight about the analysis of self-actualization in L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. The writer hopes this study will help those who are attracted to the depth of personality that experience by the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion as depicted in L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.