

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

A literary work is a piece written and composed by someone to tell a story or convey a message. It typically centers on a character and the conflicts they must face, which may or may not resolve favorably. Throughout the story, the character displays various reactions and interacts with other characters as well as the conflicts within the narrative. According to Truby, the hero changes by the end of the story because he pursues his goal (2007, p. 12). Therefore, the character has become a different person after going through the conflict he must face at the end of the story. This process of personality change occurs when the character reacts to the conflict he faces and feels the urge to change his own personality to resolve the conflict.

In this analysis, this study uses the main character in Roald Dahl's *Fantastic Mr. Fox* to examine the process of character development. *Fantastic Mr. Fox* is classified as children's literature. The book was published in 1970 with illustrations by Puffin Books. Roald Dahl's *Fantastic Mr. Fox* tells the story of Mr. Fox, who must face an attack from three farmers. These three farmers are Boggis, Bunce, and Bean. Boggis is a very fat chicken farmer; Bunce is a duck and goose farmer; and Bean is a turkey farmer and the best apple cider maker in the village, and they attack Mr. Fox because they dislike that he frequently steals from them. The story ends happily, with Mr. Fox and all the animals living happily underground. The main character in the story, Mr. Fox, undergoes a personality change driven by both

external and internal factors, transforming him into a more responsible person who is accepted by his community.

1.2 Research Question

These are the questions discussed in this paper:

1. How does Mr. Fox's personality development occur in *Fantastic Mr. Fox*?
2. What factors trigger Mr. Fox's personality development in *Fantastic Mr. Fox*?
3. How do the personality changes in Mr. Fox impact his relationships in *Fantastic Mr. Fox*?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the research for this paper is:

1. To analyze how Mr. Fox's personality development occurs in *Fantastic Mr. Fox*.
2. To analyze how the factors trigger Mr. Fox's personality development in *Fantastic Mr. Fox*.
3. To analyze how the personality changes in Mr. Fox impact his relationships in *Fantastic Mr. Fox*.

1.4 Scope of the Study

This study uses intrinsic and psychological theory to discuss the content of the selected book, *Fantastic Mr. Fox*. The intrinsic elements discussed in this book include characters, characterization, setting, and conflict. The discussion of intrinsic elements covers the nature of the characters, where the events take place, and how the conflicts unfold, starting with the characters, where this section introduces the characters being analyzed, namely the protagonist and the antagonist, to help understand the protagonist's actions. Next, the characteristics section describes the

protagonist's traits or personality in detail to facilitate a thorough analysis. The setting is used to reflect the external pressures that drive the protagonist through their personality development process. Finally, the conflict serves as the catalyst that prompts the protagonist to begin this personality development process. Then, these components that discuss the content of the book are analyzed using psychological theory. The theory used is Hurlock's theory of personality development. To analyze the personality development of a character, this study uses a few of Hurlock's theories, personality patterns, changes in personality, factors that trigger personality development, and the impact of personality development. The theory helps this study analyze and gain a deeper understanding of the main character's personality.

1.5 Previous Research

The first previous research is Soriano (2022) in his article *Reimagining Roald Dahl's Fantastic Mr Fox (1970) in the 21st Century*. This research highlights how Anderson reconstructs the narrative and characters in a modern context, with a focus on gender and social class representation. While this study focuses on the character's internal growth over the narrative. Both studies use the same object of the research, which is Roald Dahl's *Fantastic Mr. Fox*. The second previous research is *Environmental Ethics Manifested in Stories by Roald Dahl-A Study on Environmental Writing for Children* (Gao, 2023). This research analyzes the *Fantastic Mr. Fox* story using an environmental ethics lens. It focuses on the human-nature relationship and ecological themes. On the contrary, this study focuses more on the psychological development of the main character in the story.

However, both studies use the same object of research and use thematic studies to understand the story better.

The third previous research is *Roald Dahl's Work Through The Looking Glass Of Linguistic Analysis: Insights and Implications* (Jeremić & Veličković, 2024). While this study uses a personality development study to understand the main character's personality, the research focuses on language structure and style. Using linguistic studies, they analyze how the language is used in the story. Even so, Dahl's writing techniques are both studies' focal points. The fourth previous research is *Integrating children's fiction and Storyline in the second language classroom* (Ahlquist, 2023). Even though both studies focus on the deeper meaning of the same story and are considered academic studies within educational and literary contexts, Ahlquist analyzes the *Fantastic Mr. Fox* story from a teaching-methodology perspective. This perspective studies how to use this story in the classroom. While this study focuses more on the literary content. The fifth previous research is *The Narrative Voice in Roald Dahl's Children's and Adult Books* (Valle, 2008). Both studies use the same Roald Dahl story and are literary criticism analyses of the narrative elements. Even so, Valle focuses on the narrator's voice and technique. It covers how the story of the *Fantastic Mr. Fox* is told. Whereas this study examines the personality of Mr. Fox and focuses on what happens to the main character in the story. Based on the findings of previous research, it can be concluded that the analysis of the book *Fantastic Mr. Fox* has been conducted using a modern context, ecological themes, an analysis of writing style and narrative techniques, and a teaching perspective. A psychological approach does not appear

to have been used in the analysis of this book. Therefore, this study employs Hurlock's psychological theory as a tool for analyzing *Fantastic Mr. Fox*.

1.6 Organization of Writing

CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION

This thesis begins with the first chapter, which consists of Background of the Research, Research Question, Purpose of the Research, Scope of the Research, Previous Research, and Organization of Writing.

CHAPTER II : THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The following chapter contains Theoretical Framework and Research Methods that will be used for the study. The writer explains the theories that will be used to analyze the book, which are the intrinsic elements and psychological theory, in the second chapter. This chapter also describes the method that will be used for the study.

CHAPTER III : RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Chapter three presents the analysis of the intrinsic elements and psychological theory. The intrinsic elements include character, characterization, setting, and conflict. The psychological theory used is Elizabeth Hurlock's theory of personality development.

CHAPTER IV : CONCLUSION

The fourth chapter contains a summary of the results of the study.

REFERENCES

This section contains all of the sources that are used as the supporting data for the analysis. The References use the American Psychological Association (APA) citation style.