

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with the background of research, statements of problem, research questions, purposes and significances of research, organization of writing, and clarification of key term.

#### **A. Background of Research**

Novel is one of literary genre which consists of intrinsic elements and extrinsic elements. One of the intrinsic elements is theme. According to Abram (1999: 23) “theme is an ingredient of literary work which gives the work unity”. *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary* defines theme as “the subject or main idea in a talk, piece of writing” (2000: 1399). Thus, theme is the important part of the story which cannot be separated from it, because theme is the reason for the author to write a novel. The theme of the novel could be about love, war, adventure, culture, religion, etc. In this research, I will consider escapism as the problem which is related to the context of theme, especially in the novel *Peter Pan* by James Mathew Barrie.

The term of escapism derives from the word ‘escape’ which has meaning “to get away from a place where you are kept as a prisoner or not allowed to leave/ to get away from unpleasant and dangerous situation” (*Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary*, 1999: 446). By having suffix ‘ism’, escapism means “an

activity, a form of entertainment, etc. that helps you avoid or forget unpleasant or boring things” (*Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary*, 1999: 446).

The escapist will seek something exciting to avoid his normally life. There are many reasons why escapist refuse the unwanted condition which is contrary he has to face it. It is related to a ‘need’, where someone has some needs such as food, drink, sleeping, protection, love, care, entertainment, pleasure, etc. but when escapist doesn’t get what he needs and what he wants, escapist will seek them. There are many ways to fulfill those needs, and Escapism is the activity of it. Yi Fi Tuan (2000) states that ‘Escapism is one means of not facing facts’. There are the characteristics of escapism by Jane Wan (2009: 7): the trigger of getting happiness, the tools in seeking pleasure, the option of character’s willingness, and the high imagination of life.

In this case, the escapist do the action of escapism through fantasy, because escapism and fantasy can have relationship where people have desires to practice escapism and seek fantasy as a method. As Apter ((1982: 6) states that fantasy offers escape from reality. Evans (2001:96) puts escapism as ‘resorting fantasy’. Jane wan (2005) also states “escapism implies going from somewhere we do not want to be to somewhere to be.”

Fantasy novel belongs to children literature, and appears in Victorian age (Setterfield, 2006). It was begun from ‘inventing childhood’ partly via their efforts to stop child labor and the introduction of compulsory education. As children began to be able to read, literature for young people became a growth industry, with not only established writers producing works for children but also a new

group of dedicated children's authors (Wales, 2008). The extreme differences of social class in Victorian make society at that time feel poor. Especially for the parents belonging to the poor, they force their children to work hard. Thus, this fantasy story may satirize the condition through the children character indirectly. Because, the fantasy novel actually not only served for children but also for adult in Victorian age.

Previously, there are many researchers have discussed and researched the topic which is related to the topic of this research. Those discussions among others are as follows.

Through the character, Falsor Wing (2005) analyzed escapism two short stories in his essay which is entitled “Analysis of Character, and The Theme of Escapism in Two Short Stories ‘Rock Springs’ and ‘Goodbye My Brother’.” The essay elaborate that those two short stories have similar topic and two main characters of those become escapist. Wing focused on those characters, and he explained the form of escapism on those two, they are: avoiding thought of their problems, distorting their view of reality, and escaping in their minds to worlds other than the real one.

Meanwhile, in other essay by Alban (2003) entitled “The Treatment of escapism in Alice in Wonderland and *Peter Pan*” has an aim to discuss the treatment of escapism. The issue of escapism in this essay is one of the principal themes in childhood's literature that depicts this psychological state as a way to escape the real world. This essay compares two novels the reason why do escapism and the effect of its escapism, and show the different effect. It explains

more detail about children characters in novel. This essay also discusses about children books always become the reflection of the condition of outside of the novel itself.

The last one which related to this research is a research of Rena Anrin Depiarly (2006) entitled “The Fantasy in J.M Barrie’s *Peter Pan* and L.F Baum’s *The Wizard of Oz*”. It discusses about the representation of fantasy in both works. It also explains all aspect of fantasy in both novels. When the work contains fantasy element, there is a story of fairy, imagination place, illogical event, and unreal character. Furthermore, this research focused on children character in real world and unreal world. It also focused on relation between fantasy and children.

Both of them show the escapism as a method to avoid their unwanted place or condition, even though in different way. They compare two works, finding the similarity and the difference of them. While they also have the difference, that is when the first essay doesn’t contain fantasy, the second one talk more about fantasy because it is children book, and the reflection of them. It was completed by the third review above, because it talks about fantasy, when this research focused on relation between fantasy and escapism. Finally, those three reviews become the inspiration of this research.

Theme of ‘Escapism’ as literary term might be considered as quite rare to analyze in English Department. J.M Barrie’s novel *Peter Pan* which is considered as having such theme of escapism, provide the concept of escapism which I have mentioned. Fantasy is method of escapism, when there is character who avoids his life condition through fantasy in fantasy novel. Psychologically,

*Peter Pan* as fantasy novel might be as a method of people to do such action of escapism. As children literature, *Peter Pan* reflects the social life of Victorian, especially Victorian children. Peter Hunt state “all children's books reflect certain social and cultural ideologies”.

## **B. Statement of Problem**

Several themes of novel are commonly inspired by what happened in reality. One of the most famous authors, whose works inspired by reality is James Mathew Barrie with his famous character in his novel, *Peter Pan*. Peter is the main character who does such action as escapism to the imagination place, called Never land. It might be a crazy thing or wild ideas when this novel talk about a child who doesn't want to grow up and the place called Never Land that never been exist in which many children character there. It is a little strange because in Victorian many novelists write realism, while *Peter Pan* talks about fantasy or illogical thing. It can be considered as satire to the Victorian when the most of society have bad life, and they want to avoid from it, but they cannot. George Bernard Shaw argues that the story as ostensibly holiday entertainment for children but really a story for a grown up people, show the societal constraints of late Victorian middle-class domestic reality. Thus, the main problem that is discussed in this research is escapism as the main theme in the novel which might be considered as satire of Victorian age. To explore more about the theme of escapism in the novel, the followings research questions:

1. What are the characteristics of Escapism represented in J.M Barrie's novel *Peter Pan*?
2. What does escapism represents in J.M Barrie's novel *Peter Pan*?

### **C. Purpose and Significance of Research**

#### **1. The Purpose of The Research**

In relation to the research questions, the purpose of this research is:

- a. To know the characteristics of 'Escapism' as the main theme of J.M Barrie's novel *Peter Pan*.
- b. To know the representation of escapism in J.M Barrie's novel *Peter Pan* related to the reality at that time.

#### **2. The Significance of The Research**

- a. Academically, this research is proposed for the literary society as a part of wide collection of literary criticism and for reference of our knowledge in literary criticism. The furthest is to learn more about literary work especially about prose and its element. Besides, this research is also aimed for adding the sources for writing related to escapism.

### **D. Clarification of Key Terms**

1. **Escapism:** in Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary Escapism has a meaning "an activity, a form of entertainment, etc. that helps you avoid or

forget unpleasant or boring things” (1999: 446). Escapism in this case is a theme that will be analyzed in this research. Escapism is activity that *Peter Pan* did in *Peter Pan* and novel. This activity is being escape from unwanted condition, so that he can avoid it.

2. **J.M Barrie:** James Mathew Barrie (1860-1937) born in Kirriemuir in Scotland, the son of a handloom weaver, educated at Dumfries and Edinburgh University. He began work with the Nottinghamshire Journal, an experience described in “when a Man’s single” in 1888 (Margaret Drabble, 1985: 70). He is Victorian-Edwardian writer and he is playwright who has notable works, *Peter Pan*.
3. ***Peter Pan*:** is one of notable Barrie’s works which tell about a boy who doesn’t want to grow up as a way to escape from reality world he disliked. In preface of *Peter Pan* novel, Barrie state that “after the death of his (Barrie) friend and his wife, their five orphaned sons came to live with Barrie, the idea for *Peter Pan* actually came from stories he made up to amuse them. It was performed in 1904 and in 1911 Barrie wrote *Peter Pan* in novel form.” In this research, there is Peter Pan which refers to character of the novel, and Peter Pan as the title of the novel which italic.
4. **Victorian Society:** The Victorian era is generally agreed to stretch through the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901). It was a tremendously exciting period when many artistic styles, literary schools, as well as, social, political and religious movements flourished. It was a time of prosperity, broad imperial expansion, and great political reform. It was

also a time, which today we associate with "prudishness" and "repression". Without a doubt, it was an extraordinarily complex age, that has sometimes been called the Second English Renaissance. It is, however, also the beginning of Modern Times. The social classes of England were newly reforming, and fomenting. For the most part, nineteenth century families were large and patriarchal. They encouraged hard work, respectability, social deference and religious conformity

#### **E. Organization of Writing**

This research is divided into five chapters. The first chapter includes several general introduction included Background of research on the subject being studied which are Escapism as a soul of J.M Barrie work. It also consists of method of research will be used, which I chosen in this research. The second chapter includes in itself the theoretical writing concerning both subjects. It also stands as the basis understanding towards the hypothesis on the problem. It presents a wide scale of literary critique which related to the Marxism theory. The third chapter provides in what way the researcher analyzes the subject. The forth chapter is the part of research where I analyzes and justifies the criticism upon the subjects. It explains the main theme of the novel that is Escapism, which becomes the soul of the author, J.M Barrie, and the meaning of it. The last chapter is the conclusion of the analysis.