CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides information about Background of Research, Statement of Problem, Research Objective, Research Significance, Definition of Key Term, and Organization of Paper.

1.1. Background of Research

There are many kinds of literature such as novel. Some novels were adapted into films. Film also known as movie, are a type of audio visual communication which uses moving pictures and sound to tell stories or to convey certain messages to people. Film itself is capable of sending messages with many purposes, some for entertainment, moral massages, education, information and so on. Michael Rabiger (2009: 8) argues that every film basically entertaining and also interesting so that it can make the audience think. *The Lord of the Rings* is one of the greatest movie making achievements ever adaptation from novel. Many belived it impossible to adapt the story for live-action. Then came Peter Jackson and the amazing props and effects company put an end to those beliefs. Not to mention the fact that all three movies boast of a great cast.

The Lord of The Rings is a fantasy movie series by Peter Jackson based on the novel written with the same title by J. R. R. Tolkien. These movies are subtitled The Fellowship of The Ring (2001), The Two Towers (2002), and The Return of The King (2003). This trilogy was successful both financial and in terms of quality. The story of novels are began as a sequel to Tolkien's fantasy novel The Hobbit. The Lord of the Rings is one of the best selling novels ever written. And the total of the three films managed to reap nearly $3 Billion in revenue for worldwide distribution. These movies were very successful where brought so many trophies, especially to the third film "The Return of The King". Considered one of the largest and most ambitious film projects ever undertaken, the entire project took eight years, with recordings for all three films carried simultaneously and entirely in New Zealand.

Then popular culture is a culture in form of goods and activities that are created and consumed not by the elite but by the common people, the masses. Popular fiction has ruled the world of literature. Apart from all the facts, popular literature or commonly called popular fiction is an important field to study or discuss nowadays. Recently, interest in studying popular literature has increased. Adi (1992:1) describes the study of popular literature as a serious, honorable, necessary, and important field of inquiry.

There are many researches and studies that analyze popular literature today because of its importance among the readers and society. Particularly in Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung, the studies of popular literature show the increasing interest of researchers in popular literature.

The reason why this particular study is conducted is the importance of popular literature and the limited study toward the formula of fantasy genre. Hopefully, this particular paper would give a significant contribution toward following studies about fantasy genre and also fantasy formulas. The major objective of this study is to determine and analyze the formula of fantasy genre in *The Lord of the Rings* film trilogy. Furthermore, along with the previous objectives, this study also tries to reveal how the formula builds the story in the whole movies of *The Lord of the Rings*.

Formula research focuses its analysis on finding out the elements of archetypes and popular fiction formulas that are studied, as said by Cawelti in explaining the concept of formula: "a generalization of the characteristics of large groups from certain cultural materials and archetypal story patterns depicted in an individual work" (Cawelti, 1984: 7). From the quotes, there are three key words that underlie genre research theory, namely generalization or reasoning process that generates conclusions in general through an event, the second characteristic of fiction groups, and linking research with culture and archetypal patterns of stories in each fiction. Cawelti also argued 'usually quite specific to a particular culture and period and do not mean the same outside this specific context.' (Cawelti, 1976: 5) Commonly known methapors, stereotypes characters, accepted ideas are

2

example of conventions. Inventions, "uniquely imagined by creators." (Ashley, 1989: 87). Both elements play significant roles in cultural context. Conventions represent the shared values of a society, while inventions introduce new concepts to the society.

Fantasy is a genre that presence of magic and supranatural phenomena as the primary element of theme, plot, and/or setting. The story may fit in the Science Fiction, Romance, Adventure, Horror, and Historical Fiction genre. It must be Fantasy when magic is rounded the story. Fantasy genre can be said to be the oldest genre in literature, because it's appearance has existed since the time of human began to try to answer the natural phenomena around. The various answers they make then become the forerunner to the emergence of fantasy works are known by the name of mythology and *folklore* later on.

Seeing the long history of fantasy, it is natural that fantasy becomes the biggest genre in which there are many sub-genres. That is because basically everything that is impossible in the real world can be said to be a work of fantasy. As described in the book Fantasy : The Literature of Subversion is also quoted from The Game of the Impossible: A Rhetoric of Fantasy, that fantasy is said to be '...a story based on and controlled by an overt violation of what is generally accepted as possibility' (Jackson, 1991: 21). According to him, fantasy is everything that cannot be accepted by reason. Furthermore, this book also quotes an essay entitled *The Subjunctivity of Science Fiction* that:

> *Fantasy embodies a 'negative subjunctivity' – that is, fantasy is fantasy because it contravenes the real and violates it. The actual world is constantly present in fantasy, by negation... fantasy is what could not have happened; i.e what cannot happen, what cannot exist... the negative subjunctivity, the cannot or could not, constitues in fact the chief pleasure of fantasy. Fantasy vuolates the real, contravenes it, denies it, and insists on this denial throughout* (Jackson, 1991: 22).

Thus, in short fantasy is all things that cannot happen in the real world. This makes almost all literary works can be included in the fantasy genre, such as gothic horror Dracula (1897) and Frankenstein (1818).

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Currently, fantasy genre is a one of the most popular genres. A lot of fiction movies and books that using fantasy genre are extending in the market. Fantasy genre and fantasy literature are make people fall in love and enjoy it with so many reasons. The readers of fantasy genre are think that they would be cheerful in another world and unhappy in their real life. Some people find it when reading fantasy books, it can bring someone on adventures that most people cannot even imagine. When fantasy novels were produced into film, it making them even more popular when they were in their original form. The reason is, modern society today tends to appreciate and enjoy the emergence of modern technology that makes life easier. People do not need to spend more of their precious time to finishing reading all of the books while they can only spend less time to finishing watching movies. In some ways, the popularity of novels has increased considerably as the popularity of films has increased. Examples of the popular literary works that have grown rapidly in recent years due to the great film production of these titles are Rowling's Harry Potter series, Lewis's The Chronicles of Narnia series, Riordan's Percy Jackson series. The fantasy genre places on the top among the other genres and it signifies that people are thirsty for fantasy adventure.

Based on background above which can be summarized that "most people construct fantasies at times in their lives" (Freud in Adams, 1971: 731). But the fact is, for many years, the importance of fantasy itself "has therefore not been sufficiently appriciated" (Freud in Adams, 1971: 713). Whereas, the fantasy teach us a tolerance of other people and places and create candor toward new experience. We also learn the importance of keeping our sense of wonder from it. So, the

researcher intends to prove and analyze the fantasy genre's formula in *The Lord of the Rings* movie trilogy were based on John G. Cawelti's theory and genre theory of some expert. Because nowadays the fantasy genre is very popular genre, and there are so many people love it and *The Lord of the Rings* is one of the best movie trilogy making ever the researcher ever watched and these three works have the formula of fantasy. Therefore, this research entitled "The Fantasy Genre's Formula in Peter Jackson's *The Lord of the Rings* Movie Trilogy".

The overall structure of this article takes the form of eight parts which are divided by each formula that is found on the research, those are: (1) an ignorant beginning, (2) imaginary world, (3) imaginary being, (4) the journey/the quests, (5) treasure, (6) action motives, (7) a clear sense of good and evil, and (8) the use of magic and supranatural power. Those eight formulas are described in the following parts.

1.2. Statement of Problem

Based on the background, the problem can be formulated into the research questions as follows:

a. What are the fantasy genre's formula represented in Peter Jackson's *The Lord of the Rings* film trilogy?
b. How are settings and mythical creatures build fantasy formula in Peter Jackson's *The Lord of the Rings* film trilogy?

1.3. Research Objective

Based on the research questions that be mentioned above, the objective of study are aimed in:

1. to describe the fantasy genre's formula repesented in Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* film trilogy;
2. to describe how setting and mythical creatures build fantasy formula in Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* film trilogy;

1.4. Research Significance

a. Theoretically

This research is expected to increase the wealth of knowledge for the readers about literature research. Especially on the analysis of fantasy of Pamela S. Gates', John G. Saricks theory and the other experts, and the formula itself based on John G. Cawelti. Moreover, it can be used as material for further research to increase the ability to appreciate literary works.

b. Academically

The Result of this study can add benefits for the readers to appreciate a literary work as well as provide new experiences on a various things around and how to respond.

Academically, the researcher expects that this study can provide insight into fantasy in modern literary works. In addition to that, this research is expected to encourage other researchers to carry out other themes and problems found in the same book or film.

Practically, by using the title The Fantasy Genre's Formula in Jackson's *The Lord of The Rings* Film Trilogy the researcher is conveying her expectation that the study will be useful in helping readers to a deeper and better understanding of the fantasy contained in a novel or film in encouraging them to read and watch more literary works to hone their mind.

1.5. Previous Studies

There are several previous studies to support the analysis of this research. The fist one entitled *Di Balik Fantasi dan Eskapisme Dalam Novel "Stardust" dan "Neverwhere" Sebuah Analisis Perbandingan* written by Yeni Imaniar Hamzah (2008), Depok: Faculty of Humanities, English Language Study Program, University of Indonesia. Her research was talking about the comparison between the similatities and differences about fantasy and escapism in Stardust and Neverwhere novel. She used new criticism descriptive method to analyze her study.

The next research entitled *The Comparative Study of Fantasy Genre's Formula in Spider-Man (2002) and Spider-Man: Homecoming (2017)* written by Mariatul Qibtiyah (2019), Bandung: Faculty of Adab and Humanities, English Literature Department, State Islamic University of Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. Her research was talking about the comparison of genre formula in Spider-Man (2002) and Spider-Man: Homecoming (2017), she used the formula theory of Cawelti and the comparative theory.

The next research entitled *The Aspects of Fantasy In Lewis' The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* written by Asep Shofian Syahrullah (2012), Yogyakarta: Faculty of Language and Arts, English Language and Literature Study Program, Yogyakarta State University. His research was talking about the aspects of fantasy genre in The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe novel, he used the theory of children literature by Hollindale and fantasy itself with the theory of Freud with descriptive method.

And the next was inspired by a journal titled *The Analysis of Fantasy Genre's Formula on Harry Potter Series* by Risa Ambariski published in Rainbow: Journal of Literature, Linguistics and Cultural Studies volume 1. She used formula theory of Cawelti and fantasy genre of popular fiction theory by Ida Rochani Adi. She also uses descriptive qualittive method. The sources of her study are taken from written materials in the library.

Another journal about the fantasy genre' formula also inspired the writer in doing the research. The title of the jounal is *Formula Analysis in JK Rowling's Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone and Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson and The Olympians: The Lightning Thief: A Comparative Study on Fantasy* Fiction by Retno Wulandari, Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University. She used Cawelti's concept of formula and Genre's theory of Howard and Gates in analysing the novels. She also used comparative method to find the similarities and differences between those two works.

From the previous studies before, thus the writer wants to analyse the fantasy genre's formula in The Lord of the Rings film trilogy by Peter Jackson.

1.6. Definition of Key Terms

1.5.1. Fantasy

Fantasy is one of genre in popular fiction, that presence of magic and supranatural phenomena as the primary element of theme, plot, and/or setting.

1.5.2. The Fantasy Genre's Formula

According by Cawelti (1976) "It is said that formula appears as a popular story type that can also decide a work of literature belonging to" thus the formula is the same as the type of story to be examined to determine what type of literature is the story. So in genre research means it can also examine formulas because basically genre research examines elements that are in popular fiction. is a feature or quality belonging typically to person, place, or thing and serving to identify it.

1.5.3. Setting

Setting is the place or type of environment in which something is positioned or where an event occurs.

1.5.4. Mythical Creatures

Mythical creatures are legendary, mythological creatures, also called fabolous and extraordinary creatures, are magical animals, generally the result of crosses, sometimes part of human, whose existence has not been or cannot be proven and which explained in folklore but also in historical records before history becomes a science.

1.5.5. The Lord of the Rings movie trilogy

The Lord of The Rings is a fantasy film series, these films directed by Peter Jackson based on the novel with the same tittle written by J. R. R. Tolkien. The film tells the story of the young hobbit Frodo Baggins who

accompanied by eight friends, embarking on a journey to destroy the One Ring in the flames of Mount Doom.

- *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*

The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring is a 2001 fantasy adventure film. Directed by Peter Jackson. It is the first part of Lord of the Rings trilogy of movies. Based on the best selling novel with the same tittle by J. R. R. Tolkien.

- *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*

The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers is a 2002 fantasy adventure movie. Directed by Peter Jackson. It is the second part of Lord of the Rings trilogy of movies. Based on the best selling novel with the same tittle by J. R. R. Tolkien.

- *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*

The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King is a 2003 fantasy adventure movie. Directed by Peter Jackson. It is the last part of Lord of the Rings trilogy of films. Based on the best selling novel with the same tittle by J. R. R. Tolkien.

1.6. Organization of Paper

In this section the writer would like to discuss some terms in chapter 1 into chapter 5 as followed;

Chapter 1: This chapter provides the background, statement of problem, research objective, research significance, definition of key terms, and organization of paper.

Chapter 2: Overview of the underlying theories and literature review. This chapter presents a discussion of several theories of structuralism, popular literature: popular fiction, genre theory: fantasy genre, adventure genre, literary formula: formula literature, formulas and culture, film.

Chapter 3: Research Method. This relates to the type of study, object of the study, data sources, data samples, data collection methods, and data analysis technique.

Chapter 4: Analysis and Discussion. This chapter proves and analyzes of the fantasy genre's formula in *The Lord of the Rings* movie trilogy and how setting and mythical creatures build fantasy in these films.

Chapter 5: Closure. This chapter consists of conclusions and suggestions.