

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Chapter I is an introduction that contains an overview of the research. In this chapter, the researcher presents the research background, statement of problems, research objectives, research significance: theoretical and practical, conceptual framework and previous studies.

1.1 Research Background

Magic is a concept used to describe the power that comes from supernatural powers to make impossible things happen, make people disappear or even control natural events. The word “magic” comes from the Greek Magoi which refers to the Median tribe in Persia who are Zoroastrianism. According to Greco-Roman tradition, they acquired mysterious knowledge and powers which came from gods, spirits, or polytheistic ancestors of the ancient pantheon (Luck, 1985)

The phenomena of magic can be classified in several forms, namely mysticism, divination, astrology, incantations, alchemy, medicine, sorcery, spirit mediation, and necromancy (Luck, 1985). The effectiveness of the use of magic is usually determined by the magician himself who is considered to have special powers and knowledge about spells, actions and rituals that have to do with supernatural powers. Magic can be distinguished based on its purpose including “The Black Magic” which is used for malicious purposes to hurt someone, deceiving, or even killing. On the other hand, there is “The White Magic” which seems to be used for useful purposes such as wealth, power, love, medical, knowledge and even entertaining. In popular Western culture, the term magic refers to a sleight of hand for entertain.

According to (Melrose, 2018) magic has developed in various regions of the world especially British. In British both white and black magic has been practiced from the Iron Age (800 BCE). It is known there is a “Curse Tablets” that made from metal and written a curse to harm a specific people. The Anglo-Saxons who lived in England in 5th too used the ritual curses, spells and charms. In 7th they

became Christians, the saints were called the magicians because they can performed miracles. In 1066 William of Normandy became a king that caused increase belief in magic.

After that in British the magic began to develop into one of the elements that build literary works. For the example, magic is also a supporting element in the *Arthurian Legends* story of Sir Thomas Malory's *Le Morte D'Arthur*. In the story, there is a character named Merlin who is a great wizard that became Arthur's mentor. He has an important role for Arthur both from education, throne, power and his vision in ruling the kingdom. Merlin also has the ability to see the future and the past which he cannot change.

Apart from the *Arthurian Legend*, in 1606 a tragedy by William Shakespeare entitled *Macbeth* was played for the first time. This tragedy tells of a Scottish general named Macbeth who got a prophecy from 3 witches (The Weird Sister) which saw them that one day Macbeth would become King of Scotland. On the basis of the prophecy was then filled with ambition and killed the King of Scotland and then took the throne for himself. Then he was wracked with guilt for what he had done. Many people wanted to kill and overthrow his throne, so he was forced to commit many murders to protect himself. The resulting bloodshed and civil war quickly lead Macbeth and Lady Macbeth to realms and death. In this tragedy the character of the Weird Sister which is the core that gives prophecy to Macbeth. After gaining his throne, Macbeth hears them ambiguously predicting his downfall. The witches, and their "dirty" traps and supernatural activity, set an ominous tone for the play.

The development of technology makes literature develop as well, literature that was previously only in the form of stories, writings, and plays has now developed into a digital form called film. According to (Arsyad, 2015) film is a collection of several images that are in the frame, where frame by frame is projected through the projector lens mechanically so that the screen looks like the image comes alive

Films and plays have the same characteristics although the form and medium are different. Play that is shown directly to the audience, while the film is

shown is not directly to the audience but in audio-visual form. Even though there are differences between films and plays, both are still classified as performing arts because they use actors as a means of expression in the performance. In both forms of work, a performance becomes the centre of attention in which the visualization is not only left to the imagination of literary connoisseurs, but lives in the performance (Klarer, 2004).

The journey of the development of the film world was quite long until it finally became what it is today where it developed into a TV Series that has characteristics same with films but have more than one episode on it. As widely known the world of film and TV series are getting bigger in direct proportion to the public's interest in films that is getting bigger as well. From this development, films and TV series with quite unique themes were born, one of which was Magic. For example, in the film *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* which tells the story of Harry Potter who previously did not know that he was a wizard going to a wizarding school named Hogwarts for the first time and began studying there (Columbus, 2001). On the other side, in TV series that has a magic theme is the *Fate: Winx Saga* which tells the story of Bloom, a teenage girl who attends Alfea School. Alfea School is a boarding school for teenage witch to learn and develop their magical powers. Alfea School has been around for thousands of years and trained many great magicians (Young, 2021).

Another TV series that has magic theme is entitled *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*. *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* is a Netflix series developed by Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa adapted from the comic series from Archie Comic in 1971 entitled *Sabrina the Teenage Witch* created by George Gladir and Dan DeCarlo. This series can be seen in Netflix. Netflix is a platform that offers online subscription service to watch TV shows and movies by streaming the media online

Chilling Adventures of Sabrina focus on a character named Sabrina Spellman, played by Kiernan Shipka. Sabrina is a teenage girl who was born to a mother who is a mortal and a father who is a witchcraft. That is what makes Sabrina a half-mortal, half-witch where she has to live on 2 world and fight for her double nature. In season 1, it can be seen that Sabrina has just become the first student at

The Academy of Unseen Art and she must continue to live her life as a student at Baxter High. She always challenges the doctrines or teachings of witches at every opportunity, especially on the unfair treatment received by witches. The witches term using for the female witches and warlocks term using for the male witches (Aguirre-Sacasa, 2018).

Every story with the theme of magic must have a different magician, of course different from the depiction of the witch itself. As can be seen in some of the examples above, magicians get magic power because they come from a wizarding family. Whereas in *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* to get full magic power, witches and warlocks must worship the Dark Lord. On the other hand, in *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* there are many interesting rituals which are not found in other works. Not only that, in this TV series there is a conflict between witches and warlocks where the warlocks led by Faustus Blackwood bring a doctrine that can make the Church of Night become the Church of Judas where there is a lot of discrimination against witches, especially in the field of conjuring and spells. Knowing the situation, the Spellman member family did not stay silent, especially Sabrina. For example, Sabrina's refusal at Dark Baptism where she didn't sign her name in the Book of the Beast. Sabrina believes that every witch has full rights over herself. She believes that there must be other choice than to trade her freedom for power. That is why she chose not to sign her name in the Book of the Beast even though as aunt Hilda had said earlier that the witches had no choice but to sign their name in the Book of the Beast. It can be seen in the following quotation:

Hilda: *“When I was your age, I signed my name in the Book of the Beast. I mean, as a girl we don't have any option back then”*.

(Chapter Two: The Dark Baptism 08:04 – 08:14)

According to quotation above it can be seen that when Aunt Hilda signed her name in the Book of the Beast, in the back time the witches do not have any option, but just to sign their name in the Book of the Beast.

The discrimination in this TV series *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* is different from other works. In this TV series, discrimination is experienced by witches which causes inequality between witches and warlocks. In contrast to that, in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* there is also discrimination against pure-blood and mixed-blood wizards. Almost the same as Harry Potter, on the TV Series *Fate: The Winx Saga* has the same discrimination as Harry Potter where the main character receives discrimination because her parents are human (mortal).

Based on the opinion above, the writer will analyze *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* TV Series with focus on the elements of magic and Sabrina Spellman character to gain gender equality. The reason for choosing this work is because in *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* apart from the magic elements side which is different from other works, there is also discrimination by warlocks against witches which makes this work more interesting to discuss.

In addition, there is an undergraduate thesis with title “*The Influence of Settings on Sabrina Spellman’s Personality Development in Aguirre Sacasa’s Chilling Adventures of Sabrina (2018)*” written by Theresia Sekar Prabawati. The object of research used in this research is same with the previous research but has a different focus. In this research the focus is on the elements of magic and Sabrina Spellman’s character to gain gender equality, while in the previous study focus on the settings that influence Sabrina Spellman’s personality development.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

Based on the background and problem formulations above, this research is formulated into the following questions

1. What are the elements of magic in TV series: *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*?
2. How is Sabrina Spellman’s witch character to gain gender equality in TV series: *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*?

1.3 Research Objectives

According to the statement of problems above, this research has two objectives gained by the writer as follows:

1. To find out the elements of magic in TV series: *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*. The writer only focuses on Sabrina Spellman character and her family which represent witchcraft.
2. To analysis Sabrina Spellman's character on gaining the gender equality in TV series: *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*. The writer only focuses on Sabrina's dialogue and action which represent the gender equality actions in several episodes.

1.4 Research Significances

Through this research, the writer hopes that the following benefits will be obtained:

1. Theoretically

This research is expected to provide benefits for the world of education, especially to increase knowledge about literary research with the theme of magic and in the effort of gender equality. In addition, this research can also be used as material for further research to improve the ability to appreciate literary works.

2. Practically

For the writer, it is hoped that this research can be useful as a way to practice the knowledge during the college. Furthermore, it is hoped that this research can be used as a reference for the other writers who will take up the same theme but with different point of view and provide new experiences about various things around and how to react to them.

1.5 Conceptual Framework

In this study, the writer used several literary approaches. The first literary approach that the research used is in the book entitled *The General Theory of Magic* written by Marcel Mauss. The book tells us about the magic itself started from the definition of magic, the elements of magic and the analysis of magic. As in the book said that magic is the practising of superstitions that is belief which are neither

religious nor scientific exist in our society in the observable forms of spiritualism and occultism.

In this study, the writer used the Elements of Magic theory that what is in the book. According to the book, there are several elements of magic such as The Magician and The Actions (The Rites). To find out the elements of magic in *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*, the writer used this theory which can produce the representation of the witchcraft based on the elements of magic.

Gender equality is one of our human rights as human beings. The right to live with dignity, freedom from fear and freedom to make life choices is not only intended for men, women also have the same rights in essence. According to Muhtar (2002), that gender can be interpreted as social gender or community connotation to determine social roles by gender.

In carrying out the gender equality movement, it must be in accordance with its portion so that what is expected from this movement can be carried out. In carrying out daily activities, it can be seen that women and men do the same things, such as eating, sitting, sleeping and others. However, many things experienced by women are indicated as gender inequality, such as in the fields of education, work, opinions and so on. This gender equality movement can also be seen in the TV series: *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* where female magicians are discriminated against male magicians in terms of education, spelling and conjuring.

In analysis the gender equality, the writer using semiotic as literary approach. Semiotic is a field that studies the meaning of a sign by including myths or metaphors that have to do with the sign. In this case, the sign in question can show a meaning or even something hidden behind the sign itself. In other words, the existence of the sign in question will represent something related to a particular object in which this object has information in the form of a sign. For example, in a car carrying gasoline there is a sign in the form of a fire. People who see the sign will interpret that it means flammable (generating fire).

This study wants to examine the efforts of the main character, Sabrina Spellman, in obtaining gender equality between witches and warlocks in the TV series: *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* by using Roland Barthes's semiotic

approach. This approach uses an emphasis on meaning with the first level of meaning analysis is denotation and followed by a second level of meaning called connotation and the last is in the form of revealing myths which will be discovered by the writer from Roland Barthes' study of signs and symbols.

1.6 Previous Study

Previous studies are sources of reference or guidance. References provide information about various things, such as a topic, names of people, places, terms, history of famous people and so on. References can come from books, journal articles, or thesis. Therefore, previous studies have a very important role in research, because previous studies serve as reference material to develop previous research and become a comparison and complement for further research. Previous studies that became a reference for researcher in this research are as follows:

- 1) The first research is a thesis entitle “*The Influence of Settings on Sabrina Spellman’s Personality Development in Aguirre Sacasa’s Chilling Adventures of Sabrina (2018)*” written by Theresia Sekar Prabawati. This research focuses on the influence of settings towards Sabrina Spellman’s personality development. The researcher used a qualitative method and used Elizabeth Hurlock’s theory that talked about Personality Development (Prabawati, 2021).
- 2) The second research is a journal entitle “*Representasi Feminisme Dalam Film Mulan 1998*” written by Mawar Desnia Suparman. The data source used as the object of analysis was the Mulan movie by Robert D. San Souci. This research focuses on the feminist thought of the Chinese people and traditional culture. The symbols contained in the movie were analyzed using Roland Barthes' semiotic approach, namely the denotation and connotation stages (Suparman, 2022).
- 3) The third research is a journal entitle “*Analysis of Gender Equality and Feminism of Main Character in Colette Movie*” written by Lintang Ursita. The aim of the analysis is to analyse the gender equality and feminism that happened to the main character in Colette movie directed by Wash Westmoreland. The theory that the researcher used to analysis gender

equality is from McClain & Grossman (2009) and theory of Paludi (2017) for analysing feminism (Ursita, 2019).

- 4) The fourth research is a thesis entitle “*An Analysis of the Main Female Character’s Efforts in John Steinbeck’s The Grapes of Wrath*” written by Budi Tri Santoso. This research aims (1) to identify the main female character’s problems in her family related to gender roles; (2) to analyze her struggles in gaining equal roles in her family, and (3) to reveal the significant meanings behind her struggles (Santosa, 2015). This research is a descriptive-qualitative study. The primary data of this research were expressions in words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and paragraph related to gender discrimination and stereotypes in the novel.
- 5) The fifth research is a thesis entitle “*A Comparative Study of Black Magic Power in Roger Lancelyn’s Novel King Arthur and His Knight of The Round Table and Andrea Hirata’s Novel Sirkus Pohon*” written by Regina Goela Stevanie Depari. This thesis discusses about black magic power by elements of magic power. The purpose of this thesis are to find out how black magic power and how the similarities and the differences of black magic power are portrayed in the novel *King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table* by Roger Lancelyn Green and *Sirkus Pohon* by Andrea Hirata. From this research it is found that the black magic power can be prove from the element of magic power are, subject, object and intermediary that portrayed in both of novels (Depari, 2019).

This research has differences with the five previous studies above. First, the object of research used in this research is same with the first previous research but has a different focus. In this research the focus is on the elements of magic and Sabrina Spellman’s character to gain gender equality, while in the first previous study focus on the settings that influence Sabrina Spellman’s personality development.

Second, this research has differences with the second, third and the fourth previous research in the part of the object. In the second previous research, the object is *Mulan (1998)* that talk about Mulan who want to gain gender equality for woman in Chinese tradition, but has same theory with this research that using semiotics theory. In the third previous research, *Colette (2018)* is used as the object. The third research has the same topic with this research but has a different theory, the researcher used McClain & Grossman (2009) and theory of Paludi (2017) for analysing feminism. In the fourth previous research, the researcher used John Steinbeck's novel *The Grapes of Wrath*. The topic is to in the main female character's problems in her family related to gender roles, but in this research the topic is about Sabrina Spellman's character to gain gender equality for the witches in the coven.

Third, this research has differences with the fifth previous research. The researcher did a comparative literature from two objects entitle *King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table* by Roger Lancelyn Green and *Sirkus Pohon* by Andrea Hirata. The topic that the researcher took in his thesis is about black magic power by elements of magic power. It different with this research that in this research only focus on the element of magic that build the Series itself.