

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter I would like to give an introduction to the thesis. This chapter contains Background of the Study, Research Questions, Purpose of the Study, and Organization of the Thesis.

1.1 Background of the Study

A style of writing is important as an author's way of telling his or her story. To be more specific, a writing style is the way how an author expresses whatever he or she wants to say, including the choice of words, the choice of phrase and clause construction, or the choice between using a figurative or literal meaning, etc., which in the end can show their personal style of writing (Literary Terms, 2017; Lumen Learning & n.d.; Ivy Tech Community College, n.d.). Without a writing style, an author cannot show their unique ways of communicating to the readers through their words (MasterClass, 2021). In other words, an author's writing style is required so that his or her writing stands out and is memorable for the readers.

One of the authors that has a distinctive writing style is Roald Dahl, who is a British author and is well known for being the world's number one storyteller. Besides,

Roald Dahl's works are not only intended for children but also for adults. It is undeniable that Dahl is a prolific author. He has written 22 children's stories, some of which are *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Matilda*, *James and the Giant Peach*, and *The BFG* (Delp, n.d.; About Roald Dahl, n.d.), all of which have been adapted into films. Moreover, Dahl has written 18 children's novels and three books of poetry for children. He has also written six non-fiction books and two Roald Dahl's autobiographies entitled *Boy: Tales of Childhood* and *Going Solo*. Lastly, he has also written 18 books of short stories for adults and two adult novels (Roald Dahl Facts, 2020).

Besides the popularity of his children's books, Roald Dahl is also notorious as 'Roald the Rotten' for some of his children books contain dark sides which are regarded as inappropriate for children. For instance, *James and the Giant Peach* has once been cursed for the ideas of racism, profanity, and sexual satire contained in it (BBC, n.d.).

However, he is famous for his children's books because he is skilful in building children's imagination and curiosity with his playful language that often excites them (Tanto, 2020). More specifically, in writing stories for children, Dahl very often uses unique words. In *The BFG*, for example, there are quite a lot of new invented words, such as the adjectives "wondercrumb", "whoopsey-splunkers", "squuiiffling", "delumptious", etc. He also has a humorous style of writing so that his stories are very funny and sometimes silly. Moreover, Dahl also uses figures of speech through a unique and beautiful word choice, many of which contain beautiful sound repetition to engage children's attention and makes the story more interesting and outstanding (Weebly, n.d.; Tanto, 2020)

In this thesis, I am interested in discussing Roald Dahl's writing style, which belongs to Stylistics. Stylistics is a branch of linguistics that deals with the style of texts,

especially in literary works. In stylistics, the analysis focuses on figures or rhetorical devices to see the uniqueness of an author's writing (Nordquist, 2019).

In my thesis, I choose Roald Dahl's book titled *The Twits* (1980) as the data source because despite the fact that the story is simple and light, it is very funny and exciting to read. Moreover, *The Twits* also talks about morality which is friendship (Astiti, n.d.). In order to find out Roald Dahl's writing style, I would like to discuss the narrative structure of *The Twits* as I would like to find out how the author narrates the story that can engage the readers' attention. Besides, it gives an effect for children as the target readers.

Narrative Structure refers to the storyline that describes the framework of how an author narrates the story (Author Learning Center, n.d.). In analyzing this, I use Labov's theory (1972, as cited in Toolan, 1988), which states that a narrative structure of a novel contains six elements, such as abstract, orientation, complicating action, evaluation, resolution, and coda.

I believe that through this narrative structure analysis, people will be aware of not only what the story is about but also how the story is told to the readers. Furthermore, through this analysis they can appreciate the author's outstanding writing style more. Finally, it is expected that this narrative structure analysis can contribute to Stylistics research as I think those who are interested in linguistic fields will have additional knowledge, especially in Stylistics.

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1.2 Research Questions

In this thesis, I would like to discuss the following questions:

1. What is the narrative structure used in Roald Dahl's *The Twits*?
2. What is the effect of the narrative structure on the target readers?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The research is done:

1. to find out the narrative structure used in Roald Dahl's *The Twits*;
2. to find out the effect of the narrative structure on the target readers.

1.4 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters. The first chapter is Introduction, which contains Background of the Study, Research Questions, Purpose of the Study, and Organization of the Thesis. Then, the second chapter is Literature Review, in which the theories used to analyze the data are elaborated. Chapter Three is Methods of Research, which includes Research Design, Data Collection Technique, and Method of Analysis. In Chapter Four, the discussion on the narrative structure in Roald Dahl's *The Twits* is presented. The last chapter is Chapter Five, Conclusion and it contains my personal comments on the findings. Lastly, the thesis ends with References and Appendices.