

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

Generally, themes are something that refers to the subject matter or as the centre of a literary work. According to Stanton (1965), themes are something that makes literary works so memorable, themes are special stories that explain some of the elements in a simple way. Thus, the theme is the main idea or focus in a literary work.

Themes often contain moral messages in the form of life's view or other important concepts that the author of literary work want to be conveyed to the reader. Themes of a literary work can vary, for example in a folklore as type of literary work, the theme can be about the struggle. The theme of struggle is usually found in a folklore, be it the struggle of the character to meet his love, the struggle of the protagonist against the antagonist, or the struggle of the characters against their enemy, and others. All forms of struggle themes in a folklore cannot be separated from the purpose, which is to convey a moral message. As stated by Nurgiyantoro (2015), that folklore as part of a literary work serves as a means of entertainment and to pass on the values believed to be true by society at the time.

Folklores has moral teachings which can certainly be taken as a form of lesson. Moral teachings in folklore are often shown through its themes, for example a folklore which carried out the struggle themes, so this folklore tries to convey moral teachings about striving and never giving up. In literature, themes can be found through characters and characterizations, plot, and other narrative elements (Fahreyza, 2020). This is also accordance with the statement expressed by Kosasih in (Rohmatin, 2019), he explain the ways that can be taken to find the themes in a literary work are through the storyline and through the character. Looking at the two statements, it can be interpreted that to find the themes and motives in a literary work, it can be seen by analysing the entire text of literary work.

The focus on entire text of literary work is called structural analysis. According to Taum in Hidayatullah (2018) structural analysis is focused on analysing the entire content of a literary work to emphasize the function of literary works as an autonomous structure and element of the literary work. The structure that builds in a literary work

is called an intrinsic element. While the purpose of structural analysis is to reveal carefully the interrelation of all the intrinsic elements of a literary work and to reveal the meaning of the literary work that researched. From this explanation, it can be concluded that in focusing the analysis on the intrinsic elements is included as structural analysis.

Narrative function by Propp (1968) is the theory that explain about the character's actions and plot of folklore. Therefore, narrative function by Vladimir Propp is a structural analysis because it focusing on the entire content of a folklore. Further, Propp (1968) described that the elements which make up the theme are character's actions, because the role of characters in folklore is an important role in shaping a theme. Propp (1968) also reveals that in a literary works, motives are also important because motives are the smallest units that make up a theme. Thus, motives are also important in a folklore. Referring to these statements, it can be concluded that narrative function is a particular theory in folklore which can be used to express the theme carried by a folklore through the explanation of character actions and storylines in it.

The understanding of folklore according to Danandjaja in (Firdaus et al., 2018) is the culture of a society that is spread or passed down from generation to generation both in oral and other forms. This type of folklore spread comes from word of mouth so this is what causes folklore to be included in oral literature. Thus, folklore contains a moral message in it because folklore develops in a society and it is passed down from generation to generation. In folklore, not only has many moral messages, but folklore also has many story motives, where moral messages in folklore can also be expressed through story motives. This statement supported by Thompson (1946), which stated that folklore has moral teachings that are often shown through the motives in it. Further, Thompson (1946) stated that motive is the smallest element in folklore, it is something that stands out the story and has an unusual nature. Unusual nature in folklore, for example, in the form of elements of myths, marvels, and others. Thus, motives in a folklore can consist of several motives.

One of folklore which has struggle theme and has several motives is the folklore entitled *Jack and the Beanstalk*. This folklore tells the story of a boy, namely Jack who struggles to save his life with his mother from poverty, he must face challenges and dangers for the goals he wants to achieve. Jack's struggle to survive in his poor life, then lead him to face his enemies. Jack has to fight against the giant and save himself from the pursuit of the giant. This folklore also has many story motives in it, where unusual elements are found such as the existence of ogres, marvels, myths, and others.

Other folklore which turns out has struggle themes and some motives is folklore which entitled *Timun Mas*. The folklore originating from Indonesia, talks about a girl born from cucumber seeds. This folklore tells the struggle of the couple namely Mbok Sirni and her husband who struggle in the midst of life's problems. Their struggle to survive in the midst of life's problem, then lead them to face their enemies. They have to save their daughter, namely *Timun Mas* from the giant who pursued her. Timun Mas has to fight against the giant. This folklore also contains some motives which can be seen from the element of giant, marvel, and other.

Through the introduction of the two folklores above, it can be seen that both have similar themes, that is the struggle themes, also the similarity of story motives where there are some unusual natures. To prove that the similarities of two folklores is true, then this study was conduct. Besides, the similarities found in the two folklores originating from different countries is inseparable from the fact that folklore is part of literary works, so it cannot be separated from the possibility that folklore have similarities with folklore from other regions, even the similarity of these folklores can reach different countries. This also cannot be separated from the fact that in this world consists of many nations that have their own cultures. According to Damono (2015), he stated that each nation has its own culture and along with its development, gave rise to language groups that have similarities. So, the nations in this world possible to have similarities with other nation. Other statement also stated by Damono (2015), that comparing similar folklore from different countries is an activity that has been widely carried out, it is to reveal the links between similarities and differences that exist and the nature of a society. Based on this statement, it can be concluded that the similarities that occur to a folklore with other folklore from different region is possible things.

The similarities that can occur in a literary work originating from different regions, is an interesting topic to discuss because discussing different literary works can reveal the culture contained in a region. To find similarities between different literary works, an analysis is needed. Then, the analysis used to determine the similarities between different works is comparative literary analysis.

Comparative literature is one of the literary studies that focuses on comparing two or more literary works. According to Bassnet (1993), comparative literature is a study of texts across culture, marked by interdisciplinary and connected to the pattern of relationship in literature through area and period. While, according to Sumiyadi in (Mayasari, 2016), comparative literature is the study of comparing the literary works of a country with the literary works of other countries as well as with other areas of life as a whole. In addition, Damono (2015) explain that comparative literature is a cross-cultural and cross-literary study with various traditions and languages. Comparative literature studies include comparison which can be analysed in terms of culture, history, themes, motives, styles, structures, and other aspects. Thus, based on the two statements, it can be said that comparative literature is a comparison of different literary work be it different regions or countries, while themes and motives are topics that can be analysed in comparative literature

In connection with the statement regarding the definitions of comparative literature above, the main purpose of comparative literature according to Noor (2015) is to find the distinctive features possessed by the literary works being compared. So, referring to this statement, the researcher decided to use comparative literary study in this research by using the folklore as the object of study, because as mentioned in the statements above that folklore as types of literary works contain moral messages originating from a certain region.

The selection of *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Timun Mas* folklores as the research objects that will being compared has another reason, that is because the two stories have several other similarities, apart from the introduction of the two folklores mentioned above. Both folklores come from different countries and these folklores are famous folklores. Although *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Timun Mas* folklores have no author (anonymous), but these folklores are very popular because they still inherited today, as

evidenced by the number of people who rewrite these folklores into a book form a collection of folklore or fairy tales for children in several versions.

Folklore is referred to as oral literature because it is passed down orally. However, along with its development, folklore can become a form of written literature. This statement supported by Latifah et al., (2021) which stated that along with its development, folklore were not only shaped as oral literature, but also emerged in written form. It can be proven that many people have rewritten these folklores which are then published in written form. This statement is reinforced by Wellek and Warren (1989) statement which express that “written literature originates from oral literature”. For this reason, although nowadays folklore have become a form of written literature, but the spread of oral origin is something that cannot be ruled out.

Jack and the Beanstalk is a folklore that has been published in several versions, one of the versions found by researcher and considered quite complete is the version written and retold by Melanie Joyce published in 2019 by DK Publishing. Meanwhile, researcher found different versions of the story from *Timun Mas* for example, in *Kumpulan Cerita Rakyat Nusantara* published by *Wahyu Media* and *Buku Cerita Rakyat: Asli Indonesia* published by *Cikal Aksara*. For this research, researcher chose *Timun Mas* folklore composed by Leny M and is found in the book *Kumpulan Cerita Rakyat* that published by *Penerbit Azka Press* (2008) because the researcher considers this book to be a complete version of several versions found by researcher. The two folklores are the famous folklores, so this is what increasingly makes the researcher interested in researching the two folklores.

Literary comparison in this research will focus on analysing the functions of *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Timun Mas* folklores to reveal the struggle themes in both folklores. Besides that, this study also focuses on finding the similarities of motives that found in the two folklores. To reveal the motives in the folklore, this research using the model of motive analysis by Thompson, (1946). While, comparative literary studies used here because this research compares between two literary works, they are *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Timun Mas* folklores.

The focuses that are the main things that need to be analysed in this study which then become the questions that will be discussed clearly, so this research aims to describe narrative function in *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Timun Mas* folklores which then shaped the struggle theme of both folklore and to discuss the form of struggle themes in the two folklores. In addition, this research aims to described the motives in the two folklores. So, the explanations mentioned above are important as a problem that have to discussed in this research.

1.2 Previous Research

Before conducting the research, it is also very important to look for previous research. Previous research serves as a form of comparison with research that will be carried out. Exploring previous research can help researcher in managing the research because it useful as a source of inspiration. So, the researcher wrote down some previous research which is also part of the reason for the preparation of this study.

First previous research conducted by Wahyuningtyas & Pramudiyanto (2021), in their journal which entitled “Comparison on Story Motives of Jaka Tarub and Nawang Wulan and Niulang Zhinu Story”. In their research, they analyse similarities in story motives on *Jaka Tarub dan Nawang Wulan* and *Niulang Zhinu* story using comparative literary techniques and Stith Thompson's of motives index. The results of his research are, there are five similarities in motives from the two folklores, namely mythology, magic, tests, fraud, rewards and punishments, and there are additional motives, namely, animal motives and miracles in the story *Niulang Zhinu*.

Elisabeth, (2018) in her thesis entitled “Theme Analysis in Jackie Chan's *1911* Film and Lukman Sardi's Film *di Balik 98: A Comparative Literary Study*”, she chooses two films (1911 by Jackie Chan and *di Balik 98* by Lukman Sardi) as the objects study of her research to find out the theme of two films. In her research, of course, he uses comparative literary studies and an intrinsic element approach to find out the themes of the two films. In her research, she found that there are the similarities of the themes between two films. The struggle is the theme of both films that can be seen from the characters and characterizations in them. Based on this research, it can be seen that theme is the topic which can be discussed in comparative literary studies.

Ramadhani, A. K., Rachmawati, E., & Siagian (2021) in their journal which entitled, "Comparative Analysis of Cultural Elements in the Fairy Tales of *Timun Mas* and *Momotaro*", in analyzing the cultural elements in the two stories, they use the theory of cultural elements from Koentjaraningrat. In their research, they also using a comparative literary approach. In the result of their research, they found five similarities in the cultural elements of *Timun Mas* and *Momotaro*'s story, namely, religious systems and religious ceremonies, social systems and organizations, knowledge systems, livelihood systems, and technology and equipment systems. While, they also found the differences of the two literary works that they analyzed namely, the elements of language and art in two fairytales.

The journal entitled "An Analysis of Types of English Sentences in English Folklore *Jack and the Beanstalk* from American Literature Website" which conducted by Saragih, D., Simangunsong, T. I. S., Simanjuntak, D. N., Saragih, R. R. N., & Siagian (2023). In their research, the object study is *Jack and the Beanstalk*, but they discuss the object in types of English sentences. As the result of their research, they found four types of English sentences based on function, they are; declarative sentence, exclamatory sentences, interrogative sentences, and imperative sentences.

Sari (2022) in her journal entitled "Analysis the Functions and Motives of the Character's Actions in Folklore *Aji Saka*". Although this research does not use a comparative literary approach, the topic discussed are related to the author's research, this research used structure narratology theory by Vladimir Propp to reveal the functions and motive in *Aji Saka* Folklore. In this study, the researcher found the functions of character's Action is divided into two action environments, namely the environment of criminals and helpers. Both environments of action are then revealed motives for the perpetrator's actions such as power, obedience, deceit, and trust. From this research, it can be assumed up that the functions and motives is related.

Research entitled "Functions and Motives in Central Javanese Folklore Dewi Nawang Wulan: A Study of Vladimir Propp" which conducted by Cahyo et al., (2023), aims to discuss the function of actors and story motives in Dewi Nawang Wulan folklore. This study used Vladimir Propp's structural narratology method and using qualitative descriptive research design. The conclusion of this study is that there are 16 of 31 narrative functions of this folklore. In addition, there are 4 motives found,

including marriage motives, wandering, crime, and deceit. Through this research, it can be seen that a folklore does not have to fulfilled all the functions because each story has its own structure.

The journal entitled “Comparative Literature in Indonesian Folktale’s *Timun Mas* and Disney’s *Beauty and the Beast*” which conducted by Masofa Ima & Sumarsono (2021) is a journal that analyses two folklores by comparing between *Timun Mas* and *Beauty and the Beast* folklores using comparative literary theory expressed by Sussan Bassnet. Researchers found similarities between the two stories, namely when the character faces a giant and finds the difference, namely the depiction of the giant and the ending of the story. The similarities between the two stories found by researchers are in terms of themes and differences found in terms of the last of storylines or how the story end. From this research, it can be assumed up that comparing two objects of literary works originating from different country is permissible in comparative literary studies.

Maulina (2017) in her research entitled “*Asal-usul Pulau Halang* Folklore: An Analysis of Vladimir Propp's Function”. This research discussed the function in this folklore which using narrative function theory by Vladimir Propp. The approach used in this study is structuralism because it aims to facilitate understanding to researchers and readers in terms of language and text used in the literary work itself. The conclusion of this study is that there are 16 of 31 functions of this folklore. Thus, not all functions are present in folklore. In addition, this study also proves that function theory by Vladimir Propp explains about characters (in folklore) and their traits can change, but their actions and roles remain the same.

Research entitled “Functions of Character in Indonesian Folklore Princess of the Runaway Valley: A Study of Vladimir Propp Narrative Structure Theory” which conducted by (Chamalah, 2019) aims to discuss the character’s functions in *Princess of the Runaway Valley* folklore. This research used the objective approach and using the narratology structuralism study which means that the structure of a text (literary text) be the focus of the research. The result of this research is that there are 7 of 31 function of this folklore. Based on this research, it can be seen that not all functions can be presented in folklore.

Research conducted by Iswandari (2017) entitled “Comparative Analysis of Themes in Novels *Hong Gaoliang Jiazu* by Mo Yan and *Putri Melayu* by Aminuddin Noor”, she uses a comparative literary approach expressed by Sussan Bassnet with qualitative descriptive research methods. In his research, he compared the two novels from different cultural backgrounds (*Hong Gaoliang* and *Putri Melayu*), he found that there were two themes in common, they are war and romance themes. He stated that in analysing the similarities of themes of the two novels, he also analysed the intrinsic elements in the two novels. Based on this research, it can be concluded that discussing two literary works originating from different countries is permissible, and it is allowed to discuss theme as the topic discussion in comparative literary studies.

Hindrawan & Ngurah Sulibra (2021), in their research entitled “Comparative Analysis of Motives on *Geguritan Rajapala* and *Jaka Tarub* in *Babad Tanah Jawi* Story”. This study analyses the comparison of two stories from different regions to find out what structures and motives build between the two stories. In their research, they use structural theory because they look at intrinsic elements to find motives in both stories. To compare the two works, of course they use a comparative literary approach. The result obtained from their research is that they found similarities and differences in motives in *Geguritan Rajapala* and *Jaka Tarub* Story. Based on this research, it can be seen that motives are can be the topic discussion in comparative literary studies.

Some previous research mentioned above are related research with the topic to be studied in this research. The previous research also compares literary works with literary works from different regions and countries. Exploring previous research can help researcher to identify unfilled research gaps. In this case, researcher found that there was an unfilled research gap related to comparative literary research that discussed *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Timun Mas* in terms of themes and story motives in it. Therefore, researcher chose the topic of literary comparison between the folklores of *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Timun Mas* in this research by focusing on the search for similarities in terms of struggle themes and motives in both folklores.

In this research, of course the researcher has different analyses in analysing struggle themes and motives because the object of study used by researcher are *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Timun Mas* folklores. Researcher did not find a study that analysed the two stories using a comparative literary approach which compare struggle

themes and motives story, only that there were previous studies that discussed the two stories with different literary studies.

Therefore, in addition to the reasons stated by the researcher regarding the reason the researcher chose both stories of *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Timun Mas* are contained in the background of the research, this is also the reason why the researcher examines struggle themes by looking the functions theory by Vladimir Propp (1968) in the two folklores, also as the reason why researcher examines the story motives by Stith Thompson (1946) to find the similarities of motives from the two folklores. Thus, the conclusions in this introductory section leads to the reason the researcher analyses *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Timun Mas* folklore in this research which entitled “Struggle Themes and Motives in English Folklore *Jack and the Beanstalk* and Indonesian Folklore *Timun Mas*”.

1.3 Research Questions

Based on the explanation of research background, then the research questions can be formulated. The following are the questions of this research.

1. How are the form of struggle themes carried by *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Timun Mas* Folklores?
2. What are the motives found in *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Timun Mas* folklores?

The components of the research question above are written based on the problem found by the researcher and become the focus in this research.

1.4 Research Objectives

Based on the research questions which has been formulated, then this research has some objectives. The following are the research objectives.

1. To describe the form of struggle theme carried by *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Timun Mas* folklores.
2. To explain the motives found in *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Timun Mas* folklores.

The purpose of the research is counter-related to the formulations of research questions. The purpose of the research above is written using a statement sentence as an affirmation form of the achievements of concrete goals from this research.

1.5 Research Significances

There are several benefits expected from the preparation of this research. This research is expected to provide new contributions in literature based on comparative literary studies. The results of this research are expected to increase readers' knowledge that there are many folklores that have similarities in story content even though these folklores come from different countries. For example, folklores of *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Timun Mas*.

This research wants to develop more information about how the struggle themes and motives contained between *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Timun Mas*, especially the comparison of the themes and motives in the two stories. On the other hand, the researcher hopes that the results of this research will be useful for anyone as a reference, especially for students who focus on English literature field who conduct the similar research. Based on this research, can certainly help the researcher to improve her knowledge and ability to conduct comparative literary analysis. This research is also made to develop a deeper understanding in the field of literature as a reference for other researchers in analysing *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Timun Mas* who analyse using the other approach or other studies.

From the overall explanations of research significance, it can be summed up that this research has theoretical (academic) and practical significances. This research is written using a method, theories, and approaches that is relevant so that it is expected to provide benefits for anyone.

1.6 Definitions of Key Terms

- Folklore is part of literary works and include as oral literature, but along with its development, folklore developed into written literature. Folklore is the culture of a society that is spread or passed down from generation to generation both in oral and other forms (Danandjaja in Firdaus et al., 2018).
- Theme is the main idea in literary work. Themes is part of the literary work that is equivalent to meaning in the reader's experience, it is something that makes literary works so memorable, and it is special thing in literary work that explain some of the elements in a simple way (Stanton 1965). The way which can be taken to express the theme carried out by a literary work are through the character and plot (Kosasih in Rohmatin, 2019).

- Motive is the smallest element in folklore and has unusual nature (Thompson 1946).
- Comparative literature is a cross-cultural and cross-literary study with various traditions and languages. Comparative literature studies include comparison which can be analysed in terms of culture, history, themes, motives, styles, structures, and other aspects. Comparative study is conducted to understand the differences and similarities between literary works from different cultures as well as study their influence and interaction between literary works originating from different cultures (Damono 2015).
- Narrative functions are the actions of the various events committed by the actors in the story that actually explain the storyline. Propp revealed that all the folklore he analysed, were of the same type according to their structure. The characters and their nature may transform, but their acts remain to be same in the stories (Propp 1968).

