

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter includes the research background, research questions, research objective, research significance, definition of key terms, and previous studies.

1.1 Research Background

In analyzing the structure of a literary work, the writer chooses a structural approach as a material for obtaining analysis results. In this research, the writer will conduct research on the topic of themes and motives, which will be reviewed through comparative literature theory. The writer will compare two literary works by looking at their similarities. The themes depicted through the two stories include the themes of sincerity and romance. Meanwhile, regarding motives, the writer found similarities in the symbols presented in the two stories. Thus, the writer is interested in conducting comparative literature research, by comparing two literary works from two different countries and cultures and then reviewing them through a structural approach.

There are several literary works can be said to be almost the same or even the same. Comparative literature is said to be one of the sciences of literary studies. Comparative literature is a type of literary study that compares two different literary works. This can be seen from various aspects. These aspects will be a comparison between one literary work and another. Also in answering the question of what comparative literature is, Bassnett (1993, pp. 1-31) stated that comparative literature involves the study of cross-cultural text, which is interdisciplinary and will be concerned with patterns of connection in literature across space and time.

According to Remak (Bassnett, 1993, pp. 1-31), comparative literature is a literary study that has a relationship between literature and other sciences and goes beyond the boundaries of a country. That is can be said that comparative literature is a comparison between a literary work and other literary works and

also can comparing literary works with other fields of human expression. Comparative literature also can be said as a study of literature in a nation that has historical connections with the literature of other nations. Because according to Nada in (Damono, 2015, p. 5) there is a process of mutual impact between one another, then what has been taken and what has been contributed by literature.

Jost (Endraswara, 2014) divides approaches in comparative literature into four aspects; 1) influences and analogies, 2) movements and tendencies, 3) genre and form, and 4) motive, theme, and type. Along with that, Kasim (Endraswara, 2014) state that each researcher may compare any elements that are similar in comparative literature research. And the main points of concern are as follows; a) themes and motives, in this point include thoughts, character descriptions, plots, episodes, settings, and expressions. b) genre and form, including a figure of speech, stylistics, and atmosphere. c) movement and generation, and the last d) literary theory, literary history, and literary critical theory.

Based on that statement, this shows that in comparative literature research, a structural approach can be used as a comparative study or analysis of literary work. Because the field of research studies used in comparative literature is so broad and there are no specific benchmarks in it (Susanto, 2018). By using this structural approach, the writer will analyze the similarities of a literary work in terms of aspects or elements of themes and motives. The writer finds similarities between the two stories, namely *The Frog Prince* and *Joko Kendil*, through the intrinsic elements contained in them, in this research, especially the themes and motives. Understanding literary works at a certain period, by comparing one work with other works so that characteristics are found that is the similarities between the works, or to understand literary works in different periods by analyzing them so that similarities can be found between literary works in different periods referred to as comparative literature.

Folktale is an oral story that is passed down from generation to generation and develops in a society. Folktale is a characteristically anonymous, timeless,

and placeless tale circulated orally among people. Folktale is part of folklore. Both are things that are passed down from one generation of society to the next by word of mouth. However, folktale and folklore have differences. Folklore itself is a story that covers a wide area and is closely related to traditional culture and beliefs in a society.

Meantime, folktales are stories that in their plot contain moral values that they want to convey to their listeners or readers and usually, these stories will also contain the values of justice and happy ending. So it can be said that folktales are fictional stories that have a moral message without involving beliefs and culture in them. Along with that, fairy tales is also part of folktale. Fairy tales are stories that involve magic, fantastic powers, and mythological creatures, and usually tell good and evil characters. Most fairy tales come from folktale, myths, and legends. If folktales are ancient stories whose authenticity is still doubtful because there is no evidence in writing or someone's work, then fairy tales are stories that are not real or fantasy have a very high element of imagination, and are set in a very unusual time or place.

In this research, the writer is interested in comparing the Germany fairy tale entitled *The Frog Prince* (translated into English by Core Knowledge Foundation) with the Indonesian folktale entitled *Joko Kendil*. Both stories have similarities but developed in different countries and cultures. *The Frog Prince* is a fictional story that has an unreal story and is the result of imagination. Because the story of *The Frog prince* was already known to the author and was written by the Brothers Grimm, which was based on the trend of folktale in the 19th century and folktale which received a lot of attention from society in that century, so the Brothers Grimm published their story.

This is in line with definition of fairy tale, that a fairy tale is an unreal story or fantasy that originates from the author's imagination. Different with *The Frog Prince*, *Joko Kendil* is said to be folktale because this story is a story that circulates by word of mouth in Indonesian society, especially in Central Javanese society, but the truth and who the author of this story is unknown.

Therefore, according to the definition of folktale itself, *Joko Kendil* is said

to be a folktale that developed in Indonesia. Why is it said that this story has become an oral story that has been passed down from generation to generation, especially for the people of Central Java and East Java. Beside that, in the book published by PT Balai Pustaka by Darto Singo, it is stated that, "*Joko Kendil is a folktale that is truly rooted in the people of Centra Java and East Java*". This is in line with the meaning of the folktale itself. But basically, the aim of both stories is the same, both folktales and fairy tales mean that every reader or listener should be able to take wisdom or moral lessons from the story.

In comparative literary analysis, the first thing to do is focus on searching for research objects in the form of folktale with objects in Indonesian. After conducting a long search, the writer found a story entitled *Joko Kendil* originating from Central Java and chose this story to compare with one of the fairy tale in English. The writer looked for English literary work to compare with the *Joko Kendil* folktale, and the writer chose *The Frog Prince*, a German fairy tale by Brothers Grimm as a comparison for the *Joko Kendil* folktale.

The choice of these two stories was due to the similarities between story in one region and another, where the two stories are stories from across different countries and cultures. This research is also supported by statements in the literature by Sumiyadi (in Mayasari, 2016, p. 208), that comparative literary studies compare the literature of one country with the literature of other countries and with other areas of life as a whole. And according to (Budiman, 2005, pp. 3-9) that "the work of comparing literary works is not only carried out limited to European-American literary works or on those two continents only".

Furthermore, the writer chose the stories *The Frog Prince* and *Joko Kendil* because the writer found similarities in terms of themes and motifs in the two stories. Both of these stories have the theme of sincerity and romance. A princess shows her sincerity towards a prince who is cursed or changes his form, and both stories have their own romance. The similar themes in these two stories are developed through the plot, characters, and settings contained in them so that similarities are found between the two stories. Meanwhile, in terms of motives, these two stories depict similar symbols, where both stories are story

that developed in their respective regions, and in it there are symbols determined based on the dialogue carried out by each character.

The Frog Prince, this story is a fairy tale written by the Brothers Grimm (Jacob and Wilhelm). This fairy tale became part of the folktale published by the Brothers Grimm because in the 19th century folktale became a common trend and received a lot of attention from society because they were considered to represent a pure form of literature and national culture. *The Frog Prince* tells the story of a royal princess who accidentally dropped her golden ball into a deep well. That's where the princess met the prince who turned into a frog. The prince asked the princess for an agreement to be able to be friends, love and share anything with the prince after the prince helped him. Princess also agreed to the promise.

Long story short, the frog prince met the princess again. At first, the princess refused to meet and share anything with the frog which she considered disgusting. However, as time went by, the princess kindly kept her promise to the prince who turned into a frog, even when the frog asked for a kiss before going to bed, the princess did so. From there, the curse of the prince who became a frog disappeared and the prince returned to being human. At the end of the story, the prince and princess are friends until when they grow up they get married and live happily (Goodhart, pp. 6-29).

As for *Joko Kendil*, *Joko Kendil* is a folktale that has taken root in Indonesian society, especially Central Javanese society. *Joko Kendil's* story tells the story of a prince, Raden Putra, who wants to have a good and beautiful wife by first going through a test by the Gods. This test made Raden Putra a kendil or pot who could talk and do everything. Therefore, Raden Putra's name changed to Joko Kendil. Long story short, Joko Kendil (Raden Putra) met a widow who had no children, and Joko Kendil was adopted as her son. Joko Kendil became a diligent and devoted child towards his adoptive mother.

Until one day, Joko Kendil intended to propose to a royal princess named Putri Melati. With the request and conditions put forward by the princess to accept Joko Kendil, Joko Kendil was able and able to grant Putri Melati's

request. Finally, Joko Kendil and Putri Melati got married. It didn't stop there, Raden Putra's test took place by testing his wife too, how his wife (Putri Melati) remained loyal and didn't mock him like her sisters. Putri Melati's sincerity and kindness made Raden Putra pass the test from the Gods by having a kind and sincere wife. So in the end Joko Kendil turned back into a human and became the handsome and dashing Raden Putra (Singo, 2010, pp. 1-54).

From the two-story synopses, this sincerity and romance can be seen in the similar plot, setting, and story characters. In both stories, a prince tests a princess and with the kindness and sincerity of the princess' heart, the curse (change of form) on the prince is finally lost.

In *The Frog Prince*, the sincerity of the princess's heart is tested by how the princess keeps her promise by making the frog prince her friend and is even willing to share everything and love the frog. Meanwhile, in the *Joko Kendil* story, Raden Putra has to go through a test by changing his form into a kendil/pot. Raden Putra was finally able to marry a princess, namely Putri Melati, who was not ashamed of having a pot husband like Joko Kendil. With her patience and sincerity, Putri Melati remained patient and loyal to Joko Kendil even though her sisters often teased her.

The setting used in both stories is also the same, namely the palace. The characters between the two stories also have similarities where Joko Kendil (Raden Putra) is a prince and meets Princess Melati, a royal princess. Likewise with *The Frog Prince*, where a prince meets a princess. Therefore, if we look at the plot, setting, and characters contained in both, these two stories are similar in terms of themes, namely sincerity and romance.

Based on the description and discussions above, the writer chose comparative literature as the focus of the research. With comparative literature, the writer will compare two literary works, namely fairy tales and folktale from two different countries and cultures. *The Frog Prince* fairy tales from Germany and the *Joko Kendil* folktale from Indonesia will be compared by analyzing the similarities contained in the two stories through story structure, namely through themes and motives. Where the writer will compare two literary works by

looking at their similarities. The themes depicted through the two stories include the themes of sincerity and romance. Meanwhile, regarding motives, the writer found similarities in the symbols presented in the two stories.

1.2 Statement of Problems

As previously mentioned, the research background is comparing two literary works in the form of folklore from across different countries and cultures, namely the story *The Frog Prince* (Germany) and *Joko Kendil* (Indonesia). The research is intended to see the similarities between folklore and fairy tales that develops in one region and another. Apart from that, an important significance in the comparative analysis of the two works is to determine the similarities in themes and motives in the two stories. The writer formulated the following problem formulation to determine the similarity of themes and motives found in the fairy tale *The Frog Prince* and *Joko Kendil folktale* in three questions, namely:

1. What is the sincerity of both stories *The Frog Prince* and *Joko Kendil*?
2. What is the romance of both stories *The Frog Prince* and *Joko Kendil*?
3. What is the symbol of characters in the stories *The Frog Prince* and *Joko Kendil*?

The research questions above will be used as analysis in this research, by analyzing sincerity and romance as similarities in themes, as well as symbols in image, dialogue and narrative as similarities in the motives of the two stories.

1.3 Research Objective

Based on the problem formulation above, the writer focuses on the similarities in themes and motives found in the fairy tale *The Frog Prince* and *Joko Kendil* folktale. This research is proposed as follows:

1. To analyze the sincerity from the fairy tale *The Frog Prince* and *Joko Kendil* folktale.
2. To analyze the romance from the fairy tale *The Frog Prince* and *Joko Kendil* folktale.

3. To analyze how the image, narration and dialogue represent the symbols of character from the fairy tale *The Frog Prince* and *Joko Kendil* folktale.

The research objectives are adjusted to the research questions above. Where the three research questions discuss the similarities between the two stories *The Frog Prince* and *Joko Kendil* in terms of themes and motives.

1.3 Research Significance

The writer hopes that this comparative literary analysis can provide knowledge, especially regarding the similarities in themes and motives in two literary works, namely the fairy tale *The Frog Prince* and *Joko Kendil* folktale. Beside that, it is hoped that this research will provide theoretical, practical, and useful benefits for writers can provide insight and contribution in solving problems related to comparative literature.

The writer implied comparative literary analysis to determine the similarity of themes and motives in the *The Frog Prince* fairy tales and *Joko Kendil* folktale. Apart from that, the writer also applies comparative literary analysis implicitly to highlight local literary works, namely *Joko Kendil*, so that it can be more widely known as one of the folk tales from Indonesia. Hope, this application of this theory can guide the readers to get more understanding about the topic and more interest to the study especially in the two topic analysis. Particularly for the student at the college in Departement of English Literature major.

The research for source information even in method analysis, comparative literary theory, and the implementation of the theory to the object will makes some interest awareness about the themes and motives in *The Frog Prince* and *Joko Kendil*.

1.4 Definition of Key Terms

a. Comparative Literature

Comparative literature is a type of literary study that compares two different literary works. Bassnett (1993, pp. 1-31) stated that comparative

literature involves the study of cross-cultural text, which is interdisciplinary and will be concerned with patterns of connection in literature across space and time.

b. Theme

Theme is the idea or main idea of a story. A theme can be found through the intrinsic elements of a story such as through the plot.

c. Symbol

Symbols is a sign that shows the natural relationship between the signifier and signified. A symbol is a form that marks something other than the form manifestation of the symbolic form itself. Symbolism in literary work is used to express an abstract feeling or idea, to show a deeper meaning.

d. *The Frog Prince*

The Frog Prince, this story is a fairy tale written by the Brothers Grimm (Jacob and Wilhelm). This fairy tale became part of the folktale published by the Brothers Grimm because in the 19th century folktale became a common trend and received a lot of attention from society because they were considered to represent a pure form of literature and national culture.

e. *Joko Kendil*

Joko Kendil is a folktale that has taken root in Indonesian society, especially Central Javanese society.

1.5 Previous Studies

Before undertaking a literary comparison, it is important to search for previous studies. Previous studies is research that functions as a form of comparison of research that will be conducted with previous studies that already exists. Before conducting research, it is very important to first observe previous studies because previous studies also functions as a source of inspiration that can help future writers in conducting research. In this case, the writers writes

down various results of previous studies related to the research to be carried out. The following is some previous studies that is still related to the topic under study:

1) Objects

- a. The first, previous studies that is relevant to the topic of sincerity is research conducted by Putri Kartika Dewi in an article entitled “*ANALISIS TEMA DAN AMANAT DALAM NOVEL TRAH KARYA ATAS S. DANUSUBROTO*” (2015). The method used in this research is the structural method. From the results of this research, it can be concluded that the minor theme as an additional theme contained in the novel is the theme of sincerity in the sincerity of Bagus love. Where there is good sincerity to help and love Tilarsih for who she is. This research has contributed to this research regarding the themes used so that writers can analyze these themes and help to understand the understanding of themes in a story.
- b. The second, in the research article by Neni Widyawati with the title “*Analisis Tema Percintaan Novel Teman Tapi Menikah Dengan Teori Romance Formula*” (2020), this research uses qualitative descriptive techniques. The results of this research are that the romance formula in the novel *Teman Tapi Menikah* is often found in various dialogues and narratives in the novel. The love story is found in the novel *Teman Tapi Menikah* between Ditto and Ayu is a love story that tends to be common among teenagers. Meanwhile, the love story in the novel *Bumi Manusia* between Minke and Annelies is a love story that does not only involve the characters Minke and Annelies, but is related to national independence, equal rights and class differences. This research has contributed to this research regarding the themes used, so that writers can analyze these themes and help to understand the understanding of the theme of romance in a story.
- c. The third, research entitled “*TEMA PERCINTAAN DALAM TIGA CERITA PENDEK TERBITAN SURAT KABAR MANUNTUNG DI*

KALIMANTAN TIMUR (PERIODE 1988-1989)” (2020) by Yudianti Herawati. This research uses analytical descriptive methods, while the theory used is a structural approach theory by analyzing intrinsic elements. The results this research shows that the theme of romance in the three short stories depicts the lives of characters who have various conflicts, touching and enjoyable events. This research has contributed to this research is about the themes used, so that writers can analyze these themes and help to understand the understanding of the theme of romance in a story.

- d. The fourth, in the research by Rahmat Setiawan with the article titled “*KONSTELASI SIMBOL-SIMBOL KEJAHATAN DALAM NOVEL DASAMUKA KARYA JUNAEDI SETIYONO: SEBUAH KAJIAN HERMENEUTIKA RICOEURIAN*” (2022). This research is research with a qualitative paradigm carried out using a semiotic approach. The research results show that some conclusions can be drawn based on these steps, The Dasamuka symbols shows the existence of two symbols, the first is the Dasamuka symbol which has settled in the minds of the Javanese people whose origins are in the Ramayana story. And secondly, the symbol of Dasamuka is seen from the nickname of a clever child named Damar. This research has contributed to this research is about the motives used, so that writers can analyze these motives and help to understand the understanding of the motif of symbol in a story.
- e. The fifth, in the research article by Inadhila Nur Shabrina Hendrinati with the title “*Perbandingan Perwatakan Dan Alur Dalam Dongeng Der Froschkönig Karya Bruder Grimm Dan Pangeran Katak Rakyat Bali: Kajian Sastra Bandingan*” (2022). This research uses a qualitative descriptive method. The results of the research are that there are differences and similarities in character in the characters Königstochter, Frosch, König, Princess Putu Ayu, Prince Putu Oka, and the King in the fairy tales Der Froschkönig and Pangeran Katak. Beside that, the plot of the two fairy tales has differences and similarities. However, in the fairy

tale Pangeran Katak which is a Balinese folklore, a fairy tale. This research contains more data and events. This is because, in the tale of the Pangeran Katak from Bali, the story presented is more complex. This research has contributed to this research regarding the objects used so that writers can analyze these objects and help to understand the understanding of fairy tales *The Frog Prince*.

- f. The sixth, in the research by I Gusti Ayu Vina Widiadnya Putri, I Wayan Simpen, I Nyoman Suparwa, and Ni Luh Nyoman Seri Malini with the article titled, “*REPRESENTASI GENDER PADA CERITA RAKYAT “JOKO KENDIL” DI BUKU TEKS SEKOLAH DASAR*” (2023), This research uses a qualitative descriptive method in data analysis. The results of this research show that; (1) based on language structure or microstructure, male gender roles are proven by the composition of lingual units expressed by the dominant male characters in the text. (2) based on the cultural context or macrostructure, the unique attitudes and characteristics of the male gender are represented implicitly in discourse. The specificity of the male gender in discourse is expressed in fighting and hunting attitudes. (3) based on the schematic structure or superstructure analysis, it is found that the schematic arrangement of the discourse is title, orientation, complication, and resolution. The male gender role expressed in the discourse is mostly found in the title, orientation, complication, and resolution. This research has contributed to this research regarding the objects used so that writers can analyze these objects and help to understand the understanding of folktale *Joko Kendil*.

2) Theories

- a. The first, in research on the article entitled “*Analisis Sastra Banding Cerita Dongeng Lutung Kasarung dan Beauty and The Beast*” (2023) by Achmad Syihabbudin. This research uses a qualitative descriptive method with a comparative literature approach. The results of this research show that there are similarities in the fairy tale Lutung

Kasarung and the story 'Beauty and The Beast' where the similarities are regarding the themes of curses and true love. The main characters of both stories are cursed with bad tempers until they finally find true love. The similarity in themes between the two stories both involve myth. This research has contributed to this research regarding the theory used and the way writers analyze objects which helps to understand the understanding of the similarity of themes.

- b. The second, is research by Ira Fatmawati with the article named, "*Frankenstein dan Kereta Hantu Jabodetabek (SUATU KAJIAN INTERTEKSTUAL PADA SASTRA BANDINGAN)*" (2013) This research uses a qualitative descriptive approach method. The research results show that the novel Frankenstein and the novel Kereta Hantu Jabodetabek have many similarities, especially regarding theme, plot, characterization, and setting. In terms of characterization, both novels have characters who were born into harmonious families, and there are scientists/chemists as additional characters. This research has contributed to this research regarding the theory used and the way writers analyze objects which helps to understand the understanding of the similarity of themes built through plot, setting, and characterization.
- c. The third, is the article entitled "*CERITA RAKYAT JAKA TARUB DAN AIR TUKANG: SUATU KAJIAN SASTRA BANDINGAN*" (2016) by Nita Handayani Hasan. The method used in this research is a qualitative method with an intertextuality approach. The results of the research are; 1) theme, both stories have a theme about a young man who is married to an angel, 2) characters, both folk tales have the main character a young man, 3) plot, both folk tales have a progressive plot with the story starting with a young man who meets an angel and the climax of the story is the prohibition of his wives not to open the lid of the rice steamer/bamboo cover, 4) setting, in both folk tales the setting used is similar, namely in a lake/pool of water. This research has contributed to this research regarding the theory used and the way writers analyze

objects which helps to understand the understanding of the similarity of themes built through plot, setting, and characterization

In conclusion, from the nine previous studies, this research will focus on the comparison of two cross-country literary works, namely *The Frog Prince* (English language literary work) and *Joko Kendil* (Indonesian language literary work), by reviewing them from the themes and motives which both have similarities. This research is also still not general and there is no research with the same object, namely *The Frog Prince* (Germany) and the folktale *Joko Kendil* (Indonesia). And this is different from previous studies. So, this research analysis will find similarities in terms of themes and motifs between the two stories, so that a comparison of the two can be found through similarities.

