

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Literary works often arise from the context of a society with norms, traditions, aesthetic concepts, and artistic goals that are reflected in their views on art. Furthermore, literature is often a reflection of society's views on art. More importantly, literature is often inspired by earlier works that have become a major part of the literary heritage. Great works often become the main source of inspiration for literary works that come later. However, on the contrary, great works can also be born from inspiration that comes from small works that have existed before.

Literary works, as mentioned, often emerge from the context of a society with various norms, traditions, aesthetic concepts and artistic goals that are reflected in its views on art. Folktales are an excellent example of how the norms and traditions of a society are reflected in literature.

As part of oral literature, folktales are passed on by word of mouth by storytellers or parents to children (Djamaris, 1993). This narrative form contains cultural elements, myths, legends and fairy tales that reflect social realities, beliefs and aspirations of society. As a reflection of society's views on art, folktales show how aesthetic concepts and artistic goals are realized in the form of simple but meaningful stories.

Folktale is a type of classic literary work that is interesting and has important value that is worth studying to enrich the literary heritage of every country. Various research is needed with various approaches to folktale spread across various regions, so that these stories are not only immortalized from oral to written form, but also receive in-depth research and analysis. Documentation of folktale in the form of literary works, such as books or writing, is carried out to maintain the authenticity

and sustainability of these stories. In this way, folktale originating from various regions will continue to be preserved and can be enjoyed by future generations.

Folktales have several important functions in society. *First*, they function as educational tools, teaching moral and ethical values and providing life lessons through stories that contain moral messages. *Second*, folktales provide entertainment and recreation for people, often through stories that are humorous, adventurous, or full of mystery. *Third*, folktales record historical events and the origins of a community, although in a form that is sometimes mythological or legendary. *Fourth*, folktales strengthen social ties by sharing collective experiences and knowledge.

Folktales exist in almost every culture in the world, with variations reflecting each local context. For example, in Europe, stories such as *Hansel and Gretel* or *Little Red Riding Hood* contain moral lessons and emphasize courage and ingenuity in the face of danger. In Asia, stories such as *The Tale of the Bamboo Cutter* from Japan or the story of *Sang Kancil* from Indonesia highlight wisdom and ingenuity.

Despite differences in local contexts, many similarities can be found between folktales from different cultures. They often address universal themes such as good vs evil, ingenuity vs strength, and courage in the face of obstacles. Characters such as heroes, villains, clever animals, and wizards often appear in folktales from different cultures. Additionally, similar narrative structures, such as the hero's journey and challenges to be faced, can be found in folktales around the world.

In this context, Susan Bassnett's thoughts on comparative literature provide a relevant framework for understanding how folktales and great literary works interact. According to Bassnett (2006), comparative literature is not only about comparing literary works from different cultures but also about understanding the relationships between works in cultural, historical, and social contexts. This approach helps us see how folktales, although often considered small works, can be a source of inspiration for larger, more complex and formal literary works. On the

other hand, great literary works can also have a counter-influence on folktales, enriching and revitalizing these stories in a more modern and broader context.

According to Damono (2009) In his book entitled *Sastra Bandingan: Pengantar Ringkas*, he explains that comparative literature is an approach in literary science that does not produce its own theory. It can be said that any theory can be used in comparative literary research. Damono also mentioned that comparative literature can be done by comparing two or more literary works from various cultural backgrounds, both from within and outside the country to find similarities and differences, including comparisons based on themes, language styles, structures, and also literary genres.

Based on Susan Bassnet (1993) *A Critical Introduction to Comparative Literature*, she emphasizes the importance of the literary characters being compared having differences in language or culture, as well as existing in different times and spaces. According to her, these differences will produce a broader understanding of the object being analyzed. Bassnet also added that in selecting literary objects for comparison, we can involve one or even two or more translated works.

Bassnett also highlights the importance of intertextuality in comparative literature, namely the concept that literary texts never stand alone, but are always related to other texts. This can be seen in folktales, which often contain elements taken from earlier tales, adapted to suit different cultural and historical contexts. For example, the story *Cinderella* has many versions around the world showing how the same story can be interpreted and adapted differently depending on local culture.

So comparative literary study is an approach that aims to identify and analyze the relationship between two or more literary works. In practice, comparative literature looks for similarities and influences that may exist between these literary works. As a method of literary study, comparative literature is often used to understand the relationship between different literary works, both in terms of theme, style and cultural influence.

For example, in this research, researchers used folktales *Tom Tit Tot* and *Rumpelstilzchen* can illustrate these concepts well. These two stories, although originating from different cultural traditions, have similar themes and motifs that allow for in-depth comparison. *Tom Tit Tot*, a story from the English tradition, and *Rumpelstilzchen*, a story from the German tradition, both depict a girl who must guess the name of a supernatural creature to save herself. The themes of ingenuity and the power of words are important elements in both of these stories, and a comparative analysis of these two stories can show how the same themes and motifs can be interpreted and adapted in different cultural contexts.

Using Bassnett's framework, we can see how *Tom Tit Tot* and *Rumpelstilzchen* not only reflect the cultural values of the societies from which they originate but also contribute to a global dialogue about artifice, power, and identity. Comparative literary studies allow us to understand how these stories influenced each other and how their narrative elements were adapted and revived in different contexts, enriching the world's literary traditions.

Thus, folktale and comparative literature together show how literary works can influence each other and develop in a dynamic cultural context. Folktale not only functions as a reflection of society's views on art and life, but is also an inexhaustible source of inspiration for the development of more formal literary works. The interaction between large and small works, between folktale and more complex literature, reflects the rich dynamics of human literary and cultural traditions.

1.2 Statement of Problem

In the context of this broad problem background, many problems can be identified for research. However, it was realized that researchers had certain limitations, so research topics were limited. Therefore, this research will focus on analyzing the characterization and plot contained in the stories *Tom Tit Tot* and *Rumpelstilzchen* by comparing the characterization of the characters and the development of the plot in the folktales.

By considering the context and background previously explained, the author formulates the problem as follows:

1. How is the characterization presented in *Rumpelstilzchen* and *Tom Tit Tot*?
2. How the plot is constructed in the folktales of *Rumpelstilzchen* and *Tom Tit Tot*?

1.3 Research Objective

The objectives of this research are as follows:

1. To examine how the characterization and plot are presented for all the characters and plot in *Tom Tit Tot* and *Rumpelstilzchen*.
2. To analyze the characterization and plot constructed in the folktales of *Tom Tit Tot* and *Rumpelstilzchen*.

In this way, we can obtain a description of the differences and similarities between the characterization of all the characters and the development of the plot in the folktales.

1.4 Research Significance

Research Significance can be classified into two aspects, namely theoretical benefits and practical benefits. It is hoped that the theoretical benefits of this research will broaden understanding and contribution in the field of analyzing the elements that make up literary works using a structuralism approach, as well as in the field of comparing literary works originating from different countries through comparative literary studies. Apart from that, it is hoped that the results of this research can provide a basis for further research.

The practical benefit of this research is that it helps readers to better understand the contents of the folktale *Tom Tit Tot* and *Rumpelstilzchen* from Germany. This will broaden the reader's appreciation and understanding of the concept of structuralism and comparative literary studies. Apart from that, this research also aims to provide knowledge to readers that both England and Germany have cultural

riches in the form of literary works, including folktales, which even though they come from different cultures, have similarities in the content of the stories.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

1. Folktale

According to Mitchell (2003) Folktale is a form of expression of society in the past which is generally conveyed orally. Stories and storytelling traditions have been known since humans existed on earth, long before they knew writing. Stories are an important means of maintaining one's existence.

2. Characterization

Characterization in works of fiction, also known as character, refers to the way an author describes and develops the characters in a story. Based on Kosasih (2012:67) it is the process by which characters are given dispositions, traits, and habits that will distinguish them from each other in the narrative. Meanwhile, according to Zaidan (2004:206) *tokoh atau penokohan melibatkan penggambaran ciri-ciri fisik dan aspek emosional, perilaku dan kepribadian aktor atau tokoh dalam cerita*. It aims to give dimension and life to the characters in the story narrative.

3. Plot

It is a narrative structure structured around cause and effects relationships, where one event influences and leads to the next. *Alur merupakan unsur penting dalam sebuah cerita yang menggambarkan tindakan dan peristiwa yang berkembang dalam suatu rangkaian waktu*. (Nurgiantoro, 2013: 237). Plot creates a chronological framework that takes the reader or viewer through a journey from the beginning of the story to its end, allowing them to follow the character development, conflict, resolution, and themes of the story with deep understanding. Thus, plot plays an important role in building tension, maintaining interest, and providing direction to the story, making it an essential element in the creation and experience of narrative.

4. Comparative Literature

Comparative literary study is the study of the relationship between two or more literary works. These works have different cultural backgrounds on the one hand, but show similarities in form and different contents on the other hand. According to Damono (2012) *Karya-karya tersebut mempunyai latar belakang budaya yang berbeda di satu sisi, namun menunjukkan kesamaan bentuk dan isi yang berbeda di sisi lain. Dalam studi literatur perbandingan, teori apapun dapat digunakan dalam penelitian literatur perbandingan.*

1.6 Previous Study

In the introductory chapter of a study, researchers generally review previous research related to their research topic. It aims to provide context, identify research opportunities, support arguments, and build a foundation for the research being conducted. Previous research summarizes existing findings in related literature, helps in demonstrating the relevance of current research, identifies unexplored areas of the literature, supports research hypotheses or objectives, and creates a strong foundation for future research.

The first study was done by Essy Syam (2020), the title is *Comparative Analysis of Deixis Elements in Pak Belalang and Rumpelstilzchen Folklores*. This research centers on the examination of the deixis element in the folktales *Pak Belalang and Rumpelstilzchen*. The primary goal of the researchers is to delineate and assess the commonalities and disparities in the utilization of the deixis element in these folktales. The analysis will delve into how this narrative tool is utilized to resolve conflicts or introduce unforeseen solutions within the narratives.

Rosma Kadir, Riman Kasim, and Yusrilayah Limbanadi (2022), the title is *Perbandingan Cerita Rakyat Bawang Merah dan Bawang Putih, Cinderella, dan Si Cantik Vasilisa*. This article conducts a comparison among three folktales, *Bawang Merah and Bawang Putih, Cinderella, and Si Cantik Vasilisa*. The research's objective is to outline both the resemblances and disparities present in

these folktales, employing a structural and comparative literature approach. The research outcomes reveal that despite variations in settings and plotlines, they all share a common theme centered around the antagonistic role of the stepmother character. This study utilizes a descriptive methodology alongside qualitative content analysis. The article also underscores the significance of folk narratives in reflecting a community's values and culture.

Binar Kurniasari Febrianti (2019) *Perbandingan Cerita Semangka Emas Dengan Cerita Bawang Merah Bawang Putih*. This study conducts a comparison between the folk narratives *Semangka Emas* and *Bawang Merah Bawang Putih*, focusing on their essential components. The research identifies commonalities in themes, moral lessons, characters, and storylines, while distinctions are noted in how characters are portrayed and the story settings. Both tales serve as mirrors of societal conduct, human interactions, and communal standards. This research holds significance in the documentation and conservation of oral traditions. The analysis in the article relies on structural theory by Robert Stanton. This theory dissects literature by examining its elements such as themes, messages, characters, plot, and setting. It takes an objective approach, treating literary works as self-contained, independent of the reader and author.

This research is based on the understanding that previous research has had diverse analyzes when assessing intrinsic elements, namely character and plot in two stories, *Tom Tit Tot* and *Rumpelstilzchen*, using a comparative literary approach. Previously, no research had specifically compared these two stories with this approach. Although several previous studies have compared two literary works using the same structural theory.

In this context, apart from the reasons explained in the research background, this is an additional reason why the researcher chose to explore the characterization and plot in these two folk stories. The researcher attempted to find similarities and differences in characterization and plot between *Tom Tit Tot* and *Rumpelstilzchen* in the hope that this comparative analysis could provide deeper insight into these

stories, as well as perhaps reveal patterns or elements associated with them both stories.

