Abstract

Adults’ superiority is accepted as a society normative belief contemplating adults as more superior than children. However, because of the fluidity of language in every literary works including the novel written by Orson Scott Card, Ender’s Game, the primal authority of adult-child transcendental hierarchy, that considers adults as more superior than children, is able to be reversed logically. This study uses qualitative method supported by Derrida’s Deconstruction theory. The aims of this study are to destabilize the novel, Ender’s Game, in order to analyze how the portrayal of adults’ superiority is deconstructed, and to reveal how the ideology of –The Importance of Childhood” is implicitly delivered. By applying the Deconstruction’s features consisting the notion of absence, the binary opposition, the inconsistence, the ambiguity, and the ambivalence, this study shows that adults’ superiority is deconstructed by choosing the main character of the novel, Ender, a six-year-old-child, as a commander of soldiers for a battle against aliens or the buggers. It then reverses adult-child transcendental hierarchy and creates a new construction in understanding children’s position in the society. Children are no longer considered as more inferior than adults. Children with their intelligence and capabilities also have opportunities to possess higher positions than adults, even the most important position as it is portrayed in the novel Ender’s Game. Another interesting finding is that by having no cheerful childhood, nurturing parents, and enjoyable game in Ender’s life, this novel implicitly delivers –The Importance of Childhood” ideology for children in the society.

Keywords: Deconstruction, Superiority