

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Children's literature is often defined as a collection of books written for children, read by children, and/or written about children (Schneider 2016). It means, children's literature contains children's reading material and usually, it contains things related to children. Scheeder (2016) stated that Children's literature is poetry, fiction, nonfiction, argument, and biography. However, children's novel is a part of children's literature because children's novel contains a fiction or nonfiction story. The aim of children's novel is to entertain the readers both children and adults. In children's novel, it usually contains a moral or experimental story.

Children's novel is usually written by an adult for children. However, there are some young writers who write children's novels. One of the young writers in Indonesia is Jennifer Tan. She is an 11-year-old child who writes children's novel entitled *Laura Green and the Screaming Maze*. This novel is written in English and has been published in the USA and Indonesia. The novel is published in the Kindle e-book version and the printed versions. This study used this children's novel because this novel is written by an Indonesian child and written in English. Another reason, this novel has been published in Indonesia and the USA. The main reason for choosing this children's novel is the author of this children's novel. According to sindonews.com, the author of this children's novel is listed as one of the first Indonesian writers who successfully published English

children's fiction storybooks at Amazon's online store. In that online news, Jennifer Tan was not only young writers who published the novel in Indonesia and the USA. There is another young writer who also published the children's novel in Indonesia and the USA named Jessica Tan. The writer chose the children's novel by Jennifer Tan because this novel told the readers about the mystery. Furthermore, this children's novel is interesting to be analyzed in terms of the lexical cohesion in children's mystery novel written by a non-native speaker of English child.

Jennifer Tan is an Indonesian child who ever lived in the USA for two years. She was 8 years old and took 2<sup>nd</sup> grade in Redmond Elementary school, USA. Then, she return to Indonesia and continued her study in Jakarta Nanyang School. This children's novel is published in 2015 when she was 11 years old and is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. In e-book version, this children's novel is 100% donated to support the youth development for unfortunate children in Indonesia through YCABFoundation.org (amazon.com).

Laura Green and the Screaming Maze is a novel about adventure and mystery. The main characters of this children's novel are Laura, Jon, and Goldy. It is actually about the story of Laura's adventure. Laura is a 9-year-old girl who gets power and she becomes a witch. In the story, it was told that she got her power when she went on holiday to Hawaii. This story is about the adventure of Laura and Jon in the screaming maze and some of the scenes are from the story of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* and *Alice in Wonderland*. The story begins with the sound of a mysterious cat. The sound of a mysterious cat brings them to

another world full of magic. Then, Laura and Jon meet a young girl named Goldilocks. Then, they stuck in the mysterious land named *the screaming maze* and they should solve the missions. In this novel, the information of *the screaming maze* is given clearly. *The screaming maze* was created by Da Vinci. He created a maze which is impossible to solve. The maze possesses great and powerful magic, which is a scream. Their adventure to solve the puzzle of screaming maze begins. Their adventure could be solve by a witch. As explained before, Laura is a witch. So, the adventure could be solving. From the beginning until the end of the story, a mysterious cat guided Laura and her friends to the screaming maze. The goal of this adventure is to make Goldilocks to be not greedy anymore. The author wrote this novel when she was 8 years old and took 2<sup>nd</sup> grade in Redmond Elementary School, USA and lived there for two years. This novel was written smoothly and full of imagination.

In writing a novel, the use of lexical cohesion must be considered. According to Halliday and Hasan (1976), lexical cohesion is the cohesive effect achieved by the selection of vocabulary. The unity of a text refers to the meaningful text to deliver. In this study, the writer analyzed a children's novel using lexical cohesion theory proposed by Halliday and Hasan (1976). Lexical cohesion is subtype of cohesive devices. Cohesive devices are divided into two types. The types are grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion. In this study, the writer used lexical cohesion in order to more focus in the use of lexical cohesion in children's novel.

According to Halliday and Hasan (1976), lexical cohesion is divided into two main categories, reiteration and collocation. Reiteration is one lexical item refers

back to another, to which it is related by having common reference. Reiteration has four types, repetition, synonym or near-synonym, superordinate, and general word. Collocation is the effect of lexical, especially collocational, cohesion on a text is subtle and difficult to estimate Halliday and Hasan (1976). Besides, the writer also used minor theory to identify the functions of lexical cohesion in this children's novel. In this minor theory, the writer used two theories to identify the functions of lexical cohesion. The first minor theory is from Erwadi (2017) about the function of reiteration and Sidauruk and Jimmi (2019) about the function of collocation. This study used the main theory from Halliday and Hasan (1976) because this theory becomes the first reference in the study of lexical cohesion. The minor theory used in this study to find out the functions of lexical cohesion in children's novel. This study would like to fulfill the study of lexical cohesion in children's novels for students in Universitas Airlangga and general readers.

Lexical cohesion in children's novels is different from lexical cohesion in a regular novel. Moini & Kheirkhah (2016) stated that the use of lexical cohesion in children's novels and the regular novel is significantly different. It can be said that the use of lexical cohesion is distinguished with age. The use of lexical cohesion in children's novels should be appropriate for their age. According to Marwiyah (2008), the age category of children's literature can be divided into four phase based on their development and their interest in terms of the kind of book they need. The four phases are Infancy through preschool (under 5 years old), early childhood (5-8 years old), middle childhood (9-12 years old), and Adolescence (above 12 years old). There is a relation between language and age that can affect

the acquiring of the language. language and age are central properties of man, they are biologically based, cognitively, experientially, and socially co-constructed, and made manifest in social interaction (Mouton 2011). The target readers of the novel '*Laura green and the Screaming Maze*' are both Indonesians and non Indonesians internationally worldwide. In this novel, the use of lexical cohesion is assumed as the appropriate lexical cohesion for children in the adolescence phase.

There are many previous studies that analyzed lexical cohesion in different aspects. One of the international journals, written by Moini and Kheirkhah (2016) analyzed two different novels (children and regular novel) using lexical cohesion and conjunctions. The children's novel was compared with the regular novel in the use of lexical categories and conjunction. This study was aimed to find the similarities and differences in the use of lexical cohesion and conjunction in these two different novels. Another international journal, Hadilu, Vafa, and Rostami (2016), was comparing English short stories written by native and non-native. Further, Ulya (2017) analyzed lexical cohesion in the short story of John Cheever's 'The Five-Forty Eight'. This study has two purposes; looking for the lexical cohesions and explain the reason why lexical cohesions make the narrative text coherent. Further, Fajriyah (2018) Analyzed the lexical cohesion used in the English news stories. This study aims to analyze the coherence of lexical cohesion in the newspaper. Furthermore, Nabila, Jufrizal, and Marlina (2018) analyzed a text from a novel using grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion. This study only uses one chapter to analyze because it has covered the cohesion elements.

The object of this study is a translated novel from an Indonesian novel into an English novel. The analysis focuses on chapter 30 because, in chapter 30, they found the lexical cohesions elements.

From the previous studies above, all of the studies used lexical cohesion as the topics, but they have different subjects and results. Two of the previous studies analyzed the novels, two previous studies analyzed short stories, and one previous study analyzed a news story. In this study, the writer would also use a novel to be analyzed. This study aimed to fulfill the missing piece of the study in children's novels. Moreover, this study focused on lexical cohesion used in children's novel written by a child and the functions of the lexical cohesion in children's novels. The children's novel used in this study is a novel by Jennifer Tan entitled *Laura Green and the Screaming Maze*. This children's novel consists of twelve chapters. The first six chapters tell about the normal life of Laura and her family. However, the last six chapters tell about the adventure of Laura and friends in solving the screaming maze puzzle. As explained before, the target readers of children's novels could be children or adults. For international readers, it is possible for children to read this novel. Meanwhile, for Indonesian readers, the target reader can be children in the phase of adolescence (Marwiyah 2008) or adults. As the writer knows, there is no previous study which analyzed the lexical cohesion in children's novel written by a child. The writer used Longman Dictionary Contemporary English in analyzing this study. It would help the writer to identify some words in analyzing this study. This study was analyzed more

deeply in the use of lexical cohesion and the function of lexical cohesion that appropriates for general readers.

### **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

From the information above, the writer would like to propose two questions as follows:

1. What is the most frequent type of lexical cohesion which mostly appeared in children's novel *Laura Green and the Screaming Maze*?
2. What does the function of the most frequent type of lexical cohesion?

### **1.3 Objectives of the study**

From the statement of the problem above, there are two objectives of the study that was discussed

1. To find out the most frequent type of lexical cohesion which mostly appeared in children's novel *Laura Green and the Screaming Maze*.
2. To find out the function of the most frequent type of lexical cohesion.

### **1.4 Significances of the study**

This study has two significances, theoretical and practical. Theoretically, this study may help general readers to enhance their lexical cohesion when reading children's novel. This study would also increase the knowledge of the readers about lexical cohesion in children's novel. This study is also expected to be reference for students when studying lexical cohesion whenever they read children's novel.

Practically, this study may help the readers who would like to enhance their children's vocabulary through reading children's novel. Furthermore, the

functions of lexical cohesion may help the children remember some vocabularies or understand the synonyms of some vocabularies.

### 1.5 Definitions of Key Terms

**Cohesion** : Refers to relations of meaning that exist within the text and define it as a text (Halliday and Hasan 1976)

**Lexical Cohesion** : Lexical cohesion is 'phoric' cohesion that is established through the structure of the lexis, or vocabulary, and hence (like substitution) at the lexicogrammatical level (Halliday and Hasan 1976)

**Children's novel** : Children's novel is a fiction story which included in children's literature. Schneider stated that children's literature consist of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, argument, and biography (Schneider 2016).

**Regular Novel** : According to Kellogg (2014), regular novel is a young adult novel that people actually read.

**Reiteration** : A form of lexical cohesion which involves the repetition of lexical item, at the other end of the scale; and a number of things in between-the use of a synonym, near-synonym, or superordinate. (Halliday and Hasan 1976)

**Collocation** : The name given to the relationship between two items that occur together with a certain probability within a (textual) context. (Benbrahim 1995)