

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

There are two functions of the use of setting appeared in The Water Babies. The first function is to underscore the theme of the story through the framing or enclosing setting, using the setting of the land-world. This determination outlines the notion that no matter high man could achieve knowledge or learn his lessons, he will eventually return to society [to make use of it properly for mankind's prosperity]. While the shifting locations within this framing method might indicate the various phases of learning process man might endure: the understanding of the world's greatness, of man should soon start a search for knowledge, of the possibilities and wonders which might exist in the world, of man is part of the great world or universe, are all emphasized through the description of an out space in the North country; the realization of the various existing water-creatures that perform their own daily activities, of spaces and privacy they need to do the routines, are pointed out by the description of the wonderful life within the stream; the realization to reach new great places where bravery and all efforts are tested is represented by the description of Tom's struggle in the salmon river; while the realization

of the new encountering that might happen, of the requirement of a great deal of efforts to achieve knowledge, of the other new lessons one might get during the long learning process, are all understood through Tom's extensive journey in the wide sea.

The next function of the use of settings here is that they might reveal the morals of the story, which are still closely related to its theme: the emphasizing of the color black and white in the story refers to the idea of purifying morality; the elaboration of nature or scenery of North country might teach children to have a deep respect on nature; the presentation of the fairy and Ellie to guide and teach Tom implies that children need to learn their lesson from a wise person; the artifacts of sea-sweets symbolize the rewards for the good children only; the controlled situation by the fairy both in land or underwater world suggests the idea of the presence of God; the black and prickly appearance of Tom announces the notion of the bad temper will reappear itself, so that children should always control their emotion; and lastly, Tom's long journey might note the hardship children has to endure in order to learn to be a good person.