

ABSTRACT

Both Beatrix Potter's *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* and Nancy Farmer's *The House of the Scorpion* are children's literary works that encourage their readers to have self-reliance in themselves which are represented by the young protagonists within the stories: Peter Rabbit and Matteo Alacrán. Both of them are children who have to face many problems in the story as the consequence for breaking the rule. However, although they have some similarities, they also have differences because both stories use different socio-cultural settings. Potter's *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* got Victorian age influences within the story because the author lived within the era, while Farmer's *The House of the Scorpion* uses Mexican culture as the socio-cultural setting. By using Intertextuality approach, this study aims to reveal the Intertextual relationship between both stories that lead to the shifting meaning of self-reliance from the former text to the later text. The result reveals that the former text and the later text have a relation as hypogram and transformation. Furthermore, the writer discovers that although both stories have the same moral value, its role depends on the socio-cultural settings where the protagonists live within the stories. In the Victorian era, the self-reliance was heavily promoted to motivate the lower or middle-lower class people to escape from social miseries. On the other hand, Farmer wanted to motivate the children, especially the ones within Mexican culture, to have self-reliance in them although the culture has a value to help their peers selflessly.

Keywords: children's literary work; self-reliance; socio-cultural setting; young protagonist

