

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Friendship is important for children's development. It helps children develop emotionally and morally. In interacting with friends, children learn many social skills, such as how to communicate and cooperate to solve problems. For instance, children will learn how to communicate with other friends appropriately. If children respond them nicely, they will respond them back nicely as well. Children will also learn how to cooperate with other friends. When they have problems, they have to solve to the problems together because by working together, they will find a way to solve their problems quickly. Sometimes they need help from their friends. Therefore, they need friends who can help them to solve the problems.

However, children would create a friendship if they could reach a level of role-taking ability (Selman 1971, 1723). In other words, children must be able to keep their own views on another person's views in mind before they can share their thoughts and feelings with a friend and respond appropriately when their friend shares with them. Role-taking ability involves understanding moods, emotions, and attitudes. Furthermore, friendship is frequently discovered in children's literature.

Children's literature is often defined as a collection of books written for children, read by children, and written about children (Schneider 2016, 10). This literature usually portrays children's experiences and feelings. Not only that, children's literature also

provides moral values and educational values for children. Furthermore, children are very impressionable during the formative years, and children's literature can help them develop into caring, intelligent, and friendly people (Crippen 2012). When children read children's books, they will follow what the character does and how the character's behavior portrayed in the story. Therefore, children can learn positive behavior from the character in the story because the characters in the story will give moral value in the story by showing their actions. Their actions will affect the children who read the book and they will do the same what the characters do in the story. Besides that, children's literature can educate children how to treat their friends or people around them better and it will affect their behavior as well.

The theme of friendship is frequently discovered in children's literature. Children books teach moral lessons on how to be a good friend and how not to be a bad friend. They teach the importance of honesty, trust, mutuality, and compassion. Friendship themed books are perfect for children because they will need to learn how to make friends and maintain a good relationship with their peers. Children's literature provides creative ways to teach children about friendship. The stories provide ways for children to learn how to make friends by relating to the emotions of the characters and learning to pay attention to their own actions and behaviors (DeGeorge 1998, 159).

Friendship is considered as an important relationship by children (Sebanc, et al. 2007, 81). They state that having a best friend is important for children's emotional development, especially in developing their confidence. In addition, by having a best friend, children can receive care, guidance, and support in doing something. Therefore,

children who have friends have higher self-esteem, lower levels of stress (Peters 2010, 2), less likelihood of becoming a victim of bullies and are less likely to experience anxiety or depression (Ladd and Troop-Gordon 2003, 1346). On the contrary, children who do not have friends can suffer from emotional and mental difficulties later in life (Ferrer and Fugate 2002, 1). The role of friendship toward children is important. Friends can support children emotionally. For instance, a child may struggle for something. A friend may be a key resource for support and feel comfortable to talk about someone's problems with his or her friend about how their feelings. Their roles have to be supportive and they can entertain and help their friend to solve their problems. However, if someone has no one to talk to, he or she might get stressed because they will hide the problem in themselves and eventually will cause mental disorders such as depression.

In children's literature, there are many books which tell about friendship, such as *Enemy Pie* (2000) by Derek Munson, *The Invisible Boy* (2013) by Trudy Ludwig, *Kindness Starts with You* (2018) by Jacquelyn Stagg, and also *The Clockwork Three* which is written Matthew J. Kirby. In this study, the writer uses Kirby's book, *The Clockwork Three* as the object of research. These books have the same issue about friendship toward children, in which by showing kindness, it can build a friendship even though they do bad deeds. However in *The Clockwork Three*, the main character only shows his kindness toward his true friends because they show good attitudes toward him. Additionally, the interesting part of *The Clockwork Three* novel is the main character and his friends are working children who want to fulfill their needs. Unlike the three books mentioned above, the main characters are only ordinary children.

The Clockwork Three tells about three children try to solve their own problems and they have to work together in solving their own problem. One of three children named Giuseppe is being employed by his master to become a street musician. Giuseppe tries to escape from his master called Stephano and he wants to return to his country. He collects money and hides it in a safe place to buy a ship ticket. Giuseppe also shares his money to an Italian kid named Pietro because he cannot earn a lot of money and he does not want Pietro to get in trouble. However, something happens to Giuseppe and Pietro. Giuseppe leaves Pietro and he does not give him money anymore. One day, Giuseppe meets two nice kids and he starts his friendship with them. His friends also need help to Giuseppe to find what they want. But, in return, Giuseppe wants them to help him to escape from his master and return to his country.

The Clockwork Three is written by Matthew J. Kirby. Kirby is an American author and he lives in Utah, United States. He also writes some books such as *A Taste for Monsters*, *Island of The Sun*, *Spider Stories*, *The Rogue World*, and so on. *The Clockwork Three* was released in 2010 and published by Scholastic Press. This novel has received some awards, such as Georgia Children's Book Award, Rebecca Caudill Young Readers Book Award, Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award, Nevada Young Reader's Award, and Colorado Children's Book Award. The author of this novel also received an award named Edgar Award for Juvenile Fiction.

This study will analyze how friendship influences Giuseppe in this novel by using New Criticism. The formal elements that will be used to analyze this study are characterization, plot, and tone. These formal elements will build an organic unity in

order to support the theme. The reason why this novel is interesting to analyze because the character wants to create a friendship in order to help him to escape from his cruel master. In addition, it is also interesting to analyze because Giuseppe is a working child who wants to return to Italy. He has been sold by his uncle and becomes a busker. Then, he builds a friendship with other working children named Frederick and Hannah who also wants to obtain something they want. Therefore, Giuseppe and other working children will work together in order to solve the problem. By analyzing formal elements that appear in this novel, it will reveal how the characterization of Giuseppe is depicted in the story when he tries to flee from his cruel master, how the characterization of Giuseppe affects the plot of the story, and how the tone that reflects about friendship in the text.

To deepen knowledge about friendship, there is a number of studies which have the same topic about friendship. The first study entitled *Friendship as Portrayed in Children's Books* from Journal of Elementary English which is written by Carolyn Sherman, an elementary school teacher in the Brockton Public School System. She explains that the role of friendship is beneficial for children. The role of friendship is used to entertain, to keep secrets, and so forth. In addition, in Sun Yin Kiang's article entitled "Only Connect": *Friendship, Belonging, and Space in the Works of J.M. Barrie, E.M. Fosters, and J.R Ackerley*, he discusses the closeness and the feeling of belonging are common things in quality of friendship. Similarly, in Michele Marie Sordi's article entitled *Managing Desire: Friendship and Courtship in the Early English Novel*, she discusses how important friendship in the narrative understanding about friendship. She explains that true friends will support and encourage their friends, tolerates their

shortcomings, accept them unconditionally, and care for them no matter what. In her research, Sordi applied deconstructive interpretative method in observing the issue of friendship. These articles have the same idea about friendship in which how important friendship is toward people's lives. These articles can give some insights for the writer about the importance of friendship and having good friendships will make people feel comfortable.

In maintaining friendship, trust is the important key. As professor of Psychology from Keele University, Ken J. Rotenberg, states about how to maintain friendship as in his article *The Trust-Value Basis of Children's Friendship* from Journal of Children's Interpersonal Trust, trust between individuals has a strong mutual or reciprocal component, in which it will make their friendship can last long. Therefore, having trust in one another will make their friendship last long. His article focuses on trust-value toward children's friendship, how true-value can be the basis for friendship in children by applying a comparative approach. There is a gap between the current study and Rotenberg's study. The current study focuses on the importance of friendship that influences the main character's characterization, plot, and tone by applying New Criticism approach. These elements will reveal the theme in order to reach the organic unity. Rotenberg's study provide knowledge how to make a friendship last longer and his study is beneficial for the writer to support her analysis.

An undergraduate thesis entitled *Amber's Desire for True Friendship in Siobhan Curham's The Moonlight Dreamers: A New Criticism Study* which is written by Made Saraswati Sri Adiwangsa also discusses friendship. Adiwangsa's study focuses on how

the main character's personality changes after she meets her new friends. Adiwangsa's study has the similar theory with the current study, in which she applies New Criticism. She analyzes the formal elements such as characterization, plot, symbolism, and irony in order to discover the theme which is friendship brings a happy life toward the main character. Therefore, the main character is involved in a good friendship because it brings a good impact toward the main character's personality and her life. However, the current study only analyzes the characterization, plot, and tone. Giuseppe's friendship affects the formal elements, in which it brings a good impact. Although Adiwangsa's study and the current study has the similar theory, the novels that they use are different.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

In order to analyze the struggle of Giuseppe to return to his homeland in *The Clockwork Three*, the statement of the problems are as follow:

1. How do the characterization of Giuseppe, the story's opening and closing scenes, and the use of tone inform about the importance of friendship?
2. What theme is implied from the analysis of the formal elements?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statements of the problems above, the purpose of this study are:

1. To explain the importance of friendship through the characterization of Giuseppe, the story's opening and closing scenes, and the use of tone in the text.
2. To explain the theme that implied from the analysis of formal elements.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is interested to analyze because the writer wants the readers are able to understand the definition of true friendship, how friendship is important for human relationship. Friendship can be maintained by giving something in return. This is a way to express a feeling of gratitude to someone for helping them in urgent situation. This study is beneficial for people who want to maintain their friendship. True friendship is a tool for solving problems because they will help their friends in any conditions, they will care about their friends, and they will respect each other. Friendship is not only formed through communication and interest, but it can be formed through reciprocity. This study is also to make contribution in Airlangga University, particularly in Faculties of Humanities and the writer hopes this study can help students to analyze a literary work by using the New Criticism. Not only that, the writer hopes the readers always pay attention in choosing friends because not all friends are really helpful and good enough.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

1. Friendship : a relationship between two or more people marked by feeling of care, respect, or admiration.
2. Busker : a person who performs music in the street
3. Working child : a child who works at an early age
4. Desire : a feeling of wanting to have something