

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Basic Consideration

The Jungle Book is one of famous works by Rudyard Kipling. *The Jungle Book* (1894) is Kipling's best-known stories for children that are still widely read around the world (Wasfy, 2014: p.14). It means that the stories are suitable for children. It is because the stories are understandable with containing education and the world of children. Moreover, Rudvin (2011, p.16) states that "The Jungle Books" became enormously popular in Italy because recently they serve not only to entertain juvenile readers but also as a means through which to teach the English literary canon. This is the reason the book is one of the most popular books. Even though, it has been published since a hundred years ago, but still popular in all ages of readers. One of the most famous stories in *The Jungle Book* that has been adapted in many media is about Mowgli.

Wasfy (2014, p.15) describes that the book is the collection of short stories which is firstly published in magazines in 1893 and later as a book in 1894 in Vermont. There are two editions of that book. However, the chosen stories that will be analyzed are the first edition entitled *The Jungle Book*. The reason of it is because the first edition only has seven stories and seven poems with eight of the illustrations by the author's father which simpler than the second edition of that book.

Stories about Mowgli are in the first three stories which are "Mowgli's Brothers," "Kaa's Hunting," and "Tiger! Tiger!". The stories will be analyzed as the continue stories and related to the main character, Mowgli. The stories are categorized as a fable. It is because the stories talk about animals. In the term of literature, it can be called anthropomorphic. According to Nauert

(2015, p.1) anthropomorphic means that animals, as the characters in the stories, have been given characteristics of human such can talk and act humanly.

The three stories tell about a boy or “man cub” as mention in the book. It refers to Mowgli as a human who is raised in the jungle by Wolves. Furthermore, according to Network57 (2010), “man-cub means child, but only in the sense of this book. A cub is a young animal, so the other animals call Mowgli a man-cub, since they view him as a young wild animal and not as a regular human child”.

Mowgli is a child who is separated by a tiger, Shere Khan, from his family (human) because Shere Khan wants to hunt him. Then, he is saved and raised by the pack of wolves, and by the helping of Bagheera (a black panther) and Baloo (an old bear). Furthermore, in the text, most people know him as a brave child which is general assumption. According to Boyd (2012, p.1-2) one of ways to reveal the character in the story is based on psychological description. In the story, it can be proved from Bagheera's speaking as stated in these following texts that he cannot look into Mowgli's eyes over than a half minute.

“Look at me,' said Bagheera; and Mowgli looked at him steadily between the eyes. The big panther turned his head away in half a minute.
'That is why,' he said, shifting his paw on the leaves. 'Not even I can look thee between the eyes, and I was born among men, ...'” (Kipling, 1894:20-21).

Bagheera says that he cannot stare at Mowgli's eyes over a half minute though he is born in the human place, and even he becomes the more terrible in the jungle than Shere Khan, The Tiger. Bagheera and the others animal concede the power of Mowgli's eyes. Additionally, Mowgli also says “all the jungle fear Bagheera, all except me” (Kipling, 1984:20). He is not fear to one of the most terrified animal. Based on Boyd (2012, p.1-2), to reveal the character is by what he says. Hence, by his statement that he is not fear to Bagheera shows that he is brave.

The braveness of Mowgli is also stated by Cornwall. She states that Mowgli is “brave and spunky as a young child and as he gets older his skills come to match his spunk”(Cornwall, 2016:1). It means that Mowgli is truly characterized as a brave character. However, in the text, there is also the opposition of Mowgli’s characteristic. It is fainthearted. This braveness and fainthearted refers to the binary opposition. Binary is a pair, while opposition is closer to contrary. Moreover, Putra (2016, p.4) states that

“in simple way, binary opposition is a pair of contrary things, this pair is contrast because if the one is present the other would be absent, but this pair cannot be separated though they are in contrary because they depend on each other.”

It means that, binary opposition is actually contrast but cannot be separated. The reason is each pair depends on each other. For example, beautiful/ugly, black/white, man/woman, and so on. By this concept, it means that brave and fainthearted are pair opposition. Hence, binary opposition can be one way to understand the meaning in the text.

However, because of that concept, one of pair will be dominated while the other will be covered. It is like brave and fainthearted. Through the concept of binary opposition, brave becomes the uncovering meaning while fainthearted becomes covering meaning. Thus, deconstruction as proposed by Jacques Derrida may become one of the possible ways in getting the covered meaning of the literary works. According to Gnanasekaran (2015, p.1), deconstruction is “a method for perusing which uncovers the inconsistencies and mysteries in the consistent structures of philosophical and artistic writings”. It means that deconstruction meant to reveal the unstable meaning in the text.

By these explanations above, hence the researcher interests in doing research by seeing the binary opposition then deconstructing it. This interested will be important because it will

reveal the covering meaning in Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book* limited on the main character.

1.2 Research question

Based on the background of study above, the problem of this study is briefly stated:
How to reveal the binary opposition of Mowgli character by using deconstruction analysis?

1.3 Research objective

This study is aimed to deconstruct the binary oppositions of Mowgli in *The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling.

1.4 Limitation of the study

The Jungle Book has two editions. First edition is entitled *The Jungle Book*, while the second edition is entitled *The Second Jungle Book*. However, the researcher chooses the first edition because it is simpler than the second edition. In *The Jungle Book*, there are seven stories. There are "Mowgli's Brothers," "Kaa's Hunting," and "Tiger! Tiger!," "The White Seal", "Rikki-Tikki-Tavi", "Toomai of the Elephants", and "Servants of the Queen". However, this study only limits on three first stories. It is because stories about Mowgli, the main character, are in the first stories, while the other four are not related to Mowgli. The study also will be limited to a main character named Mowgli and will be analyzed through seeing the binary opposition then will be analyzed by using the deconstructive approach as pioneered by Jacques Derrida, narrowly in the viewpoint.

1.5 Literature review

There are some researchers who conduct research about *The Jungle Book* narrowly in Mowgli character. First, the title is *The Role of Animals in The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling* by Dr. Amira Mohammad Wasfy (2014). In this research, Mowgli is one of the analyzed

characters. Furthermore, he found that Kipling gives some of his characters heroic qualities like courage, self-reliance, loyalty, and trust. Those animals are meant to be the voices of the animals in the jungle. However, the researcher also explains about Mowgli. As he analyzed Mowgli means the objective of my research and his research have similarities. Though, the different is in the theory.

Second, the title is *Perceptions of Race in Three Generations of The Jungle Book* by Anna Waterman (2015). It is about the comparison of three generation of *The Jungle Book*. Even though, this journal is aimed to analyze the different of *The Jungle Book* time to time but there is some assumptions of Mowgli as one of the main character of the stories. This will make Anna's journal become one of the previous study of this research.

The other research is entitled *The Garden and the Jungle: Burnett, Kipling and the Nature of Imperial Childhood* written by Mary Goodwin (2010). This paper follows the different "escapes" offered characters in these works while tracing the contours of class structure, gender, family relations, educational standards and imperial identity as experienced in the last decades of the nineteenth century. However, as Mary analyzed Mowgli, she states that Mowgli "develops to superhuman maturity in the jungle. Mowgli develops physically, spiritually and socially in the classroom of nature outside or parallel to mainstream culture" (Goodwin: 2010, p.106). It means Mowgli portrayed as a heroic character. These three researches above are analyzed *The Jungle Book* and the findings are about Mowgli's character. Meanwhile, the researcher find these researches above because even they are not using deconstruction as the theory but the data obtained from the same book and they discuss Mowgli.

The other research is about binary opposition. The title is *Saussurian Binary Opposition as the Narrative Structure of William's Summer and Smoke* by Anita Putri (2015). In her

research, she sees how Saussurian binary opposition found in the symbols constructs the narrative structure of Williams' *Summer and Smoke*. The differences between her and my research are the object of the research, the deconstruction theory applies in my research while she applies symbols.

There is also a research about binary opposition and deconstruction. The title is *a Deconstruction on the Binary Opposition of the Male and Female Characters in Susan Gaspell's Trifles* by R.K Putra (2016). Putra identified the characters of male and female in *Trifles* by using binary opposition, and then he examined them through deconstruction perspective in connecting them to the gender stereotype. The different between his and my research are the object of the study.

Furthermore, there are also some researchers who conduct research by using theory of Derrida's deconstruction. First, in Lia Fadhilah's analysis entitled *Deconstruction Analysis on Major Female Character in Film a Destiny of Her Own* (2011). She concerned on the deconstructed feminist characteristics of the major female character in *A Destiny of Her Own* film. The data are acquired from the film, deconstruction and feminist books, and websites. The focus of her analyses is in character by using Derrida's theory which is deconstruction. She found that Veronica, as the objective character of her study, in general view is decisive and independent while she actually wants to bear all her family's expenses by becoming a mistress.

Second, the title is *The Real Monster in Mary Shelley's novel Frankenstein* by Nur Aini Setyaningrum (2017). This thesis focuses on the deconstruction of the monster image in *Frankenstein* novel by Mary Shelley. This thesis aims to describe the monster image in other perception. Victor Frankenstein and his creature are the characters that be analyzed to deconstruct the image of the monster in this novel. Derrida's theory of deconstruction will be

used to analyze both of characters. The result of this thesis shows that the real monster in this novel is Victor Frankenstein. His madness and his changeable act prove that he is the chaos maker in this novel.

The third, the title is *Deconstruction of Characters in Moana Movie* by Fitrah Andini AM (2017). Her research is aimed to deconstruct the binary opposition between the main character and minor character in *Moana* movie. The research revealed the unimportant character which they are minor character. The research figured out that actually the other character can be an important character. The findings are every character is equal because there is no minor and major character. The reason is all the characters have some roles in building the story.

The three first analyses analyzed the book by Rudyard Kipling and related to Mowgli's character. Additionally, the three last of researches used Derrida's deconstruction as their theory, but different in the object of the study. Nevertheless, the difference between their researchers and this research is in the limitation of the study. This research attempts to analyze Mowgli's character in three first stories of *The Jungle Book* by using deconstructive approach.

1.6 Research significances

The result of the study is expected to be able to give the following significances:

- The result of the study will become a basis or reference for researchers who interested in doing an investigation on deconstructive analysis.
- The result of the study will give an example to the readers how to change the dominating meaning of the text while they are reading the story.