

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

Adaptation is a process of transferring a story from one form of media to another, such as from a novel into a film. Through adaptation, the same story can be retold with new interpretations, styles, or cultural contexts, allowing for fresh perspectives. According to Linda Hutcheon (2013), adaptation is not only a repetition of a previous text but also a creative act that adds new meanings to it. This makes the study of adaptation important in understanding how stories change when they are adapted from one format to another.

One of the well-known literary works that has been adapted into film is *The Witches* by Roald Dahl. The novel, first published in 1983, tells the story of a young boy who discovers that witches exist and that they hate children. Guided by his grandmother, he tries to stop their evil plan to turn all children into mice. Dahl's narrative combines elements of fantasy, humor, and moral lessons, which have made it a classic children's story.

The story was adapted into a film in 1990 and later reimaged in 2020, directed by Robert Zemeckis. The 2020 version presents new visual interpretations and modifies certain elements such as the setting, characterization, and tone. While the original novel is set mostly in Europe with a darker atmosphere, the film adaptation moves the story to 1960s America and features different cultural and aesthetic details.

Studying both versions is interesting because adaptation always involves transformation. Some parts of the story remain faithful to the novel, while others change to fit cinematic storytelling and modern audiences. This comparison will focus on four main structural elements: character, plot, setting,

and theme, to see how the 2020 film interprets and reshapes Roald Dahl's original narrative. The writer is personally interested in this topic because *The Witches* presents a unique case of adaptation where the same story delivers different impressions through two media. The novel's dark humor and imagination contrast with the film's visual approach and updated cultural context, making it meaningful to study how both forms express the same idea in different ways.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the background above, the problems that can be identified are as follows:

1. How the structure of character, plot, setting, and theme is described in Roald Dahl's *The Witches* novel.
2. How the structure of character, plot, setting, and theme is described in *The Witches* (2020) film adaptation.
3. What similarities and differences appear in the character, plot, setting, and theme between the novel and the film.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

To maintain focus, this research will only analyze the structural elements of *The Witches* novel and its 2020 film adaptation. The analysis will be limited to character, plot, setting, and theme. Other literary or cinematic elements, such as cinematography or dialogue, will not be discussed in detail.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

Based on the identification above, the problems in this research can be formulated as follows:

- 1 How are the character, plot, setting, and theme described in Roald Dahl's *The Witches* novel?

- 2 How are the character, plot, setting, and theme described in *The Witches* (2020) film?
- 3 What are the similarities and differences between the novel and the film in terms of character, plot, setting, and theme?

1.5 Objective of the Research

The objectives of this research are as follows:

1. To analyze the character, plot, setting, and theme of Roald Dahl's *The Witches* novel.
2. To analyze the character, plot, setting, and theme of *The Witches* (2020) film.
3. Comparing the similarities and differences between the two works based on these elements.

1.6 Significance of Research

This research is expected to give both theoretical and practical benefits.

1. Theoretical Benefit

This research contributes to literary and film studies by providing a comparative analysis of adaptation. It helps readers understand how structural elements such as plot, setting, and theme can shift when a story moves from written text to film.

2. Practical Benefit

This study can help students, readers, and film viewers appreciate how adaptations reinterpret original works. It may also serve as a reference for future research in the field of literature and adaptation studies.

1.7 Systematic Organization of Research

The research is systematically organized into five chapters as follows:

CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides background, identification, limitations, formulation, objectives, benefits, and the system of organization.

CHAPTER II : LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter discusses theories of adaptation, plot, setting, and theme, as well as previous studies related to *The Witches*.

CHAPTER III : RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter explains the method, data sources, and technique of analysis.

CHAPTER IV : COMPARATIVE STUDY ON CHARACTER, PLOT, SETTING, AND THEME BETWEEN ROALD DAHL'S THE WITCHES NOVEL AND ITS 2020 FILM ADAPTATION

This chapter presents the comparative analysis of the novel and the film based on character, plot, setting, and theme.

CHAPTER V : CONCLUSION

This chapter summarizes findings and provides recommendations for further research.