

**THE REPRESENTATION OF POVERTY IN “HANSEL AND GRETEL”
AND “THE TOM THUMB”**

THESIS

Written by:

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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITAS JEMBER**

2020



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A thesis presented to the English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Jember University, as one of the requirements to obtain the degree of Sarjana Sastra in English Studies

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my beloved parents, Yamma and Mail, my beloved sister and brother, Rahwini, Rahwiyah, Siti Rahmawati, Nana, Marli, Maimuna and Mulyadi for the endless love and prayer that they have given me throughout my life.



MOTTO

“ The stories are like a few stalks of a crop that managed to survive and devout hands come to seek them out, ear upon ear, and they provide nourishment, perhaps the only seed for the future ”

(Wilhelm Grimm, Foreword in Kinderhund Hausmarchen)

If you want your children to be intellegent, read them fairy tales.

If you want them to be very intelligent, read them fairy tales.

(Albert Einstein)

When the whole world is silent, even one voice

becomes powerful (Malala Yousafzai)

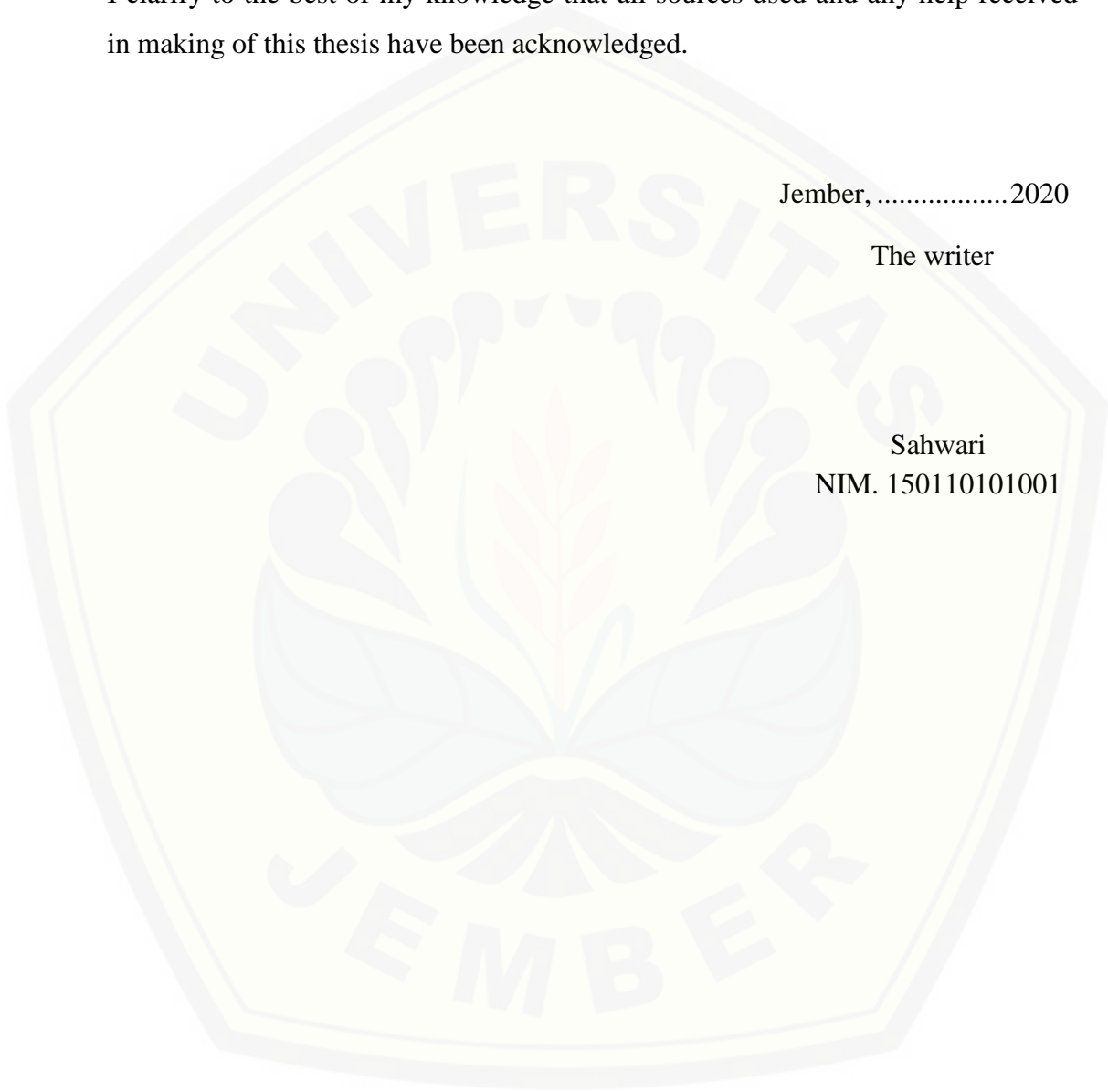
DECLARATION

I hereby assert that this thesis entitled “ **The Representation of Poverty in Hansel and Gretel and The Tom Thumb**” is an authentic writing. I proclaim honestly that this research has never been submitted for any degree or publication. I clarify to the best of my knowledge that all sources used and any help received in making of this thesis have been acknowledged.

Jember,2020

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I admit that this thesis is still far from perfection. Thus, I will be glad to accept any constructive criticism and recommendation to make this thesis better. Hopefully, this thesis will be useful to the reader who wants to focus on the study of literature.

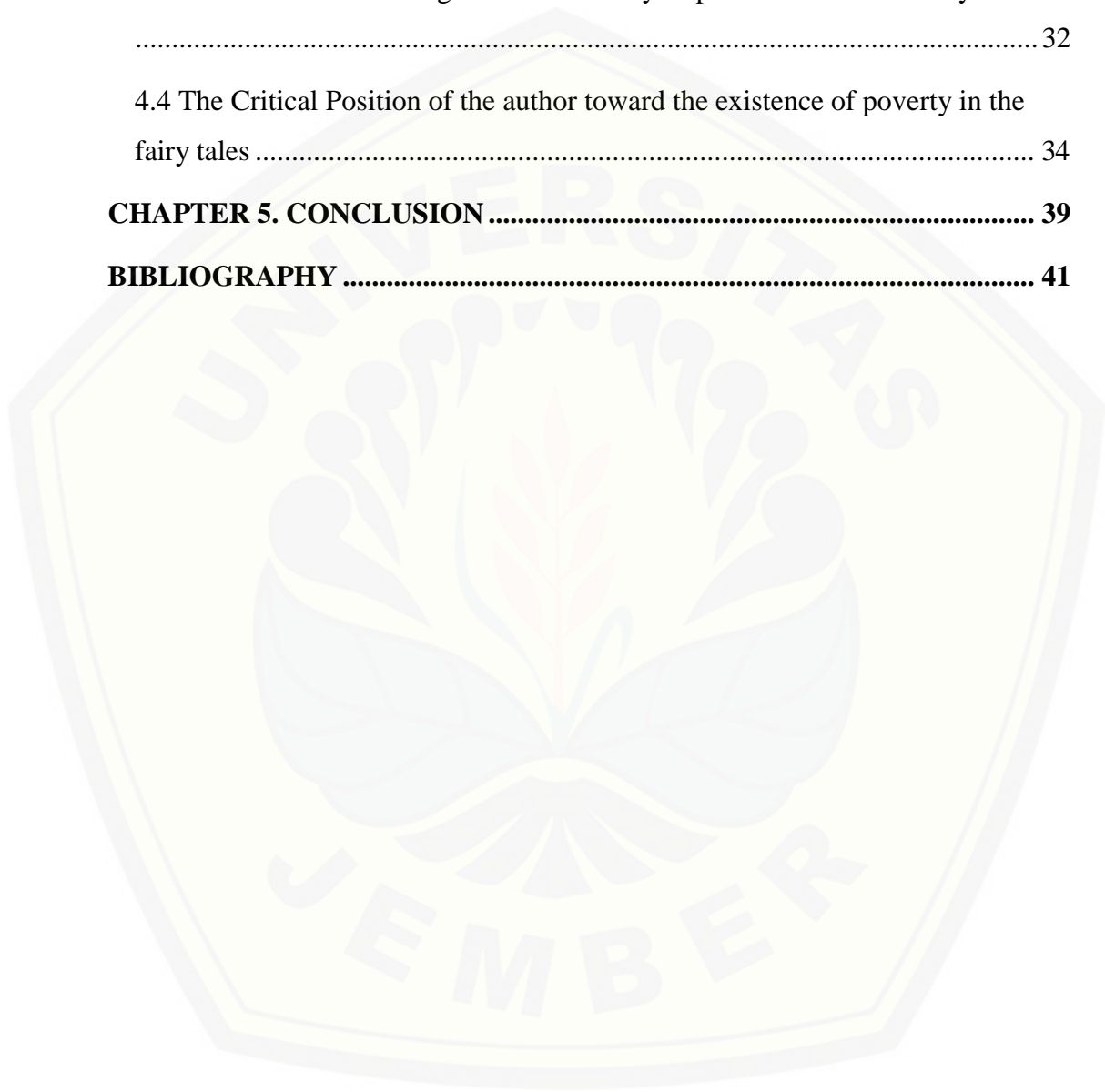
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SUMMARY

THE REPRESENTATION OF POVERTY IN HANSEL AND GRETEL AND THE TOM THUMB; Sahwari, 150110101001; 40 pages; English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Jember.

This research utilizes the fairy tales as the object of this study. The fairy tales used in this study are Hansel and Gretel and Tom Thumb. The purpose of this research is to find out how the poverty discourse is presented in the stories. This research is an interesting to analyze because the two fairy tales have the same plot and discuss the same topic about poverty.

Poverty that is emerged in Hansel and Gretel mentions that there is a family who lives in poverty condition. The parents cannot feed the children because they have a little food to survive. Moreover, the great dearth that befalls on the land makes them difficult to procure food. To prevent the problem above, the parents have to abandon the children to the forest in order to stabilize the economic need in their life.

Furthermore, poverty that is presented in Tom Thumb mentions that there is a family who wants to have a child. After they wish to have a child, there is something miracle that happens to them. They have a little child who is called Thomas Thumb. He has a little body like small thumb. The parents give him a plenty of food in order to grow well. However, his body is the same size. To comply the economic need in his family, Thomas Thumb has to deceive the people around him in order to fulfill the economic need in the middle of forest.

In order to analyze poverty as the subject-matter from those fairy tales, this research uses the theory of representation that is written by Stuart Hall and connects to Foucault's discourse. Moreover, this research is categorized as a qualitative research. There are two kinds of data in this research. First, primary data are taken by narrative description, dialogue, utterance in the fairy tales. The secondary data are gained from several books, journal, article to support primary

source. As the result of this discussion, this research concludes that poverty presented in Hansel and Gretel is caused by the lack food and a great dearth that befalls on the land. Additionally, poverty emerged in the fairy tale is also caused by the financial problem. In this case, poverty that happens in the fairy tales causes the parents have to do the criminal action to the children in order to survive in the forest. Furthermore, poverty presented in Tom Thumb also infers that the little child who has to deceive the people in order to fulfill the economic need in his family. The last conclusion, the author legitimizes the criminal action which is done by parents to the children because the parents do not have other choices to stabilize the economic need in their family.

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

The first section of this chapter basically discusses the basic idea in conducting the research. There are several components in the outset of this chapter. First, the background of the study, then it is followed by the research questions and the last one is the goal of study. Those components above will be illuminated below.

1.1 The Background of Study

Victorian Era is known as the era where the development of technology and science develop rapidly in England. This era also becomes the period of transformation since England is under the reign of Queen Victoria from 1830 until 1901. This significant changes certainly bring a positive impact on human activity at the time. When Victoria becomes the queen in this period, the majority of people tends to live in countryside. They tend to depend on the agricultural land to comply their economic need. However, the life of people becomes miserable condition when the industrial revolution takes place in Victorian Era. People begins to leave the village and cannot count on the agricultural land because there is a bad harvest during Victorian Era. It is supported by Sally (1937 :1-15) in his book “Daily Life in Victorain England”, He states that entire families who initially live in the village have to migrate to urban in order to look for a better job. It shows that to overcome the problem of agricultural land, people tend to migrate from rural to urban. It is called urbanization. The urbanization happens because of the effect of industrial revolution (Sally :28).

This industrial revolution entails a positive and negative impact to the people at the time. Industrial revolution transformed England from an agricultural nation to one based on the industry (Sally,1937:1). It means that Victorian people that initially count on the agricultural land to survive after the existence of industrial revolution transforms this era becomes industry since many inventions that is found in this era. They are the advancement of medical, economy, and technological knowledge. From those examples, it can be concluded that people

do not require the traditional tool to do their work after many new inventions.

Machine is one of the inventions that brings a positive impact to the Victorian people at the time. They can assume that machine is able to give strong influence to the economic condition such as the increasing of income and profit for government by making the product through the modern technology. On the other hand, Willson (1958: 80) asserts that the Victorian age had a large of problem to face. In many ways, it was an age of progress of railway- building, steam ships reforms of all kinds but it was also an age of doubt. There was too much poverty, too much injustice, too much ugliness and too little certainty about faith or morals-thus it became also an age of crusaders and reformers and theorist.

This statement above points out that the industrial revolution also brings a negative impact to the society especially to the lower class people at the time. Poverty is a problem experienced by the working class people during Victorian Era. They hope that the advent of industrial revolution will bring a positive impact to them. Otherwise, they finally get a bad treatment from the upper class society during Industrial Revolution. Besides, this period is well-known as the period that is indicated by the fundamental transformation such as philosophy, science, and technology. The fundamental transformation tends to bring the miserable condition to the lower class people during Industrial Revolution.

In this case, I proclaim that the literary works which are used in this study are suitable to analyze because the problem to discuss here wants to find out the poverty discourse from these fairy tales. Hansel and Gretel and the Tom Thumb are the two literary works published by Brother's Grimm in 1812. The two stories have the same plot and discuss about poverty as the topic of this reserach. Therefore, it is an interesting to analyze in this research.

Hansel and Gretel tells us about there is a family who lives in poverty condition. The parents cannot feed the children because they have a little food to share with their children. Moreover, a great dearth that befalls on the land makes them difficult to gain food.

To resolve this problem, the parents have to abandon the children to the forest in order to stabilize the economic need. Meanwhile, poverty that is emerged in the story of *The Tom Thumb* talks about a child who has a little body since he is born. He is called as Thomas Thumb. To survive in the forest, he faces some obstacles to get something for his family. He becomes a tricky person in order to comply the economic need in his family.

Brother Grimms as the author of this story shows us about poverty condition in Victorian Era. Poverty becomes an overview of a negative side in the story. The character who experiences suffering in this fairy tale represents the evidence of lower class condition in these fairy tales. Therefore, the problem of poverty that appears in the literary work is interesting to analyze in this research.

1.2 The Problem to Discuss

Poverty is one of the social issues that is caused by the lacking of food in their land. Poor people have to move from rural to urban in order to attain a better life but they exactly experience terrible condition as long as the Industrial Revolution takes place. The bad condition here is experienced by the children as well as the parents during their life. This problem happens because of the incapability of lower class people to feed their children. Consequently, the parents have to abandon their children to stabilize the economic need in their life. To elaborate those issues that emerge in this study, I want to focus on analyzing the representation of poverty that is emerged in the fairy tales. Regarding to the problem above, there are some research questions that I compose from these fairy tales. They are:

1. How is the poverty presented in *Hansel and Gretel* and *Tom Thumb*?
2. How are the aesthetical strategies of the poverty representation in the fairy tales?
3. What is the critical position of the author in the fairy tales?

1.3 The Goal of Study

The general goal of this research is to give the contribution in the study of literature especially to understand the representation theory in the literary studies. Moreover, there are three specific goals of this research. The first goal is to find out how the representation of poverty are presented in Hansel and Gretel and Tom Thumb. The second goal is to find out the aesthetical strategies of poverty representation in the fairy tales. The last one is to reveal the critical position of the author in the fairy tales.



CHAPTER 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The second section of this chapter examines the literature review, there are two discussions that will be elucidated in this chapter. First, the previous research and the second is the theoretical framework that is used as the frame in answering the problems to discuss. This research also explains the representation theory which is written by Stuart Hall (1997).

2.1 The Previous Researches

First, this previous research is gained from a thesis “The Representation of Beauty in three fairy tales Snow White, Cinderella, and Rapunzel presented in Enchanted.” is written by Noviani (2016). This previous research utilizes three fairy tales as the object material. According to the research, there are two problems to discuss from the previous research. The first problem is the trace of beauty in previous fairy tale that is presented in Enchanted. Furthermore, the second problem is the ideology behind the representation of beauty. As the result, she infers that the trace of beauty occurs because of the concept of beauty in previous tales and *Enchanted* is not completely changed. The three fairytales show that beauty is employed by women to get love, protection and happiness from men. Both in previous fairy tales and modern tales also show that the representation of beauty is constructed to entertain and attract men. Moreover, women who are powerful and do not require men to get their happiness are depicted as evil and defeated character. The last conclusion of her research also infers that the ideology believes that men are the dominant figures who become the source of women’s happiness. It means that behind the representation of beauty, women are always depicted as the subordinate character who depends on men.

In addition, the previous research above uses theory of representation about encoding process by Stuart Hall and Roland Barthes’ semiotic model for her study. The representation theory and Roland Barthes’ semiotic are employed as a

frame to analyze the problems of discussion and a method to map the representation of beauty in each fairy tales. From the explanation of this research above, there is a gap between the previous research and my current research. The similiarity of this previous research is positioned on the theory but the object of this research is different from my current research. By close reading the previous research, the previous research above gives some contribution to this research especially how the theory is operated to this research.

Second, the previous research is attained from a thesis “ An Analysis on representation of Woman Stereotyping in Brothers Grimm’s fairy tales:” Cinderella”, ”Snowdrop”, and “Rapunzel” is written by Mutammimah (2018). This research examines the existence of stereotypes toward women represented in three fairy tales. To analyze the fairy tales, this previous research uses the representation theory that is written by Stuart Hall and also the discursive approach which is proposed by Michel Foucault.

Based on the problem above, this theory is used to find out what the types of woman stereotyping that happen to the women characters in the fairy tales. Then, the result of this study shows that there are three types of woman strereotyping that happen in three fairy tales as the representation of woman stereotyping in 19th century. The first type is domesticity. Domesticity here happens to the powerless women that are considered as a good lady, full of submission and responsible to their domestic work. The second type of woman stereotyping asserts that women are considered as rough, evil heart, and ambitious. The last type of woman stereotyping is dreamer. Woman is viewed as a dreamer who wants to gain a better life. Moreover, woman also hopes that she can get married with the prince. Marriage here is considered as the best way to change her life to be better.

Regarding to the previous research above, it gives me the contribution to my current research especially how to understand the theory of representation.

Third, the previous research is a thesis “The representation of Victorian Child Labor in Elizabeth Barrett Browning’s poem: *The Cry of the Children*” by Irawan (2016). This previous research discusses the problem of child labor in Victorian Era represented in the Cry of the Children’s poem written by Elizabeth Barret Browning in 1843 when the industrial revolution happens. According to the research above, the poem discusses about the children who are crying about their destiny as their worker in the coal mine. Regarding to the issue above, there are several problems which appear in his research. First, the children labor in Victorian society based on the history. Second, the child labor described in the poem, and the political position of the author.

Regarding to the previous research, it has the same contextual background that relates to my research so that this research gives me some contribution to this research. Besides, the writer of this thesis uses the new historicism by Stephen Greenblatt. It also seeks the political context that is conveyed by the author, whether it is form of subversion or support to the system. From this research above, there is a gap between my research and the previous research. The research uses a poem which is written by Elizabeth Barrett Browning while my current research uses the two fairy tales entitled Hansel and Gretel and The Tom Thumb. According to the previous research above, the information about the Victorian era gives deeply the explanation to this research.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

2.2.1 Theory of Representation

Hall (1997:15) through his theory entitled *Representation: Cultural Representation and Signifying Practices* states that representation means using language to say something meaningful about, or to represent, the world meaningfully, to other people. The quotation explains that the representation theory occupies the important theory in the study of culture because this theory acquaints the concept of representation as the production of meaning from the concepts that exist in our mind into language. Through the production of meaning, the abstract concept that exists in our mind. Then, it is connected to the real world that becomes a medium to the existence of object, people and event. Therefore, this theory is used to explain how we are able to understand the production of

meaning through language.

Moreover, Hall also states that representation is an essential part of the process by which meaning is produced and exchanged between members of culture. It does involve the use of language, of sign and images which stand for or represent things (1997:15). According to the quotation above, it explains that how the meaning is produced through language. Language is one of the media through which thoughts, ideas, and feeling are represented in a culture (Hall,1997:1). Based on the quotation above, we have to know the definition of culture. (Hall, 1997:18) in his book asserts that culture is sometimes defined in term of shared meanings or shared conceptual maps. This statement shows that some people who have different culture, they have different concept to interpret the material world to other people. It means that we should afford to translate the concept that exists in our mind to understand the meaning of thing into language. Therefore, the language is functioned as a sign. The signs are usually like sounds, written word, even objects are used to stand for or represent our concepts, ideas, and feeling to the others. By explaining this theory, the language has the important role to construct the meaning that is used to represent something meaningful. Moreover, it involves the overall process in constructing the meaning.

Hall also mentions in his book, there are two important processes to construct the meaning such as the mental component and the language component. Then, both of them are often called as the representational system.

“Mental representation: all things which carry around in our heads. Meaning depends on the system of concepts and images formed in our thought which can stand for or represent the world. language: to present and exchange meanings and concepts we can only do that when we also have access to share language. Language depends on constructing a set of correspondences between our conceptual map and a set of signs, arranged or organized into various language which stand for or represent those concepts.”(Hall,1997:17)

According to the quotation above, Hall explains about the two important components about the process of constructing the meaning, for instances: Mental representation and language representation. Those components have close relationship each other. The first process is mental representation, it is called as the mental representation because there is a system that connects between the

object, people and event with the mental concept or mental representation which exists in our mind. Therefore, it is recognized as the mental representation. In this case, the concept which exists in our mind makes to understand about the material word but sometimes the material word cannot be understood when we never deliver it with using language. Therefore, we should build the concept as the early step to know the meaning. Then, we can share the meaning through language to other people.

The second process is a language. This system is called as the language representation in which a language is a system that is involved in the overall process in constructing the meaning. We can understand what they say if people are capable to communicate with others by using language. In a brief explanation, the representaton is a relation process in constructing the meaning between object, concept, sign. Besides, Hall also proposes about the three important approaches in theory of representation. They are the reflective approach, the intentional approach, and the last one is the constructionist approach (Hall,1997: 15).

Reflective approach means that language reflects the meaning of something. It can be called as the mimetic since language reflects the truth of things or real life. Moreover, the intentional approach uses a language to represent what the speaker or author's intention and the last approach is about the constructionist approach. As Hall explains in his book about the constructionist approach below. He states that "Thing dont mean: we construct meaning, using representational system-concepts and signs. We must not confuse the material world, where things and people exist, and the symbolic practice and processes through which representation, meaning and language operate." (Hall, 1997: 25).

According to the quotation above, Hall explains her idea about the three approaches in his book. He explains that the reflective approach and the intentional approach are depicted as the approach that is not appropriate to use in analyzing the fairy tales. Hall considers that the intentional approach is a approach that has a weakness. Therefore, the intentional approach is not used in this study while the reflective approach also cannot use in this study because all things that are expressed in the language can be sought in the reality. The reflective approach is regarded as a approach that affords to explain the difference of their perspective

that has the difference of cultural background.

Based on explanation above, the constructionist approach as the third approach is capable to overcome the topic of this study. This approach means people will construct a meaning by using the representational systems- concepts and sign in order to know the factual meaning that exists in the world. The meaning itself will shape some discourses that can be interpreted by people. Then, the true meaning can be found out through the social context. Moreover, Hall also states that “ there are two major or variants of the constructionist approach. They are semiotic approach by Ferdinand De Saussure; and the discursive approach by Michael Foucault. I choose the discursive approach by Michael Foucault to analyze the meaning that are constructed by text through language. There are three ideas in discursive approach such as: concept of discourse, the issue of power and knowledge and the question of the subject (Hall, 1997: 43).

Besides, Hall also explains that “by discourse’. Foucault meant a group of statements which provide a language for talking about - a way of representing the knowledge about – a particular historical moment. Discourse is about the production of knowledge through language (Hall, 1997:44).” It explains that the representation does not merely use language to construct the meaning but it also uses the discourse to analyze the meaning by using the language. The meaning of a text can be interpreted through the social condition as the context of literary work. By looking the context itself can help to find out the discourse in the literary work.

CHAPTER 3. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHOD

The third section of this chapter illustrates the research design and method. It is one of the stages to give some explanations about how we do the research well. Moreover, this section of this chapter is divided into some sub-chapters such as the type of research, data collection, and the last is data processing and analysis. Those components of this chapter will be elucidated respectively below.

3.1 Type of Research

This research is a qualitative research. This topic of research is about the representation poverty discourse in Hansel and Gretel and The Tom Thumb. Therefore, I use qualitative data. According to Bogdan and Taylor (1992:22) assert that qualitative research is one of the researches focussing on the descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words and it relates to the people or manner that is able to observe. Regarding to this research, the data of this research are poverty discourse in Hansel and Gretel and The Tom Thumb. The further step is analyzing the selected data from those fairy tales using the representation theory written by Stuart Hall.

3.2 Data Collection

This research employs Hansel and Gretel and The Tom Thumb as the object of this research. According to the data collection, there are two kinds of data in this research. First, the primary data are poverty discourse in Hansel and Gretel and The Tom Thumb. The primary data are gained from narrative description, utterance, dialogue that consist of poverty discourse in the fairy tales. The secondary data are gained from the several books entitled Daily Life in Victorian Era, journal which examines about Famine, the Black Dearth, and Health in fourteenth- century London and article entitled once there were two brothers named Grimm. In the step, the primary data and secondary data are gathered by doing close reading. Both of them are significant data to find out the meaning of the texts.

3.3 Data Processing and Analysis

According to the data processing and analysis, there are some steps in conducting the research. The first step is doing close reading the text to collect the data that construct poverty discourse in the fairy tales. Then, the data that contain of poverty discourse in the fairy tales are classified into some classification. There are three classification of poverty discourse that are constructed in the fairy tales. First, poverty is caused by the lack of food, poverty is caused by financial problem and then the last one is child malnutrition. After classifying the data of poverty discourse in the text, I have to seek the relation between poverty knowledge that is conctructed in the fairy tales and the poverty knowledge that is constructed in the context in order to find out the aesthetical strategy of the author. To analyze the data, I utilize the theory of representation by Stuart Hall. Because I use the discursive approach in this research. I have to relate the poverty discourse in the text with the contextual background about how poverty is constructed in the context to dismantle the critical position of the author.

CHAPTER 4. DISCUSSION

The section of this chapter discusses the research questions. To answer the research questions, this chapter is divided into three subchapters. The first subchapter discusses the representation of poverty from those fairytales. The second subchapter discusses the aesthetical strategies of poverty represented in the fairytales. The last subchapter wants to reveal the critical position of the author from those fairytales.

4.1 The Representation of Poverty in *Hansel and Gretel*

Hansel and Gretel is a German fairytale which is published by Brother's Grimms (Jacob Ludwig Carl Grimm and Wilhelm Carl Grimm). They are called as the cultural researchers or German academics because they have published some folktales during the nineteenth century. Some of their folktales are The Frog Prince, The Goose-Girl and Hansel and Gretel. Talking about Hansel and Gretel as the study of this research, the story is created in 1812 when the industrial revolution takes place. Brother's Grimms as the collector of children literature create some folktales that are gained through the society at the time. They write and collect several folktales through the farmer or people who are around them. Moreover, starting to write the first collection of their literary work, they make a story entitled the tales of children and the home as the famous folktale in their writing.

Hansel and Gretel is one of the folktales from their collection that they create at the time. In the beginning of this story, Hansel and Gretel tells about a poor wood-cutter with his wife and his two children. The boy is named as Hansel and a younger sister is named as Gretel. They live in poverty condition because their father, a poor wood-cutter, only has a little food and does not feed their children again. In addition, the great dearth that befalls on the land also makes them become difficult to procure a food. Because the land in the village cannot produce enough food for them, the parents discuss each other in order to resolve the great problem in the family. In the last decision about the great problem, Hansel and Gretel, as the main character in the short story, get a bad treatment conducted by their stepmother. She is going to abandon her children to the forest.

In the same situation, the father is also forced to do it.

Based on the issue of this story shows that there is poverty presented in the family. Poverty here becomes the anxiety for lower people because there are two great catastrophes struck on the land. Firstly, they have a little food to survive and the agricultural land cannot produce enough food for them. By looking at the great disaster above, parents that do not feed and cover their children have to abandon their children to the forest in order to save their life.

In this case, poverty can be defined as the inability of having choices and opportunities, a violation of human dignity. It means lack of capacity to participate effectively in society. It means not having enough to feed and clothe a family, not having the land on which to grow one's food or a job to earn one's living. (<http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/poverty>). Because the story talks about poverty, There are two things that construct the poverty discourse in the fairy tale. First, poverty is caused by the lack of food, second category, poverty is caused by the financial problem. These two aspects are brought in the fairy tales as how meaning is constructed through language (Hall,1997:25). Moreover, Hall also asserts that discourse is about production of knowledge through language (Hall,1997:44). Some classification above will be explained below.

4.1.1 Poverty is presented due to the lack of food on the land.

Poverty that is portrayed in this story shows that there is lacking of food in their family. The shortage food as a problem in the story is caused by the great dearth in the village. It means that poverty occurs because the poor is not lazy to work. However, there is a large dearth on the land. Hence, a poor wood-cutter and his family suffer the starvation during the great dearth because the supply of food is not enough and a little to survive. To complete their life, the lower class people normally have to depend on the nature to get a food but the nature depicted in the story ravages. Sally (2009:3) said that that an Agricultural depression in the 1870s was caused by a series of bad harvest, which coincided with the rapid settlement of prairie in Canada and the United States. It means that the existence of agricultural depression causes the lower class people do not produce food and suffer starvation during the great dearth. Therefore, the working class people have to do anything

to survive in their life. For example, they have to abandon their children to stabilize their need and share a little food to the children to save their life. Regarding to the problem of this story, the scarcity of food here is caused by the damaged nature in the village. Consequently, the lack of food causes the unstable necessity in their family. In this case, the poverty is highly possible to the parent to do the criminal thing to the children. According to the explanation above, it can be seen through the quotation below.

Hard by a great forest dwelt a poor wood-cutter with his wife and his two children. The boy was called Hansel and the girl Gretel. **He had little to bite and to break, and once when great dearth fell on the land, he could no longer procure even daily bread.** Now when he thought over this by night in his bed, and tossed about in his anxiety, he groaned and said to his wife: 'What is to become of us? How are we to feed our poor children, when we no longer have anything even for ourselves?' 'I'll tell you what, husband, answered the woman. 'early morning tomorrow morning we will take the children out into the forest to where it is the thickest; there we will light a fire for them, and give each of them one more piece of bread, and then we will go to our work and leave them alone.

(Brother's Grimm: 99)

This quotation shows that there is a family who lives in poverty condition. They have a little food to share with their children. In addition, the great dearth causes the lower class people cannot procure food on the land. The statement above indicates that the little food and the great dearth represent the poverty condition. It means that the damaged nature cannot provide a food to the parent. Bread as the primary food for lower class people decreases because the nature is damage. Moreover, this statement is explained anymore through the sentence "he could no longer procure even daily bread". It has a wider meaning to interpret because the word "procure" means the lower class people have to depend on the nature to get a food. However, the nature depicted on the land is broken. Therefore, the parents have to abandon their children to the forest in order to stabilize their economic need in the family.

Poverty as the issue in the story happens because there is a reason. According to the information from Arizona Geographic Alliance (<https://geoalliance.asu.edu/famine>), It said that poverty takes place because there is a great famine throughout Europe. The bad harvest makes the lower class

cannot feed children during the great famine. It began in 1315 and lasted until 1317, but the people of Europe did not really have a steady food supply until about 1322. During this time, millions of people died from starvation. Many people died from diseases that their bodies could not fight off because they were weak from not enough food. Life during the middle ages was harsh and people often had to deal with food shortages but famine of 1351 was wide-spread and extreme. It can be concluded that the great famine is a problem that should be confronted by the lower class people at the time. The great famine happens because the agricultural land cannot produce a food. Therefore, the lower class people suffer starvation during the occurrence of the great famine.

Looking at the problem above, it is highly possible for parent to do the criminal thing to the children when they cannot feed the children again. It was hard time for children. Sometimes parents who could not feed their children would abandon them in town or in the forest. Many children also were left orphans when their parents died with no one to take care of them. In addition, many people became beggars and thieves. This action is done in order to get a food.

According to the information through the industrial revolution era, most of people in England especially lower class people confront some problems such as poverty, famine, disease and also child labor. Willson (1958: 80) claims that the Victorian Era had a large of problem to face. In many ways, it was an age of progress of railway-building, steam ship reforms of all kinds but it was also an age of doubt. There was too much poverty, too much injustice, too much ugliness and little certainty about faith or morals—thus it became also an age of crusaders and reformers and theorist. In this case, the food shortages during the great famine will influence the lower class people to do the criminal action to the children.

They will not find the way home again, and **we shall be rid of them.** ' No, wife,' said the man, ' I will not do that : How can I bear to leave my children alone in the forest ? – the wild animals would soon come and tear them to pieces.' 'O, You fool ! said she, '**then we must all four die of hunger, you may as well plane the planks for our coffins.**' and she left him no peace until he consented. '**But I feel very sorry for the poor children, all the same ,**' said the man.

(Brother's Grimm : 99)

This statement deals with the anxiety of their parents during the crisis of food in their village. Father does not want to leave their children in the wood but he wants to do it because he is forced by the stepmother in order to stabilize their financial problem in their family. It means that food shortage during the great famine in the village creates the savage condition to the children.

According to the Archaeology International written by Daniel Antonie and Simon Hillson (<https://www.ai-journal.com/article/abstract/10.5334/ai.0808/>). They said that the great famine is recorded as one of the greatest calamities of the medieval period; but, although it is believed to have caused great suffering and high mortality, little is known about its direct effects on the people who survived it. Through the narration above, abandoning children to the forest is a form of atrocities done by the parent at the time. It is done by parent because the supply of food is not enough to survive.

In real life, we see that the parents have to protect and give a food to the children, but in this narration, we see that the parent should do criminal thing to the children in order to maintain their need. The crisis of food becomes the parents have to abandon the children to the forest. The children abandonment as the criminal action which is done by the father and their stepmother in the story in order to save their economic problem in their family. Moreover, the children is considered as a burden for parent so that they have to abandon the children to the forest. In fact, the children still accept the starvation toward the parent's treatment. In this case, the crisis of food causes the anxiety for parents during their life.

According to the statement above, it can be said that the life of lower class people begins to change after industrial revolution takes place. In the early of the age, people in this age still depend on the land as the source of life to fulfill their need. After this age happens, the condition of lower class people becomes scary condition. This condition makes the lower class people have to work in getting good position in their life. Consequently, they do not get what they want in their life. The bad treatment that they get from the existence of industrial revolution is the starvation. The starvation as the problem of this story is affected by the crisis of food in their family where the parents cannot tackle the problem in the story. Even, the existence of industrial revolution makes the lower becomes the sorrowful condition.

When day dawned, but before the sun had risen, the woman came and awoke the two children, saying: 'Get up, you sluggards! we are going into forest to fetch wood.' She gave each a little piece of bread, and said: ' There is something for your dinner, but do not eat it up before then, for you will get nothing else.' Gretel took the bread under her apron, as Hansel had the pebbles in his pocket, Then they all set out together on the way to the forest. When they had walked a short time, Hansel stood still and peeped back at the house and did so again and again. His father said: 'Hansel, what are you looking at there and staying behind for ? Pay attention, and do not forget how to use your legs.' Ah, father," said Hansel, 'I am looking at my little white cat, which is sitting up on the roof, and wants to say goodbye to me.' The wife said: 'Fool, that is not your little cat, that is the morning sun which is shining on the chimneys. Hansel, however, had not been looking back at the cat, but had been constantly throwing one of the white pebble- stones out of his pocket on the road.

(Brother's Grimms : 100)

Lack of food is a common issue presented in the quotation. It can be revealed through the dialogue between the stepmother and the children in the story where the stepmother cannot complete what they need in their family. According to the explanation above, the bold sentences can be classified as the depiction of poverty which is caused by the lack of food. In this case, the stepmother, a cruel woman, wants to banish them to the forest. Why does the event take place?. This case occurs because the existence of food in their life is not enough to the children so that she only gives a little bread to the children. According to Mitchell (2009: 40) stated that most Victorian – men, women and even children worked long and hard at jobs that required more physical labor than present day occupations.

In addition, Mitchell (2009: 40) also stated the work day and the work week were extremely long. In agriculture, labor from sunup to sundown during the busy summer day was not unusual. This is a fact that Victorian Era gives the bad influence to the lower class people in which they should work to get everything. To get the good life in the village, many of lower class should force the children to work in the forest. The work here can be depicted through the statement where Hansel and Gretel as the main character in the story are banished and given a little food in order to seek the additional food to continue their life in the wood.

4.1.2 Poverty is caused by Financial Problem

A poor wood-cutter as the lower class people which is depicted in the story experiences the difficulty in getting the better life. This condition occurs when the working class people are not capable to fulfill their economic need. The depiction of this problem happens because the lower class people have the difficulty in looking for a food in daily life. In this case, there is a financial problem that does not overcome in the story. Mitchell (2009:3) said that England's economic and industrial dominance lasted until almost the end of the nineteenth century and had a dramatic impact on daily life. It means that the existence of the financial problem becomes the misery condition to the lower class people. The crisis of food and the financial problem take place everywhere during the victorian era. In this quote mentions that the lower class faces some struggles to get the good condition. From the explanation above, it can be seen through the quotation below.

Not long afterwards, there was once more great dearth throughout the land, and the children heard their mother saying at night to their father: **'Everything is eaten again, we have one half loaf left, and that is the end. The children must go, we will take them farther into the wood, so that they will not find their way out again; there is no other means of saving ourselves!'** The man's heart was heavy, and he thought: **'It would better for you to share the last mouthful with your children.'** The woman, however, would listen to nothing that he had to say, but scolded and reproached him. He who says A must say B, likewise, and as he had yielded the first time, he had to do so a second time also.

(Brother's Grimm: 101)

The statement shows that there is terrible condition that happens to the lower class people. This condition potrays that the incapability of their parent to feed to the children. During their life, the economic need becomes scarce so that a poor family should abandon their children when the great problem befalls again in their land. This problem is a worst condition rather than before. The supply of food in their family is insufficient to fulfill their need. Therefore, the children abandonment is one of the ways to resolve the poverty problem that happens in their family. This is an evidence that the existence of poverty makes lower class people should do the criminal thing to the children in this age. According to Mitchell (2009:18) proclaimed that most working class people earned just enough to stay alive, and could be thrown into poverty by illness, layoffs, or a sudden

misfortune such as a factory fire that caused even short-term unemployment. The children get the bad treatment as long as the Industrial Revolution takes place. In this age, several aspects grow up rapidly but they do not take care what happens in society. Therefore, there are many of poverty problem that lower class people should accept in this age.

The two children had also not been able to sleep for hunger, and had heard what their stepmother had said to their father. Gretel wept bitter tears, and said to Hansel: 'Now all is over with us.' 'Be quiet, Gretel,' said Hansel, 'do not distress yourself, I will soon find a way to help us.' And when the old folks had fallen asleep, he got up, put on his little coat, opened the door below and crept outside. The moon shone brightly, and the white pebbles which lay in front of the house glittered like real silver pennies. Hansel stooped and stuffed the little pocket of his coat with as many as he could get in. Then he went back said to Gretel: 'Be comforted, dear little sister, and sleep in peace, God will not forsake us, and he lay down again in his bed.

(Brother's Grimms: 99)

This statement proves that Hansel and Gretel as the main character in this story accept the sorrowful condition in their life. They feel unhappiness condition after the great occurrence takes place in their land. Children have to confront the difficulty of life such as starvation without there is a solution for them. According to Mitchell (2009:11) said that the later part of the nineteenth century had a somewhat more difficult and diverse tone than the high Victorian years of mid century, although not necessarily because times were harder. It means that Victorian Era brings the negative impact to the lower class people where the hard life still happens in this age. According to the quotation, Starvation is a form of poverty that is undergone by the children at the time. The effect of this age makes the children from lower class people should accept the worst treatment. Many of social injustices which are accepted by the children at the time such as they suffer all day long because of starvation which happens everywhere. Even, they do not have spare time to play with other children and they do not have opportunity to learn in the school. Therefore, the existence of poverty and the life of poor family are drawn as the terrible condition.

Early in the morning came the woman, and took the children out of their beds. **Their piece of bread was given to them, but it was**

still smaller than the time before. On the way into forest Hansel Crumbled his in his pocket, and often stood still and threw a morsel on the ground.' Hansel, why do you stop and look around?' said the father, 'go on.' 'I am looking back at my little pigeon which is sitting on the roof, and wants to say goodbye to me,' answered Hansel. 'Fool! said the woman, 'that is not your little pigeon, that is the morning sun that is shining on the chimney.' Hansel, however little by little, threw all the crumbs on the path.

(Brother's Grimms: 101)

The financial problem is one of the problem presented in the story where Hansel and Gretel as the main character suffer the starvation in their family. This condition makes their parents have to do the dangerous thing to the children because they cannot give the children a food again. The decision makes them to abandon their children to the forest. This condition happens because the children have to restrain the starvation in order to go home. Hansel and Gretel represent the clear depiction about the condition of children at the time. In addition, the problem still happens in Victorian Era where the increase of violence increases because of the inability of their parents to feed them. During Victorian Era, the circumstance of lower class people becomes the disappointing moment as well as the horrible experience especially to the children. All of children in Victorian Era gain the mistreatment from their family.

When they had reached the middle of this forest, **the father said: 'Now, children, pile up the some wood, and I will light a fire that you may not be cold.'** Hansel and Gretel gathered brushwood together, as high as a little hill. the brushwood was lighted, and when the flames were burning very high, the woman said: 'Now, children, lay yourselves down by the fire and rest, we will go into the forest and cut some wood. When we have done, we will come back and fetch you away.'

(Brother's Grimms: 100)

This statement shows about a family who is not capable to keep their children. They learn the untruth to the children. This problem takes place because their parents want to stabilize their economic problem in their family. So, they decide to abandon their children to the wood. In this regard, the parents cannot protect the children and even they ask the children to collect some wood. This condition draws that the children exploitation is one of the ways to overcome the

problem during the hard life in the village.

In Victorian Era, there are many of social conflicts that happen in this age. This is one of the great problems that do not have solution at the time. Poverty bring the negative impact to the lower class family. Children always accept the bad suffering all day long, violence and also starvation during their life.

They walked the whole night long, and by break of day came once more to their father's house. They knocked at the door, and when the woman opened it and saw that it was Hansel and Gretel, she said: you naughty children, why you slept so long in the forest?— we thought you were never coming back at all!' The father, however, rejoiced, for it had cut him into to the heart to leave them behind alone.

(Brother's Grimms: 101)

Hansel and Gretel as the main character in this story get different treatment from their stepmother. The mother is categorized as the evil stepmother because she only wants to take the advantage from their children. She never gives an affection to their children. This is different from their father. He is very pleasure when the children come back home. Mitchell (2009: 41) stated that in the early years of the industrial revolution, the birth rate was high and many people died before middle age. More than half the population were children and many were without parents. It means that the presence of children this story represents that they have to survive without parent and confront some cases from their stepmother. This condition of children is trully dissapointment because they get the bad treatment from their family as well as from society, Therefore, there are many of literary works talk about social injustice in Victorain Era. The existence of literary work itself wants to give critic to the society in order to be aware toward the social phenomena at the time.

The old woman had only pretended to be so kind; she was in reality a wicked witch, who lay in wait for children, and had only built the little house of bread in order to entice them there. **When a child fell into her power, she killed, cooked and ate it, and that was a feast day with her. Witches have red eyes, and cannot see far, but they have a keen scent like the beasts and are aware when human beings draw near.**

(Brother's Grimms: 103)

This statement also states that the wicked witch represents the character who wants to eat them. Hansel and Gretel are repeatedly tortured by the wicked witch. She asks gretel to feed him. Afterward, the wicked witch wants to eat and kill him. According to the industrial revolution, The wicked witch represents as the character who wants to get some advantages from the children. Starvation still happened in Victorian Era where children become a victim that accepts social injustice from society at the time. Therefore, the influence of Victorian Era gives the biggest impact to the children.

And now the best food was cooked for poor Hansel, but Gretel got nothing but carb-shells. Every morning the woman crept to the little stable, and cried: 'Hansel, stretch out your finger that I may feel if you will soon be fat.' Hansel, however, stretched out a little bone to her, and the old woman, who had dim eyes, could not see it, and thought it was Hansel's finger, and was asthounded that there was no way to fattening him. When four weeks had gone by, and Hansel still remained thin, she was seized with impatience and would not wait any longer. 'Now, then, Gretel ,' she cried to the girl, 'stir yourself, and bring some water. **Let Hansel be fat or lean, tomorrow I will kill him, and cook him.**' Ah, how the poor little sister did flow down her cheeks! 'Dear God. do help us,' she cried. 'if the wild beasts in the forest had but devoured us, we should at any rate have died together.' **Just keep your noise to yourself,' said the old woman, 'It won't help young at all.'**

(Brother's Grimm: 103)

This narration shows that the old woman is categorized as the evil witch in the story because she wants to eat the children again. Consequently, the evil witch which is very greedy is not success to eat them. Through the narration above, the witched witch symbolizes the cannibalistic person in the story. During the great famine in western europe, the wicked witch as the cannibalistic person should survive from the starvation. The existence of great famine in western Europe causes the anxiety for people to continue their life, they have to do everything to eat. Eating the flesh human is an effort to complete the economic need during the great famine. According to the explanation above, the poverty presented in the story is caused by the great famine. Because of the lack of food, the poor family should do the criminal to the children at the time. Therefore, The poverty does not happen when the economic need has been fulfilled in their life.

This condition makes the children are afraid during their life. Because of this condition, this age is called as the darkness age because society can not take

care and they abandon the children at the time. The darkness here represents that the trully condition of children in Victorian Era.

The woman led the children still deeper into the forest where they had never in their lives been before. Then a great fire was again made, and the mother said: 'just sit there, you children, and when you are tired you may sleep a little, we are going to forest to cut wood, and in the evening when we are done, we will come and fetch you away.' **When it was noon Gretel shared her piece of bread with Hansel, who had scattered his by the way. Then they fell asleep and evening passed, but no one came to the poor until it was dark night, and Hansel comforted his little sister and said: 'just wait, Gretel, until the moon rises, and then we shall see the crumbs of bread which I have strewh about, they will show us our way home again.'** When the moon came they set out, but they found no crumbs, for the many thousands of birds which fly about in the woods and fields had picked them all up. Hansel said to Gretel: 'We shall soon find the way,' but they did not find it. They walked the whole night and all the next day too from morning till evening, but they did not get out of the forest, and were very hungry, for they had nothing to eat but two or three berries, which grew on the ground. And as they were so weary that their legs would carry them no longer, they lay down beneath a three and fell asleep.

(Brother's Grimm : 102)

The statement which is presented in the story tells about the child abandonment that is conducted by the parents in the family. The stepmother, the cruel woman, delivers her intention to abandon their children to the forest. Listening to her decison, the father cannot agree with her decision. He cannot let his children in the forest. When they are discussing each other about their problem in the family, they should determine to step aside the children to the forest. In this case, the stepmother should take the children to the wood and give a piece of food for her children. According to the explanation above, a piece of food here symbolizes the biggest problem during the life. Food as the primary food becomes the scarce during their life. Therefore, leaving the children in the forest is the way of parent in preventing the great famine in the family. In real life, the parent will not step aside the children to the hazardous thing if the economic need has been fulfilled. The existence of the great famine that makes the parent do the atrocities to the children.

According to the review from the Emma as the librarian, She said that

some scholars believe that the story of Hansel and Gretel happens because of the existence of great famine in the fourteenth century, much of Europe From Russia to the United Kingdom, and south to the Pyrenees and the Alps- starved. This devastating famine coincided with the end of the Medieval Warm Period and began in the spring of 1315 with the heavy spring rains that continued into summer and autumn, followed by one of the worst winters in the history of the Middle Ages. This bad weather – interspersed with dry summers and periods of drought- continued until 1322 and resulted in catastrophic harvest yields as well as the loss of draught and food animals through starvation and disease. Historic sources often refer to this period as the 'Great Murrain,' simply put, means 'The Great Dying.' During this time stories of infanticide, cannibalism and of children being abandoned by their parents to fend for themselves arose. (As a side note, it is also interesting to note that the witch hunts often increased in frequency and intensity during times of agricultural instability). Based on Emma's review about the story of Hansel and Gretel, the statements above expresses that poverty which is appeared in the story is caused by the the great famine in the fourteenth century so that many of lower class people do the hazardous thing to the children at the time.

It was now three mornings since they had left their father's house. They began to walk again, but they always came deeper into the forest, and if help did not come soon, but they always came deeper into the forest, and if help did not come soon, they must die of hunger and weariness. When it was mid-day, they saw a beautiful snow-white bird sitting on a bough, which sang so delightfully that they stood still and listened to it. And when its song was over, it spread its wings and flew away before them, and they followed it until they reach a little house, on the roof of which it alighted; and **when they approached the little house they saw that it was built of bread and covered with cakes, but the windows were of clear sugar.** 'We will set to work on that,' said Hansel, 'and have a good meal. I will eat a bit of the roof, and you Gretel, can eat some of the window, it will taste sweet.'

Hansel reached up above, and broke off a little of the roof to try how it tasted, and Gretel leans againts the window

and nibbled at the panes. Then a soft voice cried from the parlour

' Nibble, nible, gnaw,

Who is nibbling at my little house?'

The children answered:

The wind, the wind,

The heaven- born wind,'

and went on eating without disturbing themselves. Hansel, who liked the taste of the roof, tore down a great piece of it, and Gretel pushed out the whole of the one round window-pane, sat down, and enjoyed herself with it. Suddenly the door opened and a woman as old as the hills, who supported herself on crutches, came creeping out. Hansel and Gretel were so terribly frightened that they let fall what they had in their hands.

(Brother's Grimms: 102)

When Hansel and Gretel are abandoned by the stepmother in the forest, they have to face several obstacles during their life. There are two obstacles that the poor children face during the terrible famine in the forest. The first, the poor children undergo the difficulty and suffering in gaining a food to survive in the forest for three days. Second, they have to look for the additional food in the forest in order to survive in the deeper forest. The other situation, the poor children live in the forest for three days without help from the other people at the time. The hunger does not last so long. The poor children gain the help from the beautiful bird as the animal helper in the story. Therefore, the existence of the beautiful bird can rescue the poor children from the famine and shows them the way where they should get the additional food. When poor children find out the solution for their problem, they are showed to the little house that is built of bread and covered with cakes where a lot of food can be reached. The poor children feel so happy and eat the little house which is made from the cakes.

According to the explanation above, the statement indicates that the great famine influences the parents do the criminal action to the children. Poor children, the innocent creature, are let by the parent to the forest in order to work. Without working, the human being cannot fulfill the economic need. Therefore, the existence of starvation, the parents command their children to work in order to eat food. Moreover, the poor children is a must to look for the occupation to sustain the economic need in their life. Sally (2009: 41) said that twenty- first century readers are shocked by accounts of the victorian children – some of them very young – who worked long hours under terrible condition. However, child labor was not invented by the victorians. Children in pre-industrial societies had always worked. Most took some part in their parent’s labor, whether in agriculture or in producing good at home. This statement reveals that the tragic life that happens to the children during Industrial Revolution. The parents have to force the children to do some works.

The old woman had only pretended to be so kinds; she was in reality a witch, who lay in wait for children, and had only built the little house of bread in order to entice them there. When a child fell into her power, she killed it, cooked and ate it, and that was a feast day with her. Witches have red eyes, and cannot see far, but they have a keen scent like the beasts, and are aware when human beings draw near. When Hansel and Gretel came into her neighbourhood, she laughed with malice, and said mockingly: ‘ I have them, they shall not escape me again! ‘ early in the morning before the children were awake, she was already up, and when she saw both of them sleeping and looking so pretty, with their plump and rosy cheeks she muttered to herself: ‘That will be a dainty mouthful!’ Then she seized Hansel with her shrivelled hand, carried him into a little stable, and locked him in behind a grated door. Scream as he might, it would not help him. **Then she went to Gretel, shook her till she awoke, and cried: ‘Get up, lazy thing, fetch some water, and cook something good for your brother, he is in the stable outside, and is to be made fat. When he is fat, I will eat him.’ Gretel began to weep bitterly, but it was all in vain, for she was forced to do what the wiced witch commanded.**

(Brother’s Grimm : 103)

The hunger and the child murder are one of the problems that is emerged in the story. To prevent starvation problem in the statement above, Hansel and Gretel decide to eat the little house which is made from bread. However, they experience an obstacle when they eat it. They are deceived by her. The wicked woman as the greedy person in the story tends to do all things to survive in the dark forest. All plans and efforts will be done by her in order to complete the economic need. Eating and killing the poor children are the plan that the wicked woman does to overcome the unstable need in the story. According to the problem above, cannibalism is one of the ways to prevent from starvation. It means that poverty still makes the anxiety for lower class people when they cannot eat anymore during their life.

Gretel, however, ran like lightning to Hansel, opened his little stable, and cried: 'Hansel, we are saved! The old witch is dead! Then Hansel sprang like a bird from its cage when the door is opened. How they did rejoice and embrace each other, and dance about and kiss each other! And as they had no longer any need to fear her, they went into the witch's house, and in every corner there stood chests full of pearls and jewels. 'These are far better than pebbles ! Said Hansel, and thrust into his pockets whatever could be got in, and Gretel said: 'I too, will take something home with me, and filled her pinafore full. 'but now we must be off, said Hansel, 'that we may get out of the witch's forest.'

(Brother Grimm: 104)

After facing some obstacles in the forest, Hansel and Gretel take something from the witch's house. They find some pearls and jewels in her house and then they can bring them to their house. According to the narration above, lower class people have to do some strategies in order to fulfill the economic need in witch's house. In this case, Arizona Geographic Alliance states that there is a starvation that makes lower class people have to become beggar and thieves. Everything will be done in order to survive in the forest when the food supply is not enough for them. It is believed that it was a very hard time for children. Children have to look for the additional food to continue their life when the poverty happens on the land.

4.2 The Representation of Poverty through The Tom Thumb

In the story of Tom Thumb, there is a family who comes from lower class people. They live in the cottage without children. One day, they want to have a child. After they wish to have a child, there is something miracle that happens to them. They have a little boy who is called Thomas Thumb. He has a small body like a small thumb. They give a lot of food in order to grow well. However, his body is still the same size. To survive in the forest, his father has to sell the little child to the stranger in order to fulfill the economic need. Through the narration above, there is poverty emerged in the story. The depiction of poverty in the story is represented through the existence of children who has a small body and selling children in order to comply the economic need in the family.

In this case, there are two things that construct the poverty discourse in the fairy tale. Firstly, poverty causes child malnutrition that is accepted by the children and poverty causes the parent has to sell the children in order to survive in the forest.

4.2.1 Poverty causes the little child suffers Child Malnutrition and makes his father has to sell his child in order to prevent the economic need

Child Malnutrition is the impact of the presence of poverty during their life. Even though they give him plenty of food, the children still have a little body. It means that child malnutrition takes place in the story when their parents cannot provide the financial need to the children. Therefore, the children suffer the diseases such as child malnutrition. In addition, to complete the economic need in the family, the parents have to sell the children to the stranger in order to stabilize the economic need in the family. The evidence of child malnutrition and his parents have to sell the children can be seen through the quotation below.

They gave him plenty of food, yet for all they could do he never grew bigger, but kept just the same size as he had been when he was born. Still, his eyes were sharp and sparkling. and he soon showed himself to be a clever little fellow, who always knew well what he was about.

So the woodman at last said he would sell Tom to the strangers for a large piece of gold, and they paid the price. 'Where would you like to sit?' said one of them. 'Oh, put me on the rim of your hat; that will be a nice gallery for me; I can walk about there and see the country as we go along.' So they did as he wished; and when Tom had taken leave of his father they took him away with them.

(Brothers Grimm: 121-122)

The food supply which is presented in the story is enough to eat. Tom Thumb as the main character suffers child malnutrition. It happens because they are not capable to fulfil their need. Additionally, Tom Thumb as the clever character want to deceive the stranger in order to gain the piece of gold. In this point, lower class people will do everything to get out from their problem.

4.3 The Aesthetical Strategies of The Poverty Representation in The Fairytales

The second question of this research is to know the aesthetical strategies of poverty representation in the fairytales. To find out the aesthetical strategies of poverty representation in the fairytales, the first thing to know is how the way of the author emerges the aesthetical strategies through the literary work. This strategy related to the framework of representation theory. Aesthetic here is defined as the beauty in the literary works because they have a unique form. Literary work is considered as the beauty through the plot and the chosen diction mapped in the stories (Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1962).

Poverty construction in the fairy tales is presented through the word choice that refers to the meaning of poverty. The word choice used in the fairy tales is one of the aesthetical strategies that the author presents through the fairy tales. This strategy will eventually emerge the knowledge about how the poverty knowledge is constructed in the fairy tales. The knowledge of poverty that is presented in the fairy tales will construct a truth about how poverty takes place in the contextual background.

The knowledge about the meaning of poverty constructed in the fairy tales states that poverty is depicted through the presence of food is limited, a great dearth that causes the lower class people cannot fulfill their need and child malnutrition. Bread as the primary food for lower class people that is emerged in

the fairy tales is a little and they cannot produce a food again because the presence of the great dearth on the land. According to Oxford Learner's dictionary, poverty is a lack of something; poor quality. It shows that the problem of food, a great dearth and child malnutrition are poverty knowledge constructed in the fairy tales.

It is very clear that this statement indicates that lower class people are the one who have a little food to survive. This case causes the parent should abandon their children to the forest in order to stabilize the economic need.

The lack of food and a great dearth are poverty knowledge in the fairy tales. poverty occurs because there are some reasons. According to Arizona Geographic Alliance states that poverty happens because the presence of Great famine throughout Europe. The great famine began in 1315 and lasted until 1317, but people of Europe did not really have a steady food supply until about 1322. During this time millions of people died from starvation. Many people died from diseases that their bodies could not fight off because they were weak from not enough food. Life during the Middle Age was harsh and people often had to deal with food shortages but the famine of 1315 was wide-spread and extreme. According to the Archaeology International entitled Famine, the Black Death, and Health in fourteenth –century, this article said that in the first half of the fourteenth century two catastrophes struck the population of Europe: the great famine of 1315 until 1317 appears to have resulted from a series of abnormally cold winters and wet summers, which caused a catastrophic succession of failed harvests across northern Europe.

4.4 The Critical Position of The Author toward The Existence of Poverty in The Fairytales

The last subchapter of this research wants to discuss the critical position of the author. To reveal the critical position of the author, the literary work as the cultural product usually conveys the ideology as well as the moral value to the reader. The critical position of the author can be uncovered through the discourse of poverty that is analyzed in the stories and then connects it to the biography of the author. By relating to the two points above, the critical position of the author can be known whether he criticizes toward the whole characters who represent the poverty or agrees toward the whole characters which represent the poverty in the

fairy tales.

Jacob Ludwig Carl Grimm and Wilhelm Carl Grimm were a famous collector of German fairytales in the nineteenth century. Their fame was known by the people around the world after they gradually created and published the first collection of fairytales entitled *Children and Household tale* in 1812.

In collecting the tales, Brothers Grimm, Jacob and Wilhelm procured their tales through the peasant and all of their tales were genuinely German. Because of their familiarity to the fairy tales, Brother Grimms were called as philologists, cultural reseachers not only in Germany but also throughout Europe. Both of them did the research in gathering the stories along their life and revised the stories into the palatable language for children. Most of their fairy tales told us about the fatherland in Germany. Therefore, Grimms considered that their works was a part of social effort to foster a sense of justice among the German people and to create pride in the folk tradition. Moreover, Grimms as the collector of fairy tale created several stories during their life. Some of them were Cinderalla, The Frog Prince, The Goose-Girl, Hansel and Gretel, Rapunzel, The Tom Thumb, Sleeping Beauty, Snow white.

According to the autobiography above, the older brother, Jacob Ludwig Carl Grimm was born on 4th January 1785, in Hanau, Germany and his brother, Wilhelm Carl Grimm, was born on 24th February 1786. Both Jacob and Wilhelm were brilliant, hardworking student and were completely fond of country life. Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm were the oldest in a family of five brother and one sister. They were Jacob Ludwig Grimm (1785- 1863), Wilhelm Carl Grimm (1786-1859), Carl Friedrich Grimm (1787-1852), Ferdinand Philipp Grimm(1788-1844), Ludwig Emil Grimm (1790-1863), and Charlotte Amalie (Lotte) Grimm (1793-1833). Because of their love to the fairy tales, Wilhelm and the oldest brother Jacob wanted to dedicate their life to the German folklore and oral tradition. When they were publishing some collection of the stories, they were eventually known as Grimm's Fairy tales.

In the beginning of their life, Brothers Grimm, Jacob and Wilhelm were raised by their mother, Dorothea Grimm, the daughter of a city councilman in Kassel and a lawyer, Philipp Wilhelm Grimm, was town clerk in Hanau and later

justiciary Steinau, another small Hessian town, where his father and grandmother had been ministers of the Calvinistic Reformed Church. Their father, Philipp Wilhelm Grimm, was recognized as the ambitious, diligent, and prosperous. They built the harmonious relationship with their family during their life. However, their life had changed drastically after the father's death and his death brought social hardships to the family. That statement is expressed in their autobiography, (Zipes:2002) observed that Phillip Grimm contracted pneumonia and died suddenly in 1796 at the age of 44, and his death was traumatic for the entire family. Within weeks after his funeral, Dorothea Grimm had to move out of the large house and manage the family of six children without servants or much financial support. From this point on, the family was totally dependent on outside help, particularly on Johannes Hermann Zimmer, the Grimms' grandfather, and Herriette Zimmer, their aunt. Jacob was compelled to assume the duties of head of the family, and both he and Wilhelm "lost their childhood," so to speak, because of their heavy responsibilities. For instance, right after the father's death, Jacob wrote the following letter to his Aunt Henriette Zimmer, his mother's sister and first lady -in-waiting at the prince's court in Kassel: According to the statement above, the loss of their father, Phillip Grimm, carries the great disintegration for them. That situation is remorseful condition for them. Grimms have to assume the great burden and accept the responsibility to assist the financial problem in their family. On this occasion, Jacob wrote the letter to his Aunt Henriette Zimmer. Jacob observed that:

I commend myself to your love and care with my four brothers and sister, and I am convinced that this is not a vain request. I know how deeply concerned you are about our great loss so that I should like to call on you and tell you personally about all matters that are close to my heart. How much there is to tell you about my dear suffering mother! I am sure you will console me and give me good advice (Zipes,2002 : 4).

According to the letter that Jacob writes for his aunt, Henriette Zimmer. Jacob wants to tell his great concern about his life after the death of his father. The loss of his father makes him ask the financial assistance to his aunt, Henriette Zimmer. Jacob hopes that his aunt will give an opportunity to guide his life and manage his need. The difficulty of his life cannot him give up from his circumstance. Because of his concern about his life, his aunt wants to arrange

everything that related to study. Jacob and Wilhelm begin to study at the Prestigious Lyzeum (high school)in Kessel and get funds for the family. Moreover, the grandfather also gives the emotional support through the letter that he sends to them. On this occasion, their grandmother wrote:

I cannot repeat enough to you to keep in mind the reason for which you are in your present position. This means that you should apply yourselves as industriously as possible in and outside classroom so that you may prepare your future welfare, gain honor, and provide pleasure for your mother, me, and the entire family. Therefore, avoid bad company, try to associate with reasonable men from whom you can always gain some profit, and above all, fear God, who is the beginning and end of all wisdom

(Zipes, 2002: 4)

According to the letter above, their grandfather, Johannes Hermann Zimmer gives an advice for Grimms. He wants to remind them through the present position. Clearly, the difficulty of life will trigger to reach their future. Since Grimms move to Kessel, their life has changed. They enter the Lyzeum and prove for themselves as gifted student. They proves tha ttheir life will be better after they finish their study. During their activity at school, Jacob and Wilhem often get the different treatment from some tecahers. Brother Grimms who come from the unprentetious family are treated badly while the other ” highborn” students that are encouraged to finish their study.This inequity is also felt by them when they enter at the University of Marburg. Some students from wealthier families get scholarship while the Grimms have to pay their own tuition and live on a small budget. According to the explanation of their biography, poverty which appears in the story is related to their life

Indeed, the Grimms established a comfortable household. Their desks faced one another, and they plunged into their work. At the same time, they never avoided social and political obligations and were totally devoted to their family and intimate friends. The letters exchanged among the brothers ,Dortchen, and Hermann Grimm, Whilhelm’s oldest son, during this time indicate how close the family was. Both Wilhelm and his son Hermann, who was letter to become a professor of art history and took charge of the Grimm’s paper, were frail and often became seriously ill, as did Dortchen. Their compassion and concern for one another were expressed not

only in letters, but through their untiring acts to assist each other and their friends in times of need. Fortunately, the Grimms were financially secure, but they were also aware of the great social and political unrest in Germany due to poor harvests, famines, unemployment, and political oppression. It was only a matter of time before there would be major uprisings, not only in Germany, but throughout Europe

(Zipes , 2002: 21).

Based on the statement above, Hansel and Gretel and The Tom Thumb are fairy tales written by Brothers Grimm in 1812. In their fairy tales, Poverty is something common that happens during industrial revolution. Grimms give an critique toward the existence of poverty in those fairy tales because the presence of poverty in those fairy tales related to their biography.

CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSION

Folktales are stories that have been told orally for generations. They are often based on the real historical events and geographical setting. Through the fairy tales, Hansel and Gretel and Tom Thumb are one of the fairy tales utilized in the study, Brother's Grimm as the author of this fairy tales represent the poverty condition that is experienced by lower class people in their literary work.

In Hansel and Gretel, poverty as the main problem of the story happens because the parent cannot fulfill their need and decides to abandon their children to the forest. Poverty that is presented through a food supply in their family is little and then there is a great dearth that takes place on the land. The two catastrophes that befall on the land makes lower class people suffer starvation all day long. Moreover, they even cannot procure and produce enough food during their life. It means that poverty occurs because not the poor is lazy to work. However, there is a great dearth on the land. To get the additional food, the poor should depend on the nature to complete their life. However, the condition of nature that is depicted in the fairy tales is damage. Therefore, they suffer starvation and do not produce a food again.

In the story of Tom Thumb, poverty is emerged through the condition of children who have a little body. He is Thomas Thumb. The parent give him a lot of food but he is still the same size. Through the problem above, Brother's Grimm represents that poverty causes the lower class people suffers malnutrition during their life. Malnutrition happens because there is not enough food in their family. Additionally, the father sells his son to the stranger in order to get a piece of gold. In this case, Thomas thumb should deceive to the stranger to get something for his life.

The second question is to find out the aesthetical strategy of poverty representation in the fairy tales. The poverty knowledge that is emerged in the

fairy tales shows that poverty happens because the food supply is little, there is dearth land and the last one is malnutrition. Poverty knowledge that is constructed in the fairy tale forms a truth about poverty in the contextual background. This way is one of the aesthetical strategies used for the framework of representation theory.

The last goal of this conclusion is how to find out the critical position of the author. By relating to the problem that happens in the fairy tales with the biography of the author as well as the poverty that happens throughout Europe, Brother's Grimm shows that the issue of poverty mapped in the fairy tales is a social phenomena. The author legitimizes the criminal action which is done by parents to the children because they do not have other choices to stabilize the economic need in their family.

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