

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

The word horror will refer to thrilling, fearing, scaring and usually deals with ghost. According to Noel Carroll (1990) in his book entitled *The Philosophy of Horror or Paradoxes of the Heart* said that horror actually can be classified as a genre. It shows something that can be interpreted as uncomfortable and disturbance in feeling, and it needs a freedom. On the other word, the keywords for horror is “to frightening”. However, how if this “horror” raises doubt toward the reader because it is in contrast with its nature? It is un-thrilling, un-fearing, un-scaring. The reader should accept the irrational and unexplained supernatural phenomenon through the story. According to Todorov in Prohászková (2012) this genre belongs to the Fantastic:

“the fantastic horror does not allow us clear explanations of the irrational; it offers us several alternatives. The viewer/reader can decide whether they will explain the phenomenon as the existence of the paranormal or as a hallucination of the main protagonist. The fantastic horror raises doubt and hesitation between the natural and supernatural alternative, which the recipient may (or may not) share with the character.” (Prohászková, 2012:2)

This emphasizes that the hesitation or doubt about the “contrasity” of the supernatural events in the story can be stated as the fantastic, because the character of ghost which is characterized as protagonist in the story is in contrast with the stereotype assumed by most people that horror is thrilling. In addition, according to

Todorov in Yosoef (2003:107) “*this unidentified character (in the end of the story) could be categorize as the fantastic.*”

Furthermore, Todorov is a structuralist which means he defines everything based on its structure. Todorov (1970:41-44) explains that the fantastic is broad and vague. Thus, he defines the fantastic into four sub-genres: those are uncanny which mean to frighten the reader, fantastic – uncanny which the story tells about supernatural event that received rational explanation at its end, fantastic – marvelous which the narratives of supernatural event is not received rational explanation in the end of the story, and marvelous which Todorov generally link this genre to that in fairy tale, the supernatural event in marvelous do not provoke any thrill to the reader. Todorov serve Gautier’s *La Morte Amoureuse* and *Sinbad’s Second Voyage* in Arabian Nights as the best example of the fantastic.

In the story of *The Graveyard Book* written by Neil Gaiman, the writer found an irrational supernatural event happened. The writer found in the story, the character of ghost acts as a protagonist character; they have a community, they socialized among others, they have family. Even, they save and adopt a toddler from a murderer until the toddler growing up. Neil Richard MacKinnon Gaiman is an English author of short fiction, novels, comic books, graphic novels, audio theatre, and films. He was born on 10 November 1960 and noted his works include the comic book series *The Sandman* and novels *Stardust*, *American Gods*, *Coraline*, and *The Graveyard Book*. He has won numerous awards, including the Hugo, Nebula, and Bram Stoker awards, as well as the Newbery and Carnegie medals. Most of his work in the genre of fantasy, horror, dark fantasy, comedy and science fiction.

The story begins as Jack Frost (a major antagonist character) murders most of the members of a family except for the toddler. Jack is a member of Jack All Trades or called as Jack Brother, an organization that rule the world order. He is in a mission to kill the toddler because it was predicted that there will be a toddler that will cross the borderland between the world of the dead and the living, it means that the end of Jack Brother. Jack Frost wants to finish his job to kill the toddler, he has supernatural power to sniff any scents of smell in the air which makes him different from the other human. He could guess that the toddler has crawled out of the house and up a hill to a graveyard, he follows the toddler to finish his job to kill him. Mr. and Mrs. Owens, two creatures of kind-hearted ghost and the minor protagonist characters find the toddler in the graveyard. They discuss with the other ghosts and inhabitant of the graveyard whether they want to keep & save the toddler from the murderer or not. The debate was ended with the decision that the ghosts will protect the toddler from the murderer and raise him in the graveyard. Mr. and Mrs. Owens become the foster parents of the toddler and the major protagonist character named Silas, which being depicted as a creature that is not dead nor alive become the guardian of the toddler. The toddler named Nobody Owens, called as Bod that become the major protagonist character in the story. He is granted the freedom of the graveyard which allows him to interact with the creature of dead, the eye of the living will slip from him as long as he's in the graveyard and he can master some supernatural powers such as; fading, dreamwalking (controlling someone's dream) and open the ghoulish gates (the gate of the hell). Bod experiences a lot of supernatural phenomenon that couldn't be accepted in reader's mind nor in real life. Despite those four characters, the supernatural phenomenon that irrationally unexplained in

The Graveyard Book also can be depicted through the other characters in the story. The fifth is The Sleer, a creature which has the combination of human body with three snaky heads who guard the treasure inside the top of the hill. The Sleer wait their master to comeback, even though he doesn't know who their master is. The sixth is Liza Hempstock, a creature of a nice witch whom helps Bod with her spell. Seventh is Miss Lupescu, she is a creature that seems like Silas, she is not dead nor alive. She called herself as The Hounds of God which guards the dead from the ghouls, she can turn out into a werewolf. The eighth is The Ghouls, the creature who eat the dead people. Irrationally, *The Graveyard Book* mentions some familiar names such as; the famous writer Victor Hugo, The Emperor of China, The 33rd President of United States and The Bishop of Bath and Wells. Bod also has a human friend, namely Scarlett Amber Perkins. The only supernatural phenomenon in the character of Scarlett is when she could see Bod in the graveyard, even though the story tells that the eyes of the living people will slip from him as long as he is in the graveyard.

The story raises its climax when Scarlett tells Bod that she met a historian named Mr Frost and they are both want to help Bod to find the information about who murders his family. Mr. Frost ask Scarlett and Bod to meet him in his house. Unexpectedly, Mr Frost trap Bod and Scarlett in his house, he tells Bod that he is the man who killed Bod's family. Finally, after he killed Jack Brother, Bod leaves the graveyard and lives like an ordinary boy without helped from the ghosts in the Graveyard anymore. He wants to know more about the world outside the graveyard. Silas' job as his guardian also finish, he gives Bod passport and some of money to live outside.

After reviewing the story, the writer feels doubt because the story is in contrast with the writer's understanding about horror that usually it aims to frightening. How the character of ghost depicted as protagonist character? How the character of ghost that supposed to be scary and spooky, depicted as in contrast with its nature? Whereas they take care of Bod, protect him, love him like their own family.

This paper will focus on fantastic-marvelous which meant by Todorov as "an acceptance of the supernatural". Since fantastic-marvelous blows reader's mind to accept unusual supernatural phenomenon through the narrative, and it doesn't give clear explanation of why that unusual thing happened or caused by. So the reader should accept it although it is irrational. Thus, the writer aims to analyze fantastic-marvelous as narrated in *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman according to its intrinsic elements such as; character, plot and setting.

1.2. Research Question

According to the story, the writer will focus on:

1. How is fantastic-marvelous portrayed in *The Graveyard Book* according to its intrinsic elements?

1.3. Research Objective

The objectives of this study is:

1. To describe and prove fantastic-marvelous portrayed in *The Graveyard Book* according to its intrinsic elements.

1.4. The Use of Study

After finishing this study, the writer hopes that this analysis can be used as follows:

1.4.1 Theoretical Use

The writer expects that this research gives the beneficial such as the information towards this novel to the readers, society and others about the other concept of horror that in contrast with its nature applying theory of fantastic-marvelous in *The Graveyard Book*.

1.4.2 Practical Use

The writer expects that the research can be beneficial not only for the writer and but also for the reader who read it. This paper will gives the information and knowledge also for students of literature to know how to analyze this genre.

1.5. The Scope of Study

To limit the discussion, the writer limits the research in portraying the intrinsic elements in *The Graveyard Book* is fit with fantastic-marvelous as described by Todorov's theory.