

REALISTIC AND FANTASTIC CATEGORIES IN CONTEMPORARY
BRITISH INTELLECTUAL CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

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Abstract: Children's literature in general contains very wonderful stories. At the same time, fiction and realistic realities play a big role in its enrichment. Until now, hundreds of examples of fiction children's literature have been created around the world. This article discusses examples of fantastic and realistic children's literature. As a genre, there is a connection between fantasy and children's literature. Can you remember the immense success of J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter (1977) which can show a typical model of the role of fantasy in children's literature in the case that it offers the young readers a way to fulfill their place in the world. So, fantasy is the best device to make children's literature a means of answering children's enquiries and questions on their attempts of discovering the world.

Key words: fantasy, fantastic realistic , literature Alice in Wonderland, Harry Potter, imagination.

In writing about children's literature, we should know that children's literature or juvenile literature includes stories, books, magazines and poems that are created for young readers. If we take all the works related to the children's literature we can divide them into two groups according to the nature of them. They are realistic and fantastic categories of literature. This article discusses realism and fantasy in children's literature. It is considered that fantasy is the best way to help the writer in urging his readers to respond to the literary work in some way of a sort of imagination intentionally or not. On the basis of that, the aim of this research is to set a theoretical framework of the connection between fantasy and children's literature and here two points would come to our mind and they should be investigated: 1. Children's literature is based on imagination and escapism though not serious upon the link between fantasy and the child. 2. The link between fantasy and children's literature depends on how the child is depicted as he is growing up in the world of fantasy.

Fantasy as a term can be defined in two ways. Linguistically speaking, fantasy is defined as "the power or process of creating especially unrealistic or improbable mental images in response to a psychological need" (Merriam-Webster, n.d., 2011). It may also be defined as "a pleasant situation that you enjoy thinking about but is unlikely to happen or an activity of imagining something" (Cambridge Dictionary, 2016). But in literary terms, Fantasy is defined as "a form of literary genre in which a plot cannot occur in the real world" (Literary Devices Editors, 2017). In both attitudes, the same point comes to the surface which is unreal and in this respect the plot includes magic or

witchcraft and the action is occurred in an unusual and unknown places or planets that have not discovered yet. Even the theme could be a combination of technology and something related to legend or myth and may include some animals and unusual creatures talking like human beings. [1]

It shows that fantasy can be defined as that literature by itself which is emancipated from the limitation of logic. It can be said that fantasy achieves the desired hope and opens the possibility of finding solutions to the most sever concerns depending on the launch of imagination and defeat the limits without being bound by any agreed human laws, often takes place in the world of dreams, magic, myths and supernatural matters.

So, there is a similar word fantastic, it is the word "fantasy". Fantasy and fantastic are two terms which interrelated to each other but importantly and methodologically speaking, there is some difference between the two. As mentioned, fantasy is a condition of the mind to escape from reality into a sort of imagination. Thus it is a genre of literature and it mostly called "fantasy literature". However, fantastic is a term but not a genre because it cannot be separated from the story or the material of the story, nevertheless; sometimes it is tackled to be a genre referring to fantasy.

Around the world there are thousands of fantastic children's books which were written by well-known writers of the world in different times. The child's fantasy is often reflected in his action and behavior thus we find an expression for that in his thump-up where the child imagines himself riding a magic carpet and trying to fly from one place to another. Consequently, the child's fantasy is related to feeling and perception which is based on evoking recognition to reach new images help him for innovation and creation. Indeed, there are several definitions in the children's literature world which tackles the term 'imagination' but the disparity in degrees of fantasy among children like so, there is imagination and there is fantasy. In children's literature, we find many elements of imagination but we hardly find stories contain fantasy despite that the child aspires in his imagination to place time and fantastic ideas in childhood. Historically, children's literature or what is called literature of children started to be a type of ideological studies in literature in general and books written for children were set specifically for children in the 15th and 16th century for didactic purposes such as courtesy or behavior books so they served for traditional purposes. Children's literature in those times was a sub-genre in the realm of literature as whole. It is confined into folk and fairy tales despite the fact that they are regarded the base of the fantasy children's literature. Gradually stories for children started to appear to be specific and separate genre by itself with the emergence of Newbery's *The History of Little Goody Two Shoes*(1765) in the 18th century and this novel was considered as the first work written separately for children still they are lacking a little bit fantastic elements as novels of the interested only by upper and middle class families(Hunt,

2005, p.4). It is clear that the works of fantasy children literature spread in the 19th century with the appearance of works like, John Ruskin's "The King of Golden River (1851), George MacDonald's "The Princess and the Goblin"(1872), and Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventure in Wonderland" and "Harry Potter".[2]

As we know, many children start their dreams with flying in the sky, it can prove children want to read some odd stories and the same actions with their lives, even adults also want to read this kind of stories. One of these kind of works is "Harry Potter". If we discuss "Harry Potter" in Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, Rowling mixes the modern world with the magical and the supernatural with the normal. Rowling's alternative universe, occupied by witches and wizards, is hidden within the Muggle (non-magical) world. The distinction between the two is that the Muggle functions with technology and the wizard world has magic. However, the boundaries are not quite so clear. Not only do the two worlds share the same chronology, and geographical space, many of the settings and experiences of the characters, and how they live are also alike. Hogwarts is reminiscent of an old-fashioned boarding school. Harry and his friends talk and act like their Muggle counterparts, do their homework and study for exams, and like today's contemporary youth, have a tendency for disregarding rules.

Alice in Wonderland is especially demonstrative of the fantasy genre because Alice, a stranger to Wonderland, realizes the fantastical nature of the world that surrounds her and must constantly work to navigate and understand it. Works like fairy tales, on the contrary, present self-contained worlds to which their characters are accustomed. While encountering a fire-breathing dragon may seem remarkably fantastical to a reader of *The Hobbit*, Bilbo Baggins, though admittedly terrified of the creature, recognizes the dragon as part of his world and possesses skills with which to combat it. Alice's experiences are much more jarring to her sense of reality, as W. H. Auden describes: "In Wonderland, Alice has to adjust herself to a life without laws . . . She has to learn for example to walk away from a place in order to reach it . . . In Wonderland, she is the only person with self-control" (3).

In conclusion, children's literature is rich with fantasy used in actions in contemporary literature not only in British literature but also around the world literature.

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