CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Background

Folklore is important part of culture. "Folklore" in English means general knowledge that can be contrasted to the classical knowledge or culture. The origin of this word is from Germany, means population (Watkins 2000) The term "folklore" was first used in 1846 and began as a study of antiquities. It consists of various cultural products. It also includes the set of practices through which those and a great deal of it relates to our daily lives (Ballantyne, 2001). Folklorist Bascom (1965) states that folklore has many cultural aspects. It can serve to validate a culture as well as transmit a culture's morals and values. Folklore can also be the root of many cultural types of music. Folklore can also be used to assert social pressures, or relieve them, for example in the case of humor and carnival. In addition, folklorists study medical, supernatural, religious, and political belief systems as an essential, often unspoken,

Folklore can contain religious or superstitious element, it equally concerns itself with the phenomena in everyday life. Folktale is part of folklore. Folktales are fiction in the form of narrative prose. They may occurred or may not even occurred. "Folktales" refers to traditional narrative emerging from common to basic and complex societies alike. It is considered to be an oral tale to be told for everybody. A folktale is any traditional, dramatic, and originally oral narrative. They include religious myths, tales for entertainment, historical events, moralistic fables, and legends and they are often told for amusement. (Fischer 1963).

Folktales developed from the necessity of people to try to explain and understand the natural and spiritual phenomenon that occurred in their daily lives. Some folktales may or may not originate from a religious tradition, The purpose of the tale may primarily be an instruction regarding forest safety or secondarily a cautionary tale about the dangers of famine to large families. It is impossible to trace the exact date of the beginning of this genre. What can be stated is that it goes back to the oral traditions of people (Torres, 2003).

Torres (2003) also presents folktale pattern and how they spread over several regions. The majority of folktales have been circulated through oral tradition The first literary sources began to spread in European land around the 12th century and then from here on, the oral tradition involved writing. The patterns in the traditional tales around the world seem to be similar. Scholars have proposed several hypotheses to explain this phenomenon. One hypothesis states that the traditional tales were passed through the migration of the people. Most of these people were probably sailors, soldiers, women kidnapped from tribes, slaves, captives from wars, traders. During the migrations, they brought their stories with them. As they moved on, the stories were passed through.

Folktales are important part of a culture and they must be conserved. They can contain moral and psychological aspects as well as entertainment value, depending upon the nature of the teller, the style of the telling, the ages of the audience members, and the overall context of the performance. Even fictional folktales, however, educate by illustrating or explaining particular cultural ideas and especially by cautioning against undesirable behavior. Many depict cleverness and wisdom: Folklorists generally hold that universal interpretations of narratives must be maintained and, wherever possible, analyze oral folktales based on specific contexts, rather than print sources, which often consist of bias of the writer or editor (John,1963).

In light of this assumption, the writer proposes this study. The South Sumtra folktales must be analyzed, translated, documented and digitalized so that they can be conserved and inherited for future generations. The folktales must be restructured so that they can be analyzed and classified in accordance to the suitable genre. This will lead to local and global acceptance as Indonesian folklore heritage.

In analyzing the folktale, Propp's structural model will be ideally used. This methodology worked successfully in Russian magic folktales which formed a particular category among folktales in general. It is quite good method but it still has the substantial weaknesses such as theme, character and motif. That is why it needs to be enriched. In order to enrich, it uses the structure of plot that has the substantial elements such as theme and character (Torres, 2003).

The writer is interesting in entitling this final report project "The Analysis Text Structure of folktales in South Sumatra by using Propp's Structural Model and the Folktale Characteristic Framework developed by Torres".

Research Questions

The problem of this study is formulated in the following questions

1. What functions can be found in the selected folktales based on Propp's structural model?

2. How are the functions in the selected folktales sequenced based on Propp's Structural Model?

3. What are the main characteristic of folktale found in the selected South Sumatra folktales (Torres, 2003)?

Purpose of the study

This study is aimed at:

1. Finding the textual functions in the selected folktales based on Propp's structural model

2. Identifying the sequences of the folktales based on the 31 functions of Propp.

3. Identifying folktale plotting in the selected South Sumatra folktales (Torres, 2003 & Williamson, n.d.)

Benefits:

The study of folktales is important for at least three reasons. Firstly, this study helps collecting and recording folktales from South Sumatra so that we can conserve one of valuable cultural heritages that could be beneficial for our future generations.

Secondly, this study is expected to improve our understanding of culture through folktales. Culture is a major source of knowledge, belief, and motivation, and so deeply influences human action and thought.

Thirdly, folktales are also used indirectly to introduce the folktale origins because the folktales depict the people and the region where the events occurred. This could be a promotional media to attract people to visit Palembang.