

**Comparing the Concept of Magic in *Harry Potter and The Order of
The Phoenix* (2007) and Hilmi 'Ali Sya'ban's *The Tale of Moses***

A GRADUATING PAPER

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining the Bachelor

Degree in English Literature



By:

Nabilatulfikrah Shanelia Zikri

18101050045

STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY
SUNAN KALIJAGA
YOGYAKARTA

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

FACULTY OF ADAB AND CULTURAL SCIENCES

SUNAN KALIJAGA STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY

YOGYAKARTA

2021



PENGESAHAN TUGAS AKHIR

Nomor : B-256/Un.02/DA/PP.00.9/02/2022

Tugas Akhir dengan judul : Comparing the Concept of Magic in Harry Potter and The Order of The Phoenix (2007) and Hilmi 'Ali Sya'ban's The Tale of Moses

yang dipersiapkan dan disusun oleh:

Nama : NABILATULFIKRAH SHANELIA ZIKRI
Nomor Induk Mahasiswa : 18101050045
Telah diujikan pada : Senin, 10 Januari 2022
Nilai ujian Tugas Akhir : A/B

dinyatakan telah diterima oleh Fakultas Adab dan Ilmu Budaya UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta

TIM UJIAN TUGAS AKHIR



Ketua Sidang
Dr. Danial Hidayatullah, SS., M.Hum
SIGNED

Valid ID: 61fa0efa82b2b



Penguji I
Dr. Witriani, S.S. M.Hum.
SIGNED

Valid ID: 61f9fd3b992e



Penguji II
Harsiwi Fajar Sari, SS., M.A.
SIGNED

Valid ID: 61f9fe763e1e5



Yogyakarta, 10 Januari 2022
UIN Sunan Kalijaga
Dekan Fakultas Adab dan Ilmu Budaya
Dr. Muhammad Wildan, M.A.
SIGNED

Valid ID: 61fa17ab8d06a

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I certify that this graduating paper is originally my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this graduating paper. Other researchers' opinion or findings included in this graduating paper are quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

Yogyakarta, February 2nd, 2022



Nabilatulfikrah Shanelia Zikri

Student ID. 18101050045

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YOGYAKARTA



NOTA DINAS

Hal Skripsi
a. n Nabilatulfikrah Shanelia Zikri

Yth.
Dekan Fakultas Adab dan Ilmu Budaya
UIN Sunan Kalijaga
di Yogyakarta

Assalamu'alaikum wr. wb.

Setelah memeriksa, meneliti, dan memberikan arahan untuk perbaikan atas skripsi saudara:

Nama : Nabilatulfikrah Shanelia Zikri
NIM : 18101050045
Prodi : Sastra Inggris
Fakultas : Adab dan Ilmu Budaya
Terdah

Comparing the Concept of Magic in *Harry Potter and The Order of The Phoenix* (2007) and Hilmi 'Ali Sya'ban's *The Tale of Moses*

Munaqasyah untuk memenuhi salah satu syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris.

Atas perhatiannya, saya ucapkan terima kasih.

Wassalamu'alaikum wr. wb.

Yogyakarta, 2 Februari 2022
Pembimbing,

Dr. Daniel Hidayatullah, S.S., M.Hum.
NIP. 19760405 200901 1 016

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By: Nabilatulfikrah Shanelia Zikri

ABSTRACT

This research aims to compare the concept of magic in *Harry Potter and The Order of The Phoenix* (2007) and Hilmi 'Ali Sya'ban's *The Tale of Moses*. By analyzing how magic is depicted in both stories, I intend to see similarities and differences in how magic is represented. In movies and novels, magic can be different depending on various factors, such as the country that made it, the social condition of the country, the genre, and even the message that is willing to be delivered. Animal symbols or totems, on the other hand, are also analyzed in this research since they have relations to some sort of magic. This can be seen from the lines mentioning guardian spirit, a sacred obligation, and animal or entity. In this research, the theory used to analyze is the Representation theory of Stuart Hall by applying comparative literature. As a result of the research, different kinds of magic are portrayed in each story. Magic as God's miracle can be seen in *The Tale of Moses*, whereas magic as a learned ability is found in *Harry Potter*. Similarities that are found are signs, symbols, and discourses.

Keywords: magic, similarities, differences, representation, animal symbols, totems, comparative literature

Comparing the Concept of Magic in Harry Potter and The Order of The Phoenix (2007) and Hilmi 'Ali Sya'ban's The Tale of Moses

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk membandingkan konsep sulap dalam Harry Potter and The Order of the Phoenix (2007) dan The Tale of Moses karya Hilmi 'Ali Sya'ban. Dengan menganalisis bagaimana sihir digambarkan dalam kedua cerita, saya bermaksud untuk melihat persamaan dan perbedaan bagaimana sihir direpresentasikan. Dalam film dan novel, sulap bisa berbeda tergantung berbagai faktor, seperti negara pembuatnya, kondisi sosial negaranya, genrenya, bahkan pesan yang ingin disampaikan. Simbol atau totem binatang, di sisi lain, juga dianalisis dalam penelitian ini karena memiliki hubungan dengan beberapa jenis sihir. Hal ini terlihat dari baris-baris yang menyebutkan roh penjaga, kewajiban suci, dan binatang atau entitas. Dalam penelitian ini, teori yang digunakan untuk menganalisis adalah teori Representasi Stuart Hall dengan menerapkan literatur perbandingan. Sebagai hasil dari penelitian, berbagai jenis sihir digambarkan dalam setiap cerita. Sihir sebagai keajaiban Tuhan dapat dilihat di The Tale of Moses, sedangkan sihir sebagai kemampuan yang dipelajari ditemukan di Harry Potter. Persamaan yang ditemukan adalah tanda, simbol, dan wacana.

Kata kunci: sihir, persamaan, perbedaan, representasi, simbol binatang, totem, sastra bandingan

MOTTO

"Life drops surprises out of nowhere, one day you are just so blue, then suddenly, something brightens up your day, or maybe you felt so mad, but your pet suddenly curls around your feet and reminds you that you're their source of happiness, so you know... be you, be unique, 'cos there's only one you in the world. Let's enjoy it all while we still can."

- Bella Z.

"Lightning makes no sound until it strikes."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

"My mama always said, life was like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get.

- Forrest Gump (actor Tom Hanks), from the 1994 film *Forrest Gump*

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DEDICATION

This graduating paper is dedicated to:

1. The researcher's beloved parents, brother, and big family.
2. The researcher's dearest best friends, acquaintances, and colleagues.
3. The researcher's academic advisor and research supervisor, Dr. Danial Hidayatullah, M.Hum.
4. All the honorable lecturers in the English Department of UIN Sunan Kalijaga.
5. All the readers of this graduating paper.

Yogyakarta, February 2nd, 2022



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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I want to express my gratitude to Allah SWT, who has blessed me with health and guided me in completing this final task of my undergraduate study. As a result, I can finish my paper entitled *Comparing the Concept of Magic in Harry Potter and The Order of The Phoenix (2007) and Hilmi 'Ali Sya'ban's The Tale of Moses*. I also would like to thank Allah for His love that grants me a wonderful life with a good family and people around me. Furthermore, my other gratitude is shown to the Noblest and Beloved prophet of God, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Thank him and the previous prophets for guiding us from the darkness into the bright future that we see in Islam today.

Aside from a partial fulfillment for the bachelor's degree, this paper is also intended as my gratitude towards the English Department of the Islamic State University of Sunan Kalijaga that made my study is possible. In finishing this paper, I would like to convey my deepest appreciation and sincerest gratitude to all the people behind the scenes, ranging from academics to my family and support systems. I truly appreciate their kindness and help. In particular, I would like to thank the following people:

1. The Dean of Adab and Cultural Sciences Faculty, Dr. Muhammad Wildan, M.A., thank you for allowing me to be one of the speakers in AICONICS and as a Master Ceremony of ADIA for the previous international web conference. These experiences are the highlight of my academic years on the campus.
2. The Head of the English Department, Dr. Ulyati Retno Sari, S.S., M.Hum, thank you for the immense support, motivation, and opportunities given to me that became valuable experiences and lessons for me in the future. Then Febriyanti Dwiratna Lestari, S.S., M.A., Ph.D. as the Secretary of the English Department. Thanks also to all my thesis examiners for all the kindness, trust, knowledge, and support you have given to me to become a better student and person. It is an honor and privilege to work and learn from your lectures and public speech materials. For all that, I thank you so much for guiding me.
3. My academic and research advisor, Dr. Danial Hidayatullah, M.Hum., thank you for encouraging me to face everything to be more confident and brave. You

have taught me to defend my opinion about the knowledge and analysis I made about Harry Potter and Moses and supported me even though many were skeptical with my topic, at first sight, also for supervising me. Thank you for always being patient throughout my stuck, confused, and ghosting eras. All your kindness, knowledge, and experience you have shared will be unforgettable and useful. I also need to thank you for being a father figure in my college life.

4. All the lecturers in English Department, Aninda Aji Siwi, S.Pd., M.Pd., Dr. Arif Budiman, M.A., Bambang Hariyanto, S.S., M.A., Dwi Margo Yuwono, M.Hum., Dr. Ening Herniti., S.S., M.A., Fuad Arif Fudiyartanto, S.Pd., M.Hum., M.Ed., Ph.D., Harsiwi Fajarsari, S.S., M.Hum., Nisa Syuhda, S.S., M.Hum., Rosiana Rizky Wijayanti, S.S., M.Hum., Dr. Ubaidillah, M.Hum., Dr. Witirani, M.Hum., and others. Thank you for all you have done for your students. May the wisdom, well health, and strong family bond go long.
5. My beloved parents, Andi Nilakesuma, S.Ag and Khairullah Zikri, S.Ag, MASTRel. and my dearest annoying—cool—being kind when he needs me—sibling, M. Naufal Zealanda Zikri, thank you for always being the most reliable and supportive people. There is nothing I can say other than my deepest thanks. My gratitude to all of you is infinite and endless. My beloved fur babies, Minong, Mylo (I hope your new owner loves you as much I did), Myla (Rest in peace dear, and your babies)
6. My big family, *Bani Khudori* and *Bani Andi Ali*, grandmothers, grandfathers, aunts, uncles, and cousins, thank you for all your prayers and support for me so that I can do my best. Also, to my longtime friends/friends of my parents that I have known since a baby, thank you for the warmth and kindness, for being a second family for us when we were all far from our own families.
7. My goofy—throw a party or karaoke—ranting besties—support system in college, “*Cumi Squad.*” Sheylla, Ela, Rosyi, Fakhri, thank you for all of the most incredible memories. We have been through a lot together. Thank you to each one of you for your presence in my life.
8. My favorite *childhood besties* are Maulida Suryaning Aisha and Amina Rosa Mumtaza. Thank you for not making the distance a big deal of our friendship.

Thank you for the fun times, crazy unexpected adventures, and my number 1 boredom/stress cure.

9. My best partner—in—crime, Tsania Syaharani. Thank you for coming into my life and being my distance bestie all—time support system for almost a decade. I am thankful for meeting you and your jokester vibe.
10. Throughout this journey, my mood savior is my mood savior, my talented boys, EXO—especially Sehun and Kai, WINNER—Mino, Billie Eilish, Taylor Swift, and many other groups/artists. Thank you for strengthening me and filling so many good things in my memory through your music and performances. You guys are genius, genuine, meaningful, and art-worthy artists.
11. All my favorite fictional characters from movies, *manga*, and *animations* that I cannot mention one by one, your existences are not real, but your words, quotes, advice, and stories always inspire me in many ways. Thank you.
12. My lovely reviewers, Lisna, Rosyi, Hafidz, Tanti, and mba Nisa. Thank you for making available some time to share your suggestions, opinions, and critics for my paper's improvement.
13. All friends in English Department '18, I am grateful that I met great people like all of you in my college life. Thank you for all the most fantastic memories that we have created together. See you next time on the top, to catch up with each other ;)
14. Everyone that I cannot mention by name one by one, who directly or indirectly supports me throughout my college life, and to finish this graduating paper, thank you. May your kindness be returned to you.
15. Last, thanks to myself. Hi Bella, thank you for not giving up and surviving. You did your best, and continue to do your best! :)
16. Finally, I realize that this graduating paper is far from perfect for its flaws. There may be some mistakes in writing this paper. Therefore, I allow all the readers to give suggestions and advice to me for further correction and better improvement. You all may kindly hit me up via email or my social media, and then I'd gladly reply and have a small discussion. May this paper be helpful to

the readers and researchers who need some data or insight from the related topics, theories, and objects research as well.

Wassalamu'alaikum Warahmatullaahi Wabarakaatuh,

Yogyakarta, February 2nd, 2022

The researcher,



Nabilatulfikrah Shanelia Zikri

Student ID. 18101050045



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Generally known as movies, moving pictures are one of the most common literary works as a popular culture product. Every shot in a movie is just like a paragraph in writing. The movie also delivers new knowledge such as culture and values. Values here mean how they could make us experience things. As explained by Brett McCracken, "there is a value in the movie, and it takes us to places we have never been and inside the skin of people quite different from ourselves. They offer us a window onto the wider world, broadening our perspective and opening our eyes to new wonders." (2014).

There are many genres in movies and novels. A specific genre that the researcher will analyze is a fantasy adventure. The chosen movie is a popular fantasy movie, entitled Harry Potter and the Order of The Phoenix, a movie based on a novel by JK. Rowling. According to Rosemary Jackson (1981: 9):

"A fantasy is a story based on and conrefusal amounting at times to violent opposition. Fantasy is a story based on and controlled by an overt violation of what is generally accepted as a possibility; it is the narrative trolled by an overt violation of what is generally accepted as a possibility; it is the narrative result of transforming the condition contrary to fact into "fact" itself"

In the same vein, a novel, too, can deliver messages to its reader. A novel is another form of literary work in literature. Both movies and novels have their charm

and enthusiasts, depending on their interests. According to MH Abrams (1999: 190):

"The term "novel" is now applied to a great variety of writings that have in common only the attribute of being extended works of fiction written in prose. As an extended narrative, the novel is distinguished from the short story and the work of middle length called the novelette; its magnitude permits a greater variety of characters, a greater complication of a plot (or plots), ampler development of milieu, and more sustained exploration of character and motives than do the shorter, more concentrated modes."

The novel that I intend to analyze, on the other hand, is *The Tale of Moses*. The novel depicts the tale of the Prophet Moses and is based on the holy Qur'an description. This novel is a part of a novel series of prophets written by Hilmi' Ali Sya'ban. In this novel, magic is used to describe forces eliminated by good power. According to Montague Summers, "Magic is the science of the art of causing change to occur in conformity with the will. White Magic if the will is righteous, and Black Magic if the will is perverse." (1946: 16). Charles Burnett (2019: 72) in *The Routledge History of Medieval Magic* explained magic as:

"The *Ghāyat al-Hakīm* was translated into Castilian in 1256 and soon after, into Latin, under the title *Picatrix*.⁹ It divides magic (*sihr*, *nigromantia*) into three parts – talismans, *nīranjāt*, and alchemy, according to the operation of spirit (*rūh*) and body (*jasad*): *nīranjāt* involve the operation of spirit on spirit, talismans, of spirit on body, and alchemy, of body on body. Even though the Latin translation somewhat garbles this passage, it is still useful to consider which texts might fit into these three divisions, and how a Latin scholar might have sought them out."

It is interesting to see how magic is used and perceived in these two different narratives because they represent magic differently. By analyzing how magic is depicted in both stories, I intend to see similarities and differences in how magic is represented.

In *Harry Potter and the Order of The Phoenix*, there is good magic and in *The Tale of Moses* (in the form of miracles from God). In *Harry Potter*, God's existence is secondary, so magic is still needed. However, in *The Tale of Moses*, the existence of God is primary because the Prophet Moses was the messenger of God. In the *Harry Potter* film, there is no mention of religion (no prayers, worship, or other religious rituals). The need for people (capable of performing magic) towards God is questioned. Then, magic is symbolized by certain animals (*Patronus*). Certain animals appear in certain situations. The explanation above can be analyzed and explained why certain animals are used as representations of magic.

This paper, therefore, intends to compare the two narratives to see how magic is represented. Because in movies and novels, magic can differ depending on various factors, such as the country it was made in, the social condition of the country, the genre, and even the message that's willing to be delivered.

The reason why the researcher is comparing a movie and a novel, rather than a movie with a movie or a novel with a novel is because it is more interesting to see the differences narrated by a film and a novel, *Harry Potter* itself is an adaptation of the novel entitled the same as the movie. The details and plot shown in the movie are enough to cover the whole novel. Also, as explained in *Comparative Literature*

An Overview from ResearchGate by Sandra Bermann, "Comparative literature juxtaposes literary texts from different languages and cultures. It connects, say, a poem with dance, a film with the novel, photography with the essay." (2011: 1). Based on what is cited above, it is allowed to compare a novel with a movie. Yet, the researcher analyzes a novel and a movie because, by its media, a novel and a movie are different, so narratively speaking, it must be different in analyzing these differences, which makes it challenging and not so easy. Analyzing a novel with a novel or a movie with a movie is relatively more simple because they have the same narrative.

On the other hand, animal symbols will also be researched in this paper because, as explained by Sigmund Freud (1913: 3) in *Totem and Taboo*, Totem is an animal that has a relation with a whole clan. Totem is the common ancestor of the clan; at the same time, it is their guardian spirit and helper. The people related to this animal are under a sacred obligation not to kill or destroy their Totem and to avoid eating its flesh (or deriving benefit from it in other ways). From time to time, festivals are celebrated at which the clansmen represent or imitate the motions and attributes of their Totem in ceremonial dances.

From the explanation above, it can be seen that animal symbols or totems, in this case, has relations to some sort of magic; it can be seen from the lines mentioning guardian spirit, a sacred obligation, and animal or entity. All of those are reasons that animal symbols are essential and must be analyzed too, hoping it will help search for the meaning of magic. Also, why did Freud take the Totem

culture? Well, because Totem is universally embedded in human minds, which was depicted unconsciously through cultures across the globe and across time.

1.2 Research Questions

1. What is the meaning of magic in *Harry Potter and The Order of The Phoenix*, and *The Tale of Moses*?
2. How is magic represented through animal symbols in *Harry Potter and The Order of The Phoenix* and *The Tale of Moses*?

1.3 Objectives of study

1. To find out the meaning of magic in *Harry Potter* and *The Tale of Moses*
2. To find out the similarities and differences about magic in both narratives

(deleted objective no 3 & 4)

1.4 Significances of Study

When magic is narrated, it can be viewed by a religious view. Yet, it does not mean it will only be considered from a religious perspective, and it may contain moral values, hidden meanings, etc. Therefore, that *other meaning* is the significance that is willing to be researched in this paper. In addition, magic is also a part of human fantasy, fear, and dream.

1.5 Literature Review

The researcher does not find any research that uses *Harry Potter and The Order of The Phoenix* movie or *The Tale of Moses* novel using the theory of representation, constructionist approach. However, the researcher finds an

anthology entitled *The Mirror of Erised: Seeing A Better World Through Harry Potter and Critical Theory* by Various students from the University of New Brunswick. In this anthology, the chapters break down each Harry Potter movie with several theories, points of view, and analyses which are *New Historical and Cultural Critical Lens, Postcolonial Theory, Critical Marxist Analysis, Critical Race Theory, The Power of the Potter Patriarchy: Feminist Theory, and Psychoanalytic Theory*. This anthology, therefore, is different from my initial study.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

The study uses Stuart Hall's theory of representation. Representation is the most crucial part of the process in which meaning is produced and exchanged between group members in a culture. Representation is interpreting the concept (concept) in our minds by using language. Stuart Hall clearly defines representation as the process of producing meaning by using language. (Hall, 1997: 15)

Representation is the meaning of the concepts in our minds through language. The link between concepts and language enables us to refer to either the 'real' world of objects, people, or events, or indeed to imaginary worlds of fictional objects, people, and events. (Hall, 1997: 17)

To put it briefly, representation is the production of meaning through language. The Shortel Oxford English Dictionary suggests two relevant meanings for the word (Hall, 1997: 16):

1. To represent something is to describe or depict it, to call it up in the mind by description or portrayal or imagination; to place a likeness of it before us

in our mind or the senses; as, for example, in the sentence, "This picture represents the murder of Abel by Cain.

2. To represent also means to symbolize, stand for, to be a specimen of, or to substitute for; as in the sentence, In Christianity, the cross represents the suffering and crucifixion of Chris I.

The theory of representation itself is divided into three theories or approaches, namely (1) the reflective approach which explains that language functions like a mirror that reflects its true meaning. In the 4th century BC, the Greeks termed it as mimetic. For example, rose always means rose, it has no other meaning. (2) Intentional approach, where language is used to express the personal meaning of a writer, painter, etc. This approach has a weakness because it considers language as a private game. On the other hand, it states that the essence of language is communicating based on codes that have become conventions in society, not personal codes. (3) Constructionist approach, an approach that uses a language system or any system to represent our concept. This approach does not mean that we construct meaning by using a representation system (concept and signs), but rather an approach that aims to interpret a language (language). (Hall, 1997: 24-25)

The theory of representation will be very useful for this research because it will show what type of representation is used in both narratives. It will also help me understand how representation is utilized in both Harry Potter and Tales of Moses to generate specific meanings. The researcher chooses the Constructionist approach since it can be used to interpret a language and that this approach is the most

fulfilling approach to see construction in a narrative (Prose and Movie). Also, according to Stuart Hall:

"Most of the chapter will be spent exploring the constructionist approach because it is this perspective that has had the most significant impact on cultural studies in recent years. This chapter chooses to examine two major variants or models of the constructionist approach the semiotic approach." (1997: 15)

1.7 Method of Research

This chapter explains the type of research, data sources, data collection technique, and data analysis technique of this paper.

1.7.1 Type of Research

This research uses a qualitative method to analyze the data. Qualitative methods are used to explore and understand the meaning of individuals or groups related to social or human problems (Creswell, 2014: 294). The researcher collects and observes the data from books, journals, and other data sources, primarily online.

1.7.2 Data Sources

Harry Potter and The Order of The Phoenix (2007) and *The Tale of Moses* are the primary data sources in this research. Since the researcher will use the Constructionist Approach, the variables of this research are made into units: symbols, words, phrases, practices, discourse, and myth.

1.7.3 Data Collection Technique

The researcher should understand the objects first by watching the movie and then writing down dialogues in the movie and also the scenes. The researcher reads the whole novel and writes down the important paragraphs for the novel.

1.7.4 Data Analysis Technique

The researcher will analyze important parts in the movie and the novel using representation theory. The result of this is to find out the concept of magic in both narratives. The last part is to conclude the analysis.

1.8 Paper Organization

This research consists of four chapters, and each of them is subdivided subsequently. The first chapter is the introduction of the research that consists of the background of the subject, objective of the study, significances of study, literature review, theoretical approach, research methodology, and paper organization. The second chapter will contain intrinsic elements. The third is the data findings and analysis, and the last chapter is the conclusion of the research.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

From the discussion above, it can be seen that both the movie and novel have constructed meaning in many different ways. Even though the meanings produced do not have a fixed meaning, the viewer and the reader have the capability to generate meanings through the representation described in both movie and novel. They might say that it is no problem to learn magic as long as it is intended for good deeds. Others may simply say that magic is not bad at all, instead of the popular belief that magic is dangerous. Thus, in a sense, from a constructive representation point of view, it can be said that both the novel and the movie indeed have succeeded in delivering meanings from which its reader and viewer draw further understanding or construct their own meanings.

It can be learned from both movie and tale narrative that even though they utilize magic in the story, both produced different representations of magic. *Harry Potter and The Order of The Phoenix* (2007) represents magic as something good as opposed to an evil one. This idea is clear in instances where Harry Potter used magic for good or to overcome potential evil. Magic can also be an evil force or a tool to destroy the other party. For example, magic, as used by Lord Voldemort and his followers, is seen as a representation of evil forces. The spell *crucio* and *Avada kedavra* as a taboo spell for wizards is practised by Voldemort and his followers to confirm that evil is normal or even necessary for certain purposes. Yet Harry Potter,

with his magic spells, is a representation of good forces who must always face evil forces. Although in this film, there is a cost to be paid by the forces of good when dealing with the forces of evil, in the end, the forces of good somehow find a gap in the face of the forces of evil (dark forces).

The tale of Moses, on the other hand, produced different interpretations of magic. It emphasizes more on *mu'jizat* rather than the magic. *Mu'jizat*, as help from God, is depicted as having more power over any man-made magic. When the magicians of Pharaoh showed their magical snakes, Moses faced them with the power of divine miracles. When Moses the stick turned into a larger snake and devoured the witch's snakes, Moses became a representation of the "force of good that defeats the conspiracy of evil." Yet this is consistent with the concept that the forces of evil will always be defeated by the forces of good. It's just that in Harry Potter, these two things are shown in a work of fiction. In contrast, in the story of Moses, these things are narrated by sacred texts, even though they have the potential to become fiction because the narratives are developed or even added or subtracted by the narrators.

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SUNAN KALIJAGA
YOGYAKARTA

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Curriculum Vitae



Personal Details

Name : Nabilatulfikrah Shanelia Zikri
Place/date of birth : Brisbane, Queensland, 4 July 2000
Home Address : Klodangan RT/RW. 03/26 Sendangtirto, Berbah,
Sleman, D.I. Yogyakarta
Phone : 085702645369
Email Address : nabilahs.zikry04@gmail.com

Educational background

Currently studying English Literature to fulfil bachelor degree in Faculty of Adab and Humanities, State of Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta (since 2018)

Highschool at Primagama Homeschooling, Yogyakarta (2016-2018)

Highschool at SMA Negeri 1 Pleret, Bantul, Yogyakarta (2016)

Middle school at Pandanaran Islamic Boarding School, Yogyakarta (2012-2015)

Elementary school at SD Sokowaten Baru, Bantul, Yogyakarta (2009-2012)

Elementary school at Ilam Primary School, Christchurch, New Zealand (2005-2008)

Organizational Experiences

Member of Student Association at English Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, State of Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta (2018-2019)

Chair of Mahkamah Bahasa at Pandanaran Islamic Boarding School, Yogyakarta (2013-2015)