



Literary Studies

## “The Wonderful Wizard of OZ”: Building students’ character in ELT through Fantasy Novel

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### A B S T R A C T

Fantasy is the one of genre in children’s literature that is famous all over the world. However, because of the story that tells about imaginary world, the appearance is not quite considered in ELT classroom especially in building students’ character. Therefore, this study was conducted to see character education represented in a fantasy novel that is suggested in curriculum 2013 for ELT in Indonesia. The fantasy novel used in this study was *The Wonderful Wizard of OZ* written by L. Frank Baum. Every condition and situation faced by the character in every plot of story was analyzed using content analysis. The finding showed that fantasy novel could promote character building through the story by showing it in character’s attitude in facing a situation or problem. So, even though it told about imaginary world, but it was closed to real life and great as a source for learning.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Story is really common to use as a learning media in ELT classroom. With many advantages of the use of story in the class, it can be a good media for the teacher in transferring knowledge and reach the goal of learning. Some kinds of story that can be used in the ELT classroom is ranged from digital story (Anggraini, 2017; Dollar & Tolu, 2016), short story (Ceylan, 2016) a development of creative skills, an authentic model of language use with its rich potential (Ramsaran, 1983, Collie and Slater, 1987, comic book (Jones, 2010), novel (Faraj, 2021) and etc. All of them are proved to give positive feedback in teaching and learning activity. It can engage students’ motivation in learning English, give actual authentic cultural setting that encompass English itself as a language, also enhance students’ in mastering English skill – listening, writing, reading, and speaking.

Children’s literature is famous to equip students in English teaching and learning activity. It can be a good source for student in the primary school to learn English not only building their English skill, but also as a window to see the world through cultural thing the story brought (Pinto, 2012). So,

it is not only make them learn English through cognitive but also it can develop their life skill, around function properly in society, adapt well in every situation they found in their life, having good problem solving, and critical thinking to survive in the society (Abdelhalim, 2015).

The one of assessed aspects that become core in Curriculum 2013 in Indonesia is student’s character. It is termed as affective skill along with cognitive and psychomotor. The students are expected to be acquired with some characters in the end of learning, they are respect, care, honest, discipline, confidence, responsible, team work, peace, and communicative (Kemdikbud, 2014). It can be seen that there is a connection between the benefit of using children’s literature in the class with the learning goal on the side of affective skill in curriculum 2013. So, children’s literature becomes an important source for the students to learn affective skill they have to be acquired in ELT classroom.

As a study from Nuryanti, Arfiyanti, Durachman & Nurcaya (2020) that conducts a study about speech act in fantasy text in enhancing students’ creativity and character education, they found that

the speech act by the character in fantasy text can stimulate students' creativity, and through the story, it can teach social values that can build students' character in real life.

In this paper, the study is focus on the one of children's literature genre, fantasy. Fantasy genre is known in enhancing student's motivation (Rangkuti, Ansarif, & Hadi, 2020), because of the story which is able to fly student's imagination, and also building student's character by the story (Nuryanti et al., 2020). However, it is still hard to find a study that is related with fantasy novel and students' character in ELT realm. Meanwhile, as we know together, the fantasy novel such as Harry Potter is really famous all over the world (Dilshoda & Gulchekhra, 2020). Even though, it can be a good chance for the teacher to use fantasy story in the classroom as a media in learning English. Therefore, this study will be conducted to see character education represented in a fantasy novel that is suggested in curriculum 2013 for ELT in Indonesia. This study will use every condition and situation faced by the character in every plot of story.

One of the famous children's literature in fantasy genre is a novel by L. Frank Baum entitled *The Wonderful Wizard of OZ*. Published for the first time in 1900, this novel is still popular to be the reading source for children. The story is about a girl who goes to the land of OZ after flown by a cyclone and need to find a way to go back to her home. Rich with the elements of fantasy (Putri, 2017), this story will be used as the source in this study. The use of this novel in this research is expected to promote affective skill students need to be acquired in ELT classroom based on curriculum 2013. Through this study, the researcher wants to know whether or not fantasy novel can promote character building in students and how the novel implement affective skill students need to be acquired through the plot of the story.

## II. METHOD

This study is a kind of qualitative research using content analysis. First, the researcher will read the novel carefully, then code the data based on the aspects of affective skill the students need to reach in curriculum 2013 classroom, and making interpretation from the data. Based on Bowen (2009), content analysis is "the process of organizing information into categories related to the central questions of the research". The data would

be obtained from the novel by L. Frank Baum entitled *The Wonderful Wizard of OZ*, published by Gramedia Pustaka Utama in 2017. This novel is chosen because it meets the characteristics of novel fantasy as the topic of this study and it is a kind of an enjoyable English classic novel that is easy to understand.

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the analysis from the situation, dialogue in every character, and character's attitude when facing a problem, it can be found that the novel – *The Wonderful Wizard of OZ* – is very rich with character education. From nine aspects affective skill students need to have in ELT class, confidence and caring are the prominent one. However, the other aspects also support the character in every situation and condition character faced throughout the story with loaded fantasy material, but it does not relieve the constituent of life. Based on Darigan, Tunnell & Jacobs (2002), the novel succeeds as a fantasy novel, because it reflects human life and the problem that is convenient to read without losing the emotion and the power of fantasy itself.

### *Respect*

**Table 1. Respect**

Category	Pages
Speak politely	14, 26, 27, 65, 157
Behave to the guest politely	23, 77, 86, 175

In the portion of character building, the first aspect discovered is respect. As the one of important skill in life, respect in this novel is depicted quite well through the conversation between the characters. Although Dorothy, the one of main character in the novel, encounters an odd situation she never experience before, she still respects the other by being polite and behave well. In this part, students can learn how to respect others by saying "thank you" in every kindness, and how to greet other people that meet for the first time politely, as Dorothy and the Scarecrow shows in the conversation below.

*"Good day," said the Scarecrow.*

*"Did you speak?" ask Dorothy in wonder, finding the Scarecrow in front of her is talked.*

*"Certainly, how do you do?"*

*"I'm pretty well, thank you. How do you do?" replied the girl politely.*

*"I'm not feeling well," said the Scarecrow. ... (Baum, 2017)*

In this kind of dialogue, the students can recognize the difference of culture between eastern and western in greeting style, especially how to say it politely when it is the first time someone meet other person. It can be seen that literature is the representation of culture (Shanahan, 1997). Finding the new situation, Dorothy is still brave to look for the way back to her home in Kansas. Although she has to meet with queer people, even a scarecrow that can talk, behave polite is number one.

### Care

Table 2. Care

Category	Pages
Helping other people	18,27, 28, 38, 46, 53, 64, 70, 72, 109, 115, 154
Be careful in behave	164, 167

There are many situations that show the character is really taking care for each other by helping and giving attention to their attitude in order to not making other people loss. It is important for the students to have this skill in life because it shows a kindness and spreads love to people so it will create conciliation in the society. As the character has been done in the story, for example, the help from Witch of the North to Dorothy that give advice from her magic to ask Dorothy go to the Land of OZ in the middle of her confusion. Other than that is the demeanor by Dorothy who help the Scarecrow from the pole, and the Tin Woodman from rusty. Even it is not just done by the main character, but also little character such as the mice that help Dorothy's party from the poppies, the Stork that help the Scarecrow from the river, and the Winkies that help the Tin Woodman from rocky plain after the Winged Monkeys assault.

Helping other people is the one of moral indicator that students need to learn for being care person (Engster, 2005). From the novel, the students do not just learn that it is important to do, but the story shows that help each other is a good deed which does not hurt anyone or anything. Teacher can stimulate the students with this topic easily because helping each other is the one of eastern culture that should always be maintained. Discussing the story can stimulate students' critical thinking (Murphy, Wilkinson, Soter, Hennessey & Alexander (2009). So, it can lead students' to think independently even when facing the same situation in real life.

### Honest

Table 3. Honest

Category	Pages
Not hiding the truth to other	25, 27, 28, 90, 137, 171
Dare to admit mistakes	137, 164

Honesty is so expensive in the society these days. For example, in doing a job, honesty and sincerity is really needed as the part of job, so the job can be done well. Meanwhile, in the society, honest become the bridge that relates people in certain business and it becomes a good start in having strong relationship. In the novel, honest is showed in every character's behavior. Either in the utterance or in the attitude, every character gives honesty by not hiding a truth even for a stranger. The biggest lie by OZ to Dorothy and her party that is finally revealed has given a moral value that even though it is really hard to be honest about something, it is better to choose honesty. Because, one deceit will chain to another deceit and it is really exhausting and distress for ones who lies. The one of important moral value has uncovered through OZ and it means the value of life can represent well in the work of literature (Cunningham, 2010). Honesty also talks about a courage to admit the mistakes and apologize. It can be seen from the conversation by Dorothy and the Milkmaid below.

*"See what you have done! My cow has broken her leg, and I must take her to the mender's shop and have it glued on again. What do you mean by coming here and frightening my cow?" Say the milkmaid angrily because her china cow is broken down because of Dorothy's carelessness.*

*"I'm very sorry," returned Dorothy, "please forgive us." (Baum, 2017)*

In that kind of situation, students can learn how to be a prudent person in an unexpected situation especially if it hurts other people. By being honest and brave to recant, the problem will not getting bigger and the doer will be humane person. The teacher can teach honesty to the student by implementing the value if this novel in every activity in the class even in the simple way like saying sorry.

### Discipline

Table 4. Discipline

Category	Pages
Self-control	36, 47, 59, 82, 147

Based on Oxford dictionary, the meaning of discipline can be seen in obeying a rule and controlled behavior in the way of live or in the core of work place. By being a discipline person, the result of a dream will be clearer to be achieved. Dorothy reflects the discipline through her willingness in every morning to keep on her purpose, going to the Emerald city to find OZ. Even though the journey is really hard with the danger she could face everywhere, but she can control her anxiety so she can go back to her home. In the other time, the Tin Woodman and the Guardian of the Gates shows discipline in the core or work. They can manage themselves to obey the rule as their job and finish whatever that become their work appropriately.

Having a discipline lesson to the students is significant to build a good character in the students. The story in the novel is really close to the students' life that must control themselves in their job – student – and also keeping themselves on the routine to always study in order to reach their dream. It needs hard work and unquenchable fire. There are a lot of difficulties in the middle of the way, but students can learn from the novel that by keep going on can bring them to the success. In implementing this at school, student can represent it in obeying school rules, controlling themselves to study hard and finish every task teacher gave to them.

**Confidence**

**Table 5. Confidence**

Category	Pages
Dare to take a decision	22, 38, 39, 46, 49, 77, 90, 95, 96, 99
Believe in his/her capability	54, 57, 101, 102, 145, 170

The character in the novel shows confidence in the part of taking decision and believing in his/her capability. Something needs to have in student's life. This skill is often to talk in the English subject, especially the relation with student's motivation in learning English. Some students are unmotivated to learn English is because they lack of confidence to communicate using English in the form of speaking or writing skill, especially in the direct communication (Freiermuth & Jarrell, 2006). It can lead to the deterioration of their English competence.

Students can learn confidence through the

character of the novel. For example, the Scarecrow who knows well his capability as a straw so he bravely takes turn to protect his friends in facing many obstacles. Moreover, after knowing OZ the Humbug, the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion are confidence after OZ gives them what their biggest wish – a brain, a heart, and courage. They believe in themselves so they can reach what impossible for before, such as ruling a country and become the king of beasts. All of that things are started from believe. Believe leads to courage for deciding a decision. And in the end, it heads to success. Students can learn from the story and implement it to their life especially in learning English. If the teacher can create good environment for the students gaining confidence in studying English, it will be easier for them to master English. As the story, the teacher can gaining students confidence through group work and encourage them to use English more in order to know it closer.

**Responsible**

**Table 6. Responsible**

Category	Pages
Trusted to do a job	35, 40, 82, 98, 117, 123, 160
Duty to take care of someone	46, 57, 67, 100, 101, 102
Liable with his/her action	126,138, 148

Being trusted is a key to have good relationship with others. The one of wise is through building responsibility in every kind of activity. The novel present character's responsibility in the area of trusted to do a job because the characters do that job splendidly. It is also visible in the Dorothy's party when they together go to the Emerald city to find OZ. They take care of each other, for example, when they are in danger, they protect each other. Dorothy oils the Tin Woodman's joints every time he need it, the Scarecrow and the Tin Woodman helps Dorothy who fall asleep because the poppies, and the Cowardly Lion who determines to protect others from Kalidahs. All of that reflects their responsibility in protecting each other as a group so they can arrive in Emerald City together. Other than that, OZ the Humbug that has been promised to give Dorothy's party what they want after killing the Wicked Witch of the West, indicates responsibility to keep his promise although he is not a great wizard, he is just an ordinary old man. He gives the Scarecrow a brain, the Tin Woodman

a heart, and the Cowardly Lion with a brave.

In the real life, students are really close to responsible skill. This novel gives them a lesson about the journey of the character. They can learn about how to be a responsible person, and what responsible actually is. The teacher can observe it when students have a task to do a group work. How they can finish the task with responsibility by doing it splendidly, taking care for each other, and being liable with every words and attitudes they have done. By discussing the novel with the students and make them practice to be a responsible person, the students will build character education that is hoped to be attached in students of Indonesia.

**Team Work**

**Table 7. Team Work**

Category	Pages
Cooperate in facing an obstacle	30, 35, 39, 40, 50, 52, 55, 56, 62, 73, 101, 102, 147, 163

In the classroom situation, students are often to work in group. It is expected that they will more engage to learn English in the class. It is also easier to finish a project together with friends in group and motivate students to learn more (Frey, Fisher & Everlove, 2009)almost every teacher knows how group work can go wrong: restless students, unequal workloads, lack of accountability, and too little learning for all the effort involved. In this book, educators Nancy Frey, Douglas Fisher, and Sandi Everlove show you how to make all group work productive group work: with all students engaged in the academic content and with each other, building valuable social skills, consolidating and extending their knowledge, and increasing their readiness for independent learning. The key to getting the most out of group work is to match research-based principles of group work with practical action. Classroom examples across grade levels and disciplines illustrate how to\* Create interdependence and positive interaction\* Model and guide group work\* Design challenging and engaging group tasks\* Ensure group and individual accountability \* Assess and monitor students' developing understanding (and show them how to do the same. Working in group cannot be separated from team work. If there is no team work in a group, it can be sure that the group will not achieve what becomes the purpose or the task properly. Reflecting to the novel, there is a good team work among Dorothy's party from their journey to the

Emerald City until joining Dorothy in finding a way to go home. For example, when they need to solve every problem and danger they meet in the journey. With their own strengths and weaknesses, they complete each other and build a good team work. Once, they must go to the land of Winkies to combat the Wicked Witch of the West. They found many obstacles, started from the troops of crows, bees, and the Winged Monkeys. But, the scarecrow with his ability to drive away the crows succeed to win the battle. He also protects Dorothy and the Lion from bees by hiding behind the Tin Woodman. This team work can lead to the success in achieving the objective.

This novel gives a lesson to the students how to work in group. There is no perfection in a group. Everybody is special with their own strengths and weaknesses. As Dorothy's party, there will be many obstacles and arguments. But, the foremost one is about dealing with the condition and chooses to work as a team. It will give a nice lesson to the students because in the reality, life is not just about individualism but also social life. Sometimes, working as a team will appear in the college life and work place. That is why it is really important to acquire students with this skill.

**Peace**

**Table 8. Peace**

Category	Pages
Freedom and harmony	30, 43, 50, 52, 79, 117, 169

The novel represents peace in the middle of Dorothy's party as queer group who walk together. With the diversity of creature in that group, the character gives peace and harmony to the center of their group, so there is no conflict between the characters that can damage the harmony. Peace is also visible in the liberation of bondage. The Munchkins and the Winkies have been become slaves for a long time because they are ruled by the Wicked Witch. Peace can be felt by them after Dorothy defeat the Wicked Witch and set them free. Even after that, they can have a feast with joyful.

Keeping peace is really crucial to do these days. Because there are many hate activity that can lead to hostility. As a young generation, students must have this skill to maintain peace in the middle of society. Especially, there are many teenagers that go wrong because they do not understand this skill. Using the novel, it can give lessons to the students

about how to keep people in peace. Behaving others in respect, kindness, and avoiding misdeed like Dorothy and her friends have been done in their journey will create peace in the society.

### *Communicative*

**Table 9. Communicative**

Category	Pages
Effective and appropriate communication	38, 56, 72, 77

Relating communicative with the world these days, what the most important for students to have is intercultural communicative competence. It is ability for the students to communicate in effective and appropriate word or behavior (Deardorff, 2015). The world is getting more complex with many variety of English people used. Sometimes, it leads to misunderstanding and makes social problem arise, such as prejudice, and discrimination. So, it is necessary to make people understand what we meant in a conversation in an effective and appropriate way.

Actually, in this novel, it is found that the character is communicative in every conversation and behavior. The others can understand the message, order, or question from ones. There is no failed communication that leads to problem in this novel. The main characters and others use language effectively and appropriately even though they are all different – in the side of culture, or creature. For example, these are an order from the Scarecrow that has an idea to escape from Kalidahs.

“Here is a great tree, standing close to the ditch. If the Tin Woodman can chop it down, so it will fall to the other side, we can walk across it easily.” (Baum, 2017)

The Scarecrow command to the Tin Woodman is really clear, effective, and appropriate. He explains it well so it can easily understood by the Tin Woodman.

Students should use English communicatively, it is not just in the school but bring it to the society as well. Through this novel, they can learn how to be

a communicative person. The character from the novel shows clear communication by being honest and avoiding topic that lead to misunderstanding. Talking mannerly also becomes the factor of being communicative person. In the class, teacher can stimulate students through discussion so the students can understand well what communicative is. They also can practice it in real life to build students’ character education and enhancing their English competence skill.

## **IV. CONCLUSIONS**

According to analysis of the fantasy novel – the wonderful wizard of OZ, it has fruitful insight for the students to build their character. This novel categorized as a good fantasy novel. Because it just does not only talk about the other imagined world but also the value of life through the story in every character inside. That is why this novel is really good in promoting students’ affective skill they need to have from ELT classroom. The novel promotes it through some metaphors that can make students imagining the fantasy product of the novel, but it does not forget to give social value that is so closed with students’ real life. If the teacher invites the students to discuss with the students around character building and implements it in the real life, it can be a good source for students to learn from that. Hence, novel fantasy is not just talk about imaginary world that cannot be used for learning. It also has a big role in promoting students’ character building through an interesting story.

The affective skill students need to be acquired in ELT classroom can be drawn clearly trough the character in the novel. Because this novel told about a journey of a party to the land of OZ, the all skills is visible in their attitude to cooperate together as a team. Respect, caring, honesty, discipline, confidence, responsible, team work, peace, and communicative, all of those skills band together and assimilate to create harmony in social relationship. So, this novel can be the one of best source from fantasy novel that can build students’ character in the core of affective skill valued in ELT classroom.

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