

PATRIARCHAL PRACTICES AND RESISTANCE IN ROALD DAHL'S MATILDA

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DOI No. – 08.2020-25662434

Abstract

This article is an analyses of the Patriarchal Practice and Resistance in Roald Dahl's Matilda. This story contains the discussion about the intrinsic and extrinsic elements in Matilda. The position of the characters is determined by their personal qualities and behaviour. Since children are only able to recognize kind-hearted character or well known as protagonist and evil character or antagonist in stories. Cavetti classify three literary devices most often used by formulaic writers, which are Suspense, Identification and The creation of a slightly removed imaginary world. From the structure of the novel, the novel has three important events. First, it is a part when the novel tells suspense in the story. Matilda is being ignored since she is really young and repeatedly mistreated by her parents. Second, it is part about the identification of the story. Matilda educates and teaches herself to read thus becomes smarter. She also revenges her parents in amusing ways. Third, it is part about the creation of imaginary world which is Matilda's telekinetic ability. She uses her ability to play prank on Miss Trunchbull and help Miss Honey.

Keywords: *Intrinsic elements, Extrinsic elements.*

INTRODUCTION

Roald Dahl was born in Llandaff, South Wales, on September 13, 1916, and died in England on November 23, 1990. He was a well-known British novelist, best known for his inventive and irreverent children's novels. Dahl skipped university and joined an expedition to Newfoundland after graduating from Repton, a prestigious British public school, in 1932. He worked in Dares Salaam, Tanganyika, from 1937 to 1939, but when World War II broke out, he volunteered in the Royal Air Force (RAF). He was critically injured in a crash landing in Libya while flying as a fighter pilot. He served with his unit in Greece and then Syria before working as an assistant air attaché in Washington, D.C. from 1942 to 1943. C.S. Forester, a novelist, was present and encouraged.

The Gremlins (1943), Dahl's debut book, was written for Walt Disney but was a flop. Ten Stories of Flyers and Flying (1946), a compilation of military stories that received high reviews from critics but flopped on the market. Dahl then spent the remainder of his life to writing the children's books that would make him famous. Unlike most other children's books, Dahl's had a darkly comic tone to them, with frequent depictions of awful violence and death. *The Enormous Crocodile* was published in 1978, *The BFG* was published in 1982, and *The Witches* was published in 1983. *Fantastic Mr. Fox* was published in 1970, *Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator* was published in 1972, *The Enormous Crocodile* was published in 1978, *The BFG* was published in 1982, and *The Witches* was published in 1983. Matilda was one of his final works

PATRIARCHAL PRACTICE AND RESISTANCE

Mr. Wormwood, Matilda's father, treats his family in Matilda by imposing his will on them. One example is when he continues to eat dinner in front of the television just because he enjoys it, despite the fact that it is not a traditional family meal. When Matilda requests to eat dinner in another room, he becomes enraged. He imposes a custom that is not usual, regardless of whether other members of his family enjoy it.

Mr. Wormwood also uses language as a tool to showcase his strengths. He often uses profanity in his family. No wonder he called Matilda a fool, an idiot, etc. The language makes it clear that Mr. Wormwood is considered the smartest person in the family. Mr. Wormwood believes that he is the strongest and smartest person in the family because he is the one who earns money and supports his family. He often boasted.

Mr. Wormwood blurs the line between good and wrong in his family, enacting his own laws. He owns and operates a business that sells secondhand cars and does so falsely. When Matilda tries to tell him that what he is doing is wrong, he becomes enraged and instructs her to remain silent. He, on the other hand, considers it to be part of his business acumen. He makes his family do the things he enjoys because he enjoys watching television. When Matilda requests for his permission to purchase books, he refuses, claiming that reading is unimportant.

Mr. Wormwood is not pleased when he discovers Matilda reading a book. He couldn't understand why people enjoyed reading books, and he believed that because he couldn't, others shouldn't either. He started ripping pages out of the book in handfuls and putting them in the waste-paper basket with a startling suddenness. Matilda was startled to the point of paralysis. The father continued on his way. There was little doubt that the man was envious of the woman.

Despite being a clever kid, Matilda is nonetheless obligated to do what she is taught, according to Dahl. All of this occurs as a result of her status as a young girl in her household. Matilda's single advantage over anybody in her family was her intelligence, which she possessed despite her small size and youth. She could outsmart them all in terms of sheer ingenuity. However, any five-year-old girl in any home was always required to do as she was instructed, no matter how ridiculous the commands were. As a result, she was always forced to stay alone on weekday afternoons, and she had to obey whenever she was instructed to quiet up. Mr. Wormwood and his wife are unconcerned about it.

Miss Honey is not a member of The Wormwoods, but she watches Mr. Wormwood's patriarchal activities. When she visits The Wormwoods' residence to speak with the parents about getting Matilda a proper education, she is confronted with the practises right away. Mr. Wormwoods expresses his disinterest in learning anything about Matilda straight now. He claims that because she is her instructor, Matilda is her duty. Mr. Wormwood finally agrees to speak with Miss Honey when she loses her temper and yells at him.

Several conclusions emerge from the consideration of internal and extrinsic factors. We can deduce from the novel's characters that there are various stereotypical characters. Mrs. Wormwood, for starters, is the feminine, or the one who supports or is a victim of patriarchal ideology. She is Matilda's mother, and she is described as a woman who is obsessed with her

appearance. Second, there are Matilda and Miss Honey, who are anti-patriarchal. Matilda, the primary character, is described as a little girl with intelligence well above her years and maturity far beyond that of her peers. Miss Honey, Matilda's teacher, is depicted as a frail young woman with a slender frame. Mr. Wormwood and Michael are the third and fourth characters.

Matilda's father, Mr. Wormwood, is regarded as a cunning looking man and an honest businessman. From the discussion on the extrinsic aspects, we can see that there are numerous results. Michael is Matilda's brother, who is not as brilliant as Matilda but is the favourite in The Wormwoods. First, Matilda's father, Mr. Wormwood, treats his family by forcing his will on them. He imposes a custom that is not usual, regardless of whether other members of his family enjoy it. He curses and mistreats Matilda by not paying attention to her. Second, Mr. Wormwood's patriarchal methods have varying effects on various characters.

Miss Honey and Matilda are against the practices. Miss Honey tries to reason with Mr. and Mrs. Wormwood about their prodigy daughter, while Matilda stands up for herself by playing pranks on her father. Mrs. Wormwood and Michael, for example, are characters who follow the practices. They never stand up to Mr. Wormwood. Matilda and Miss Honey, on the other hand, oppose patriarchal traditions. Matilda takes vengeance on her father by pranking him every time he mistreats her. Miss Honey wishes to assist Matilda by attempting to speak with her parents about providing Matilda with a suitable education. Matilda decides to stay with Miss Honey rather than move out of town with her family at the end of the story.

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