CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Legend is a prose folk which is considered never actually happen and it does not have a background as well as the exact time (Danandjaja 2002: 83). It is characterized by the initial sentence used as 'once upon a time'. The diction as it gives the impression that everything that happens in folklore do not really happen in the real world. Folklore tells the adventures of animal/ human and folklore of all things can happen, so it is considered unrealistic folklore.

In modern era, people are more interested in watching and reading novel although many legends are made into movie. Nowadays, technologies are more advanced and sophisticated. The story of the legend can be seen on television or in books. Most people are less interested in listening or reading legend.

There is so many legend among primitive people, information was passed verbally from one generation to another way oral tradition. This may be transmitted in a speech or a song and it was taken from the form of folktales. Folklore is given orally, it can only be imagined through the imagination. It makes the writer wants to analyze the legends, public is now rarely discussed.

Folklore can describe and explain the situation of the culture. Therefore, the oral traditions that exist within the community or a culture has important value and a specific function. Its function is to the shape of the story, can contain meaning that
educate, or other message behind the folklore story itself. Therefore, the writer concludes that folklore still deserves to be maintained in the life of this era.

Folklore can help the children to develop a sense of morality. It helps children to sort out good or bad and to identify the good things. By story telling through folklore, it can give advice to the audience, adults and children. Cultural overview of the origin of the folklore will be discussed further in the content.

Levi Strauss (in Endraswara, 2005: 232) explains that in myth correlation units (which is a structure) that is not isolated, but the unity of relations that relationship can be combined and used to uncover the meaning behind the myth.

Based on the statement, the writer uses the structural theory by Levi Strauss to analyze folklore. Folklore research that should be done by the folklore collector directly, this is a challenge for the writer as a researcher this time.

The elements of folklore are different from the real world. Folklore has almost always happy ending and presenting positive moral for the children. In fact, folklore is not always intended for children but also adults because it refers to violence, murder, fighting, and suffering.

Charles Perrault wrote folklore which is known in the community intended for adults. Therefore, folklore does not directly describe the moral values with the use of metaphors that allow readers to develop their creativity in imagination. Perrault does not only rewrite the folklore that have been known to the public directly, but change the folklore and adapted in accordance with the context of the era that was prevailing at that time, for example, re-create the famine in 1693 as in the story of Little Thumb. Having read some of the works of Perrault, it is found that a form of violence in several of his works, such as the cruelty of stepmother in
Cinderella, the desire of a witch to kill a girl in The Sleeping Beauty in Wood, and the act of abandoning a child in Little Thumb.

The causes of violence in a family are various, such as influences of poverty and under pressure in life, family needs can not be fulfilled, accompanied by anger or disappointment in parents for helplessness in solving economic problems, causing the parents easy to vent emotions, anger and disappointment to their children.

To find out the acts of violence contained in the Little Thumb, therefore it will be presented the following story. This folklore tells the story of seven boys who were left intentionally in the woods by their parents for economic reasons. Little Thumb is the youngest of seven children in a poor woodcutter's family. His greater wisdom compensates for his smallness of size. When the children are abandoned by their parents, he finds a variety of means to save his life and the lives of his brothers. After being threatened and pursued by an ogre, Little Thumb steals his magic seven-league boots while the monster is sleeping.

In the Little Thumb, there are moral values in accordance with the realities of today's society, especially in the economic fields. Poverty makes parents do all ways to earn money, even make an exploitation of their children or abandon their children. Little Thumb is a child who underestimated, but finally he can prove that he can give benefit to his families. Little Thumb is one of legends that is different from other legends for children featuring a main character who is victim and a person doing violence. Little Thumb not only to fraud the ogre, but also to a good figure (the ogre's wife). He was giving back to a ogre’ wife treatments protecting him and his older brothers of the ogre with the death of the seven daughters of ogre. Although not Little Thumb killed them, it still was cause of indirect death of her children.
In this thesis, the writer discusses about the act of the violence in folklore written by Charles Perrault. The writer chooses to discuss this folklore since the writer is attracted to the simple plot, meaning and function that are important to readers. Perrault's folklore entitled Little Thumb is a folklore featuring violence clearly. Violence contained in this legend makes the writer surprised, remembers that there is a presumption that the legend is familiar with the child and always show kindness.

1.2 Problem of the Study

The writer thinks that it’s important to decide the problems that are going to be analyzed. The problems of the analysis in this paper are:

1. What are the acts of violence that can be found in the Little Thumb Legend?
2. What are the causes of the acts violence that can be found in the Little Thumb Legend?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The objectives of the analysis tend to answer the problem of the analysis. Based on the problem above, the objectives of this analysis mainly:

1. To find out the act of violence in the Little Thumb Legend.
2. To find out the cause of violence in the Little Thumb Legend.
1.4 Scope of the Study

To avoid a broadening in the analysis, the writer limits the range of this research in order to make the analysis more specific. In this case, the writer limits the research on what are the act of violence that can be found in the Little Thumb Legend and what are the causes of violence that can be found in the Little Thumb Legend.

1.5 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, the significance of this research is to help the student by doing a structural analysis to analyze some literary work. Practically this study, may give information to the readers about legend that be rarely discussed in society especially through this thesis. The writer wants to preserve the legend in the community to restore become the object that interesting to be appointed. To give knowledge for the readers to understand the act of violence happened in Thumb so that it can give moral lesson to imitate the act of violence.