



The Multifaceted Role Of Imagination With Reference By C. S. Lewis

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ABSTRACT

Imagination is a unique talent that allows individuals to create extraordinary things. There are various types of imagination, such as effective imagination, intellectual imagination, imaginative fantasy, and strategic imagination. Imagination is essential for creating art, literature, and other creative works. Many famous authors, such as Shakespeare, Jonathan Swift, and Daniel Defoe, have used their imagination to create timeless classics, which are beloved by readers, especially children. Children's literature writers often use creativity to captivate young readers. C.S. Lewis, for instance, demonstrated immense creativity in "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe," where he explored various themes with vivid imagination. In my research, I am focusing on Lewis's multifaceted use of imagination in his work and how he brings each theme to life.

Keywords: Imagination, Aesthetic, Essential, Immense creative, variety of creativities, multifaceted.

INTRODUCTION

Imagination is an integral part of literature. When combined with literature, it brings pleasure and spiritual satisfaction to readers. Children's literature books have the power to make them happy because the writers tap into their incredible power that originates deep within the mind and imagination, often influenced by the outside world. Particularly, children enjoy reading adventure stories, fantasy, historical fiction, fairy tales, and folk tales. As a result, children's literature has been developing worldwide. Children's literature aims to educate them on living a spiritual, beautiful, and morally ethical life. It originated in the fifteenth century but was not fully developed at that time.

"Children's literature emerged as a distinct and independent form of literature in the second half of the eighteenth century. Before that, it had been in an embryonic stage at best. The growth of children's literature has been significant during the twentieth century. From the end of the eighteenth century to the beginning of the twentieth century, it was considered the golden era of children's literature, with children's books being published rapidly. John Newbery is often regarded as the father of children's literature, and some of his famous works include... "A little pretty pocket", and "A History of little goody two shoes".

"A Little Pretty Pocket" was easy to handle, looked neat, and was small. Every child had a desire to read this book, even elders too wanted to read it. "A History of Little Goody Two Shoes" is the first children's novel in the world.

So many creators have produced works for children's enjoyment. One such example is the incredible novel "The Chronicles of Narnia" (The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe) written by C.S. Lewis, which was adapted into a film by Alan Seymour. This novel is part of a series of seven books collectively known as "The Chronicles of Narnia". The movie is a modern literary work that provides both readers and audiences, particularly children, with a clear understanding of life through the medium of film. It serves as a reflection of life itself. Clive Staples Lewis was born on 29 November 1898. He was a British writer, literary scholar, and Anglican lay theologian. He held academic positions in English Literature at both Oxford University and Cambridge University. He is best known as the author of "The Chronicles of Narnia", but he is also noted for his other works of fiction.

***The Screwtape Letters* and *The Space Trilogy*, and his non-fiction *Christian apologetics*, including *Mere Christianity*, *Miracles*, and *The Problem of Pain*.**

In the beginning of the author's career was not a children's book writer but he was a religious, academic book writer and popular novelist that reflect in his works such as ***The Pilgrim's Regress*** (1933) which connects with his spiritual journey to the Christian faith, ***The Allegory of Love*** (1936) and one of his masterpiece history of love literature in the early Middle Ages of Shakespeare's time; ***Out of the Silent Planet*** (1938), this is his first of trilogy science fiction novel. The Chronicles of Narnia books have been sold more than 100 million copies and are among the most beloved books of classic Children's literature.

The writer, Clive S. Lewis was this book when he wants to create some story for children those who got sufferings during World War II; every child was affected by the War. So, he wanted to give entertain, make them happy, and he wished to laughing them to forget all their pain and grief even just a while. And he thought that if the children live full of sorrow, it would give some impact on their future, if they imagine and create the wrong picture then their life would be in the dark. Cause children have imagination power that's why he wrote it for children and used the multifaceted role of imagination for children. He has also compared the imagination power of children with Sigmund Freud's Psychology theory.

In the book *the chronicles of Narnia*, he has produced many sorts of imagination that children can easily observe and get the point slightly through the movie. The major themes are love, sacrifice, and redemption and the sub-themes are friendship, loyalty, guilty and blame. The novel has imaginative illustration which is shown in almost all the scenes of this novel. In this story there are four main characters, they found the secret way to the other world Narnia through the Wardrobe. In their adventure, they faced many problems. Here C. Lewis used many kinds of animals that can speak like humans. With his imaginative power, he got the attention of children and won their hearts of them.

MANIFESTATION OF IMAGINATION:

Lewis first thought of Narnia in 1939 but did not finish writing the first book, the lion, the Witch, the Wardrobe, until a decade later in 1949. Lewis always had an image in his mind "the lion all began with a picture of a faun carrying an umbrella and parcels in a snowy wood". This picture had been in his mind since he was about sixteen. Then one day, when he was about forty, he told himself that he was supposed to try to make a story about it. Clive Lewis adopted taken the name "Narnia" from the Italian town of Narni whose Latin name is Narnia. Narnia is not a reel one, it is a real place.

Narnia is based on a hill town known as Narnia which existed over 2,000 years ago in the Italian peninsula, currently referred to as Narni. It is approximately 50 miles from Rome and in the Umbria commune, central Italy. The area around Narni was initially known as Nequinum, but after the Romans conquered the region, they renamed it Narnia in 299 BC. There are many imaginative roles placed in the chronicles of Narnia. The Speaking animals, Aslan the great lion, the white witch, the faun, magical tools. In the dreamland, Narnia had been long winter caused by evil white witch spells, there is no Christmas in Narnia and the whole land had been frozen in a long time.

Lewis has written this novel only for children to make them joy. In World War II, children were separated from their parents and hometown. For this purpose, Lewis wrote it to them. Likewise, Lewis connected this scene in the chronicle of Narnia, the four (Peter, Susan, Edward, and Lucy) were separated from their parents and their father was in the war. The author connected these things emotionally, when the four were ready to leave their mother, the audience and reader can easily realize the pain of children who were segregated in World War II. The very beginning scene exposes the reality of World War. Many of little girls wept for their parents as Lucy did in the opening scene of *the Chronicles of Narnia* (the lion, the witch, the wardrobe). The writer mentioned the mental state of the children in imagination mode.

In the opening scene, the wardrobe was opened by the little girl Lucy. She entered the dreamland of Narnia through the magical wardrobe for the first time. The wardrobe is an incredible imagination. The author decorated Narnia with full of white snow. At the very first sight, Lucy mesmerized herself in Narnia with the beautiful scenery. Mr. Tumnus, from Narnia, is a faun. He looks half human from head to hip and half animal from hip to leg. His legs seem like goats, and his ears have the shape of an animal. Lucy met Mr. Tumnus in the dreamland of Narnia. He explained that Narnia had been experiencing a long winter. It revealed the imaginative level of Lewis. Not only this, but he also portrayed the multifaceted role of imagination in every single scene. A great scene is when Lucy agrees to go with Tumnus home to have a cup of tea with cookies.

Said Mr. Tumnus, "it is winter in Narnia, and has been forever solongs,

And we shall both catch cold if west and here talking in the snow. Daughter of Eve from the far land of spare Oom where eternal summer reigns around the Bright city drove, how would it be if you came and had tea with me?"

Lucy stared at the fire and it taught something to her while Tumnus played music. It indicated the agony of Narnia. Here, Lewis imagined and insisted on the agony of World War II in this scene indirectly. On the appearance of the white evil witch in the Chronicles of Narnia, we can assume that evil exists everywhere in the world by comparing it. Her sense of dress, her crown, her sleigh, and her hair, especially in the last battle

her hair look like a great lion's hair, the author portrays her in an elegant imaginary way and shows to the reader that evils want to destroy the good one, then stand for the evil one.

In this novel, Edmund meets with the white witch in Narnia. He seated with her, and via her magical spell, Edmund had Turkish delight which is his favourite one. So, the white evil witch grabbed his attention of him quickly through her poisonous words. In the same way of the reality world kids are easily grabbed by someone. Said, Jadish the White Witch, ***“But you see, Edmund, I have no children of my own. And you are exactly the sort of boy where I could see, one day, you becoming prince of Narnia, maybe even king”***

But the imagination of the author was unbelievable which makes everything true. The way the white evil Witch gave the Turkish delight to Edmund, is covered with a white decorated bowl and it emerged the effort of the author's creations. He worked very hard to present his imagination in front of the people. Even he built the great setting in Narnia, the snow, the trees, the leaves, the tents, ice on the river, hills, the lamp-posts these everything shows us how he imagined and gave the life of this when the people watch it. Here, George Bernard Shaw stated,

“Imagination is the beginning of creation. You imagine what you imagine, and at last, you create what you will”.

“You create what you will” it illustrates that the vision of the author has come true. When he was a kid he imagined the chronicles of Narnia as I said before, so he has done what he wanted to create.

Said Alice Walker ***“If you fall in love with the imagination, you understand that it is a free spirit. It will go anywhere, and it can do anything”.***

The four (Peter, Susan, Edward, and Lucy) entered Narnia after breaking the glass of the window. This signalled that the author nicely joined the way for the audience to understand why the four wanted to hide in the wardrobe and how they entered the new world. Then, when the four main characters meet with Mr.&Mrs.Beaver(the speaking animal)and learn the prophecy from them. The Beavers tell them about the prophecy of Cair Paravel, stating that

“There would be four humans, two son of Adam and two daughter of Eve that would be release the dream land of Narnia from a long winter because of spell the White Witch to make all creature celebrate Christmas and will be sit in the four throne in the Cair Paravel Palace of sea coast (The Chronicles of Narnia (the lion, the witch, the wardrobe), page 67)

The word “Prophecy” illustrates that somebody is there in our future to protect us. It indicates, on one hand, *the Chronicles of Narnia* has been connected with religious thoughts. As we mentioned before, the writer had a deep touch with religious path that is why at the beginning of his career he published many devotional books. He has imposed the Christian people's beliefs in his works. All the citizens of the Narnia (dwarf, fairy, gnome, Minotaur, and other creatures) believe the four to protect them from the white evil witch with her army and let free the Narnia

from long winter and make them celebrate the Christmas that they had been lost Christmas for a long time.

In Narnia a long year ago they believed in the name of prophecy that the son of Adam and the daughter of Eve can only save them from these difficulties. C.S.Lewis has merged the idea from the bible in this novel. The White Witch represents the power of Satan, Aslan symbolizes goodness and Jesus, Turkish delight represents sin and temptation, and the stone table is symbolic of the end of law and the beginning of freedom. In this connectivity, we can judge his imagination level of talent. When Santa Claus gives the sword, arrow and bow, cordial to them and informs them that “Aslan is ready to move” everything symbolizes evil is going to destroy and good will stay forever. C.s. Lewis has told his thoughts in various imaginative ways.

“Wrong will be right, when The Aslan come insight And the sound of his roar, sorrow will be no more When he beard his teeth winter meet as death

When he says his mind, we have a spring again” (The Chronicles of Narnia (the lion,the witch, the wardrobe), page 79) stated by the Beaver to them.

After Edward was caught by the white evil witch, he realises his mistakes and what he has done against his siblings. He was believed blindly and easily trapped by the white evil witch. Lewis added his magical essence to teach children that they should not believe strangers blindly. If they believe them they would take the wrong path. From this, the writer instructs the children that they should not do wrong things for their siblings, whether they are good or bad, but we should not do any corrupt. We should speak and act nicely with them. He added everything for children because children are the next generation, so Lewis taught them his imagination skills.

When the three want to save their brother, Edmund, they go and meet Aslan the great lion and the leader of the Narnia. On the way on their journey, they faced unrealistic things, but they believed everything that is going on around them. After their meeting, Aslan is ready to sacrifice himself instead of Edmund on the stone table at the hands of the white evil witch. At the time of The sacrifice, Lucy and Susan cried a lot. Here, the writer exposed his immense skills to visualize the power of the sacrifice. On the way of sacrifice, many evil creatures are one-eye animals, dwarfs, flying creatures,etc. Aslan's death to save Edmund's life and his subsequent resurrection are clear references to the life of Christ.

As I before informed, the author has used and given religious thought in his way of imagination. Not only this and also he included the lesson that the word of the sacrifice is very powerful one. He comes alive after he was killed by the white evil witch. It refers to the author trying to tell the children that sacrifice is the purest word

and that evil creatures don't understand it. Therefore the white evil witch without having the knowledge she ready to kill him. If someone comes for sacrifice we must keep the grateful for them. And too the author C.S. Lewis has spoken to us that many soldiers died for the nation in the name of sacrifice. It explained those who died in the world war for their nation. The author utilized his knowledge efficiently. Besides, the love of the four siblings (Peter, Susan, Edmund, Lucy). The care of the big brother and big sister, all reflects how the writer had a deep imagination to create a world for children.

The battle of this novel is in the last act. Further, in the battle filed the four fought with the white witch bravely. The author used the battle scene in a productive manner like the fight of the world war. Centaur is a creature that looks like a human but is a half-horse. He was killed by the white witch instead of Peter. In the field of battle, the white evil witch used her magical power through her magical wand. Finally, the white evil witch kills by Aslan. Thereon, the army surrendered and conquer under the Peter and Aslan order. So, the four (Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy) got the authority to rule Narnia happily. Here, C.S. Lewis exhibit his mixture of talents to the world and he mixed the multifaceted role of imagination in a way of theme that children can understand, enjoy and use in their life.

Psychological aspects in characters:

The very famous and important psychology theory is Sigmund Freud's theory. He dealt with many cases. Psychoanalysis is a method of therapy in which the patient talks about experiences, early childhood, and dreams. According to the American Psychoanalytic Association can help people understand themselves by exploring their unrecognized hidden things which are memories, feelings, unconscious thoughts, dreams, etc. In this novel, (the lion, The Witch, the Wardrobe) the writer analyses the characters, and themes in psychological aspects. He wrote it full of imagination and also he compared it with these aspects. This novel portrays lives and magical adventures with imaginative effect. Lucy is an important character, from her, the novel is explored as an adventure journey.

Lucy is the protagonist of the novel. In this work the psychological concepts filled with conscious and unconscious. In the first scene, Lucy departed from her mother, and she cried. The word "cried" it shows her hiding emotion in her heart. "The novel is not only fantasy and created to entertain children, it is meaningful visualization of the inner thought of psyche where the internal conflict that leads to personality growth is acted out" (Adair Rigsbee, 11). The Chronicles of Narnia is an adventure story as well as a deep psychological journey. The four (Peter, Susan, Edward, and Lucy) had lots of hidden feelings and desires so therefore they opened out.

Once, she entered into the wardrobe without her knowledge, she realized that she is in another world. When she meets with Mr Tamnus, she is excited. The word "excited" referred to Lucy's unconscious desire and hidden feelings. Because on the time of her arrival at the professor's house, Lucy felt unhappy, shy, fearful, unfulfilled thoughts and sensitive person. Here the author justifies the character of Lucy with Sigmund's psychoanalysis theory. When Lucy explained her meeting with Mr Tamnus to her siblings. No one is ready to believe her. Because belief is a vital role in our life. It is one of the sub-theme in the novel (the lion, the witch, the wardrobe). It is unusual for every human that they don't believe everything before they get evidence and proof. So, in this scene, we comprehend the characters are psychologically strong.

And one more thing is, Edmund replied that the children make imaginary things to play with and do not know when they stop pretending. It comes to light that children have imagination power so Lewis used much imagination in it and also he compared it with psychological that children want to live in an imaginative world that is unconscious. The quotation "*she thought it would be worthwhile trying the door of the wardrobe, even though she felt almost sure that it would be locked*" (The Lion, 12-13) illustrated that Lucy has the curiosity to open the door and see the magical power, even though she gets fear to open. These two things curiosity and frightens conflict in her mind lead the role of a psychological journey.

On the entrance of Narnia, the children are amazed and believed the words of Lucy as she said before. The four enjoyed the journey and they wanted to save the Narnia from the hands of the white evil witch. It signalled their psychological willpower of them. In the beginning, Lucy feels fear but after she went to the new world she gets confidence and courage. It leads to touching psychological thoughts. When Lucy meet Mr Tamnus, the beaver and other creature she had enough comfortable to meet them without fear, and also Peter, and Susan meet with them even though they too felt comfortable, which tells us their enough psychological courage cause after they left their parent. Peter takes care of his brother and sisters like a father role. So he exposed the great strong quality when he met with the speaking animal creatures.

When Mr Tamnus confesses that he is going to kidnap Lucy but instead of getting fear she nicely convinced him in a nice manner and he has to let her go. She said "*goodbye*" this informed her that she is a brave girl. The behavior of Lucy reveals that she has gained new self- confidence. After she knew that Mr Tamnus has been kidnapped by the white evil witch. She wanted him to be free from the white evil witch's cage. "We simply must try to rescue him" This scene illustrated her level of mercy. The character of Edward, when he betrays his siblings it exposes that he has an ego and strong desire. This evilness connects with the id, Sigmund Freud's psychological aspects that are the id, ego and superego. Every human has an id, ego and superego. But the matter is we should know how to balance it.

In the field of battle, Edmund gets wound by the white evil witch. Suddenly, Lucy takes the cordial and poured

it into the mouth of Edmund. Lucy not only gave the magical cure to Edmund but every creature that got wound on the battle field. It indicates her kindness heart and mercy. In the Chronicles of Narnia, the four participated to pop out their ability in a great manner with Aslan, the great lion. These symbolized their activeness and well mind to protect the citizens of the Narnia. So here, the writer imposed psychological concepts on every character. Finally the lamp-post, Lucy finds in the forest it remembered them that this is not their world they should return to their real world. It strongly tells us that imagination is just imagination to feel happy and enjoy the adventure. But the real life is real. We should live in real world, not in the unrealistic world. So the author compared the personalities of the characters with psychoanalytical manners.

Conclusion:

Lewis is the greatest author. He brings the reader into a world full of imagination and creates it for children. He has given his work so that the reader would think about the imaginary world and go to the adventure field without actually going to the jungle. He created extraordinary elements so that the reader would feel like the dreamland is their land. He also keeps the timing when the four went to the dreamland of Narnia, and after they return, they were at the same age as before they entered Narnia. Therefore, the writer also included his imagination for keeping time. In this world, every human being has the imagination in their mind to do something. It is not limited by age. Likewise, the author thought to create it at the age of sixteen but he wrote it at the age of forty.

Imagination is the key to entering our dreamland. In our dreamland, we can go, run, and fly wherever. No one is there to restrict us. Especially, children like these kinds of imagination because the real world has many restrictions to our wishes but in our creation, no one is there to stop us. That's why children like adventure and fantasy worlds. Even though, if we get lost in the imagination, it is dangerous to us. It is undeniable that unrealistic things are unreal, and false, like a passing mist or train. It gives happiness and mesmerizes, but the real is real, true, and stays forever. We can't hide from reality. Of course, it gives us pain to face, but we should face everything because this is real.

Hence, the author has handled this novel brilliantly. The four characters returned from their dreamland Narnia after their adventure finished. This reveals that children should return from their imaginary world and enter the real one. They should not forget their responsibility in the real world. The imaginary world is like a fake thing we can enjoy, but we should not hold the hope that imagination is immortal. It is mortal once we wake up from our dream. The writer gives the message nicely and portrays every character with his imaginative power. He also analyzes them in the way of psychological aspects and mentions the multifaceted role of imagination with meaning in every scene. As mentioned before, "Narnia is simply an unreal fantasy land created to entertain children" (Adair Rigsbee, 11).

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