

# ALLEGORY IN THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PRINCE CASPIAN)

Humsiah Virani, Rosmaidar, Tita Ratna Wulandari

Universitas Bina Darma

Jalan Ahmad Yani No. 3, Palembang

Email : [verasayangumak@yahoo.com](mailto:verasayangumak@yahoo.com), [rosmaidar@binadarma.ac.id](mailto:rosmaidar@binadarma.ac.id) , [titawulandari@binadarma.ac.id](mailto:titawulandari@binadarma.ac.id)

**Abstract:** This study aimed to find out if the novel entitled The Chronicles of Narnia (Prince Caspian) by C. S. Lewis is the allegory base on Christian belief and the meaning of allegory found is stated on the Bible. The method used in writing this thesis is descriptive analysis method. The findings of this thesis is there are eight (8) characters taken and analyzed that had allegories and meaning of allegories out of 41 characters in the novel. From 8 characters taken and analyzed, there are 18 allegories found. 4 allegories from Caspian, 1 from Peter, 2 from Susan, 2 from Edmund, 4 from Lucy, 3 from Aslan, 1 from Trufflehunter and 1 from the Trees. The conclusion of this thesis is the all allegories found are as representation of characters and events base on Christian belief and the meaning of allegories found are stated on the Bible.

**Key words:** *Allegory, meaning of allegory, Chronicles of Narnia*

**Abstrak:** Peneliti ingin mengetahui apakah novel berjudul The Chronicles of Narnia (Prince Caspian) oleh C. S. Lewis adalah alegori berdasarkan kepercayaan Kristen dan makna alegori yang ditemukan dinyatakan di dalam Alkitab. Tujuan dari tesis ini adalah untuk mengetahui alegori dan makna alegori yang ditemukan. Metode yang digunakan dalam penulisan skripsi ini adalah metode analisis deskriptif. Temuan dari tesis ini adalah ada delapan (8) karakter yang diambil dan dianalisis yang memiliki alegori dan makna alegori dari 41 karakter dalam novel tersebut. Dari 8 karakter yang diambil dan dianalisis, ada 18 alegori yang ditemukan. 4 alegori dari Caspian, 1 dari Peter, 2 dari Susan, 2 dari Edmund, 4 dari Lucy, 3 dari Aslan, 1 dari Trufflehunter dan 1 dari the Trees. Kesimpulan dari tesis ini adalah semua alegori yang ditemukan adalah representasi karakter dan kejadian berdasarkan kepercayaan Kristen dan makna alegori yang ditemukan dinyatakan di dalam Alkitab.

**Kata kunci:** *Alegori, makna alegori, Chronicles of Narnia.*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Literature is referred to as the entirety of written expression, with the restriction that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the most exact sense of the word. The definition, therefore, usually contain additional adjectives such as aesthetic or artistic to differentiate literary works from texts such as newspapers, scientific textbooks, magazines, legal documents, brochures, and so on, Klarer (2004, p: 1). The word ‘literature’ is taken from the word ‘littera’ in Latin which

means letter. It refers to the written or printed words. However, now, the word ‘literature’ is more focused and limited to merely imaginative works, which appears from the imaginative mind of the story writers. Eagleton (2011, p: 2) states that there have been various attempts to define literature. For example, as ‘imaginative’ writing in the sense of fiction – writing which is not literally true. He also says that literature is definable not according to whether it is fictional or ‘imaginative’, but because it uses language in

unusual ways. Literature, then, can be stated as an imaginative writing by an author with aesthetic values which makes literature viewed as an art. Literature as a writing form differentiates its form from other art products, and its aesthetic or artistic values make it different from other writings.

Klarer (2004, p: 6) states that literature has three common genres; they are Drama, Poetry and Prose. The word 'drama' is taken from the Greek word 'dran' means 'to do' or 'to act'. Poetry is made in various form and the classification is centered either on technique of writing or content. The word 'prose' is taken from the Latin *prosa*, which literally translated to 'straightforward'. Prose is the most common form of written language. Prose is adopted for the analysis of facts and topical reading, as it is often expressed in free form of writing style. Prose is classified into two, fiction prose and nonfiction prose. Fiction originally represented anything made up or shaped, and is based on the author's conception and creativity. It includes myths, parables, novels, romances, and short stories. On the other hand, nonfiction prose is literary works which explain or construe facts, present judgments, and opinions. It contains of news reports, essays, magazines, newspapers, encyclopedias, broadcast media, films, letters, historical and biographical works and many other forms of communication. Both fiction and nonfiction are interesting for most people, they help readers to get information or simply to entertain themselves through what they are

reading. For example, a novel can entertain readers.

A novel today is a long narrative in literary prose. Novel is the advance elaboration of prose. A novel is described as a fictitious prose narrative of extensive length and complexity, showing characters and usually presenting a sequential organization of action and scenes. Crane (2007, p:1) states novel is a fictional prose narrative of substantial length, the distinction between fact and fiction or the requirement that the novel be written in prose, this simple definition seems generally apt, describing the books people commonly label as novels. Novelists have used various ways to attract readers in reading a novel; one of the ways to attract them is through figure of speech. There are some branches in figure of speech such as simile, pun, metaphor and allegory.

Allegory is a figure of speech in which abstract ideas and principles are described in terms of characters, figures and events. It is a piece of art or literature, such as stories, poems, or paintings, in which the characters, images or acts as symbols. Symbols itself have a hidden meaning. The symbolism in allegory can be interpreted to have a deeper meaning. In a novel, an author may use allegory to illustrate a moral or spiritual truth, or political or historical situation. Machoky (2013, p: 1) states the term allegory refers to a way of saying or showing one thing and into another meaning.

One example of allegory can be found in *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien. He insisted that he did not write his *Lord of the Rings* trilogy as an allegory of good and evil, yet it is very easy to read the series that way. There are clear symbols of good and evil, many of which seem to relate closely to the characters and scope of World War Two. Tolkien also shows how evil can corrupt good. The most obvious example of this is Frodo, who only intends to do good, and the One Ring, the all-compassing evil of which starts to change Frodo's nature. Power leads to evil in Tolkien's account, and in the above excerpt we see the wizard Saruman explaining his vision to Gandalf. Saruman has been corrupted by power, and wants Gandalf to join his side.

*As the Power grows, it's proved friends will also grow, and the Wise, such as you and I, may with patience come at last to direct its courses, to control it. We can bide our time, we can keep our thoughts in our hearts, deploring maybe evils done by the way, but approving the high and ultimate purpose: Knowledge, Rule, Order; all the things that we have sofar striven in vain to accomplish, hindered rather than helped by our weak or idle friends. There need not be, there would not be, any real change in our designs, only in our means.(The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien)*

Readers are sometimes found it difficult to comprehend the content of the novel when they do not understand the meaning of allegories in it. And readers also have difficulties to understand what the allegory is. To help readers understand about allegory and the meaning of allegory, readers should read novels that have allegories in it. One of the novels that have allegories is *The Chronicles of Narnia*. This novel tells about the reflected characteristics from the story of the novel to Christian history, for example, Jesus Christ is represented by a character named Aslan the Lion.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

In analyzing allegory in *The Chronicles of Narnia (Prince Caspian)*, the researcher used the descriptive method because the data was in the form of words rather than number. Descriptive method is a method of analysis by describing and analyzing the data and then giving interpretation and explanation.

In collecting the data there were three steps taken by researcher. Firstly, the researcher repeatedly read the novel to get full understanding about what is the novel about. Secondly, finding out the allegories in the novel. Thirdly, taking notes and making them into lists.

. In analyzing the data, the researcher used the following steps. Researcher matched the data that were found in the novel to the letters and the verses in the Bible. Researcher matched the characters in the novel as the

objects of the study to some Christian allegory based on Christian belief by using Wellek and Warren's approaches where intrinsic and extrinsic were applied in every analysis of the 8 characters. In addition, the researcher also used Holy Bible as the references.

The researcher chose dominant characters in the novel that indicates allegory and meaning of allegory. In terms of the following subject:

## **2.1 Allegory**

Allegory is a figure of speech in which abstract ideas and principles are described in terms of characters, figures and events. An allegory is a piece of art or literature, like a poem or story, in which people, things or happenings have a hidden or symbolic meaning. Machoky (2013, p: 1) states the term allegory refers to a way of saying or showing one thing and meaning another.

M. H. Abrams (1953, p: 24) divides critical theory of literature into four kinds. They are mimetic theory, pragmatic theory, expressive theory, and objective theory. Researcher based the analysis on mimetic theory. Mimetic theory focuses on the relation between the literary text and the extra-textual "universe" which provides the source and stimulus for what the literary text actually represent, which the literary text reflects, refracts, refers to, responds to, represents, and transforms, in one way or another. Lewis' *The Chronicles of Narnia* is a novel which reflects, refers to, and represents the Christian belief in Holy Bible.

## **2.2. Meaning of Allegory**

There are two major approaches of allegorical criticism in finding the meaning of allegory:

### **2.2.1. Allegory as a concept**

Blind Justice, the statue shown in today's illustration, is a perfect example of an allegorical symbol. It is an artistic representation of a concept, that true justice is blind to such things as race, creed, place of origin, gender, economic status, orientation, etc. When someone is brought before a court of justice they are to be judged on the basis of the facts of the case, and their personal qualities are meant to be irrelevant. It is an ideal promoted by American justice systems, although they fall far short on occasion. The symbolic statue is found at the U.S. Supreme Court building as a visual reminder that the justices are committed to the facts of the cases before them.

### **2.2.2. Allegory as a history**

An allegorical interpretation of Genesis is a reading of the biblical Book of Genesis that treats elements of the narrative as symbols or types, rather than viewing them literally as historical events. Either way, Genesis is canonical scripture for both Judaism and Christianity, and believers regard it as being of spiritual significance.

## **2.3. Bible**

Bible is the book of sacred writings used in the Christian religion comprising the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Bible is a collection of sacred texts or scriptures that Jews and Christians consider to be a product of divine inspiration and a record of the relationship between God and humans. Deane (2009, p: 102) states the Bible is the words of God which is so natural.

### 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The following data shows the research finding about the allegories and the meaning of allegories found in The Chronicles of Narnia (prince Caspian) novel. There are 18 allegories from 8 characters analyzed.

#### 3.1. Prince Caspian's Allegories and meanings

There are 4 allegories and meanings of Prince Caspian:

1. When Caspian met Doctor Cornelius for the first time and he told him about Caspian the First.

**“It was he who brought your entire nation into the country. You are not native Narnians at all.”** (P: 336).

The bold sentences above shows that it is the allegory. **It was he (Caspian the First) who brought your entire nation into the country** taken from the novel (p.336) is also stated on Holy Bible (Genesis 47:11-12) Joseph brought the entire nation of Israel to the promised land of Cannan. Caspian the First allegorize Joseph; he brought the people to the land he conquered, that is why he

was called the Conqueror. Prince Caspian is Caspian the Tenth and he allegorize Joshua. **You are not native Narnian at all** is also stated on Holy Bible that **the people of God were not originally from Egypt, they came from Israel** (Genesis 47:11-12). So Caspian and his people are not Narnian (Narnia creatures), they were called Telmarine.

2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> allegory is when Doctor Cornelius was going to give Caspian a lesson in Astronomy about two planets, Tarva and Alambil.

**“At the dead of night two noble planets, Tarva and Alambil, will pass within one degree of each other taken from the novel (p, 337) and Their meeting is fortunate and means some great good for the sad realm of Narnia. Tarva the Lord of Victory salutes Alambil, the Lady of Peace (p, 338)”**

Tarva and Alambil allegorize Venus and Jupiter based on what Christian believed, when Tarva and Alambil collide the good things will happen and that is exactly true when Caspian and the people successfully fight against Miraz and he become a King.

3. The 3<sup>rd</sup> allegory is when Caspian met the entire creatures of Narnia and how they acknowledge him as a **son of Adam, their King, forming a council and doing battle against Miraz** (p. 349-353) this allegory represented a

belief and strength. In the beginning Caspian's people did not believe in Aslan because Aslan did not come to help them when they fight against Miraz and his army, but Caspian told them to keep fight and believe that Aslan would come to help them fight against Miraz, Caspian was true, Aslan finally came to help them and it was like Christian tough in **teaching the children about the truth of God** (Psalm 78: 1-8).

4. The 4<sup>th</sup> allegory is when Doctor Cornelius said to Caspian:  
**"I would wait for sunrise, your Majesty"** (p: 361).

This allegory allegorize the time to pray. So Dr Cornelius asked Caspian to blow the horn when the sunrise time because Dr Cornelius know that when Caspian blew the horn in sunrise helps will come fast. Sunrise means morning; it is the same when people of God or Christian will pray in the morning refers to the verses Psalm 5:3 and Psalm 88:13 stated on page 30, because it is a better time to pray and to start the day and they will get a good thing in the end of the day.

### **3.2. Peter Pevensie's allegory and meaning of allegory**

Allegory found when Peter took down his gift - the shield with the great red lion on it, and the royal sword.

**"We must take the gifts"**

Allegory above shows that Peter's gift was a shield that Father Christmas given him - the shield with the great red lion on it. It was used to protect and fight against Miraz and the enemy. The shield given to Peter is the same like the shield of faith stated on Holy Bible (Ephesians 6: 16) to protect us from evil.

### **3.3. Susan Pevensie's allegories and meaning of allegory**

There are two allegories of Susan:

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> allegory found on (P. 328) about Susan's gift. **Susan's gift had been a bow and arrows and a horn.**
2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> allegory found on (P. 343-344). Susan had lost her **magic horn**. The horn was given to Caspian by Doctor Cornelius when he asked Caspian to leave the castle.

The 1<sup>st</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> allegory have the same explanation that **Susan's gift had been a bow and arrows and a horn**. The magic horn of Susan was very important when Caspian and the Pevensies in a trouble because once it was blown, helps would come, even Aslan. It is stated on Bible that **whenever and wherever people prayed to him, he will answered them** (Psalm 86: 7)

### **3.4. Edmund Pevensie's allegories and meaning of allegories**

There are two allegories of Edmund:

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> allegory found on (P. 327) is about **Edmund had no gift while the others had**. It was told in other book *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Edmund allegorizes a sinner. At that time Edmund was with White Witch when the others got the gifts. He betrayed Aslan, it was like people betrayed God or did not believe in God in Christian belief, and it was the consequences (Romans 3: 23) and (Romans 6: 23).
2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> allegory found when **Edmund remembered his old skill**. After many things happened to Edmund and passed by him, **Edmund being much taller**, had to be always stooping. All his old battles came back to him, and his arms and fingers remembered their old skill. **He was King Edmund once more** (P. 364). So after Edmund believes in Aslan and after many things he passed he transforms into a new Edmund, he being much taller and realizes he is King Edmund. This is what Christian believe that when people back to God, all the sins he/she has made before was erased, and he/she will be reborn. verse (2 Corinthians 5: 17).

### 3.5. Lucy Pevensie's allegories and meaning of allegories

There are 4 allegories of Lucy:

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> allegory found on (P. 364) about Lucy carefully dripped on to Trumpkin's tigh **one single drop of the cordial** from her flask. Trumpkin was suffering; Lucy gave him one single drop of the cordial oil. The cordial oil was her gift that Father Christmas given just like her siblings and the cordial oil allegorizes the healing oil stated on the Bible (James 5, Mark 6 and Psalm 89). The cordial oil is very helpful to the one who in suffer.
2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> allegory found when Lucy sees the Lion on the end of chapter 9 and her eyes shone. When Lucy saw Aslan, she completely different, her face had changed and her eyes shone. It allegorizes when you saw God, obey the God and believe in him everything will be more beautiful, our eyes, face and even our life. It is stated on the Bible (Exodus 34: 29).
3. The 3<sup>rd</sup> allegory found When Lucy sees the Lion; she tells them "he wanted us to go where he was – up there." Then Edmund asked Lucy, "How do you know that was what he wanted?" "**I just know**," said Lucy, "**by his face**." (p, 373).

The other siblings did not know what Aslan wanted but Lucy knew because Lucy do believe in Aslan. The way Lucy knew what Aslan wanted just by His face allegorizes people of God do not need to listen to God's voice, but the people of God just need to see the truth of him in their heart then they will know what He wants us to do. It is also stated on the Bible (Romans 8: 26).

4. The 4<sup>th</sup> allegory found on chapter 10 (P. 378) Lucy spoke to everyone: "I suppose we'll have to go right up the gorge again now," said Lucy. There is no need to describe how they toiled back up the gorge. **It was pretty hard work, but oddly enough everyone felt more cheerful.** They were getting their second wind; and the word *supper* had had a wonderful effect. It allegorizes hard times and hard work. Lucy tell them that it is okay to face the hard way if it is the true way, no matter how hard that way it will bring them to joy, they just need to trust God and believe in themselves. It is what stated on the Bible (Matthew 11: 28-29).

### 3.6. Aslan's allegories and meaning of allegories

There are 3 allegories of Aslan:

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> allegory found when Aslan appeared for the first time in front of Lucy and Lucy found him bigger. Lucy said, "Aslan, you're bigger." **"That is because you are older, little one,"** Aslan answered. **"Every year you grow, you'll find me bigger."** (p, 380). Aslan was not bigger, but it was Lucy who grown up and knew more about Aslan that was way when she saw Aslan again, she found him bigger. The same thing happens in real life of Christian that the more we learn about God the more we find him bigger.
2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> allegory found is about **things never happens the same way twice** (p, 381). It allegorizes the way of God. Lucy just asked Aslan why He did not come to roar and help them fight against the enemy just like what he did before but Aslan has a reason for that. This allegory also stated on the Bible that people of God will not understand the God's way. They just need to keep believe and prayed to ask the best thing.
3. The 3<sup>rd</sup> allegory found is about Aslan told Lucy to go and wake the others and tell them to follow him. **"If they will not, then at least you must follow me."** (p, 381). It allegorizes the loyalty to God. Aslan tell Lucy that it doesn't matter if her siblings and



the other will not come and believe him, but she must keep believe in Aslan. It is what Christian believe that it doesn't matter if their family, friends, husband and so on did not believe in God but we should keep believe, as stated on the Bible Matthew 18, Luke 16 and Romans 8.

### **3.7. Trufflehunter's allegory and meaning of allegory**

Trufflehunter has one allegory. He remains true to the spirit of Old Narnia, never loses faith that **Aslan and help will come. It may be even now at the door** (p, 391-397). When the creatures of Narnia were waiting for execution of Caspian by Miraz, Trufflehunter was one of the creatures who never lost faith and believed Aslan would come to help Caspian. He was waiting at the door. And that was true that surprisingly Caspian came in front of the door. It was what Christian believe that we may not lose faith and believe God will help.

### **8. The Trees allegory and meaning of allegory**

The Trees has one allegory, that was when **Lucy felt there was a tune in the tree** and there was no doubt that

the trees were really moving – moving in and out (p, 379). It allegorizes the other creature of God. In Narnia every creatures obey Aslan even the tree, they will live when Aslan ask them. It is as stated on the Bible that everything in this world was created by God, even the plant, they are all lives, and they will moving in and out depend on what God's want (Isaiah 55: 12).

From the findings of the study to "Allegory in The Chronicles of Narnia (Prince Caspian)". There are 8 characters that had allegory and meaning of allegory. It is believe that the allegory makes the novel become more interesting to read. All of the allegories which are taken and analyzed from the 8 characters allegorized Christian belief. For example, allegory of Aslan the Lion, Aslan allegorized Jesus Christ. Aslan has many names: King, Lord, Son of the Great Emperor-Beyond the-Sea, King of Beasts, the great Lion. The Bible told that among other things Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Revelation 19:16), the Son of God, the Son of Man (Luke 22:69-70), and the Lion of Judah (Revelation 5:5). All allegories represent Christian belief might be caused by the author's belief where it is known that C.S. Lewis was a good Christian and he wanted to enlighten his religion toward

his novel by showing the truth of God through the novel. In other word, he is also doing his preach through his novel.

This novel shows that Caspian is the major character in the novel. Then, Caspian is also one of the most dominant characters that possess the allegory out of 41 characters. There are four allegories of Caspian. For example, Caspian should blow the horn in sunrise. It was represented Christian belief, sunrise means morning, and it was a good time for Christian to pray in the morning to start the day. It might due to this novel is merely discussing Caspian journey; it could be seen from the title of the novel "The Chronicles of Narnia (Prince Caspian)." Therefore, it is logically acceptable if Caspian contributed more allegories than other characters.

There are two meanings of allegory; as a concept and as a history. A concept usually represents a symbol. For example, a statue of blindfolded with scales in front of U.S. Supreme Court building. It is an artistic representation of a concept, that true justice is blind to such things as race, creed, place of origin, gender, economic status, orientation, etc. When someone is brought before a court of justice they are to be judged on the

basis of the facts of the case, and their personal qualities are meant to be irrelevant. The meaning of the all allegories taken and analyzed were represented a Christian history stated on the Bible. Moreover, the allegories found have relationship with each other. They support each other in making clear messages about the meaning of allegory.

From 8 characters found they clearly have allegories and meaning of allegories. These 8 characters could be put into good images as they are covering the demands of the readers who need knowledge about Christian belief and who need an interesting novel.

## 2. CONCLUSION

Base on the discussions above, it could be summed up that *The Chronicles of Narnia (Prince Caspian)* is parallel to Christian beliefs. Eight (8) characters among 41 characters in the novel allegorize the figures or represent similar event in Christian beliefs that are written on the Holy Bible. There are 18 allegories found from 8 characters taken and analyzed, 4 allegories from Caspian, 1 from Peter, 2 from Susan, 2 from Edmund, 4 from Lucy, 3 from Aslan, 1 from Trufflehunter and 1 from the Trees. The meaning of the 18 allegories found reflected Christian history stated on the Bible. Characters that were analyzed are related one another. The

allegories are related and, therefore, made them support each other in making clear meaning of allegory.

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