

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL PERSPECTIVES OF BLYTON'S *THE FAMOUS FIVE*

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Article History

Received
07-03-2022

Revised
13-05-2022

Accepted
25-05-2022

Abstrak. This article examines the historical and social perspectives in children's literature of three series of Blyton's *The Famous Five*. The objective of this study is, to explain the historical context and social perspectives of the three-series novel *The Famous Five*. This study used a qualitative method to collect, select and analyze the data. The data of this study is from three series of novels *The Famous Five* by Enid Blyton. This study used document analysis as the process of collecting data in this research. The writer collected the data using some notes and online news as the instrument to get the data. The theory used in this study is historical and social approaches in children's literature by Jack Zipes. The study found some historical aspects and social elements in the novel. The result of this study showed that (1) there are twelve historical aspects dealing with the place, event, and artifact. (2) there are four social elements dealing with the economic condition, gender equality, tradition, and culture. The historical aspects and social elements of Blyton's *The Famous Five* are depicted in the form of conversation and paragraphs. Based on the result of this study, the writer concludes that Blyton's background influences the process of the historical aspects and social elements which are depicted in the three series of Blyton's *The Famous Five*.

Keywords: children literature, historical aspect, social aspect, the Famous Five

INTRODUCTION

Sometimes it is hard to define Children literature. It is work from children or it is the literature that is written for children. But, the second term is a more appropriate notion. It is adapted from folktales, legends, fairytales, myths, and adventure stories etc. Children literature is different from other stories because in children literature the story has some characteristics, especially it is written for children, it has pedagogical and moral values and it should be a happy ending. Sometimes, the character is about fairy and magical power, and it should be containing educational aspects for children.

The story for children is always interconnected with the historical aspect because reading children's stories is the way to make the children learn about the country or the world. The definition of history is something connected with the past or history, such as a document or monument that belongs to an earlier period of history. In children literature, history is one of the important things, because some authors give some touches about history in the story to give some knowledge to the children. However,

history in children's literature usually is written simply to make children interesting and enjoy reading the story.

Telling about children's literature, we cannot neglect its social elements, for example in the Cinderella story written by the Brothers Grimm. It is much influenced by the gender movement in Europe in 19s (Hunt, 2004). The meaning of social is an element of society that often exist in a story, and it is not only in adult literature but also in children's literature. However, the social elements in children's literature are different. The social stories that are told usually including devoted to parents, being good friends with friends, and being close to the teacher (Harits, 2017).

One of the Children's Literature authors is Enid Mary Blyton, or she is known as Enid Blyton by many people. She is a famous author from British. She was born on August 11th, 1897. She writes many books and her book had been one of the bestsellers in the world. Her books are still very popular until now. She writes about many kinds of themes including adventure, education, history, nature, fantasy, mystery, and scriptural narrative. However, of all her books, one of the best series novels is *The Famous Five*.

One of Blyton's famous books is *The Famous Five*. It tells a children's story, and it has five main characters inside the story. They are Julian, Dick, George, Anne, and Timmy. This book is originally written for children, even the readers are not only children but also adults. In addition, the famous five still reads now. It tells the five adventurers that are submitted in some series. Especially, there are 21 series and all of them have different adventure story, but I only choose three of the series that has some differences and similarities. These are *Five on A Treasure Island* (1942), *Five Go Off to camp* (1948), and *Five on Finniston Farm* (1960).

Children's literature is an interesting field of study because it has broad coverage. Further Reynolds (2004) argued that children's literature also presents a long-standing relationship with acculturation, education, adaptation, and approved behavior in the body, which is the exact opposite of what youth culture means. In addition, the meaning acculturation is a process to adopt the beliefs, culture, and behavior from a different place, for example in *Snow White*, her skin is white which showed about European, and her hair is black as ebony showed the Asian, so it is the acculturation between European and Asian. In brief, children's literature does not only give entertainment but also gives education to the readers, especially children.

Based on Grenby (2008) children's literature is not children's literature, because it is written by children, nor because it is about children, but only by who it is written on the surface. It means that children's literature is a story for children, and the author is not only the child but also an adult. Meanwhile, many authors of children's stories are adults. Then, Children's literature is universal. There is no different story for boys or girls, for children or adults. Even though the literature is created for children, adults also still can read the story. There is no classification of it.

Therefore, based on the explanation above, one of the rules in children's literature is related to educated themes because the literary work for children should teach the

readers to have good behavior. Children's stories have to be able to give motivation, and experience, teach something that good for children and share knowledge.

METHOD

Writing stories for children is also connected with history, for example, the Children Literature from Czech is written by Bozena Nemcova and Karel Jaromir Erben. The story is the mirror of raising nationalism of the Czech nation when they were colonized by the Hapsburg Empire. The fact that someone has a worldview, ideology, and historical view, conscious and unconscious, and the creation of such a text tends to test that view end legally is implied by writing historical text (Zipes, 2006).

The definition of historical is something connected with the past and history, such as document and monument belonging to an earlier period of history. In literature, historical aspect cannot be separated, as well as in children literature, especially history of tales. Zipes (2000) argues there are two types of historical approach. First, it depends on the social and cultural purposes. Second, it is the stresses on the historical relativity of meaning: textual variations of tales depict the particular cultural and historical contexts in which they are produced.

The history of folktales and fairy tale for children is unknown. Mostly, fairy or folktales reflects historical and social conditions because tale is written or inspired from the conditions of reality and society. Every approach which tries to conclude social environments and values from literary texts manages the risk of assuming a one-to-one relationship between literature and reality (Zipes, 2012).

Meanwhile, according to Zipes (2012) Tomasello demonstrated that children learn the intentions of other human by imitating, guiding, and cooperating to learn a social setting as soon as possible. The social context in children literature is showed in Brother Grimm's story. One of the social contexts is in Rapunzel story that she was prison in a castle. It was a symbol of the woman who cannot have freedom to go everywhere.

Zipes (2000) stated that social historicism, Marxism and other culturally oriented literary texts approaches have been partially developed as responses to models of textual criticism, which often to ignore the influence of social and cultural background on meaning and focus almost entirely on the meaning by the text. On the other hand, literary text was the response of society that related to the situation at that time, because social aspects and culture also included in the children literature.

The genres and types of tales originated from the application of storytelling and the stories in social and biological life, that is in daily events. The tales related to families, tribes, villages, clans and towns were preserved in memory and transmitted as the traditional language of actions and behaviors (Zipes, 2006). One of the examples is novel *Little Women* that was written by Alcott in 1868. The story is deeply influenced by transcendentalism, especially the idea, permeating all the fairy tales which change society as a whole, one of them has to begin by reforming the individual (Zipes, 2000).

Combining historical and social are the impact that appears in children literature. Some values are always connected among society. Pedagogical context is the education

or morality that is adding into children literature. Therefore, these approaches examine several aspects of the fairy tales. It is not only focus on literary, but also focus on the historical aspects and social elements to elaborate the function of fairy tales in literary and social history.

In short, the most appropriate method to be applied in this study was qualitative research methodology, because the object of this study were three series of *The Famous Five* and it concern in the history and the social of the story. Hancock (2009) stated qualitative research is focus on developing the explanation of social phenomena. The aim is to help the researcher to understand the social world in which the human lives and to know the reason why everything happens. Qualitative research is an explanatory method. It attempts to gain an understanding of the meaning and specific behavior experienced by a certain social phenomenon through the subjective experienced of the participants (Palmer, 2006).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The writer divides the finding and discussion into two subchapters. Those are (1) historical aspects in Blyton's *The Famous Five* and (2) social elements in Blyton's *The Famous Five*. The analysis is going further and deeper to answer the research question in chapter one. Therefore, the finding and discussion of this thesis can be stated as the following:

A. Historical Aspects in Blyton's *The Famous Five*

History is the study of human's earlier period. It can be about the places, people, monuments, and old manuscript which connected with the past. Thus, it has a strong relationship with children literature because the story for children is interconnected with historical aspects that can be the knowledge to the readers, especially the children.

Furthermore, historical aspects cannot be separated with children literature, especially history of tales. There are two types of historical approach. First, it depends on the social and cultural purposes. Second, it is the stresses on the historical relativity of meaning (Zipes, 2000). Based on the theory of historical approaches in children literature, there are some historical aspects in Blyton's *The Famous Five*. Those are historical aspect dealing with place, event, Georgian era and artifact.

a. Historical Aspects Dealing with Place

The setting of snow, island, and castle often appears as the characters in England. The setting also appears in the novel of *The Famous Five*. The novel is originally written based on England situation, because the writer is English, the setting is in England, and the language is English. Consequently, it reflects to the life of England society.

a. Castle

One of the settings in the series *Five on A Treasure Island* and *Five on Finniston Farm* is castle. The castle is the large building that is built from thick fortress to stay and save the King or the Lord from attack. Generally, the castle is the residence of the lord and the noble as the protection place. The place becomes a symbol of wealth and power.

The word 'castle' is mentioned in the novel. It is like in the statement of Five on A Treasure Island below:

"I say-we're getting near to your island now," said Julian in excitement. "It's bigger than I thought. And isn't the castle exciting?" (Blyton, 1942: 15).

It is one of the statements in the first series that mentions the word castle. The statement is one of the dialogues of Julian. At that moment, Julian, Dick, Anne, George and Timmy go to the Kirrin Island. It is the first time to Julian, Dick and Anne see the island that has a castle inside the place. Therefore, Julian is curious. Then, he asks to George about the Island and the castle.

Furthermore, castle does not only appear in the first series, but also in the eighteenth series entitled Five on Finniston Farm (1960). "It's about Finniston Castle," said Anne. 'The old castle that gave the village its name – and the farm as well (Blyton, 1960: 78). George and Anne tell the story that Mr. Finniston has told to them before. It is about the old castle which keeps a history of the place.

Based on the historical aspect of place, England is a country with the oldest kingdom in Europe. England kingdom has established for 9th century until now. As the oldest kingdom, England get many attacks from other countries and other kingdoms. In brief, the people build a castle to save the king and the noble family from the attacks.

The word 'castle' is mentioned in the novel because the place usually has history and secret. The people who have castle usually from noble family. It is appropriate with the story of the novel about the treasure, because treasure usually is hidden by noble family and King in the past.

b. Dungeon

The second place that often appears in the novel is dungeon. This place appears in the series Five on Treasure Island and Five on Finniston Farm. The word dungeon is originally from French donjon, and it is also spelled dungeon. The meaning is 'keep', the main tower of a castle. The reason why this novel mentions the word 'dungeon' because the novel is about looking for a treasure. Usually, the treasure is buried underground and in hidden places, such as dungeons. Obviously, the people hide it because they want to keep the treasure.

c. Kirrin Island

The second historical aspect of place in the series Five on A Treasure Island is Kirrin island. Meanwhile, the original word is Kirin. Particularly, Enid Blyton gets the inspiration of Kirrin island from the word Kirin. It is from Japan, and the meaning is the name of mythology creature in Japan (see figure 1). In Japanese mythology, the Kirin is considered a holy creature which is like unicorn. Literally, the Kirin (Japanese mythology) has similarity with a castle in the Kirrin Island in Blyton's The Famous Five, because both of them are the symbol of holy or pure and a bearer of peace.

However, the inspiration of the place of Kirrin island is Corfe Castle. It is a castle that is located in a village near Wareham in Dorset. It has history that the building is built for William the Conqueror around 1086 and during the early 1200s. The building of Corfe castle becomes the inspiration of Enid Blyton, because the castle is one of

Dorset's iconic landmarks and it has impressive debris. The scenery around the castle is also interesting.

There is another place that related to the name of place in England. It is Finniston (the originally name is Finnieston). This place become the name of the title in eighteenth series (Five on Finniston Farm). It also mentioned many times in the series. The Five were going to stay at a place called Finniston Farm, set on a hill above the little village of Finniston (Blyton, 1960: 8).



Figure 1 Mythology creature *Kirrin*

Finniston (see figure 2) is located near of Dorset, but the place is different with the setting place that is described in the novel. The place of Finnieston is like a crowded city and the children do not like the place of it, because the children like the place that has many trees, river, and castles, such as in the fairytales.



Figure 2 Finnieston

After the writer reads the biography of Enid Mary Blyton, actually all the places that are described in *The Famous Five* is related to Enid Blyton's life. It is like Kirrin Island that is inspired from the village where she and her husband visited together. In 1940s, she visited Dorset. It is the place that has beautiful scenery and majestic tower (Corfe castle) and the castle takes an identity as Kirrin castle.

Moreover, the farm in *Five on Finniston Farm* (1960) is inspired by Blyton and her second husband's own farm, Manor Farm in Stourton Caundle, because most of their holidays are spent in Wareham, Dorset where they bought a golf course and a farm in the 1950s (Whiteside, 2012). In brief, Blyton often moves from one place to the other place.

Like the writer has mentioned before that Enid Blyton lived in Wareham, Dorset. The writer tried to look for the information about the place that actually the place is a historic market town and, it is called Wareham Town. The town is located on the Frome

River eight miles (13 km) southwest of Poole. It is built on strategic dry point between Frome River and Piddle River. This ancient town has many histories of England kingdom, because this town is former royal territory and still has a large earth fortress. The market town still contains many fascinating buildings from another age. The quaint back lanes contain old houses and cottages, with the mediaeval church of St Mary watching over the town. Unfortunately, many of the older structures in the town were destroyed by fire in 1762 but were replaced by some impressive Georgian buildings. In 1762, fire destroyed two-thirds of town which have been rebuilt George's architecture with a red brick and limestone of Purbeck by following the pattern of the road before. This town is divided into 4 parts by two main roads which crosses the right corner. There is a part that escapes from the fire and some of facade Georgia disguise the previous building that also safe.

There are some similarity conditions between Wareham, Dorset and Finniston farm in the story of *The Famous Five*. It is like the Corfe Castle that is related to Finniston castle, an old chapel in Finniston farm that is related to the old chapel in Dorset, the cottage and the fire case. Although the name of the Finniston is from original name of the place in England, but the fact that Blyton lived in Wareham cannot be neglected, because she does not only write by imagination, but also looks from the scenery and condition about the place where she write it at that time. Therefore, the condition or situation in Finniston Farm in *The Famous Five* is inspired by the condition of Wareham, Dorset.

b. Historical Aspect Dealing with Event

a. Industrial Revolution Reflected in Blyton's *The Famous Five*

The industrial revolution reflected in the series *Five Go off to Camp*. It is one of the evidences: 'We can't discover much here – unless the train suddenly materializes in front of us!' (Blyton, 1948: 136). The statement before mentions one of the transportations which appears in the novel. Industrial revolution was the period between the years 1750-1850 in which massive changes occurred in agriculture, manufacturing, mining, transportation, and technology and had a great impact on social, economic and cultural conditions in the world.

c. Historical Aspect dealing with Artifact

The historical aspect dealing with Artifacts is evidenced by the emergence of several artifacts related to history. Those are: Land Rover, Old Testament, Spook Train, Gold, Suit of Armor, and Ingot.

a. Land Rover

Like in the statement before, one of historical aspects dealing with artifacts is Land Rover. It is one of brand of car from England. In this novel, land rover becomes a symbol of adventure, because the novel tells about the adventure of the main characters. This car is mentioned about eleven times in the novel. However, in this series the car belongs to the family in the farm. It was mysterious because the price is too expensive for them. One of the sentences is 'Look – how would you like to go round the farm in our Land Rover today? Said Harry to the others (Blyton, 1960: 53) Harry offers to

Julian, Dick, Anne, George and Timmy to go around the farm to see the best view over there.

Land rover has been produced since 1948. It was produced as the replacement of Willys Jeep (a transportation for farming), but at that time the Willys Jeep was so much used in agriculture. However, it was difficult to get the parts, because the price is very expensive. In the UK there is no transportation is like the Willys jeep that is though and tiny to be used in agriculture. So that, in 1947 people started to make a design of multipurpose vehicle like the Willys with P3 engine, axle and gearbox. The project is called Land Rover. Then, in 1948 the first time Land Rover appeared in Amsterdam Motor Show.

According to the explanation above, Land Rover applied in the novel because the car is symbol of adventure. Instead of this, the created of the series novel of Five on Finniston Farm is not far from the time when Land Rover Published.

b. Old Testament

The second artifact is Old Testament. The word 'Old Testament' appears in series Five on Finniston Farm. This word only mentioned one time, such as in the statement "Like someone out of the Old Testament," said Anne to Dick (Blyton, 1960: 31). At that time, Anne saw Great Grandad. He went leaning on his stick. He is like magnificent figure because he has head of snow-white hair and long beard. It is like the figure of Moses in the Old Testament. He is a symbol of God's law.

Old Testament is the first part of the Bible that is completed before Jesus Christ is born. The Hebrew Bible as interpreted among the various branches of Christianity. In Judaism the Hebrew Bible is not only the primary of text of instruction for moral life but also the historical record of God's promises. '

The reason why Enid Blyton wrote this artifact because she was interested in biblical narratives. She retold Old Testament and New Testament stories since 1949. It means before this series novel published. Although, this novel mentioned the word 'Old Testament' to give religious education to the children, so that they know about their God, truth, and world since they are still children.

c. Spook Train

The word 'spook train' is mentioned in the series Five Go off to Camp several times. This word is mentioned in the novel because children are interest in spook-train. It is like something mysterious, and it makes the reader curious about the next story. It is like in the statement before: It must be the spook-train! (Blyton, 1948: 122). At that time, the characters of Julian and Dick hear the voice of train, but the place is dark. It makes them think that it is the spook train. The transportation gives a strain in the adventure of The Five in this series.

The definition of spook train is a transportation in which you travel in vehicle through a set of exciting and frightening experience, or we can call ghost train. In England, spook train often becomes cases, because England is the country that has the oldest train in the world.

In 1948, travel of train in England was nationalized with the formation of British Railways. At that time, British Railways was in control of the rail system in England. At the same time, Enid Blyton also wrote this series novel. Indirectly, she was inspired

from the situation that happened at that time. It became a reason why Enid Blyton depicted 'spook train' in her novel.

d. Gold

Gold is mentioned in the series *Five on A Treasure Island* and *Five on Finniston Farm*. The meaning of gold is one of valuable artifacts like shiny yellow precious metal. It is usually used as jewelry and a means of storing wealth. The word 'gold' is mentioned about 26 times in the series *Five on A Treasure Island*, and it is also mentioned about 16 times in the series *Five on Finniston Farm*. It is like the sentence below:

The children stared in astonishment, hardly believing their eyes. Anne clutched Julian and made him jump. 'Ju! What is it? Is it gold?' (Blyton, 1960: 116)

The word 'the children' in the sentences referred to Julian, Dick, Anne, George, Timmy and Harries. They found a dark chest. Then, Timmy sniffed at the chest, and it disintegrated at once. Immediately, Anne was shocked when she saw gold in the chest.

The word 'gold' also appears in another series, especially series *Five on Treasure Island*. "A gold bar." Said her father, with a snort. (Blyton, 1942: 33) This word is often mentioned because the treasure consists of gold. It can be gold coins and gold bar.

Tim Colman (2010) explained the history of gold, the earliest known production in Britain was in Roman times from the Dolaucothi deposit (also known as Ogofau) near Pumpsaint in southwest Wales. Here undoubted Roman artefacts have been discovered and the remains of sophisticated dam and lead systems. However, after the Roman occupation there is little hard evidence of gold mining in Britain. After the Norman conquest, all the land and contained minerals belonged to William the Conqueror "in right of The Crown" because he was king. Meanwhile, gold still became the symbol of wealth until now.

e. Suit of Armor

The definition of suit of armour is a kind of historical personal body armour which is made from iron, or bronze (see figure 3). This artifact is mentioned in the series *Five on Finniston Farm*. This is the statement in the novel that include suit of armour:

'Do you see what this is? A suit of armour! Almost perfect still. Look, though, it must be ages old-and here's another-and another! Were they old ones, thrownout – or spares ones? Look at this helmet – grand!' (Blyton, 1960: 115)

The statement above describes Julian who find a suit of armour in the cellar. He seems surprised and he asks to the others about his finding whether it is true or not. The suit of armour still looks great even it is very long time in the place.

The history of suit of armour originated in Europe in the late Middle Ages, especially in the context of the hundred years' war. It originated from the plate-shaped shield used for postal clothing in the 14th century. However, the suit of armour was worn in the early 15th Century. The suit of armour was worn on the outside of ordinary underclothes and was fastened to the wearer with leather straps and buckles. It usually consists of the helmet, breastplate and backplate, gauntlets, pauldrons, vambraces,

couters, sabatons (foot armor), greaves to protect shins and gorget, sometimes called a neck guard.



Figure 3 representation of the price of the suit of armor

Furthermore, the price of the suit of armour varied with the material and historical periods. Sometimes, only nobles or professional soldiers can have a full set of armor. Low-level soldiers usually wore less plate armor and more chainmail. It has various uses. People often use in war, on parades and tournaments. Suits of armour used in war is a real deal, while it used for parades is lighter and has decorations. It also has different shape when it used in tournament, especially breastplates and helmets, which are used to bend spears and long weapons.

The armor set is a real masterpiece. The most famous designs are from Germany, Italy, England and Serbia, but in different country, the style is also different. In the 15th Century, most of the suits of armor are plain. However, in 16th Century with the introduction of the Maximilian style, the armor became clearer and decorated with fluting and etching. In the same period the use of closed helmets was more frequent than the previous open designs.

The reason why Blyton included this artifact in the novel is because this artifact related to the history and treasure. If talking about treasure, it means talk about wealth that related to kingdom, and a kingdom must not be far from the palace, the king and also the army or soldiers. In ancient times royal soldiers in England carried armor to protect themselves from enemies. Especially when there is war, their armor will help soldiers and even kings not to be hit by sharp weapons.

f. Ingot

The word 'ingot' is mentioned in the series *Five on A Treasure Island* and *Five on Finniston Farm* (see figure 4). This is one of the evidences.

"Ingots!" said Anne, puzzled. "What does that mean? I've never heard that word before." (Blyton, 1942: 35)

The sentence shows that Anne does not know ingot. Then, she asks it to Julian and Dick about the meaning. The word 'ingot' appears in the story, because the story tells about treasure. There is ingot inside of the treasure that the adventurer found.

The definition of ingot is a relatively pure material, usually metal, which is formed into a shape suitable for more processing. In the steel industry, it is the first step among semi-finished cast iron products. Ingot is most bars of metal. It becomes the evidence of Britain's early tin trade.



Figure 4 Ingot

B. Social Elements in Blyton's *The Famous Five*

Social values can grow through an awareness of literature because literature presents social phenomenon, from the society in the past and the present. Children literature includes many problems of society in this world. Thus, literature gives many kinds of experience which is wide and varied.

Social elements are the way in which the characteristics of society come to the influence about the meaning. There are two aspects of the social elements. First, the kind of society in which the characters live. Second, the society in which the author's text is produced.

a. Economic condition in Blyton's *The Famous Five*

The characters in *The Famous Five* are usually from the ordinary people, and they live in a village. Especially in the three series of the novel. Some the characters work as a farmer. The house in the village still has beautiful scenery because it is appropriate place to spend the Five's time to holiday at that place. The relation between the character in the novel usually shows between nobility and common life. The nobility always becomes the antagonist character because they are the character that buy the farm and the island. Then, they also exploit the ordinary people by their money. It can be seen below:

“Uncle, those men won't sign tomorrow,” said Julian. Do you know why they wanted to buy the island and the castle? Not because they really wanted to build a hotel or anything like that-but because they knew the lost gold was hidden there!” (Blyton, 1942: 62)

These sentences are applied in the series *Five on A Treasure Island*. It describes that Julian gives an information to Uncle Quentin about the real intention of the nobility who wants to buy Kirrin island. They want to buy it, because they know about the treasure, and they do not have intention to build a hotel.

The farmer and his wife listened, amazed. When they heard that Mr. Henning proposed to hand them a cheque for £5,000 merely for the right to do a little digging, Mrs. Philpot almost cried!
(Blyton, 1960: 96)

These sentences above describe that the noble wants to buy the farm. However, Great Grandad does not want to sell the farm, because it belongs to him. Therefore, the noble says about his intention and gives Mrs. Philpot a cheque privately.

Furthermore, the economic problem also gives impact to the novel of *The Famous Five*. Although, it always becomes problem in every country, every place, and every person. People will only think about money and money. They live for working and they want to have much money, so that it will make them happy. It also happens in the novel. There are many cases of economic condition that related to this situation. It is showed from the story when the old wreck threw up out of the sea and the five found a queer box. Then, Uncle Quentin had known it. "Uncle Quentin sold the old box to a man who bought antique things!" (Blyton, 1942: 37). Uncle Quentin always worked in his house and rarely gather or play with his daughter. The sentence indicates that Uncle Quentin only focus on his job.

Other evidence is in series *Five on A Treasure Island*. There is story about the next day, after the wreck threw up out of the sea, there was a news that the old wreck had been thrown up out of the sea, and suddenly it made many people came to the place. When the people know it, they came to the place for taking picture and tried to look for the treasure. When George's parents know that the island is expensive, they suddenly want to sell it and forget about their promise to George.

Her father frowned. "Don't be silly, Georgina," he said. "It isn't really yours. You know that. It belongs to your mother, and naturally she would like to sell it if she could. We need the money very badly. You will be able to have a great many nice things once we sell the island." (Blyton, 1942: 38)

Other evidence from other series, especially *Five on Finniston Farm*. 'Oh, that really does me good, 'she said. 'But I hope Junior doesn't tell his father and they don't both go off in a hurry! We do need their money, you know, much as I hate having them here. (Blyton, 1960: 52) These sentences described that Mrs. Philpot does not like her guest (American), because they are arrogant. Even though she does not like them, she is still kind and humble to them, because they are her guests, and she needs their money. Therefore, Enid Blyton depicts the economic problems in the novel, because it becomes the general problem that always appear in the world until now.

b. Gender Equality in Blyton's *The Famous Five*

The social elements are also influenced by gender case. It appears from the character of Georgina in all of the three series of *The Famous Five*. The author describes Georgina's personality is special and unique. There is a physical appearance of her. She has curly and short hair, almost as short as a boy. The skin is tan. Her eyes are bright blue.

She had very short curly hair, almost as short as a boy's. Her face was burnt a dark-brown with the sun, and her very blue eyes looked as bright as forget-me-nots in her face. But her mouth was rather sulky, and she had a frown like her father's. (Blyton, 1942: 7)

Georgina insists that her biological gender should not define her. She is brave and she has a strong mind. This can be seen in these sentences: "But George hates being a

girl, and we have to call her George, as if she was a boy. The naughty girl won't answer if we call her Georgina." (Blyton, 1942: 5).

"I'm George," said the girl. "I shall only answer if you call me George. I hate being a girl. I won't be. I don't like doing the things that girls do. I like doing the things that boys do. I can climb better than any boy, and swim faster too." (Blyton, 1942: 7)

Other evidence also appears in series Five Go off to Camp. This statement also describes about Georgina's character. It can be seen in the statement below:

The four children, Julian, tall and strong for his age, Dick, George and Anne were busy planning a camping holiday. George was a girl, not a boy, but she would never answer to her real name, Georgina. With her freckled face and short, curly hair she really did look more like a boy than a girl. (Blyton, 1948:7)

There is a reason why Georgina has character like a boy. It because of her father and the environment. Her father is a scientist. He is too powerful because he is the one who hold the power of his family. Other people have to obey him when he says or orders something. No one can go against him, even his wife. It can be seen when Georgina does not want to take her cousin to see the bay, her father says that she must do.

c. Tradition of England Society in Blyton's *The Famous Five*

a. Having Pet

The context of tradition from this story is about people in Europe, especially England. There are many people that have a pet. Cats and dogs are popular pets in the UK (Murray et al., 2014). England think that the pet is same with family or their friend, such as in *The Famous Five*. The character of George has a dog that its name is Timothy, and she does not call with the pronoun 'it', but she calls with the pronoun 'he'. It is the tradition of England who use the pronoun he to their pet. It means that their relationship is closest.

Furthermore, in the novel *The Famous Five*, one of the main characters is a dog, especially Georgina's pet dog. It usually called as Timmy or Timothy. It is the only one of non-human member of Famous Five. It always follows Georgina and friend to go everywhere. It helps the Five a lot, such as find the hole to go to the place of the treasure and waive the Five from cruel people. There are some evidences in the first series that shows pets is a closest friend of English. One of them are: "Timothy is my very greatest friend," said George. "I couldn't do without him." (Blyton, 1942: 10)

Timmy also appears in the series *Five Go off to Camp* (1948) and *Five on Finniston Farm* (1960). Timmy went to school with George and Anne in term time, and he missed the two boys very much. But he belonged to George, and would not dream of leaving her (Blyton, 1948: 11). 'He is our dog!' (Blyton, 1960: 22)

Another pet is also mentioned in the series *Five on Finniston Farm*. Nosey is the pet of The Harries. They give name to their dog and also call it with pronoun 'he'. 'Nosey.

He's ours. He fell down a chimney and broke his wing, 'said the twins. 'So we kept him till it was well and now he won't leave us.' (Blyton, 1960: 23)

There are some pets that become some important characters in the novel of *The Famous Five* is also the impact of Blyton's life. She has many pets in her house. After married with Pollock, Enid lived in Elfin cottage. She protects many pets and love them so much until her pet can be the inspiration of her writing.

b. Drinking Tea and Eating Gingerbread

The other traditions were drinking a great tea and eating gingerbread (a toasted food that is usually flavored with ginger, cloves, peanuts and cinnamon). This bread is a famous Christmas food in the world. In England, gingerbread only had meaning as "preserved ginger". It referred to the preservative effect of ginger on breads, cakes, and other pastries (Bragdon, 1995). However, in the 15th century, gingerbread changed to the sweet cake made with treacle and ginger. "Very well, then, go and wash your sticky hands- yes, George, I know they're sticky, because I made that gingerbread, and you've had three slices!" (Blyton, 1942: 27)

The tradition of eating gingerbread biscuits also appears in other series. It can be seen in this sentence. "George was looking very happy as she nibbled her gingerbread biscuits." (Blyton, 1942: 64). England usually begin their day with drinking a tea. "Tea is ready,' they said (Blyton, 1960: 23) the mother in the series of *The Famous Five* often appears by making tea for the children. The existence of these traditions can give impression of British.

c. Culture of England Society in Blyton's *The Famous Five*

The culture of England society in Blyton's *The Famous Five* is about the friendship of the people there. They have difficult way to become closer with other people. It is different with Indonesian, they will be friendly even it is the first meeting, but some people of England look arrogant, and they will not be easy to close with people who they meet only a few minutes.

England will need a long time to be their friend or best friend until they want to share their story and their items. If they do not like the people, they will be very silent or they will be cold. They won't be easy to believe to other people, even they are family. It can be seen in the sentence below:

George stared at him. I'll see, she said. "I don't make friends with people just because they are my cousin, or something silly like that. I only make friends with people if I like them." (Blyton, 1942: 8)

The word 'him' in the sentence above refers to Julian. He and his brother want George to go with them. Then, they will like George to be their friend. However, George gives unexpected response to Julian.

It is not only George that has bad tempered. Other characters in the novel also have same characteristic. They are the twins (Harriet), such as in other conversation between Harriet:

George proudly displayed the knife, the twins each gave a sudden loud laugh, which surprised the others very much. 'Well!' said Dick. Fancy you being able to laugh! You always look so fierce and unfriendly. Well, now that you've condescended to talk to us, let me tell you this - we think your mother is absolutely tops, and far from giving her more trouble, we're all going to help as much as we can. (Blyton, 1960: 51)

It is not only from the conversation, the characteristic of it also appears from the attitude. It can be seen in the attitude of George and the twins (Harries). They only speak a little when the first time they meet other people and it is only if their mother asked them, such as the first time they meet their cousin. There is no smile or something friendly. However, when they have a long time and they like the people, they will make a good relationship, and it is lasting long.

It is same with the condition in England. If we are still coming, it will be difficult to have friend there. Plato & Zeeck Malte (2017) stated UK also experienced a decline in various aspects assessed through this survey, in terms of friendliness and friendship, England ranks 49th.

CONCLUSION

This study shows that historical aspect and social element cannot be neglected from Children Literature. The story of Children literature that is used in this study is novel series of The Famous Five by Enid Blyton using Children Literature theory. This novel tells the adventure of Five main characters. This story is not only about entertaining adventures, but also includes British history and social elements in England. There are some historical aspects dealing with place, event and artifacts in Blyton's The Famous Five. The social element is about economic conditions, gender equality, tradition and culture of England society.

Enid Blyton depicted the historical aspect and social elements in three series of Blyton's The Famous Five for giving knowledge to the reader (especially children) and making the reader interesting to read it. Many of historical aspects in the novel were about Norman history. It is like the place and the monuments of Norman which is related to the place where Enid Blyton ever lived. The social elements are related of the condition in England. Therefore, the writer concludes that Blyton's background influences the process of the historical aspects and social elements which are depicted in the three series of Blyton's The Famous Five.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

UTM International Collaboration Research 2021

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