An Analysis of the Secondary World in *Harry Porter* Series From the Perspective of Fantasy Theory

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Abstract

Harry Porter series are fantasy literature written by J.K. Rowling and tell the stories of Harry Porter's growth and the experiences of fighting against the dark forces. The novels have received great attention after publishing and one of the main reasons is that J.K. Rowling successfully creates a secondary world parallel to the primary world. So, this thesis aims to use fantasy theory to analyze the secondary world in *Harry Porter* series. First, it analyzes the sources of secondary world elements from two aspects, the creation background and European culture. Then, with analysis of its construction methods manifested in space, time, characters and magical items, the thesis tries to analyze the innovation of the secondary world. Finally, the effects of the secondary world in *Harry Porter* series is explored in detail.

Key words: Fantasy literature; The secondary world; Fantastic elements; Construction

INTRODUCTION

J. K. Rowling is a British fantasy writer and her full name is Joanne Rowling. In order to attract more male readers, her publisher suggested to use two initials, so she added Kathleen into her name which was from her grandmother's name. The ideas she got about *Harry Potter* was in the summer of 1990 when she was on the train. But she published the first novel in 1997. The creation process was endless and uneasy, and she experienced divorce and the death of her mother. All of those sufferings affected the constructions of the novels, especially the plot of Harry Potter's family.

Harry Potter series which contain seven sequels tell the stories of Harry Porter from eleven to seventeen years old. Each sequel started in the beginning of new semester in Hogwarts and ended in the vocation in that semester. Harry' parents were killed by Voldemort when he was a baby. So he had to live in the house of his evil-minded uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Dursleys. Later, he became a wizard and studied in Hogwarts. The main plot is about the process of Harry Porter's defeat of Voldemort who wants to be immortal and conquers the world. And fortunately the end was that Harry defeated Voldemort.

The innovation of *Harry Porter* series is that J.K. Rowling successfully creates of the secondary world. This secondary world is combined with many realistic factors and has great practical significance, which is different from the traditional secondary world. So analyzing and understanding the construction and differences of its secondary world have important guiding significance for people to evaluate the whole novel and secondary world better. This thesis analyzes the characteristics and meanings of the secondary world from the perspective of fantasy theory, aiming to point out the peculiar features.

1. FANTASY THEORY AND THE SECONDARY WORLD

1.1 Fantasy Theory

Fantasy is a kind of people's conscious behavior which satisfies the need of people's minds and emotions, and it is a special mode of thinking. It not only creates and

constructs the lives but makes people's daily life and behavior aesthetic. It can be seen that fantasy is important to change the existing world and to build a more perfect inner world (McEvoy, 2004). Fantasy literature is originated in Europe and has become an independent literary type from late 19th century to early 20th century. In a board sense, it's the complement and development of fairy tales, fable and hero legend literature. Before fantasy become a independent literature, it's a kind of imagination. So, it has a deep connection between fantasy literature and fairy tales. Compared with fairy tales, fantasy literature has a more flexible and extensive meaning.

Fantasy literature has developed unprecedentedly in the era of Victorian in the 19th century because of the emergence of many famous writers and works of fantasy literature, for instance, *The Water Babies* of Charles Kingsley, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* of Lewis Carroll and *At the Back of the North Wind* of George MacDonald (Todorov, 1973, p.25). However, although there are lots of fantastic novels, the studies about fantasy literature are relatively less. The early interpretation of fantasy literature is created by E.M. Foster in *Aspects of the Novel*. And he points out that "fantasy implies the supernatural but need not express it. Often it does express it, and were that type of classification helpful, we could make a list of the devices which writers of a fantastic turn have used-such as the introduction of a god, ghost, angel, monkey, monster, midget, witch into ordinary life; or the introduction of ordinary men into no man's land, the future, the past, the interior of the earth, the fourth dimension; or divings into and dividings of personality; or finally the device of parody or adaptation" (Foster, 1955, p.92).

In 20th century, with the appearance of *The Chronicles of Narnia* series of C.S. Louis and *Lord of the Rings* of J.R.R. Tolkien, the creation of fantasy literature has reached its peak. These two masterpieces are a dividing crest in the field of fantasy, paving a new pattern, constructing a new writing framework and influencing the direction of culture development for the fantasy literature in second half of 20th century (Steven, 2004).

J.R.R. Tolkien as an originator for the modern theory of fantasy literature speaks about Fantasy as well, pointing out that Fantasy should contain all universal things such as fairies, elves, witches, giants, dragons or dwarfs as well as sun, moon, sky or earth. He insists on that fantasy literature must create a world that was completely unrelated to the real world. The key of that world is that it must be fantastic, rich, plausibly real world (Tolkien, 1966, p.38). According to Tolkien, this world makes readers feel as if they were right on the scene and it can also reflect the culture in the past and the spiritual civilization of the human being, which are the condition to distinguish the differences between fantasy and other works. The most critical factors of fantasy is that the stories must happen in another world with many supernatural things and give readers a kind of magical feeling with magical things.

1.2 The Secondary World

J.R.R. Tolkien first proposes the conception of the secondary world in his academic work *On Fairy Stories*. He argues that the secondary world refers to the text world that is fictional and divorced from the practical experience of modern society. It's relative to the primary world (Tolkien, 1966, p.35).

Tolkien thinks that when creating the secondary world, the authors become the sub-creator. "A successful 'sub-creator' makes a secondary world into which a reader's mind can enter. Inside it, what it relates is 'true': it accords with the laws of that world. Because people is not familiar with the secondary world, so in order to convince readers, the authors must use more writing skills to reach 'the inner consistency of reality' when creating the secondary world" (Tolkien, 1966, p.39). For example, The Middle Earth in *Lord of the Rings* is created by Tolkien but is not baseless. Tolkien combines the source of mythology, the creation of human beings, the development of the real history and so on. So, every secondary world should have its own strict rule in his opinion.

The magical world in *Harry Potter* series is good example of the secondary world. It is worth mentioning that J.K. Rowling does not continue to use the previous types but paves the way for this kind of writing type. She creates a secondary world existing in the primary world, which can interest readers and also can make readers understand easily and impressive deeply. And this thesis intends to study the features of this type of the secondary world and find its enchantments.

2. THE SECONDARY WORLD IN *HARRY PORTER* SERIES

2.1 The Sources of Secondary World Elements in *Harry Potter* Series

In the secondary world of *Harry Potter* series, not all fantastic things are created by her imagination. There are two sources of these fantastic elements: creative background and traditional European culture.

Withes and wizards are two main characters in *Harry Potter* series. In the Middle Ages, because of witch-hunting, witches and wizards were represented evil in the real world. While J.K. Rowling changes the images of witches and wizards and regards them as the embodiment of justice. The reason is due to the environment she has grown up.

J.K. Rowling was born in 1965. At that time, due to the rapid development of economy, people in Europe generally lived in the feeling of loss and hollowness in the edification of materialism. Under this circumstance, a new social and religious movement, New Age Movement has formed.

New Age Movement is a movement which is against materialism and capital modernism. It advocates the spiritual pursuit and involves a wide range of aspects. It requires the society to reconstruct the relationship between human and nature, and to integrate all kinds of non-mainstream culture effectively, such as the combination of environmentalism and feminism, the combination of Eastern religion and western traditional witchcraft and so on. New Age Movement worships the concepts of infidels, including witchcraft, goddess worship, astrology, alchemy and so on.

Under this background, J.K. Rowling's thinking and perception of witches and wizards are the basic ways to rebuild and reproduce human nature. "*Harry Potter* keeps quiet about the god's love, the spirit of Jesus Christ, but renders the great love of the witches intensively, so as to create powerful supernatural power. It is clear to indicate the author's position in terms of the cultural identity" (Kate, 2005). So many characters in *Harry Potter* series lead a positive way and impress readers a lot.

Another aspect is the traditional European culture. Firstly, J.K. Rowling uses the lifestyle of the Middle ages as the archetype for the secondary world. Students still use quills and parchment which are writing tools in the Middle ages to write at Hogwarts. "They had been given special, new quills for the exams, which had been bewitched with an anti-cheating spell" (Rowling, 1997, p.245). Telephones and cars were not invented in the Middle ages. The most distinct feature of the middle ages is that its technology was underdeveloped. In the magical world, its technology is also underdeveloped.

Although, the lifestyle is traditional in the secondary world, witches and wizards can use magic to improve their lives. For instance, Mrs. Weasley can use magic to do housework. She can flick her wand casually at the dishes in the sink, which can begin to clean themselves (Rowling, 1998, p.513). The clock on the wall in Mr. and Mrs. Weasley house has only one hand and no numbers at all (Rowling, 1999, p.165). So, they still can manage life with magic.

Secondly, the mythology of ancient Greek and Roman civilizations is also the inspiration for Rowling's creation. Many images are the archetype of characters and animals in *Harry Potter* series. For instance, in Roman mythology, there is a man called Janus who is a goalkeeper and has two faces, one looking back to the past, the other looking into the future. While in *Harry Potter and the philosopher's stone*, there is a professor called Quirrel who also has two faces, one face belonging to him, the other belonging to Voldemort. Professor Lupin, who is a werewolf, is another example. He will become a wolf on full-moon night, losing his personality. He is similar to a King called Lycaon who is the origin of werewolf in Creek myths.

2.2 Construction of the Secondary World

Compared with other secondary world in other fantasy literature, the secondary world in *Harry Potter* series is unique because it has a complete set of social structure, organizations and rules. The followings are analyses of the construction methods manifested in space, time, characters and magical items.

As for space, the secondary world exists in the primary world of England which is different from the middle-earth created by Tolkien because it exists in London. Meanwhile, there has more than one entrances to the magical world in novels. For example, in the first time Harry goes to Hogwart, the entrance is 9 3/4 platform. Later, the entrance to magical world exists in a small bar called Leaky Cauldron in Diagon Alley. The entrances are convenience so wizards can enter the magical world easily.

There are many institutions in the secondary world. Harry Potter's magical adventures mostly happens in Hogwarts, the place like many schools in the real world. Hogwarts is a boarding school with the chancellor, Deans, teachers, students, administrators, school doctors and president of school union which has two vacations in a year and students need to have classes five days a week. The requirements of the classes are also the same as the schools in the real world. It is divided into four houses named by their founders called Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw and Slyther. The four houses represent four different characteristics of human. So different people with different characteristics are selected in different houses. The students need to perform excellently to win points for their houses. Although they have the ability of magic, they still need to obey the rules. The course names are also unusual that people have never heard about it. They teach the history of magic, the herbal medicine, and the defense of the black magic. Hogwarts is not like a school in Utopia, but a school existing in the real world. The teaching style and students' living way let readers feel more closer, and it's easier to arouse spiritual resonance in readers' heart.

In order to maintain the order of the magical world, to keep the magical world not being found by muggles and to protect the safety of wizards and other creatures, the Ministry of Magic plays a vital role in magical world. But the location of the Ministry of Magic exists in the deep underground of central London. Its office space, department setting, and hall decoration are like a government department in the real world. The hall is brilliant and splendid, and all the guests need to accept security inspection. A set of statues placed in the central hall are extremely prominent and symbolize the highest power of wizards which express the class difference and the gender prejudice in the real world (Rowling, 2001, p.67). The Ministry of Magic in *Harry Potter* series does not play a correct role that a government ought to play but

is full of corruption and act of omission. The government officials are reluctant to find evidences for an affair, being habitual to choose escaping. J.K. Rowling uses this image to satirize some governments in the real world that do not take people into consideration or do wrong guidance.

In addition to the different infrastructure and the connection between the two worlds, the author also uses Gothic style as a background to rich the magical space. The architectural style and atmosphere of the magical world do accord with the types of Gothic novels. Hogwarts is a castle located in a towering hillside with concealed chambers of secrets and long and winding corridors which shows gothic style. What's more, the gruesome Diagon Alley, the quaint Gaunt house and the sparsely populated Godric's Hollow all represent the architectural type of Gothic style.

As for time, the view of time is very important to the creation of fantasy literature. The unique view of time will be the highlight of the work. Since the idea of time travel is introduced into children's literature, more and more writers have put the view of time into consideration, which has enriched the types of stories. For instance, some protagonists can go through a different time, returning to the past or going to the future, while some can live in the junction of two different time period. J.K. Rowling just uses the regular time concept and gets rid of other time methods. And it can provide readers more real and comfortable reading feelings. The time of the secondary world and the time of the primary world are synchronous. This is the difference compared with the secondary world of other fantasy novels. This kind of chronological order makes the wizards and witches travel through two worlds more easily.

But it does not mean that time in the magical world does not have any particularity. In the secondary world of *Harry Potter* series, the author also breaks the linear development of time and makes time go back or forward by using some time intermediaries. The obvious time intermediaries in novels are Tom Riddle's Dairy, Time-Tuner and Pensieve. Tom Riddle's Dairy contains Voldemort's memories and preserves the fragments of Voldemort's soul. And a 15-year-old Voldemort could appear through this dairy. People can go back to the past or go to the future through it. Time-Tuner could transport people back in time. Hermione once uses it to have more than one lesson at the same time in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban.* Later, she uses it to help Buckbeak and Sirius be out of danger. People can be assisted in returning to the moment they need and checking.

It is worth mentioning that although these time intermediaries can help people achieve time travel and do things that seem to affect the present in the past or in the future, people' fate will not be changed. For example, it seems that Buckbeak and Sirius are saved by Hermione with Time-Tuner in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, but actually Buckbeak and Sirius will not be killed if Hermione does not save them because they find that Buckbeak and Sirius escape in another time. So, their fates will not be rewritten, and Hermione just changes the way the story happened in another time.

As for characters, in order to create a rich and logical secondary world, J.K. Rowling uses many characters in myths, legends and fairies for reference. The assimilation of impressive creatures and the division of muggles and wizards bring the secondary world full of variety. When processing the characters, J.K. Rowling personifies them to close the distance from readers. The main characters are witches and wizards. J.K. Rowling changes the images of them in her novels in which their images are multiform and the same as human beings in the real world. And three traits of them can be marked out in *Harry Potter* series.

The first type is growing wizards that are innocent. The representatives are Harry and his friends. Their minds are not mature, but they are kind and adventurous. They come from families of different classes but can become friends. Ron is born in a wizard family and is a purebred wizard. Hermione's parents are muggles so dark wizards always mock and satire her as a mudblood. Harry's mother is a muggle but he represents the people in modern society. They know the living way of the muggle world and has the magical experiences of the wizard world as well. They have multiple personalities. The second type is the elder who can guide direction for the next generation. These witches and wizards all play roles in growth process of Harry Potter, Dumbledore, Sirius Black, Mr. and Mrs. Weasley, Snape are all guiders. They despise individual authority and pursue the equality and union of life. They are willing to associate with young people on an equal status. The last type is dark wizards. They are ambitious, merciless and insidious. Their existence is indispensable, which is a powerful force to promote the plot development of the novels. Voldemort and his Death Eaters represent some bad personalities such as evils or greediness for people in the real world. The failure of Voldemort and his Death Eaters refers to the elimination of bad personalities. At the same time, readers can learn sense of security and self-affirmation from Harry Potter and his friends. So without Voldemort's existence, Harry cannot be excellent later.

In addition to the witches and wizards, the novels also focus on many other life images, such as the family elves, the mixed giant, the wolf man and so on. They are despised by the witches and wizards and marginalized by the mainstream society. But Harry Potter have deep friendships with them. It shows J.K. Rowling's strong opposition to the wizard's ethnocentrism.

As for magical items, J.K. Rowling uses many traditional magical items from other fantasy literature and creates many new magical items together to enrich the secondary world. Magical items assume enormous importance. For example, the ring in The Lord of the Rings is the very important story clue, and it's the key to

the direction of the story. So J.K. Rowling also uses many traditional magical items which have profound cultural background such as Philosopher's stone, the Mirror of Erised and invisibility cloak. J.K. Rowling also takes interests of readers into account so she adds some new functions on traditional magical items. For example, there are some funny curses in novels.

J.K. Rowling is skilled in creating new magical items in her novels such as sorting hat. Sorting hat determines every student's ascription of what school. The magical elements she creates combine with many modern elements to increase the interest of the novels. Wizard card is another outstanding creation which actually is an imitation of the food's sales promotion in the real world by placing a toy card in the food. Magical items in Weasley's joke shop representative J.K. Rowling's creation. Love Potion can make someone secretly loves another. Skiving Snackbox and Nosebleed Nougat help students not to go to the school. Quills can be divided into Self-Inking, Spell-checking and Smart-Answer based on their functions. Other items they sell such as Shield Hats, Cloaks and Gloves are also interesting. Those magical items are no longer mysterious and rare. But they are the tools of daily life that people can buy with money. And all of these magical items increase sense of comedy and tenderness of the secondary world in *Harry Porter* series.

2.3 The Secondary World as a Reflection of the Real World

It's obvious that the secondary world contains in the primary world which is a kind of particular type literature. Besides, unlike other fantasy literature, the secondary world in *Harry Potter* series is the refection of the modern society of the real world, which is the bright point of novels.

The magic technology is the imitation of modern science and technology in the real world. In *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone,* for instance, the broomstick Harry saw in the shop window was the latest one-nimbus 2000 which was his trump card in Quidditch competition. But it was replaced by nimbus 2001 quickly. It seems like mobile phones in the real world. People in the magical world also pursue novelty.

In addition, economy is also the same as economy in the real world. There are lots of sales promotions in the secondary world by sellers. The seller of candy chocolate frogs uses different wizard cards to attract buyers which is popular in the young wizards. The shop owners in Diagon Alley solicit customers in a variety of ways. What's more, they use multifarious ads to attract people's attention, just like a bulletin board in the real world. J.K. Rowling describes the plot of problems of fake and inferior products as well.

Besides, J.K. Rowling portrays a lot of social problems. Class and racial issues which evoke discrimination are questions clearly worth thinking. J.K. Rowling writes

in an easy and humorous way and wants readers to pay attention to these social phenomena. All phenomena in the secondary world reflect the problems in the real world.

3. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CREATION OF THE SECONDARY WORLD

3.1 The Difficulties of Life

Distinctive from traditional fantasy literature which only praises the beauty of life, J.K. Rowling merges the sufferings of life into the secondary world. The difficulties of life are what she feels from her life and wants readers to understand.

The magical world as the secondary world created by J.K. Rowling in *Harry Potter* series is not an Eden Garden with enchanting sunshine and bright flowers but a world full of pain and happiness. Death is one of the them that runs through the whole series. However, some people criticize that this book is too cruel and dark and has a bad influence on children. Aiming at this problem, J.K. Rowling agrees that some dark sides that will not be met in life should stay away from children's growing. But the society is not always full of happy, and children will feel confused and puzzled and cannot figure out the reality in the process of growing up due to the unreal literature. On the other hand, some surveys on the Internet show that almost all children who have seen *Harry Potter* series don't feel horrified at all.

What the author wants to teach children is that everyone should understand death, knowing that death is a part of life so that they won't be afraid of death at last. In the first three novels, J.K. Rowling is concerned with the fear of losing parents. After the fourth novel, the theme of death has changed from witnessing the death of others, the death of loved ones to the face of Harry's own death, which is a gradual process. This sequence is the sequence of people's understanding towards death in life, which also reflects J.K. Rowling's deep thinking about death step by step. At first, everyone would worry about their parents' leave and fear their parents growing old. It is a vague and primary understanding of death. When growing up, he/she comes into contact with death, witnessing and being forced to accept the death of parents and others. Finally, he/she understands that everyone will die, which is inevitable.

Harry Potter, a child who loses his parents when he is born, suffers a lot from the attack of death. When he is eleven, he is threatened by death because of Voldemort in Hogwarts. Later, he witnesses the death of Sirius-his godfather, Albus Dumbledore-his headmaster and other intimate friends. It was because of these experiences that he is able to face death. So he can see the essence of many things and find the courage of life.

However, Voldemort is quite different. He fears death

so he struggles to revive again. So he cannot see and understand many important values clearly, and he does not know the meaning of living because he does not understand death.

In the last novel, J.K. Rowling writes three deathly hallows called the elder wand, the resurrection stone and the cloak of invisibility. The functions of this three deathly teach us that the man who truly defeats death is the one who understands the inevitability of death and is willing to accept it.

Besides the discussion of death, J.K. Rowling also criticizes the social problems in the real world through the construction of the secondary world, such as fear, discrimination, violence, abuse, deception, growing trouble, and so on. For example, dementor is the incarnation of fear in novels. In *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban,* dementor is a creature, cloaked in a cloak, with a scabby palm, and becomes putrid. Every good feeling and every happy memory will be sucked. Moreover, they can suck out every soul of whoever he fancy. Dementor is Harry's most fearful creature because he can make Harry hear his mother's dead scream. But dementor can be overcome. Remus Lupin in novels once says that what you fear is fear itself. So he teaches Harry to use incantation to attack dementor. Rowling wants readers figure out the nature of fear and the importance of overcoming fear.

It has seen the discrimination and class relations in the magical world as well. It is obvious that the relationship between the family elves and their owners is slavery relationship. J.K. Rowling depicts slavery as a natural social phenomenon, and even family elves themselves do not want to revolt. J.K. Rowling criticizes this phenomenon with black humor. And, in the secondary world, there are obvious racial prejudice and class prejudice. Pedigree wizards look down upon and push aside non-pedigree wizards. The relationship between wizards and muggles is also tense. People even use "mudblood" and "squib" to discriminate people born in muggle family and people born in magical family but are unable to use magic.

3.2 The Beauties of Life

Compared with the difficulties in life, there are more felicities in novels. J.K. Rowling conveyed positive values to readers with fantastic way. First of all, humanity and morality, kindness and evil can be seen in novels. There are strong and obvious conflicts and contradictions in the novels. But the result is that justice and kindness will always overcome the evil. Secondly, many qualities of human nature are praised in the novel, and J.K. Rowling praises loyalty, friendship and true love, which are also valuable in the real world.

The novel tells us a truth that justice always prevails over evil. The main line of the novels is the battle between Harry Porter and Voldemort, which is the battle of justice and evil. Although the protagonist Harry often encounters dangers, but he always changes danger into safety because justice will prevail over evil change. The dark forces headed by Voldemort controls most of the magical world and kills countless righteous witches and wizards. But Harry and his friends never give up, because they know that justice will always prevail over evil.

In a sense, *Harry Porter* series shows not only the plot of fantasy, but also the variety of human nature. And it praises the noble moral characteristics and the spirit of sacrifice. The victory of every battle in novels makes readers feel the power of justice and receive the joy and meaning of life, so that they begin to feel the goodness of life and find their goals and meanings in life.

Although the secondary world reflects the real word, love is what J.K. Rowling wants readers to know. Love is an eternal theme. Harry is fortunate as well as unfortunate. He loses his parents when he is a baby and has to live in the house of his mean and harsh uncle. They all show that Harry is an unfortunate boy. But actually, he is lucky because he has the love of his parents all the time. He knows that his parents sacrificed themselves to protect him. Although his parents are dead, their love will be with him forever. Sirius once told Harry that the ones that love us never really leave us.

In addition to parent's love, friendship is also an important theme. The emotions between Harry, Hermione and Ron are precious. They still believe and company with each other even though they have contradictions. In the fight with Voldemort, they help Harry to overcome difficulties. They stand on the side of Harry without hesitation which make Harry does not feel lonely. Sometimes they are willing to sacrifice themselves to save Harry. This is the true meaning of friendship. The relationship between teachers and students is also what the author wants to express. Dumbledore helps and teaches Harry. Mc Gonagall cares Harry. And professor Snape protects Harry silently. Besides, J.K. Rowling depicts intimate love as well.

J.K. Rowling narrates all stories by creating a different secondary world completely divorced from the reality, but she adds lots of values into the secondary world which have an educational function. The core reason that Harry Potter could win is love and courage. These two essences are J.K. Rowling's personal values and are what Harry Potter series as fantasy literature want to transmit.

CONCLUSION

Harry Potter series influence the creation of fantasy literature. J.K. Rowling follows the traditional style of fantasy literature but has her own characteristics. First, J.K. Rowling successfully creates a totally different secondary world compared with Tolkien's secondary world. The secondary world is not isolated but exists in the primary

world. Second, everything in the secondary world seems to be full of magic but contains realistic factors. J.K. Rowling adds many realistic elements into the secondary world in order to make her novels logical and credible. What's more, the secondary world reflects modern society as well. J.K. Rowling uses the secondary world to reflect some social problems and positive energy.

The fantastic elements in *Harry Potter* series are multi-directional. Rowling creates many innovative fantastic elements but not all fantastic elements are imaginary. She incorporates the ideas in New Age Movement, the prototypes in Greek and Roman mythology together. In construction aspect, Rowling creates a secondary world which is parallel to the primary world. And she creates wizards, witches, family elves, the mixed giant, and other magical creatures as well as magical items to enrich the secondary world. Besides, the time of the two worlds is synchronous. Because of various elements, *Harry Potter* series gain a world-wide popularity. Furthermore, Rowling's aim of creating the secondary world is that she wants to make readers feel relaxed when reading and transmit some values to readers. For death, Rowling hopes readers not to be afraid of it and look squarely at it. For beauties of life, she concentrates on the power of justice and strengthens the significance of love. All of them show a profound meaning for readers.

All in all, Harry Potter series are not only suitable for children, but also have educational significance for adults. And the secondary world in *Harry Potter* series has played an important role in the booming of fantasy literature. But this thesis still has many limitations. The advantages of *Harry Potter* series need more professional trans-disciplinary researches. The study of the secondary world already makes a great progress but fantasy theory hasn't received much concern. Future research could pay more attention to fantasy theory.

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