



The Analysis of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* From the Perspective of Magic Realism

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Abstract

The little boy who wears a pair of glasses and rides a broom in the sky, Harry Potter, has worked on his magic on countless teenagers, making the whole world be crazy for his adventurous story. Published in 1997, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, has been translated into more than 70 languages due to its inviting plot, humorous style and themes, warmly welcomed by the fans all over the world. Under this circumstance, this paper analyzes and explores the intersection of imagination and reality in the book from the perspective of magic realism. It is well acknowledged that magic realism is an approach to reflect reality by the dreamland generated from magic, in which the magic is a method when the essence is the reality. This paper first introduces the research objective, the first book of *Harry Potter* series in terms of the reputation it enjoyed and most importantly, the outstanding British novelist, J. K. Rowling. Combined with the characteristics of magic realism, it discusses about the intersection of imagination and reality in the portrayal of characters, the layout of the scene. Closely related to the attachment of reality from the perspective of magic realism, it finds out and analyzes the values of literal life that the writer intends to convey in the novel. This paper not only points out the shadow of reality in the settings of characters as well as scenes, but also finds out the values that the writer wants to convey like rebellion, the attitude towards desire and the power of love, which would enhance the interpretation of the application of magic realism in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*.

Key words: Imagination; Reality; Magic realism

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INTRODUCTION

For ten years, the magic boy with his glasses has grown into a mature man, and the inviting adventure of Harry Potter has become a new star of the world's attention. This ten years, countless fans and the "iron triangle" grow together, laugh together and cry together.

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, the first book in Harry Potter books, enjoyed legendary success in modern children's literature. Harry grew up in the home of his aunt, suffering discrimination and insult from the family. However, on the 11th birthday, Harry Potter learned his life would change dramatically. Harry's parents were two good wizards who were killed by the Dark Lord. In order to inherit their parents' behest, Harry came to a boarding school called Hogwarts to learn magic. After entering Hogwarts School, Harry became a freshman, and became an inseparable friend with Ron and Hermione. Many of the magicians' courses were waiting for him to study, such as flight classes, potions and so on. At the same time, the dark force was finding its way to the harmonious school life. For the purpose of chasing for enduring life, the Dark Lord spared no efforts to steal the Philosopher's Stone which was used to make him immortal. With the help of the friends and courage, and most importantly, with love, he made it to save the stone and defeat the Dark Lord.

Based on such a fascinating storyline, this paper, to some extent, analyzed the novel from the perspective of magic realism. Based on the general understanding of Harry Potter series, including its distinguished position in literature world and its writer, it analyzed the definition and the development of magic realism, followed by the characteristics of magic realism. Under the guidance

of the two main features of magic realism, it discussed the application of theory in the *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. The first feature would be adopted to explore the setting of characters and scenes in the novel when the second feature, the essence of which is reflecting the values of reality, would be used to interpret the importance of rebellion, the attitude towards desire and the lethal weapon of love. With the assistance of the theory of magic realism, this paper would be meaningful in understanding different images and the values writer intended to convey in the novel.

1. ANALYSIS ON HARRY POTTER SERIOUS AND MAGIC REALISM

Harry Potter, the boy not only lived in fascinating and intriguing wizard world, but also in the minds and curiosity of masses of teenagers all around the world, the author of which enjoyed the title of “magic mother”. When it comes to analyzing the distinguished place of Harry Potter serious, the exploration of the personal experience of the author J.K. Rowling and her influence brought by imagination should be presented in the first stage.

1.1 The Magic Mother and the First Book in Harry Potter Serious

Born In 1965, Joanne Kathleen Rowling, the British author, went from being unemployed and living on state benefits to becoming a multi-millionaire in five years. However, as a teenager she lived in a Grade II listed cottage in Gloucestershire, which she states was “not a particularly happy time in my life”, due to her mother being diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis and a strained relationship with her father. Sharing the same birthday of the boy wizard Harry Potter, she wrote her initial Potter ideas on a napkin on a delayed train from Manchester to London in 1990. Fans may know that she typed her first book, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* on a typewriter, often choosing to write in Edinburgh cafés, accompanied by baby daughter Jessica, named after Jessica Mitford, a heroine of Rowling's youth. After the position of Head Girl at Wydean School and College, she graduated from the University of Exeter with a BA in French and Classics, and then worked as a researcher for Amnesty International.

But J.K. Rowling said she was “still in shock” over the response to her highly popular Harry Potter books. Rowling, the rags-to-riches British writer whose series on a schoolboy wizard has enthralled children across the world, did not have such smooth road before her first book and she has tasted the bitter aspect of life like every struggling person who was nearly begging for earning a life. Once she confessed in her speech delivered on the graduation ceremony that one of the fringe benefits of failure was that she could stop pretending to herself

that she was anything other than what she was. Just like the magic of life, the same went to her speeding rate of success on writing. More than 7 million copies have been sold in the United States alone, where Rowling has been credited by some with drawing millions of children into the pleasures of book-reading (Friis C,2013). The books have been translated into more than 25 languages. Harry Potter has been on the cover of Time Magazine, which compared the books with childhood classics like C.S. Lewis' *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* (Gong Weifeng,2011). Incredibly and precisely, she was acclaimed with the title of “magic mother” by her loving fans who were impressed by her story.

Almost twenty years ago, the story of a young wizard was launched in the Muggle world and stirred up a magical wave across the globe. Since the release of the first novel, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, on June 26, 1997, the book series have earned immense popularity, critical acclaim and commercial success worldwide. The series has been adapted into eight fantasy films and all received overwhelmingly positive critical reception. The movie version of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* earned more than \$970 million at the box office worldwide, becoming the highest grossing film of 2001 (Laura C,2015). It was nominated for many awards including the Academy Award for *Best Original Score*, *Best Art Direction* and *Best Costume Design*.

1.2 The Definition and the Development of Magic Realism

Originated from Latin American countries, magic realism has been flourishing since last fifties which had a lasting and far-reaching influence on the world of literary circles.

Magic realism refers to the approach of reflecting and describing reality with the assistance of magic and imagination instead of only focusing on fantasy at the cost of losing its authenticity, the principle of which is to concentrate on the reality by means of pouring the magical elements into the works. In essence, magic realism is directly related to the reality. Corey L (2015) found out that magic realism was a special expression of real life by means of rich imagination and artistic exaggeration, which turned reality into a magical reality which was different from actual literal world, but magic was just a way to reflect reality which was the ultimate goal.

Concerning the origin of magic realism, the development of the magic realism could be speculated from the perspective of the development of Latin American countries, the natural resources of which were rich whereas the situation of economy and politic were rather in the backward state. (Meng Ji,2015) People were suffering from the invasion of other countries as well as the cruel dictatorship of their own country at the same time, forcing a lot of writers to escape to Europe or countries like America. It was in other countries that

they had the chance to get themselves involved in another culture. Deeply impressed, those who realized that the imperialist aggression, the local dictatorship, the backward system and the chain of ignorance and superstition were hindering the development of Latin America decided to arouse the spirit of people by using their pens. On the other hand, Latin America was full of magnificent myths and legends where there were splendid ancient Indian culture, Maya, Aztec and so on. The European and American colonists have brought in the collision of advanced scientific and technological tools contradict with the traditional religious superstitious feudal life. These different ideas existed harmoniously in Latin America, and profoundly affected the ideas and ways of writing of native writers, which coincided with the awakening of the self-consciousness of Latin American writers.

2. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF MAGIC REALISM WORKS

Magic realism works, warmly welcomed by numerous readers, teenagers in particular, are featured with two main characteristics which are the intersection of reality and imagination as well as the essence of reality.

2.1 The Intersection of Reality and Imagination

One of the most distinct features of magic realism works is the intersection of imagination and literal world. The magic realism shows a reality in Latin America that is full of strange and unreal images, the distinction of ghost and human no longer existing in the worries of the writers, because all the imaginary characters and ordinary normal images are living with myth in the story. (Liang Shuang, 2015) So in literary works, there are settings of ordinary people as well as the roles like demons, celestial beings and so on, and amazing surreal phenomenons are scattering everywhere in the works. And the characteristic that tells magic realism from traditional realism is the adoption of imagination and magic. Deeply influenced by the Western modernism, magic realism has absorbed the features of symbolism, expressionism, surrealism and so on. Magic realism works would use images of both imagination and reality like different characters, symbols to convey the theme of the writer. It seems that the imaginary plot and descriptions are unreasonable and strange, but as it is, they are prepared either for the enhancement of the characteristics of the protagonist or the climax of the plot.

Writers of magic realism works show partiality of putting reality into the abstract and illusory environment and background, combining with objective and detailed description so as to dress the reality with grotesque appearance. Magic realism works not only firmly convey the morals and principles of social aspects of lives, but also selectively make use of the modernist style of Europe and America, in which there are some magical

and grotesque images and scenes. The adoption of magic realism in literature works presents a joint picture with a creative but practical, abstract but concrete style.

2.2 The Essence of Reality

In reference to the contents and essence of the magic realism works, it is a literary phenomenon in which writer uses this special approach of expression to expose the darkness of society and show the real life of society. Hence, to some extent, the second characteristic of magic realism is the essence of reality.

As it is, most of the so-called magic realism work holds a critical attitude to the reality, especially the criticism of social system and class system. From the point of view of the social background, the social contradictions in the western capitalist society in the twentieth century are not as influential as the social antagonism in the nineteenth century, so the criticism displayed by the magic realism exactly reveals the outstanding contradictions in the modern society.

In fact, most of the so-called realism is characterized by criticism, especially the criticism of social system and class system. *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* as a magic realism work for young people, it is impossible to deepen the criticism of the social system to the degree as other classical literary works of the nineteenth century do. But it could still be observed that the theme of the novel is not designed for nothing, through which the writer convey her attitude and value in the formative development of the teenagers. So no matter how strange and different the wizarding word from liter word, the essence of the novel is to reflect the reality.

3. THE APPLICATION OF MAGIC REALISM IN HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE

From the perspective of the characteristics of magic realism, the novel could be analyzed from the intersection of imagination and reality, together with the essence of reality reflected from the values in the novel.

3.1 Reality and Imagination in the Setting of Characters and Scenes

The whole story is unfolded and pushed by the fierce war between Harry and Lord Voldemort, the figures of which still keep the shadow of human characters in literal life. Also, the scenes described in the novel are constructed based on the literal spots, which could be traced according to the unique culture and scenery in England as well as human lives.

3.1.1 The Boy Who Lived

One of the primary traits that differentiates Harry from the more malevolent characters in the book, such as Voldemort and Draco Malfoy, was his humility which is also one of the most special characters in literal world.

Despite his reputation as the boy-who-lived and his skills in Quidditch, Harry maintained a modest persona throughout the novel. If anything, the extra attention that he received because of his background made him uncomfortable and insecure; he felt that he could never be extraordinary enough to be worthy of such an esteemed reputation. Harry's humility was, in part, a direct result of his neglected childhood with the Dursleys. Due to the fact that he was never treated as someone who was special, Harry grew up with the understanding that respect was not readily given and must be achieved. When Dumbledore left Harry with the Dursleys, he knew that Harry would be mistreated. Yet, he also realized that, by growing up away from the wizarding world that would put him on a pedestal, he ensured that Harry would grow up without being spoiled by pride and arrogance.

Harry's humility became particularly significant as a theme of the book when he faced Voldemort in the dungeons of Hogwarts. Neither Voldemort nor Professor Quirrell was able to retrieve the stone from the Mirror of Erised because they were both thinking of ways that the stone would benefit themselves. Harry, on the other hand, thought only of retrieving the stone in order to save other people from Voldemort's tyranny: with his humble nature, it would never occur to him to use the Sorcerer's Stone for his own selfish purposes. The figure of Harry is featured with truth, kindness and beauty which becomes one of the factors leading to the success of Harry Potter series.

Harry's friendship with Ron and Hermione was also significant in the way that it further distinguished Harry from Voldemort. Although Voldemort was far more powerful than Harry, he preferred to be isolated and independent from those around him. Even Professor Quirrell, who drank unicorn blood for him, was nothing more than a servant to Voldemort. Voldemort lacked the ability to form lasting friendships, so he was always alone and has only himself to rely on. Harry, on the other hand, was able to rely on himself while still drawing upon the support system and exceptional magical talents of his close friends.

3.1.2 The Dark Lord

Like every coin has two sides in life, the portrayal of characters in one story must contain the good one and the evil one. Tom Riddle, whose name was later transformed into Voldemort by himself was the leading enemy of Harry when in the most of the time people in wizarding world dared not to mention his name and replaced it with the "Dark Lord". And he was the most powerful evil wizard who became disembodied when he tried to kill baby Harry.

Lord Voldemort was equal to many things, evil, powerful, terrifying, but by contrast, he was scared of death. This existential terror, as well as a pursuit of power, was what drove Voldemort throughout the series. Just like the lust human chasing for fame and money at the cost of life and sincerity. It was what made him

create the Horcruxes, and it was what made him desire the stone, otherwise known as the key component of the Elixir of Life, which allowed the drinker to live forever. Immortality was seen, of course, as the means to conquer death, but Philosopher's Stone questioned the idea of whether that was a triumph at all.

Outstanding as he was, Voldemort couldn't comprehend why love should be so important, which became one of the crucial reasons why he could not kill Harry; powerful as he was, he was betrayed by his so-called fellows who were chasing after him only because of fear; talented as he was, he had no ideas about friendship, not to mention the truly horrifying pitfalls of teenage life, relationship problems, jealousy and school exams. The shadow of selfish, indifferent, isolated character of human instinct has all reflected in the figure of Voldemort to some extent. It is true that Harry is the perfect example that teenagers should learn from, so it is true that the character of Voldemort is the dark side of the humanity which people should despise and look down upon on.

The unforgettable scenes in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* mainly consist of the wizarding bank, the railway station and the school where young Harry was extremely shocked and amazed at when thousands and millions of readers are fascinated at the same time. Observed carefully, it could be found that those spots are transformed by the ones in literal life.

3.1.3 The Gringotts

Enter, stranger, but take heed
Of what awaits the sin of greed
For those who take, but do not earn
Must pay most dearly in their turn
So if you seek beneath our floors
A treasure that was never yours
Thief, you have been warned, beware
Of finding more than treasure there. (Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, 56-57)

This was the poem craved on the second door of Gringotts, the bank of wizard. And Harry's first visit to Gringotts occurred in the first book, where he met some of his first fantastic beings, the proprietors of the wizarding bank.

As the proverb goes well, money makes the mare go. The finance support of the protagonist is of great necessity which enable Harry to buy himself a wand, suitable cloths and books required by school under the circumstance where both of his parents died. And Gringotts, the wizard bank, was the perfect arrangement for this purpose. And the scene of the poem craved on the door actually reflected the moral of literal world which was implicitly conveyed by Rowling. The rule of staying away with the treasure of others also applied with the wizard world.

Compared with contemporary banks in reality, it could be speculated that they shared many similarities when differences also existed in terms of scope of business, the degree of security and the classification

of the customers. Compared to the modern commercial banking business, Gringotts bank business was rather monotonous which was the one of the branches of the contemporary ones. It was not difficult to find out from the novel that the main business of the it was to provide the treasury for the storage of money or important items without any interest income, only to charge a certain fee for the use of the treasury, which was the equivalent of the concept of the rental of the safe. In addition to strengthening the construction of hardware facilities in the modern commercial banks in twenty-first century, with the promotion of e-banking business, the construction of network security can not be ignored. The Gringotts bank also had very strong security system, which was the second safest bank in the world in addition to Hogwarts. Similar to the banks in literal world, in the Harry Potter series, the clientele of the bank could be roughly divided into ordinary customers, VIP customers and VVIP customers according to the strength of the vault secrecy. Take VVIP for example. VVIP not only had strict identity authentication measures, but also had a dragon to guard the door. There were also anti-thief waterfalls, as well as the fire curse and replication curse, absolutely stubborn anti-theft measures.

3.1.4 The King's Cross

One of the most significant scene in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* that related the magical world and literal world was the King's Cross, a railway station blocked by a wall that could only be went through by wizards.

After Rubeus Hagrid handed Harry his ticket for the Hogwarts Express, Harry was left to get to the platform nine and three-quarters by himself. Though he found platforms nine and ten, he was baffled at what to do next. Fortunately, the wizarding Weasley family arrived and showed Harry how to go through a brick wall to get onto a hidden platform. Throughout the films, going through the wall to the platform was achieved digitally. However, as *Philosopher's Stone* director Chris Columbus preferred to use practical effects when possible, he did have a brick-walled passageway constructed in the studio for Daniel Radcliffe (Harry) to run through for the first time. The King's Cross location was filmed on a Sunday, when the station would be least crowded. And it was uncrowded, that is, until weekend passengers noticed the shoot.

Actually, the sympathetic redevelopment of King's Cross station in the city of London was turning an unloved, historic rail terminus into a dynamic transport hub and a destination in its own right. With this multi-phased development now completed, the significance of the King's Cross Station redevelopment was finally revealed. The transformation of King's Cross Station for Network Rail involved three very different styles of architecture: re-use, restoration and new build. The train shed and ranged buildings have been adapted and re-used, and a new, highly expressive Western Concourse had

been designed as a centrepiece and the "beating heart" of the project. When the station opened to the public on 19 March 2012, King's Cross would become a new, iconic architectural gateway to the city, ready for the 2012 London Olympics.

And the tricky thing was that Rowling didn't replace the station with another name, which in return, enhanced the authenticity of the story. The Hogwarts Express departed from Platform 9³/₄ at King's Cross Station, which was in the arched wall between platforms 4 and 5. If that seemed short on magic, headed towards the real-life entrance to platforms 9, 10 and 11 on the west side of the station. There people would find a trolley disappearing into the magical realm through a wall with the sign: Platform 9³/₄.

3.1.5 Hogwarts

Hogwarts, the real home of Harry, was a fictional British school of magic for students aged eleven to eighteen where there were many interesting rules, flying ghosts, inviting forbidden books, devious corered ways and so on. According to Professor Binns, Godric, Helga, Salazar and Rowena built this castle together, far from prying Muggle eyes. For the most part, the four worked on creating Hogwarts in harmony, but it wasn't long before Salazar Slytherin's troubling views on the wizarding world caused an almighty rift. It was in Hogwarts that numerous adventures and event could happen, and to some extent, the scene of Hogwarts was the second home for the readers where they felt the warmth and love from the friendship of the triplets, the teaching and caring from professors as well as the happiness and contradict from fellow classmates. Hogwarts had a long history of ancient magic, and Albus Dumbledore admitted that not even he knew all of its secrets. Indeed, much about the design and construction of Hogwarts remained a mystery. The tenth century was a dangerous time for witches and wizards, who were being persecuted by Muggles hostile to magic. Therefore, Hogwarts was built somewhere in the Scottish Highlands, and concealed with numerous charms and spells to make it impossible for Muggles to trespass. For instead of an enormous school, any passing Muggle would only saw ruins and signs warning them of danger.

Leaving alone the charming history of Hogwarts, it could be found that it has similar pattern of ordinary school in literal world which was featured with basic communal facilities like bright classrooms, dormitories, library and so on. Most importantly, students here were learning the knowledge of the textbooks from teachers when they were free to participate in the after-class activities like Quidditch match. And frankly speaking, the main difference lay in the fact that the contents of the knowledge were everything but the same. Students in reality are busy in improving the grade of varied subjects whereas the ones in Hogwarts are focusing on their ability of making use of the magic and numerous spells. On the whole, the shadow of literal school pattern still can be

observed in the developing scene of Hogwarts.

3.2 The Essence of Reality in the Transmission of Value

The second characteristic of magic realism would serve the purpose of interpreting the transmission of value in the novel. It's been 21 years since *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* was published, but the staff and students of Hogwarts under the pen of Rowling still possessed sparking characters and precious life lesson trying to convey to the readers and fans. The spirit of rebellion, right attitude towards desire and the faith in love of literal life all reflect in the book of *Philosopher's Stone*. In other words, the roots and foundation of the novel are to convey the values in literal world.

3.2.1 The Importance of Rebellion

Over the course of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, Harry, Ron, and Hermione broke many school rules in pursuing their adventures. Harry, in particular, was always willing to break a Hogwarts rule if it meant taking action or doing something that he believed was right. Although Rowling did admit that the rules imposed at Hogwarts were meant to keep the students safe, she also presented Harry's disregard for these rules as a heroic quality of his character. He was able to think for himself and, depending on the situation, making judgment calls that have the potential to save lives. Moreover, Harry was perfectly willing to accept the consequences for his rebellion, just as long as he was able to take action when he can.

In literal life, concepts like critical thinking, free chasing are appealing people to break the so-called rules so as to think outside of the box which could be perceived as a way of rebellion. But it is significant to note that Harry never breaks the rules simply for the sake of breaking them: he breaks rules only when he truly believes that his actions are necessary. His selfless and compassionate nature (contrasting sharply with that of Lord Voldemort) is also highlighted in his reasons for breaking the rules. For example, one of the first rules that Harry breaks is during the flying lesson with Madam Hooch when Harry flies after Malfoy in order to retrieve Neville's Remembrall. Harry does not disobey Madam Hooch's direct orders in order to show off; he breaks the rules in order to retrieve the gift that Neville received from his grandmother.

Another impressive moment that reflects the spirit of rebellion is when Neville was trying to stop Harry, together with Hermione and Ron, from breaking the rules for the sake of Gryffindor House. He was brave, though—the Sorting Hat knew it from the start. At this time, Neville started to stand up for himself by defending for what he thought was right. Dumbledore knew it, too, awarding Neville ten points for facing up to Harry, Ron and Hermione, and thus securing Gryffindor the House Cup. The figure of Neville actually reflects the truth that being scared doesn't mean people can't be brave; on the contrary,

standing up when you're scared is what makes you brave. Neville's was a quiet, quivering kind of courage, but when Dumbledore recognized him at the end-of-year feast, it showed that rebellion comes in many forms.

3.2.2 The attitude towards desire

Death haunts this book from the very first chapter, in which people learn that something tragic has happened to a baby boy's parents. Just like Harry himself, we don't know it at the time, but these deaths will set the stage for the entire series, and will shape Harry's life forever. Harry had always known the loss of his parents, but he never truly began to feel it until he turned 11. For beyond being the age that he found out that he was a wizard; it was also the age he learned the true fate of his parents, Lily and James. Contrary to what he had been told, it wasn't a car accident: they were murdered. It was not until he went to the magic school that he has got to know the Mirror of Erise. This new information allowed Harry to process their loss in a whole new way. He saw his parents in the Mirror of Erised, which showed the most desperate desire of a person's heart; or rather, Harry did. While others, such as Ron, saw themselves achieving greatness, Harry saw the life he never had: him and his parents, living happily together.

Similar to the reality, the magic world also has many temptations like the lust of enduring life, money, power and so on. And this arrangement of scene is eloquent enough on the one hand to illustrate Harry's love and longing for seeing his parents even for once; but also, on the other hand, reflects the merciless and strict rule of human nature that death can not be reversed which the author is attempting to tell in a tactful way. For that's the thing about death and grief: people grieve not only for the loss of the person, but the theft of their future, of what could have been; of stolen moments, stolen potential. In *Harry Potter*, there is always a penalty for cheating the inevitable. Like people go crazy in front of the Mirror of Erise chasing for something that is beyond imagination, people in reality would finally learn their lessons at the expense of youth, time and so on.

One can waste away thinking of what may have been, but as Albus Dumbledore himself said: "It does not do to dwell on dreams and forget to live."

3.2.3 The Lethal Weapon of Love

Harry, Hermione and Ron encountered a series of obstacles, each of which required unique skills possessed by one of the three, and one of which required Ron to sacrifice himself in a life-sized game of wizard's chess. In the final room, Harry, now alone, found Quirinus Quirrell, the Defence Against the Dark Arts teacher, who had been the one working behind the scenes to kill Harry by first cursing his broom and then letting a troll into the school. Professor Snape had been trying to protect Harry instead, who had wronged him. Now, Quirrell was partly possessed by Voldemort, whose face had sprouted on the back of Quirrell's head but was constantly concealed by

his oversized turban. Voldemort needed Harry's help to get past the final obstacle: the Mirror of Erised, forcing him to stand before the Mirror. It recognized Harry's lack of greed for the Stone and surreptitiously deposited it into his pocket. As Quirrell attempted to seize the stone and kill Harry, his flesh burned on contact with the boy's skin, and Quirrell burned alive. It was later that he got to know the love of his mother had gave him such magic.

Love, one of the most important themes that Rowling discusses in the book, plays a crucial role in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* as well as all of the remaining books in the series. Rowling demonstrated the power of love from the very beginning of the narrative by explaining that Harry's ability to survive Voldemort's killing curse was a direct result of his mother's love. By sacrificing her own life to save that of her son, Lily Potter gave Harry an magical form of protection that shielded him from Voldemort's curse and nearly destroyed the dark wizard. As Professor Dumbledore asserted, Voldemort was incapable of understanding love, particularly in comparison to the strength of his own dark power, and so he was taken entirely by surprise when it came to Lily's sacrifice. In literal world, there are also may people abandon the ability to love by showing no mercy to the struggle and disaster of human being. Moreover, Harry's own ability to love and be loved were the key traits that distinguished him from Voldemort and ensured that Harry would never be seduced by the Dark Arts. Harry's love for his parents instilled him with an earnest determination to defeat Voldemort and helped him fight against anything associated with the Dark Arts (thus, Harry's refusal to be sorted into Slytherin House). Harry's ability to love also provided him with a support system of friends that Voldemort could never hope to match.

CONCLUSION

Not a fan of the Harry Potter stories has not been attracted by the magnificent scenes on the intensive conflicts between the good wizards and the evil ones. As a popular contemporary popular literature, Harry Porter creates a clear and sensible magic Utopia based on his bold imagination, meticulous setting and thick culture, which makes people feel familiar through reading. The mysterious flying broomstick and cars stimulate and expand our capability of imagination to the very extreme. Everyone is crazy by the magic. Speculating the whole story, evidence or say, the shadow of literal world would be observed in the characters, the different scenes as well as the spirit conveyed in the book.

This paper mainly discussed different images and values in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* from the perspective of magic realism. Apart from the general abstract, introduction, conclusion and reference, it first introduced the research objective, Harry Potter series in terms of the reputation they enjoy and most importantly, the outstanding British novelist and screenwriter, J. K.

Rowling, who had overall approval on the scripts and was a producer on the final films in the series. And theoretically, it introduced the definition together with the development of magic realism and the characteristics of it. Then it discussed about the intersection of imagination and reality in the portrayal of characters, the layout of the scene as well as the transmission of the spirit based on the characteristics of magic realism. Significant characters like the protagonist, Harry Potter was comprehensively analyzed of his growing background, his characteristic, together with the arrangement of his destination. Crucial scenes like the home-like magical school, Hogwarts would also be represented as the objective to observe how does the writer construct this intersection of both imagination and reality. Last but not least, the value reflected in the main storyline of this book of saving the Philosopher's Stone would be sorted out. Under the guidance of the theory of magic realism, this paper would be meaningful in understanding different images and the values writer intended to convey in the novel.

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