

## Research Article

Received: 01/09/2022; Accepted: 14/10/2022; Published: 17/10/2022

# Adaptation of Novel *The Witches* by Roald Dahl to Graphic Novel by Penelope Bagieu

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## Abstract

Penelope Bagieu adapted the children's novel *The Witches* by Roald Dahl into a graphic novel. This novel tells of the struggle of a little boy who has been transformed into a mouse with his grandmother against a group of evil witches. Adapting a literary work into a literary work is a creative process consisting of adding, subtracting, removing, and developing so that it becomes a new work. This study aims to reveal the similarities and differences and the changes that occur. The method used is to analyze the storytelling elements between the two works by comparing the two.

**Keywords:** comparison; adaptation process; graphic novel; novel

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## 1. Introduction

Hutcheon [1] stated that literary adaptation is explained that the adaptation of literary works from one form to another is commonly made. Among others, from novels to films, or graphic novels to films. The graphic novel itself is categorized as a literary work. A graphic novel is a form of literary work consisting of text and images. Not a few literary works from classic novels were adapted into graphic novels, such as the works of Shakespeare, including *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Merchant of Venice*, and Roald Dahl's *The Witches*. In general, works that are adapted are works that are already known. The adaptation objectives include encouraging the desire to read among the wider community and increasing reader appreciation. From the aspect of the work itself, a good adaptation process is not just changing the form and content but also becoming a new work.

The problem of adapting the novel is not just transferring the text into images and reprocessing the existing text according to the graphic novel format. Instead, critics and readers hope to find a previously known work that can be enjoyed in a new form. The form of the novel with its characteristics is adapted in graphic novel storytelling. In the

adaptation process, there is a process of adding, removing, or developing to build a work different from the same story. *The Witches*, written by Roald Dahl and published in 1983, is a children's novel that is very well-known worldwide. Moreover, this work was adapted into films twice in 1990, starring Anjelica Huston, and in 2020, starring Anne Hathaway. This shows that this work is considered relevant for adaptation. The adaptation process for the novel *The Witches* was carried out by Penelope Bagieu, a leading graphic novel illustrator from France. Bagieu's admiration led him to be strongly motivated to adapt it to a graphic novel published in 2020. Both novels and graphic novels are forms of Pop Culture literature studied in Cultural Studies. Storey (2010) argues that there are ideological and power interests in Pop Culture. Therefore, the issue of adaptation becomes complex and exciting to study.

In adapting literary works, there is a potential for changing forms and techniques of storytelling. Hall (1973) suggests an encoding-decoding process described in Reception Theory. There are 3 (three) processes, namely Domination Hegemony Position namely acceptance of existing values. The negotiation Position is the process of negotiating ideas, and the Opposition Position is resistance to pre-existing values. All three are in line with the adaptation theory itself because the second author who adapts interprets the work of the first author.

## 2. Methods

The research method used in this research is descriptive qualitative. Bodgan and Bikken (1998, 28) describe the character of qualitative research as follows: (1) Research that emphasizes natural settings and researchers as research instruments; (2) is descriptive; (3) Emphasis on the process, not product-oriented; (4) Inductive data analysis; (5) Meaning as the primary essence in research.

Therefore, the research design can be stated as follows: (1) The research focuses on texts that are qualitative, not limited to textual understanding but their meaning, (2) Based on theory as the basis for an objective approach to explore the intrinsic elements of the novel in conducting research; (3) The researcher as a research instrument, (4) The process of interpreting the data to then describe it, (5) The research process is carried out by collecting, categorizing, describing and analyzing the existing text and then interpreting it in the form of a description.

### 2.1 Source of the Data

The data in this study are divided into two, namely: Primary Data and Secondary Data. The main primary data is the data that will be the material for analysis. The data comes from text in words, sentences, and paragraphs in the novel and graphic novel *The Witches*. The secondary data is data that is supportive in this study and does not come from the primary source.

1. The data source is the text of *The Witches* Novel, the author of this novel is Roald Dahl, and the edition of this novel is the Reprint edition on August 16, 2007, by a

publisher from London, namely Penguin Young Readers Group, in this edition of the novel consists of 236 pages.

2. The data is in the form of text in the form of Speech balloons as well as information contained in the Graphic Novel *The Witches*, which is Illustrated by Pénélope Bagieu and published by a publisher from New York, Scholastic Inc. as of September 1, 2020, and the graphic novel consists of 304 pages.

## 2.2 Data Collection Procedure

In this study, a documentation technique was used that relied on the researcher as a research instrument to read and categorize the data as can be developed as data that is ready to be analyzed at the next stage. The steps taken are as follows:

1. Doing a careful reading of the existing text and then collect and categorize;
2. Reading the texts outside the two primary sources (Novel and Novel Graphic) to get data that can be used in research;

To maintain the validity of the data, the researcher also needs to explain the validity of the data obtained by triangulating the data in terms of reliability and validity. The process of achieving data reliability is carried out by reading and reviewing the text as a data source to obtain a consistent description of the data.

## 2.3 Data Analysis Procedure

Miles & Huberman (1992, p. 16) suggests that there are 3 analyzes, including data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing/verification. The main activity in data analysis is the data collection stage which is then integrated with the three activities mentioned above. The three flows of activities above can be explained as follows:

### 2.3.1 Data Reduction

Data reduction is the first component in the analysis: selecting, focusing, simplifying, and abstracting data from field notes. The process of data reduction takes place continuously throughout the implementation of the research. Even the process begins before the implementation of data collection, meaning that data reduction has taken place since the researcher decided (although perhaps not fully realized) about the conceptual framework, conducted case selection, compiled research questions, and determined the method of data collection used. Based on the explanation above, it can be stated that reduction is part of a process that emphasizes, shortens, focuses, discards things that are not important, and organizes data to make it easier to conclude.

### 2.3.2 Data Serving

The data presentation is an assembly of information organizations, descriptions in the form of narratives that allow conclusions and actions to be taken and arranged logically and systematically so that when read, things can be more easily understood and allow researchers to do something about the analysis or other actions based on his understanding. The completeness of the data presentation largely determines the depth and stability of the research results.

### 2.3.3 Drawing conclusions and Verification

From the beginning of data collection, researchers have to understand the various things encountered by recording rules, patterns, questions, possible configurations, causal directions, and various propositions. Preliminary conclusions can be drawn from the data collection. Conclusions may not emerge until data collection is over. This largely depends on the size of the coding field notes, their storage, the retrieval method used, and the researcher's skill. Conclusions must be verified. So, it does not mean that after the conclusion is drawn, it is the final analysis because basically, the meanings that emerge from the data must be tested for truth, which is their validity. So, in this case, the researcher is ready and able to move between these activities. So, it can be said that qualitative data analysis is a continuous, repeated effort, one after another between one process and another. In qualitative research, data analysis is carried out with the following steps:

1. Carry out further categorization in sectors according to the studied group (intrinsic elements).
2. Interpret existing data and compare them to understand how to analyze this research problem. The writer used two methods, including:

- a. Structural analysis

The transformations that occur in the novel and graphic novel under study can only be identified by examining the structural elements of each of these works first, before being compared. The structural elements in question are the supporting elements of fiction that exist in a literary work in general, in this case, the intrinsic elements.

- b. Comparison method

The comparative method in comparative literary studies is the main one. Comparison is actually one of the methods that are always carried out in research as well as examining and describing, but in comparative literature, this method is the main step. Thus, the description carried out in comparative literature is based on the comparison-comparing principle. By comparing the intrinsic elements of *The Witches* novel and *The Witches* comics, it will be known what similarities and differences occur.

Thus, the data analysis process will present Data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing/verification as something that is intertwined at the time before, during, and after data collection, in parallel form, to build general insight called the analysis. In addition, the verification process often goes back to the data reduction stage so data triangulation is always related to the research process

## 3. Findings and Discussion

In this section, the research findings are presented by topic based on research questions and the results of data analysis.

### 3.1 Comparison of Intrinsic Structure

### 3.1.1 Theme

The graphic novel works still refer to their original works, particularly works for children's readers. Penelope Bagieu is very concerned about this by placing an illustration on the first page of the imagination about the existence of magicians. He added a scenario depicting the pursuit of a magician. This illustration replaces the textual narrative in the novel about Norway as the land of origin of witches. This imagination is illustrated as authentic, making the reader think that this work is entirely new. The graphic novel illustrations (p.1-4) are mostly pictures, and the text is minimal.

The essence of the Novel and Graphic Novel tells of the battle between a child aged approximately seven years as the Main Character with his grandmother against *The Witches* led by The Grand Witch. They are a group of wizards who are members of the worldwide wizarding union. The magicians, especially The Grand Witch, are described as very cunning, cruel, and have extraordinary powers. This group hates children and tries to destroy them by turning them into animals or other objects. Novels and graphic novels reinforce the fact of the existence of witches in the first part of their work. When Dahl told the origin of the legend of the witch from Norway, Bagieu, on the other hand, did not explain. Moreover, Bagieu did not state the actual location of this story. Bagieu gives a more significant portion to the Companion Figure in contrast to Dahl. Both novels and graphic novels convey messages about idealism, persistence, creativity, courage, and cooperation.

Table 1: Comparison between the novel and graphic novel for each theme

THEME	NOVEL	GRAPHIC NOVEL
Children	A child's behavior or thoughts show stories for children.	Stories for children that show the behavior and thoughts of children.
	The main character is still being bathed.	
	The next evening, after my Grand Mother had given my bath, she took me once again into the living room for another story (p.24)	This scene does not exist. Another scene depicts the Main Character as a child. (p.-11-12)
	The Grandmother's scene tells of a witch in the main room.	This scene is replaced in the garden (P.32). Replaced with the scene of the grandmother throwing out a couple dating in the park.

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	<p>It is written that the role of the family is essential for the Main Character.</p>	
Family Role	<p>This old lady, as far as I could gather, was just about the only surviving relative we had on either side of our family (p.12)</p>	<p>It is illustrated that the role of the family is essential for the Main Character.</p> <p>Grandma said, “You are my family, everything. (p-12)</p>
	<p>You will stay here with me, “she said, “and I will look after you “ (p.14)</p>	
Women's Role	<p>It is written that the role of women is decisively seen from the presence of the grandmother, and the witch is a woman. These magicians have potent relationships and are in an international network.</p>	<p>This section maintains women's dominant role and adds additional roles to the supporting characters.</p>
Intelligence and Courage and Sacrifice.	<p>In the novel, it is described that the main character has a powerful spirit and never gives up on dealing with witches.</p>	

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In the table above, the storyline of this novel starts with the author's explanation to convince the reader that witches are real (Chapter-A Note about Witches). The events in the Graphic Novel also begin with the introduction of the presence of a wizard character. However, the difference is illustrated by a scene that depicts that the main character is already familiar with the story of a witch. In the scene, the main character shows this play with a witch doll. Then, the event continues in a scene that shows the closeness of the main character to the child

### 3.1.2 Plot

This Graphic Novel can be divided into several plots: Beginning, Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, and End

- a. **Beginning:** This story begins with the main character's interest in the existence of witches who threaten the safety of children.
- b. **The Raising Action:** Then an accidental encounter with *The Witches* who happen to be staying at the same hotel. Then the Main Character was turned into a mouse by *The Witches* caught red-handed while witnessing the secret meeting.
- c. **The Climax:** The Main Character is assisted by his grandmother to plan a fight starting from the theft of the magic potion Formula 86 Delayed Action Mouse-Maker to the attempt to put the magic potion Formula 86 Delayed Action Mouse-Maker on the food that will be served to *The Witches* at the closing ceremony of their meeting.
- d. **The Falling Action:** story's climax is the conflict resolution in the form of a heroic action to infiltrate a kitchen full of cooks.
- e. **The Ending:** story closes with the statement of the determination of character "I" with his grandmother to continue the action against *The Witches*.

The author points out that the end of the story is not a celebration of victory but a statement of determination to continue the struggle against *The Witches* worldwide.

**Table 2:** Comparison between the novel and graphic novel for each plot

PLOT	NOVEL	GRAPHIC NOVEL
Beginning		
Beginning 1 <b>Author's Introduction to the Witch's Existence.</b>	The author expresses the view of witches in these words:  In fairy-tales..... But this is not a fairy-tale. This a about real witches. (p.7)  A real witch spends all her time plotting to get rid of the children in her territory. The witch has a plan to get rid of the children. (p.7-11).  A witch is always a	The main character's imagination is about the pursuit of a magician. (p.1-4)

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	woman. Witches are women (p.9-11).	
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Beginning 2		
<b>Description of the Proximity of the Main Character with the Grandmother.</b>	Describes the main character living at home with his grandmother (p12-23).	Describes the main character living at home with his grandmother (p 4-62).

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Beginning 3		
<b>Characteristics of Witches</b>	Describe the characteristics of a witch (p15-23).	Describes the characteristics of witches (14-41).

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Beginning 4		
<b>The first meeting with a witch.</b>	The first meeting with a witch (34-44).	The first meeting with a witch (p43-49).

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Beginning 5		
	The grandmother is sick (p34-44).	The grandmother is sick (p58-63).

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Rising Action 1		
<b>Hotel Magnificent</b>	Magnificent Hotel in Bournemouth, England. (p51-60)	Hotel Magnificent (location not stated). (p64-82)

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Rising Action 2		
<b>The Hotel Meeting Room is a meeting place for <i>The Witches</i>.</b>	Witches meeting (p61-96)	Witches meeting. (p83-137)

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Rising Action 3		
<b>The supporting character turns into a mouse.</b>	Bruno Jenkins turns into a mouse. (p97-105)	Miss Bruno Jenkins turns into a mouse. (p138-146)
<b>In the novel, the</b>		

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**supporting character is a boy named Bruno Jenkins. While in the graphic novel is a woman named Miss Jenkins.**

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Climax 1	The main character turns into a mouse. (p106-117)	The main character turns into a mouse. (p147-165)
<b>THE MAIN CHARACTERS TURN INTO MICE.</b>	Figure P.114 shows the Main Character carried by five witches covering their noses.	Figure P.155 shows the Main Character carried by five witches covering their noses.

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Climax 2	What an annoying Bruno. (p118-123)	Convinced Miss Jenkins that the women were witches and their enemies. (p.168-169)
<b>WHAT TO DO AFTER TURNING INTO THE MOUSE.</b>		Delightful, Miss Jenkins. (p166-168)

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Climax 2	Reunited with grandmother. (p124-131)	Reunited with grandmothers. (p169-193). The Mouse realized that his voice was too small to make Grandma open the door for him. (p.178)
<b>HOW TO ENTER THE GRANDMA ROOM.</b>	Enter Grandma's room by hiding in her shoes in front of the door.	Enter the room by hiding in the dirty cup placed in front of the door (177-179)
	Then biting the finger of the maidservant so she screamed.	The male servant shouted so that the Grandmother came out. (180-181)
		In this graphic novel, it is described that a waiter is a man, and the

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		mouse character does not bite him.
Falling Action 1	Stealing potions. (p132-146)	Stealing potions. (p194-217)
Falling Action 2	Mixing herbs into food. (p147-168)	Mixing herbs into food. (p228-237)
Falling Action 3	Escape from the kitchen. (p169-179)	Escape from the kitchen. (p238-245)
Falling Action 4	Mr. Jenkins' anger. (p179-183)	Mr. Sadness Jenkins. (p249-256)
Falling Action 5	A commotion in the hotel marks the celebration of victory, and <i>The Witches</i> turn into mice. (p184-190)	A commotion in the hotel marks the celebration of victory, and <i>The Witches</i> turn into mice. (p257-280)
End 1	Heart of a mouse and reuniting with Miss Jenkins. (p191-197)	Heart of a mouse and reuniting with Miss Jenkins. (p281-291)
End 2	Plan the next adventure against witches. (p198-208)	Plan the next adventure against witches. (p292-296)

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There is a change in the story of Bruno Jenkins' character to Miss Jenkins. Miss Jenkins joins the main character. Thus, the main male character has a female partner of the same age. There is no anger from the Jenkins family toward graphic novels. On the other hand, there is sadness. In general, there is no change in the storyline of the graphic novel, meaning that it follows the storyline of the first source in the novel.

### 3.2 Negotiation Position

Bagieu's adaptation takes on new things even though it still follows the main theme, plot, characters, and setting. This shows Dahl's creativity in processing his own work.

#### 3.2.1 Main Theme

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Even though it is a children's theme, Bagieu still provides a choice that places the theme of books that can be read as works for adults.

### 3.2.2 Plot

The author gives new ideas about plot changes such as the scene showing the Jenkins family reuniting. Then make the Jenkins family partners. This is in contrast to novels.

### 3.2.3 Character

Even though Bagieu remained loyal to maintaining the main characters in the previous story, there were some changes such as in the female servant while in the novel it was male.

### 3.2.4 Settings

There are no new ideas about the setting either from location or time.

This shows the concept of negotiation in carrying out Adaptation even though the second author maintains the theme of the story.

## 3.3 Story Development

The work of Graphic Novels, it is described the existence of new ideas and the principle of strengthening ideas. However, the work of Graphic Novels brings new ideas about strengthening the role of women, which is marked by the addition of strategic female characters and the role of the family

## 3.4 Conversion

Conversion is the changing of events in the transformation work. The events in the original work change the transformational work. These changes impact the information contained in the events of the transformation work. So, it is not the same as the original work. The following table shows the conversions or changes in the novel and graphic novel *The Witches*.

**Table 3.** Conversion of *The Witches* Novel to Graphic Novel

Event	Before	After
	Novel	Graphic Novel
There is an imagination regarding the quest of the Witch.	This section does not exist.	Is an opening story that describes the imagination of the

		Main Character in the graphic novel (p.1-3). This picture is very strong and makes the reader think it is an event that happened.
The Supporting Character in the novel is named Bruno Jenkins and in the graphic novel named Miss Jenkins.	The character named Bruno Jenkins has a lazy nature and eats a lot.	She is described as a gentle and loyal character.
Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins respond.	They are described as grumpy and like to belittle others. (p....)	They are described as meek. (p.....)
Arrival by Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins at the Main Character's house.	This section does not exist.	In this section, it is described that they escorted Mrs. Jenkins back to Grandma's house.

The change in the graphic novel does not affect the story's substance too much. Changes like this are made to make it more effective and attractive by maintaining the content of the story because it is impossible to include all the stories in the graphic novel.

### 3.5 Substitution

Illustrator carries out a replacement process on the Graphic Novel, but it does not cause significant changes to the information.

**Table 04.** Substitution of Novel to Graphic Novel.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Novel</b>	<b>Graphic Novel</b>
How to get into grandma's room.	The Main Character and Supporting Character enter the grandmother's shoes which are placed in front of the door. The waitress got bitten on	The Main Character and Supporting Character enter the dirty cup placed in front of the door. The male servant screams in

	a finger (P.125)	surprise. (p.180)
Meeting with Mr & Mrs. Jenkins.	Before the events of the action, the grandmother brought Bruno to his parents. (p.151) When the grandmother told them that her son had turned into a mouse. They were not only shocked but angry. (p.152-153)	At the same time, they act. The grandmother brings Miss Jenkins to her parents. Mr & Mrs. Jenkins were shocked, sad but not angry. (p.257)
The novel in this section illustrates that the main character is realistic in dealing with life. He accepts the situation as a mouse as long as it is loved by someone who loves him.	“I don’t mind at all. It doesn’t matter who you are or what you look like so long as somebody loves you “. (p.197)	The main character stated, “I don’t want anyone but you taking care of me” (p.288)
Mr & Mrs. Jenkins are brought back to meet the Main Character.	In the novel, the passage after the events of <i>The Witches</i> being defeated is not found again.	There is joy in the main character's reunion with Miss Jenkins (p. 289) and being able to embark on a new adventure again. (294)

In the table above, it can be seen that the events that have been replaced are changes in:

1. The male servant replaced the female servant.
2. Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins’s characters accept the existence of their daughter, who has turned into mice.

### 3.6 Eliminating

The events in the novel are not all described in the graphic novel but are considered not to change the storyline.

**Table 05.** The Process of Eliminating Novel Scenes on Graphic Novels.

Event	Before	After
	Novel	Graphic Novel
The Hotel Manager reprimands a grandmother for letting the main character bring a mouse.	Mr. Stringer rebukes the Grandmother (p.51). The Grandmother states there is a rat in her hotel with the words, “How dare you say that when your rotten hotel is full rats anyway “ She said “rat “instead of words “mice”. Rat connotes a larger and more disturbing animal.	This section is not told.
The Witch Queen's style of speech.	Described as slurred or unable to pronounce the letter W. We -----vee (p.76) Wipe----vipe (p.77) Away--- away (p.77) Witch ---- vitch (p.75) With ----vith (P.77) Worm ---- vurm (p.113) Will---- vill (p.76) World ---vurld (P.173) Remove---remoof (p.69) Pig----vig (p.69)	It is normal, and nothing is missing.

The loss of speech style of the Grand High Witch character is described as a lisp in the novel, but in the graphic novel, it is described as usual.

Delisions in graphic novels are not widely applied to several characters in the novel, and even then, it does not affect the substance of the graphic novel so that it deviates from the original story.

### 3.7 Enrichment

The illustrator strengthens the story with more illustrations so that it is visually easier to follow.

#### 4. Conclusion

From the analysis and discussion in the context of reception theory, it can be concluded as follows:

1. There are 3 (three) positions in the adaptation process, namely; (a) The Graphic Novel follows the novel by illustrating the text with slight adjustments that hint at the fidelity of the original work, (b) Offering changes and replacements but remaining faithful to the concept of the story that changes can see in the location and time of the story. Graphic Novel writers and illustrators are more about visualizing by making visuals more detailed. Furthermore, the illustrator developed his illustrations that were not tied to those already presented in the novel. (c) Proposing new views that are improvised, such as strengthening the role of “youth” and the idea of feminism in the class struggle.

In the Graphic Novel, following the opposition position concept, there is an enrichment process by developing ideas from previous ideas even though they still maintain the story idea as a children's story. Graphic novels develop ideas or ideas about the characters in the novel. The change in the character of Bruno Jenkins to Miss Jenkins as a companion shows the strengthening of the role of youth and the strengthening of the idea of feminism. The author of this graphic novel offers the concept of resistance to capitalist domination represented by magicians. Feminism works with youth groups and families to fight back. The illustrator retains the story's basic idea for children and the message of life conveyed in the novel. Even though there are changes in the characters, the idea of the story is still maintained, which shows the illustrator still appreciates the work before it.

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