

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Legend has become a big part of our society; it serves as both an entertainment and remaining of the past, though it can come as something that is historically unauthenticated. It has been a way to peak through to the societies and cultures of people from many generations of ours and as the branch of folktale, a legend plays a huge part in maintaining the balance between history and mythology. In literature, a legend is a traditional tale or collection of tales about a specific individual or location. The substance of legends is similar to that of folktales; they may contain mythological elements, magical creatures, or explanations of natural phenomena, but they are narrated as historical events and are connected to a specific place or individual.

One of the legends that has been passing down from generations to generations is the *Arthurian Legend*. A famous tale from the 12-th century that talks about the birth of a king, a wizard, magic sword, and knighthood that appears in many versions through time. *Arthurian Legend* appears in many different versions; each has their own uniqueness despite staying true to the original version. As time went by, our culture and society has grown into a stage of modern where magic and heroic tales of knights are being adapted to something that is a mere legend and folklore into stories that can also be relatable to modern days despite the addition of magic and adventure. Adaptation like this is very popular among the well-known legends, such as the *Arthurian Legend*. The mighty tale of the righteous King lives

on with different versions not only fuelled by the knightly tale but also the intrigue of medieval romance. The many adaptations of this legend have existed since the 18th century when Alfred Tennyson wrote “*Idylls of the King*” and followed after in the 20th century by an American poet, Edwin Arlington Robinson, who wrote an Arthurian trilogy.

The list goes on from then and now those retellings and adaptations has only spread wide the influence and interests on the legend, numerous films and TV shows have been based of the *Arthurian Legend*. The influence of *Arthurian Legend* has spread wide, influencing not only movie producers but also authors. There has been many more of retellings and adaptations that is based on *Arthurian Legend*, though some are not clear whether the authors are doing it subconsciously or not, that does not dismiss the fact that *Arthurian Legend* has become one of the most popular legends.



**Figure 1. 1 Graphic of popular fables and legends**

With the popularity that this legend has, April Genevieve Tucholke, as one of the authors that is influenced by the legend, wrote *Seven Endless Forests*, a novel

that echoes a similar tale with *Arthurian Legend*. The book shows the same theme as the legend where it sets around the main character as the one true leader that is marked by a magic sword and accompanied by a powerful wizard. With woman as the main character and different culture that wraps the story, this novel took a thrilling turn of female rebellion in finding her self-identity while pursuing her dreams and desires. The findings of this research will be a new perspective to look at *Arthurian Legend*, it is intriguing how will the different perspective of *Seven Endless Forests* turned the legend into a new story.

## 1.2 Limitations of Problem

This research will compare the intrinsic elements from both sources which volume one of *Le Morte D'arthur* by Sir Thomas Malory and the novel *Seven Endless Forests* by April Genevieve Tucholke. The intrinsic elements that would be compared will consist of theme, characters, setting, plot, and point of view. The language that will be analyse here would be done in English and comparison outside the sources will not be done for the research.

## 1.3 Research Questions

In doing the research, the focuses will be divided into few questions, the answers to these questions below will be the key to this research:

1. How are the intrinsic elements presented in *Seven Endless Forests* and *Arthurian Legend*?
2. What is the intertextuality found in the intrinsic elements of *Seven Endless Forests* and *Arthurian Legend*?

#### 1.4 Objectives of The Research

Based on the questions above, the objectives of this research are:

1. To compare the intrinsic elements in the literary works of *Seven Endless Forests* and *Arthurian Legend*.
2. To identify the intertextuality of intrinsic elements from *Seven Endless Forests* and *Arthurian Legend*.

