Abstract

In Lewis Carroll’s *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* (1865), Alice is a traveler, adventuring in the fantastic underground under the framework of her dream. Alice’s failure to grasp sense in Wonderland and her constant suspicion of things and inhabitants make her travel an uncanny one, for events in Wonderland always disturb but uncannily refer to those of the above world. This thesis attempts to explore the secrets of Alice’s travel lurking in the dream scenario, identifying and explicating her role as a traveler in the miraculous Wonderland from three aspects of travel: traveling spatiotemporality, the nature of travel and the traveler herself.

Chapter One is a condense, general introduction to the whole thesis. Chapter Two discusses the psychoanalytical theory of the unconscious, the theory of fantasy in literature, and the motif of travel in fantasy literature. The inseparable relationship between the unconscious and the reality will be introduced first. It is this relationship that makes Alice’s travel in her dreamland being effective and possible in the real world. Employing the Deleuzian theory, this thesis takes Gilles Deleuze’s ideas on “nomadology” and “becoming” as the main theoretical framework. Being accompanied with Syed Manzurul Islam’s ideas on the ethics of travel, which is derived from the Deleuzian theory, this thesis takes a step further to develop a new perspective on travel account.

Chapter Three deals with the spatiotemporality of Wonderland, analyzing its spatiotemporal nature and the way it influences Alice’s role as a traveler. Islam divides traveler into two categories—a nomadic traveler and a sedentary traveler. A nomadic traveler is one who eludes the present, undergoing the process of
becoming-other on the smooth space, whereas a sedentary traveler is one who travels on pre-set routes of the rigid space within limited temporality. Therefore, the spatiotemporalit of a travel will affect the kind of a traveler Alice would be. The multiple spatiotemporalit of Wonderland provides Alice with a good foundation to become a nomadic traveler.

Chapter Four concentrates on Alice’s travel and her role as a traveler, analyzing her encounter with the other, her traveling speed and movement, and her becoming in the fantastic underground world. Alice is problematic in becoming-other, since she keeps being captive in the representation of norms received from the Victorian overground which makes encounter with the other and deterritorialization with intensity of speed impossible. Although the spatiotemporalit of Wonderland pushes Alice forward to the process of a nomadic travel, she lacks a final move to shake off the confinement of the past memories and preconceptions. Alice is on the brink of becoming-other as a nomadic traveler.

Alice’s travel is neither a sedentary nor a nomadic one; she has a travel of her own, always vacillating between a sedentary traveler and a nomadic traveler. As a sedentary traveler, she is not becoming-other as a nomadic traveler, but on the process of becoming-(nomadic) traveler.