

## The Myth of Fairies in Ireland Described in Eoin Colfer's *Artemis Fowl*

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### Abstract

*This paper analyzes the novel Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer. The aim of the analysis is to elucidate one of believes about myth particularly the myth of fairies especially in Ireland as described in the novel. Through this research, it will be explained that myth is an important part of cultural heritage which is derived from our ancestor and shared heritage filled by rich imagery and ideal as a way of introducing. By doing this analysis about the myth of fairies in Ireland which is described in Colfer's Artemis Fowl, it gives the information for the readers to learn and understand how belief about the existence of mythical beings, especially the myth of fairies that exist in Ireland history influences popular books and movies. To solve the problem orderly, the writers arranged the theoretical framework by using some theories and approach. The theories selected for this analysis are theory about myth, Ireland historical context, and a brief overview of fairies. Meanwhile, the approach used in this thesis is mythological approach to disclose about myth of fairies in Ireland. Descriptive qualitative method was applied to elaborate clearly the data that have correlation to the problem formulation. The result of analysis shows some significant findings related to the myth of fairies believed by the Irish. The novel describes that fairies are rooted from the ancient history in Ireland. Its presence is indicated by the sacred remnants of fairies, and the land of fairies inhabitant are explained through the narration and dialogue.*

**Keywords:** fairy, Ireland, Eoin Colfer's *Artemis Fowl*, myth,

### Introduction

In this world, every country has a story among the society that derived from their ancestor through as long as the development of the era. The story becomes revealed into us by many kinds of works. When we are watching the movie or we are reading the novel, the story is filled by uncommon phenomenon which is sometimes supernatural or magical. Others say the term of it known as myth.

A myth is a traditional story, which may describe the origins of the world and/or of a people. A myth is an attempt to explain mysteries, supernatural events, and cultural traditions. Sometimes sacred in nature, a myth can involve gods or other creatures, and a myth represents reality in dramatic ways. (Lombardi, 2012)

A myth reveals the essential point of a culture, through their belief related to myth from ancient time as hereditary which is portraying their deities, traditions, or even creatures which is told from generation to generation. Jewell in his article *Chapter 4 of Experiencing the Humanities* (2002) explained that humans have believed in gods, goddesses, and other mythic beings from the earliest recorded times through the present. Furthermore, the terms of mythic beings are related to something that is different from human, a mythical creature. Hence a broad range of things falls under this heading, when it comes to mythical creatures, they will come with different shape in every culture around the world both small and large. However, we know some mythical creatures are more popular than others like the Dragon, Mermaid, and Unicorn.

The existence of those mythical creatures is believed for years in several countries, people have wondered if these creatures were simply a myth or real. One of the mythical creatures that exist among the society is fairy. Nowadays, when we think about fairies, we often visualize them as tiny mythical beings with wings and glowing light when they are flying like when we see them in the movie or some popular story. Fairies or faeries are mythical creatures that have been believed in Ireland since long time ago through their ancestor.

Of all the beings in the Irish mythological world the *Sidhe* are, however, apparently the oldest and the most distinctive. Beside them in literature and general renown all other beings sink into insignificance. A belief in them formerly dominated the whole of Irish life. The *Sidhe* or the Tuatha De Danann were a people like ourselves who inhabited the hills—not as a rule the highest and most salient eminences, but I think more usually the pleasant undulating slopes or gentle hill-sides—and who lived there a life of their own, marrying or giving in marriage, banqueting or making war, and leading there just as real a life as is our own. (Schell, 2009: 68)

Bearing from the statement above, it is explained that the belief on fairies has been firmly rooted in Ireland. Fairies are to be found nearly everywhere both in the landscape and the genre repertoire. Irish has several names for fairies, they believed that the fairies originally were coming from the race of Tuatha De Danann based on the history of their ancestor which is told passed down from generation to generation to their family, thus they believe that the existence of fairies really exist and it becomes a part of the culture since ancient times in Ireland.

*Artemis Fowl* is a novel written by Eoin Colfer in 2001 and published by Penguin Books in 2002. Sets in Ireland, Colfer creates a genius twelve-years-old boy who believes on a myth of fairy, namely Artemis Fowl. The story tells they are going to several countries to find the book of fairy that could reveal the existence of the fairy in the real world. The journey brings Artemis encounters with a fairy and successes to steal the data of fairies book. The book itself is written in the *Gnommish* or the fairy text. Even it cannot be read for any human, but with the tenacity of an Artemis, he uses technology to help him translate the book and ready to open up the fairy life which is hiding among the human life. Then, for further understanding about fairies, in this paper the writers is interested to analyze the myth of fairies in Ireland through the dialogues and narratives of *Artemis Fowl* as the issue that influences in the novel. The writers is curious about the existence of fairies, like where they came from and what they really are. In accordance, the writers also wants to study the relationship between myth and belief of fairies which exist in Ireland. Hence, we could learn about a culture that could make us understands about the myth of fairies from the past time and it is also broaden our knowledge about those beings. In accordance, this research is focused on elucidating myth of fairies in Ireland as described in Eoin Colfer's *Artemis Fowl* novel.

### Method

In this research, the writers use library research to find the data by reading some books that can support the analysis. Since this literary research is to elaborate the idea, the descriptive qualitative method is applied. Shuttleworth (2008) states that, "descriptive research design is a scientific method which involves observing and describing the behavior of a subject without influencing it in any way." Simply, a descriptive study is a study in which the data are collected, analyzed, and the conclusion is drawn without generalizing in doing the analysis of the research.

### Mythological Approach

Since this research deals with myth, the writers use mythological approach to excavate the data needed in the novel. In accordance, there are many ways to interpret mythological approach. Doyle states that:

For our purposes the word mythology has two related meanings. Firstly it refers to a collection of myths that together form a mythological system and A second meaning of the term mythology is the academic study of myths and systems of myths in general. (2004)

According to the statement above, mythology is known as a collection of myths. In several countries, we know about Greek Mythology, Norse Mythology, and Egyptian Mythology. Meanwhile academic study of myths and systems of myths in general delineates the people believe of phenomenon of the universe. Some of us know the famous god of the sun in Egyptian mythology is *Amon Ra*, he handles the sun. Other people say when they see a rainbow; they believe there is goddesses are taking a bath. That is why those varieties of mythology make us curious to study about it.

Hence studying mythology could disclose the beliefs of sacred things or stories which are belonging to myth inside a group of people or a culture from the ancient of time. Its sacred narratives relate physicality and idea in the certain society, and provide a known context for an unknown world. Moreover, Tidline states that;

"Studies mythology or folklore recognize the importance of cultural context and alternative of ways of knowing which means the way of how we could understand the existence of mythology which is surrounding around us".(1999:486)

The statement above also refers to how the significance of mythology study could recognize our knowledge across the culture in several countries. Sometimes we often not realize that mythology exists around us, in addition to the definition of mythology being stories from old religions, we have current mythology about people and events, and imaginary mythology found in modern stories, for example, when we watch the movie of *The Lord of the Rings*, *Harry Potter*, *Thor*, and etc. Actually those are containing with mythological characters that if we could realize its communicating the lessons, choices, and the outcomes that we still need to be aware of even in these modern times. Moreover, according to Tidline, it explains that mythology can give us insight into how other cultures have seen the world. Their myths paint a larger life picture of important deities and behavior,

whereby all usually with a common basis in what everyday people would aspire to, fear, or question. Beside that, we can also learn about the deeper meaning inside the mythology, they shared the value of the history which is connected to our ancestors and the natural world surrounding us.

Colfer's novel is enriched by the substance of mythology. Throughout *Artemis Fowl*, Colfer puts the background of the myths and several names of fairies which are rooted from mythological belief especially in Ireland. Ireland mythology is filled by many kinds of myths, like god and goddesses and others mythical beings. In this case, the use of mythological approach is functional for the writers to support the study of myth in doing the analysis so that it can help the writers easier to finish this research.

Myth is kind of story which gives influence for the life of society. The existence of story which has endured since long time ago and it becomes a specific cultural pattern in every country. As Lombardi stated that:

A myth is a traditional story, which may describe the origins of the world and/or of a people. A myth is an attempt to explain mysteries, supernatural events, and cultural traditions. Sometimes sacred in nature, a myth can involve gods or other creatures. And, a myth represents reality in dramatic ways. (2012)

Thus, according to the statement above, myth is the story that explains a belief in a culture. Myth is filled by sacred story which is retold from generation to generation. Moreover, the word of sacred itself has different meaning to everyone, and representing the beliefs of something which is crucial. Furthermore, myth has created out of the need for humans to know about the beginning of everything and the need to know about the workings of the world and the origin of humanity. "A myth is a story involving supernatural elements that conveys a moral idea, explains a natural phenomenon, or unravels the mysteries of the past." (Trevarthen, 2010:1)

According to the statement above, Instead a myth influenced the various cultures since long time ago. It is not only story to entertain us but also educate us with a manner which is explaining the natural phenomenon that people will remember longer than an object of historical document. Even some people think that myth only product of imagination, but they have a meaning inside of it. The ancestors contribute values into them, their religion, historical backgrounds, traditions, rituals, and behaviors are attached to give the views to us about the past life. Hence, in addition, certain culture has their own myth they hold and remembering that myth is constructed by a faith in certain societies, it fills of a dogma, a ritual, a tradition since their ancestor regarding to the object of the myth like deities, mythical beings and so others, they taught to be true. The ancestor was using myth as the tool to their descent in order to remember their own cultural identity.

### ***Ireland Historical Context***

This research intends to present the origins of the myth in Ireland. Thus, the writers found an account of historical context as well as the earlier history of the Ireland. Originally, Irish were coming from a tribe that settled in Ireland, called Celtic People. According to Jubainville in McKendry,

The ancient traditions of the Celtic peoples, which on the Continent have been almost completely obliterated by successive invaders have, in Ireland, survived and been handed down as the particular inheritance of the nation. (2005: 5)

According to the statement above, as in other areas where the beginning Celts or the Celtic people migrated in Ireland, Celtic people lived with and openly embraced many of the ways of the indigenous people, lending their own best traditions to the mix. The invasion attached the pattern of Celtic culture. Thus, this condition makes sense that the traditions of Celts people became the cultures that have been dwelling in Ireland throughout the history of their ancestor. Based on the statement above, it defines more about how the development of the history of Celtic people has become particular inheritance in Ireland. The story of the ancestor of Irish is filled by the record of their geographic area where they were dwelling and action in past time. Along the statement above also the writers can conclude that the culture in Ireland nowadays is dominated by the Celtic people as their ancestor and since this research to elaborate the myth in Ireland, hence the writers needs to dig deeper about Celtic belief according to their history in the past time. While related with the belief in a culture, we know that every culture has a religion or something worshipped,

These people, I had learned, were druids. The Druids were the pagan priests and advisors to the kings. More than that, they were healers, magicians, law-makers, astronomers and much more.

(Middleton, 2006: 438)

Moreover about the Celtic belief, according to the statement above the most important figure in Celtic religion is called druid. The role of druids in Pagan Celtic religion has the highest position than a king since they

have good education in spiritual as well they lead the religion for the villager. Druids were very spiritual people which are believed close with the gods and goddesses as influenced their life in many respects. They steered the villager to worship gods and goddesses and taught to respect the whole things like trees, stone, river or even animal like horse, boar, duck, swan that those beings as long as related to their god and goddesses. Mauduit stated in Duzbabova (2010: 12), "The Celts were rural people. [...] They practiced the religion of the soil. They venerated wells, mountains as well as trees." Celtic people believed that life must be coherent among exist or non-exist things as well as their belief about the god and goddesses and divinities are dwelling in their life. The Celts believed the divinities being are derived from the god and goddesses as they called as fairies live in some area that close related to the nature or even in the middle of a village they are hiding which is written in the oldest manuscripts as stated below,

In the oldest Irish and Welsh manuscripts we meet with personages whose names and attributes identify them with the divinities whom we know to have been worshipped in the Celtic world abroad.  
(Squire, 1909:12)

Based on the statement above, it identifies that the Celtic people believed about divine beings inhabited the around them since long time ago. Their ancestors have driven the Irish nowadays a belief about the existence of them which is derived from their religion as written in the old manuscripts of Mythological Cycle of *Lebor Gabala Erren* or the Book of Invasion of Irish. The Book of Invasions is a collection of poems and prose narratives about Irish manifestation of Celtic pantheon of divine characters that describes their actions and lives in the past time. It was the important source which explains the history of ancient fairies called Tuatha De Danann come to Ireland.

Finally the Millesians chose Eriu whose name has been used for the island until these days. After victorious battles over Tuatha De Danann they started to rule over the island and the godlike Tuatha De Danann decided to leave the sphere of mortals forever and left for the underground. It is believed that they live under hills and mounds called *sidh* which serve as the entrance gates to their "fairyland".

(MacKillop in Duzbabova, 2010: 21)

According to the statement above, originally the name of Ireland is coming from the goddess of fairies *Eriu*, the race of Tuatha De Danann. When there is war with the Millesians, the race of Tuatha De Danann forced to be spirit form and was driven underground by invaders and inhabited the underworld of the hills and mountains in Ireland then become as *Sidh* or the people of the mound or fairy mound. Moreover, some places in Ireland are identified as the remnant of the existence of ancient fairies, like *Hill of Tara* and the *Lia Fail* the as stated below,

The Hill of Tara, known as *Teamhair* in Gaelic, is an ancient mound of dirt steeped in history. It is located near the River Boyne in County Meath, Leinster, Ireland. At first glance it appears to the visitor and observer as simply a mound of Irish sod with no apparent monuments, diamonds, treasures or anything of historic value. What it really is lies in the hearts, minds and souls of the Irish people. This impressive landscape was in ancient times said to be the seat of the High King of Ireland. In the Irish religion of old, and in mythology, *Teamhair* was the sacred dwelling place for the gods. It also has been deemed the entrance to the otherworld. (Olsen in McQuiston, 2012: 23)

According to the statement above *Hill of Tara* or in Gaelic language called as *Teamhair* or Seat of the King of Ireland is believed by Irish as the sacred place where the gods of fairies were dwelling in Ireland. Irish believed that the mound is the entrance to the otherworld where the fairies are living under. Thus it became the bearers of the myth of fairies in Ireland as they are believed as hereditary from their ancestor.

The Irish story in the *Leabhar Gabhala*, or Book of Conquests, mentions the bringing to Ireland, from *Falias* in Scotland, of the *Lia Fail*, by the Tuath de Dananns.  
(Bonwick, 2013: 189)

According to the statement above, it was mentioned in the *Leabhar Gabhala* or Book of Conquests or Book of Invasions of Irish that Tuatha De Danann got the *Lia Fail* or Stone of Destiny as the treasure that got from the city of *Falias* in Scotland. It is also told as hereditary in Ireland as the sacred remnant from the ancient race of fairies were dwelling in Ireland. Based on historical background of Ireland in the past time, since it is related with the ancient history that concern the divinities being about the divinities being who allegedly arrived in five migratory invasions into Ireland and principally recount the doing of ancient race fairies, Tuatha De Danann. For the Irish, the ancient history of their ancestor was becoming a relic. It is something sacred, important, and the

essential for the culture. For the centuries, the history, customs, and mythical stories in Ireland are existed in human memory and passed down from generation to generation. Thus, related to the research that will be analyzed, the writers found data about the development myth of fairies that exists in Ireland as described in Eoin Colfer's *Artemis Fowl*. The writers believes that studying history from various countries can be the way to organize the knowledge about various things in the world. Hence, the writers also needs to dig deeper about Ireland history as the bridge to elaborate the fairies so that the writers can answer the formulation of the problem and this research can be finished well.

## Discussion

### Fairies are Rooted From the Ancient History of Ireland

*Artemis Fowl* is a novel written by Irish author Eoin Colfer. He was inspired by Ireland to create a story which is presenting the myth of fairies.

Finally the coast loomed a head of her. The old country. Eiriú, the land where time began. The most magical place on the planet. It was there, 10,000 years ago, that the ancient fairy race, the De Danann, had battled against the demon Fomorians, carving the famous Giant's Causeway with the strength of their magical blasts. (Colfer, 2002:68)

From the narrative above, Colfer described the magical place on earth where the ancient fairies were dwelling in Ireland from 10,000 years ago. The name of the place is Eiriú or Eriu, one of the Irish goddess. Eriu is the member of De Danann the ancient goddess of fairy race as historically were dwelling in Ireland long time ago. According to the history of original name for Ireland, the story told when the Milesians came to Ireland, they meet the goddess Eriu. The poet of Milesians, Amairgin, he promised to Eriu that her name will be given to the island if the Milesians were succeed conquered the race of ancient fairies Tuatha De Danann. Hence, when the race of Tuatha De Danann was successful defeated by the Milesians, the island was named Eriu to fulfill his promised and it was the original name for Ireland nowadays.

Moreover, related to the analysis about the myth of fairies in Ireland, Irish has believed it since long time ago. It is derived from their ancestor the Celtic people. The ancient history of Celtic people has become particular inheritance in Ireland. It is filled by the record of their deeds in past time. Despite of the Celtic people, their religion has created the believed of superstition that shaped the culture of Ireland society. Pagan Celtic spirituality understood that all of existence has a cyclic nature and that there is a direct continuity between the material world and the otherworld. The important figure in Celtic religion is called druid. The figure of druids in pagan Celtic recognized that there is an unseen world that interpenetrates and affects the visible world, things are just not what they seem. They were very spiritual people and the gods and goddesses influenced their life in many respects.

Despite they worshipping gods and goddesses, while they life among the nature they also respect the whole things like trees, stone, river or even animals. The Druids believed that life must be balanced between exist or non-exist things as well as they respect in this world. Thus, Celtic culture was integrated with nature, and expressed itself through the multiple possibilities of life itself. The druids taught the reincarnation of all individual souls, and the appearance of divine beings on earth.

Druids play the important role in Celtic religion before the coming of the Christian to Ireland. Druids were responsible for the religious teaching and practices of the Celts. They derived their magic powers and their divinations from otherworld. They preserved the knowledge of the gods and were responsible for the sacrifices of animals, and something of human sacrifices. The Druids were mediator between the mortals and gods, as they believed stand between worlds, and in the case of Irish between the otherworld and mortal planes. The druids derived part of their magic powers and their divinations from otherworld. The term of otherworld itself is related with a place that has unusual power, while the inhabitant that living in the otherworld is divine beings which are different with human or it is called fairies from the otherworld.

Furthermore about ancient history of Ireland, according to the statement above the writers takes the notion that the Celtic people worshipped the divinities as the existence of fairies where dwelling in Ireland as it is also founded in the manuscripts of Mythological Cyle of *Lebor Gabala Erren* or the Book of Invasions of Irish. The Book of Invasions is a collection of poems and prose narratives that describes the actions and lives of otherworld characters in the past time. Moreover, there are many of the characters in the Book of Invasions are the Irish manifestations of a Celtic pantheon of divine beings. It was the important source which explains the history of ancient fairies in Ireland called Tuatha De Danann.

It was here that the Lia Fail stood, the rock at the centre of the universe, where fairy kings and later the human Ard Ri were crowned. (Colfer, 2002:69)

According to the narrative above, other part in the story that initiates about the myth of fairies in Ireland, Colfer put one of the remnants from ancient history of Irish. Moreover, based on the Book of Invasion of Irish which is described the remnant has connection with the existence of Tuatha De Danann in the past time.

Tuatha De Danann got the Lia Fail or Stone of Destiny as the treasure that got from the city of Falias. It is told as hereditary in Ireland that the stone was supposed to confirm the election of a rightful monarch *Ard Ri* or High King of Ireland by roaring under him as he took his place on it.

Rooted from the ancient history of Ireland that told Ireland was inhabited by ancient spirits and fairies called the Tuatha De Danann before eventually the race of human or Milesians came to Ireland and defeated them in a battle.

Based on ancient historical background of Ireland in the past time, since it is related with ancient literary tradition that concern the godlike peoples who allegedly arrived in five migratory invasions into Ireland and principally recount the doings of ancient race fairies, Tuatha De Danann. For Irish, the ancient history of their ancestors was already becoming a relic. It is something sacred, important, and the essential for the culture. For the centuries, the history, customs, and mythical stories in Ireland is existed in human memory and passed from generation to generation. Moreover from the description above, the writers analyzes that here is the connection between the existences of fairies in the ancient history of Ireland to Colfer's *Artemis Fowl* novel as describing in the analysis that we can see below.

Trawling through gigabytes of data, he found hundreds of references to fairies from nearly every country in the world. Each civilization had its own term for the People, but they were undoubtedly members of the same hidden family. Several stories mentioned a Book carried by each fairy. It was their Bible, containing, as it allegedly did, the history of their race and the commandments that governed their extended lives. Of course, this Book was written in Gnommish, the fairy text, and would be of no use of any human. (Colfer, 2002: 18)

From the quotation above, the narrative is telling about the existence of the People where they are hiding in the people lives. Moreover, the terms of the People are none other than the fairies as they are told for carrying their Book which is filled by the history of their existence. The Book itself is written in the Gnommish or the fairy's language so that no single human being can read and understand the Book. Artemis Fowl is trying to pursue something's different from others human thought, tracking about race that adults may overlook about its existence. In Artemis mind, he believes will get the incredible prize if he is successful to exploit that race. Artemis dares to take any risks to pursue the existence of fairies, so he is trying to do anything to get the information as expressed in the following quotation,

Know thine enemy was Artemis's motto, so he immersed himself in the lore of the People until he had compiled a huge database on their characteristics. But it wasn't enough. So Artemis put out a call on the Web: Irish businessman will pay large amount of US dollars to meet a fairy, sprite, leprechaun, pixie. The responses had been mostly fraudulent, but Ho Chi Minh City had paid off. (Colfer, 2002:19)

As in the story of the novel, After put an advertisement on the web and travel into several countries, finally Artemis Fowl finally found someone who knows the information about the fairies. He travels with his loyal assistant, Butler, to go to Ho Chi Min City to meet Mister Nguyen, someone who knows the location of the fairies. Mister Nguyen leads Artemis to Tu Do Street where he encounters first fairy.

Artemis sighed with exaggerated patience. "You are no healer. You are a sprite, p'shog, fairy, ka-dalun. Whichever language you prefer to use. And i want your book."

For a long moment the creature said nothing, then she threw back the shawl from her forehead. In the green glow of the night-vision goggles, her features leaped at Artemis like a Hallowe'en mask. The fairy's nose was long and hooked under two slitted golden eyes. Her ears were pointed, and the alcohol addiction had melted her skin like putty. (Colfer, 2002:11)

From the quotation above, Artemis is successful to meet the fairy which disguises as the healer. She works in exchange for the rice wine and she looks very dull. Bearing in our mind about fairies, they are generally portrayed like human appearances and having mythical abilities such as the ability to fly, cast spells, and glowing with sparkling dust. Moreover, as they originally depicted much differently in every culture, like their names, a small or tall creature, ugly face, winged live in the jungle, cavern, or deeper lake. People belived fairies are the mythical beings and spirits that can be either good or bad.

Fairies can take on many different forms throughout history. In Ireland mythology, fairies are believed to be shape shifters, using glamour or other magic to change their form. They have been tiny beings that we cannot see or slightly larger so we can see them. Through the elements they take on natural forms that we take for granted. Irish fairies like typically dwarf creature has green clothes and beard, believed lives in underground or in stone heaps and characteristically exercises magical powers to benevolent ends. Irish believed several places indicates the existence of fairies in Ireland from long time ago since they have been told for several generations from their ancestors. Hence, the writers takes the notion that figure of fairies might be thought of as diminutive delicate creatures where they live in a place called fairyland or intervening in human lives with good intentions.

### **The Sacred Remnants of Fairies in Ireland**

Myth is filled by something sacredly which is retold from generation to generation, For the Irish, the ancient history of their ancestor was becoming a relic. It is something sacred, important, and the essential for the culture. Irish believed several places in Ireland have relation with the existence of the ancient fairies in the past time. In the novel, they sacredly remark as the emergence of the race of ancient fairies of Tuatha De Danann were dwelling in Ireland long time ago like in the *Lia Fail* and *Hill of Tara*.

#### ***Lia Fail***

In the story of *Artemis Fowl* novel, Holly Short is abducted by Artemis when she tried to go to the place where she asked by Commander Root to finish her ritual.

It was here that the *Lia Fail* stood, the rock at the centre of the universe, where the fairy kings and later the human Ard Ri were crowned. (Colfer, 2002: 9)

According to the narrative above above, *Lia Fail* is one of the remnants that belong to the myth of fairies in Ireland. Moreover Irish believed that *Lia Fail* is part of the evidence of the fairies were dwelling in Ireland in the past time. According to the Irish Book of Invasions, *Lia Fail* or the Stone of Destiny is one of the treasure of race ancient fairies Tuatha De Danann. The remnant was sacredly believed by the Irish society as hereditary from their ancestor. They believed about the stone of *Lia Fail* would roar to rightful monarch when the candidates touched the stone.

Froaly snorted. 'Tara? Every fairy hippie in the northern hemisphere will be dancing around the *Lia Fail* at the full moon. There'll be so many shield on, it'll look like whole place is under water.' (Colfer, 2002: 80)

According to the dialogue above, it explains when Captain Froaly got information that Holly is missing on the way to replenish her magic near the *Lia Fail*. He stated that every fairy will dancing around the *Lia Fail* since that place has strong atmosphere with the ancient fairies. Hence the presence of the *Lia Fail* became one of the famous monuments in Ireland as one of the important remnant that recorded the ancient history of fairies.

#### ***Hill of Tara***

Another remnant which are described in the novel is aimed to the place where believed containing the history of the existence of fairies in Ireland.

Holly punched up a map on her wrist locator and set it to sweep for magical hotspots. The best site would obviously be Tara, near the *Lia Fail*, but on a night like tonight, every traditionalist fairy with an overground pass would be dancing around the holy scene, so best to give it a miss. (Colfer, 2002: 69)

The narrative above is talking about Holly passed the magical spot where she stated that ancient fairies will dance under the moon light in Tara or Hill of Tara. Hill of Tara as the sacred remnant is a place that tends to has strong bond with the existence of fairies in Ireland. Located in Ireland, there was the Hill of Tara or the Hill of the King. Hill of Tara as the most sacred place in the hearts, minds and souls for Irish society since they believed the place was a silent witness to emergence of fairies in Irish. Besides that, there stand also Tara's most famous monument the *Lia Fail*. Throughout the ancient Hill of Tara, a prominent landmark in Ireland and seat of the high kings has attached as sacredly as the beginning of the Celts ancient race. The past record provided enlightenment to those that sought the emergence of the fairies. Furthermore, from the evidences that described in some dialogues and narratives in the novel the writers could know the conformity of names and places which are coherent with the analysis. Hence, the writers could take the notion that Colfer was presenting a story based on the myth of fairies that is derived from the ancient history of Ireland as the main background in the novel *Artemis Fowl*.

### **The Land of Fairies Inhabitant**

Apart from the impressive story of Artemis journey to find out the fairies in the novel, Colfer also tells the readers the circumstances of the land of fairies where they live which is namely Haven City,

Holly rolled off her futon and stumbled into the shower. That was one advantage of living near the earth's core – the water was always hot. No natural light, of course, but that was small price to pay for privacy. Underground. The last human-free zone.

(Colfer, 2002: 32)

According to the statement above, Holly and others fairies are living deep underground. It is really close with the earth's core so they can enjoy their privacy without the touch of any kind human. There are millions of fairies and other magical beings dwell in the Haven City. It is like a human metropolitan but filled by many kinds of fairies both small and large. Meanwhile, as we know in other famous stories that tell about the land of fairies, the place usually is depicted as the beautiful place. They will depicted like the WoodLand in the movie *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug* or the Neverland like in the story of *Peter Pan* where Tinker Bell is living.

The land of fairies which is connected with the sacred land of the dead such as burial place or mounds. Moreover, several people believed fairies live in a land where time does not exist and covered by the miracle atmosphere. The land of fairy or fairyland is something referred to the land which is eternal and beautiful or it can be spooky.

The mysterious and hidden place in somewhere else, it is where people cannot see with the common eyes. It means that the secret place makes fairies keep safe from the disturbance of human. Even they believed to live close to human's village or in a pantheon that human come to worship their deities, they have some magic to cover their dwelling.

According to myth in Ireland, when Tuatha De Danann defeated by Milesians, they retreated into the hills and mounds, living in raths were invisible to humans. The otherworld is believed by Irish to have been located in several areas in Ireland and said to be hidden by magic in an underground fortress. The word *Sidhe* means fairy fort where most Celtic myth and lore explore what is known as the Land of the Youth was how the otherworld is depicted.

Hence, the writers takes the notion that the land of fairies is believed to have been located in Ireland. In certain hills and mounds were recognized as the underground dwellings of the fairies. Irish related *Teamhair na Ri* or the Hill of the King or the famous name called Hill of Tara as the magical place of fairies. In the Ireland ancient religion and in mythology, *Teamhair* is the sacred dwelling place for the gods and Hill of Tara is deemed as the entrance to the otherworld. In the *Artemis Fowl* novel, the existence of fairies and their extended live is written down the Book of Fairies.

It was true, she did know what Haven was like. Holly Short was a city elf born and bred.

Since the humans began experimenting with mineral drilling, more and more fairies had been driven out of the shallow forts and into depth and security Haven City. The metropolis was overcrowded and under-serviced. And now there was a lobby to allow automobiles in the pedestrianized centre. As the place wasn't smelly enough already with all those country gnomes lumbering around the place.

(Colfer, 2002:36)

Colfer creates the Haven City as the place where the fairies are living secretly. The condition of the Haven City is like the human town, a big metropolis which is filled by many kinds of fairies both small and large. It is related with the myth about the fairy-hill or fairy mounds in Ireland, as they said that the fairies are living underground where they keep their precious treasure. Artemis needs to translate the Book first before he could exploit the land of fairies and attain his goal to get the fairies treasure. The Book is supposedly written in Gnommish, the language of the fairies.

### **Conclusion**

*Artemis Fowl* is a novel written by Eoin Colfer presents the story about the myth of fairies in Ireland. In the story, Colfer creates the journey of Irish boy namely Artemis Fowl who believes the existence of fairies. Besides that, he also puts several remnants of fairies (Hill of Tara and the Lia Fail), and race of fairies which related with the existence of mythical beings based on the ancient history of Ireland in the past time. Moreover, Irish believed in fairies were dwelling in Ireland as sacred as throughout the history of their ancestor since long

time ago. The sacred belief which is derived passed from generation to generation and became part of the cultural heritage in Ireland.

Through this research, the writers can conclude that myth is an important part of cultural heritage which is derived from our ancestor and shared heritage filled by rich imagery and ideal as a way of introducing. By doing this analysis about the myth of fairies in Ireland which is described in Colfer's *Artemis Fowl*, it gives the information for the readers to learn and understand how belief about the existence of mythical beings, especially the myth of fairies that exist in Ireland history influences popular books and movies. Moreover, we can initiate the fairies of one culture to another like the figure of Leprechauns as one of their famous myth of fairies. As the last point in conclusion, the writers hopes that this thesis will be able to give some knowledge not only for the writers and readers, but also can inspire the other researcher who interested to analyze some of the topic related to the myth.

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