

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

In modern literature work, having a hero as a main character has become more popular than before. As one of the archetype approaches, the hero's journey is used by many literary works creators to show their character development to their readers. Everyone can be a hero but usually, the main character is the one who always gets the hero title. Being a hero is not just having the title and getting acknowledged by everyone, but there are numerous journeys the hero must go through before being called a hero. In their research, Lestari (2021) explains that a protagonist character in fiction is typically referred to as a hero. It describes a character who tries and encounters obstacles to get a different course in life.

As stated by Vogler (2007, p. 29), a hero is someone who is prepared to forego his wants to meet the needs of others, much like a shepherd who makes sacrifices to care for and serve his flock. The concept of a hero is fundamentally tied to selflessness. A hero must leave behind his familiar environment and embark on a journey into a new one that will test him. The hero must accept responsibility for these obstacles and overcome them. Once the challenge is completed, the hero must go back to his usual environment.

A character's journey from the moment he is called away from his normal life to complete certain assignments to returning home as a hero is mostly outlined in the hero's Journey. According to Vogler (2007, p. 7) not just stories with "heroic" physical action and adventure can follow the stages of the hero's journey. Every story's protagonist is a hero's journey, even if that path just takes him within his own head or into the world of relationships. Every great story has a hero who develops and journeys from one state of being to another, such as from hate to love, from weakness to strength, from hopelessness to strength, and so on. These meaningful journeys are what captivate audiences and give a story its engaging quality.

There are three acts as stated by Vogler, where the first act is separation. In this act, there are five phases where the hero starts his journey from the ordinary world where they have a normal life into the extraordinary world where they get a call to begin their adventure as a hero. In this act also where the hero refuses the call of their journey at first but then accepts it after meeting with their mentor. After that, the hero will cross the threshold. The second act is called initiation. There are four phases in this act, where the hero will meet their tests, allies, and enemies. Then, the hero will prepare to face their life-death situations. The last act is return. There are three phases In this act, the hero goes back from the special world after going through a lot of troubles. The hero may go back with a reward or even nothing.

Hero's journey is one of the archetype approaches. Where Every individual is composed of an archetype, Jung (as cited in Vogler; 2007, p. 23) used the term archetypes, which refers to enduring psychological patterns that are inherited by all members of the human race. Jung suggested that the collective unconscious may be similar to the personal unconscious. For example, fairy tales and myths are like the dreams of an entire culture, springing from the collective unconscious.

The idea of archetypes is a vital resource for comprehending the role or objective of characters in a narrative. In both the personal and social spheres, similar character types appear to be prevalent. Comprehending the role of the archetype embodied by a certain character can aid in assessing whether or not the character is contributing fully to the narrative.

The Maze Runner is a dystopian book written by American writer James Dashner. According to Chicken House Books (<https://www.chickenhousebooks.com>) the novel won a lot of awards including the Best Fiction award for Young Adult Awards in 2011 and Young Reader's Choice Award in 2012. The novel got more popular that it was adapted into a movie and won a lot of awards also including the MTV Movie & TV Award in 2015. The Maze Runner contains three books that tell about Thomas's journey from escaping a maze to saving the world. The first book was released in 2009, it was the beginning part where the story takes place on a planet where civilians are fighting to survive a catastrophic disease known

as the Flare in the wake of a coronal mass ejection. The 16-year-old protagonist of the story, Thomas, is the key to his friends' redemption and awakens in an artificially created maze with no memory of his past. The story continues to the second book which it released in 2010 with title *The Maze Runner: The Scorch Trial*, this book tells about when Thomas and his other friend succeed in escaping the maze, but little do they know that the whole world already collapsed because of the deadly virus. Then the trilogy ends with the title *The Maze Runner: The Death Cure* released in 2011. This book shows where Thomas and the other continue their journey to find the cure after they escape the WICKED territory where they monopolize Thomas and the other to be a human experiment. The Writer decides to choose all three books because they tell Thomas's hero's journey which follows the key stages of Vogler's theories.

Up until now, character is still one of the important aspects in the work of literature making. The character is critical in literature and is usually used to represent the work itself. Furthermore, heroes were used as representations. As time passed, many literature works creators used hero-themed for their stories. They are common in fantasy and adventure literary works. It is not given for characters to be called heroes, they have a path to endure before they can become heroes. The main characters are the one who usually holds the hero title. They encounter difficulties or conflict, therefore they also change their own and others' destinies.

Character development is essential in writing, especially for novels. Romance, friendship, and adventure are prevalent themes in most novels. Novelists frequently explore the idea of hero journeys. They describe in great detail how their character transforms from an ordinary person to a hero. The main characters in these stories are worthy of the title of heroes because they have overcome so many challenges and sufferings.

Thus, the writer tends to focus on Thomas's journey as a hero and main character of the novel in this research. As a character, Thomas showed how he held a crucial role in the storyline. Thomas undergoes significant growth and development as the story goes on. His development took a long time. To attain his desired journey, he had to overcome a lot of hurdles. Throughout the story, Thomas's journey as a character is not only how he struggles to live, but also how he must endure the loss of his loved ones or the happiness of meeting someone new. The challenges he faced on his journey, elevated him to the status of a hero in the story's plot. Thomas was also determined to fight the WICKED because it showed how unfair and evil the WICKED was to society. Thomas's character in this novel even in the face of life-or-death challenges, shows how determined he is and his desire to fight for both his own life and the survival of the others around him. That is the reason why the writer make a thesis of "The Implementation of Hero's Journey in The Maze Runner Novel Trilogy" as the title

B. Question and Scope of the Research

a. Question of the Research

Based on the background above, the writer ought to analyze the Hero's Journey implemented in The Maze Runner novel trilogy by reading them. There are two questions raised as the problem in this analysis.

- a. How is the hero's journey key stage reflected in Thomas as the main character in The Maze Runner novel trilogy?
- b. What type of hero that Thomas portrayed in The Maze Runner novel Trilogy?

b. Scope of The Research

The Writer focused on the hero's journey stages found in The Maze Runner's novel trilogy and explained how the hero's journey stages affect Thomas as the main character of the novel. The writer mainly used the theories from Vogler (2007) that were adapted from Campbell's theories. The writer used The Maze Runner novel trilogy as the data research and analyzed the character development using the hero's journey stages. The Maze Runner is a novel by James Dashner that was first published in 2009 with the title The Maze Runner as the first part of the trilogy. Then followed in 2010, The second part of the novel was released with the title The Maze Runner: The Scorch Trial. The last part of the trilogy was released in 2011 with the title The Maze Runner: The Death Cure.

C. Objective and Significance of the Research

1. Objective of The Research

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

- a. To find out the hero's journey key stage reflected in Thomas as the main character in The Maze Runner novel trilogy
- b. To find out the type of hero that Thomas portrayed in The Maze Runner novel trilogy.

2. Significance of the Research

The writer hopes that this research can be purposive for the researcher but also for the readers.

a. Theoretically

This research hopes can give a piece of new information and knowledge to readers who are not familiar with the hero's journey and how the outcome of this research will view how a hero's journey usually became one of the important resources for literary works. With understanding this research provides. Hopefully, it can be purposive and be used as a reference for other researchers, especially for the student and the lecturer of STBA JIA who is interested in hero's journey topics.

b. Practically

This research hopes to be useful for the reader who is curious about a hero's journey shown in any media, including novels. This research also hopes to help other researchers who use the same theory on the topic of the hero's journey by Christopher Vogler (2007).

D. Operational Definitions

To make this research easier to understand and avoid misunderstanding to the readers, these are some definitions used in this research:

1. Novel

A novel is an imaginative prose tale that explores human experience creatively and is typically quite long and complex.

2. Trilogy

A trilogy or set of three plays, novels, operas, etc. that are closely related in theme, order, or other aspects even though they are each completed on their own.

3. Hero

A person who is viewed as an ideal or role model by others due to their perceived unique accomplishments, skills, or personal traits.

4. Hero's Journey

The hero's journey is a popular narrative paradigm, or story template, in which the hero embarks on an adventure, gains wisdom from the

experience, uses that wisdom to achieve a victory, and then transforms back to his home place.

E. Systematization of the Research

The writer hopes that to make it easier for readers to read the research's findings, it is organized systematically. This research is divided into 5 chapters, which follows:

Chapter 1 explained six points of introduction; first is the background of research and describes the background and reason why the writer chooses the research. The second is the question of the research, this point outlines the subject issue of the research. The third is the scope of the research, the point, which is to emphasize a more particular cause and propose a study that is used by the writer in this research. The fourth is the objective of research, this point explains the purpose that the writer wants to achieve in this research. The fifth is the significance of the research, this point about how it will benefit the other writer. The last point is systematization of the research, it explains the resume of this research as a whole.

Chapter II explained the theoretical description of theories used by the writer to conduct the research. This chapter provides an overview of the hero's journey and the relation of the hero's journey to literary works, etc. This chapter also shows research of the relevance that highlights earlier studies that have been done.

Chapter III is the research methodology. It explained five sub-chapters. The points of this chapter are method of research, procedure of the research, technique of the data collection, technique of the data analysis, and data sources.

Chapter IV explained about the findings and discussions. It mainly discusses data found by the writer. The data that the writer has found will be interpreted in this chapter, and the data analysis will be combined with the theory methods used in this study.

Chapter V explained the conclusion and suggestions. It provides an overall overview based on the prior chapter. It discussed the conclusion that the writer has concluded from the entire chapter. After the conclusion is shown, there will be a couple of suggestions from the writer.

