

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of five subchapters. The first is the background of the study, the second is the statement of the research questions, the third is the objectives of the study, the fourth is the significance of the study and the last is the scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the study

The characteristics of masculinity such as courage, independence, leadership, and assertiveness are socially constructed and linked by society. Masculinities and male bodies are socially and historically constructed, created, and reinforced by social expectations based on shared meanings (Craig and Goffman, 1992). It means that males are not born naturally with their masculine characteristics. According to (Hofstede, 2001) masculinity stands for a society in which social gender roles are clearly distinct. Men are supposed to be assertive, tough, and focused on material success. A word 'supposed' means that men are not born naturally with the characteristics like being assertive and tough. It's a kind of society demand.

Masculinity is concerned more with gender performativity or the person's characteristics in society rather than a gender role. According to Judith Butler (2018) The idea of gender is an act, or performance. This act is the way a person walks, talks, dresses, and behaves. It's called "gender performativity." What society regards as a

person's gender is just a performance made to please social expectations and not a true expression of the person's 'gender identity'. (Butler, 1988) also stated that there are two key expansions upon 'performative'. Firstly, gender does not occur with language only: it's very much about bodies doing things, such as shaking hands or wearing clothes. Secondly, performing gender is not something that is done by a pre-existing, unfettered individual. Meanwhile, gender role is a status of a person as a man or woman. In the household, the male is the breadwinner, and the female is the homemaker. According to Lorber (2010:15) gender role is social status, a legal designation, and a personal identity. Through the social processes of gendering, gender divisions and their accompanying norms and role expectations are built into the major social institutions of society, such as the economy, the family, the state, culture, religion, and the law-gendered social order. Woman and man, girl and boy are used when referring to gender.

Undeniably, the construction of masculinity also appears in several literary works. The fact can be shown that many authors show the construction of masculinity in their literary works such as novels. The ideal male which constructs masculinity often appear in the various genre of novels. One of the genres which have the ideal male image is a fantasy adventure. In fantasy adventure novels, a man is portrayed as an ideal man. Good physical, smart, persuasive, strong, and rational are several examples of the characteristics of the male image in fantasy adventure novels. Rick Riordan is one famous fantasy novel writer that has written so many fantasy adventure genres, for example, *Percy Jackson & The Olympians* series, *The Kane Chronicles*

series, *The Heroes of Olympus* series, *The Demigod Diaries*, *Trials of Apollo* series, and *Tres Navarre* series. According to goodreads, Rick Riordan is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of many books, including the *Percy Jackson* series. It can be assumed that Rick is very popular and successful in attracting the interest of readers, including the writer of this study. One work by Rick Riordan that is very interesting and also shows many male images is *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* novel. This novel tells the story of the adventures of Percy Jackson. Percy Jackson is the half-blood of the Greek god of the sea, Poseidon, and a human named Sally Jackson. Percy was accused of stealing Zeus' lightning which made him hunted by many people from Olympus. In addition, most of the characters in this novel are male. Apart from being the extra characters, their role as the male characters in the story is very important. Therefore, the writer is interested in analyzing masculinity in this novel.

In analyzing this novel, the writer uses a theory of masculinity according to R. W. Connell. It is because this theory clearly explains the masculinity and also the type of masculinity that appears in *Percy Jackson & Olympians: The Lightning Thief* novel. The purpose of this study is to explore the construction of male characters' masculinity that appears in *Percy Jackson & Olympians: The Lightning Thief* novel.

There are also five results of the study that analyzed the same source of data. The first researcher of the novel focused on the intrinsic elements of the story. It is the plot of the story, "*Structural Analysis of Plot in Rick Riordan's 'Percy Jackson And*

The Olympians: The Lightning Thief” (Dani Irawan, 2015). Next, the researcher focused on the conflict between main characters in the novel, “A Description of The Main Characters Conflicts in Rick Riordan’s Novel “Percy Jackson And The Olympians: The Lightning Thief.” (SastrawanPelawi, 2018). The third is the analysis that focused on the concept of a hero of the main character completed by using Vladimir Propp's Narratology, “The Concept of Hero in Rick Riordan’s “Percy Jackson And The Olympians: The Lightning Thief.” (M. HilmanRasyidYudistira, 2017). In the fourth analysis, the researcher wanted to know the causes of Percy’s anger, to describe Percy's ways to express his anger and also to recognize the effect of Percy's anger on himself, “An Analysis of Percy Jackson’s Anger in Rick Riordan’s Novel “Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief.” (Ervira Rosana Rosalia, 2013). The last research is about the type of noun phrase, the function of a noun phrase, usage of noun phrase based on Transformation Generative Grammar theory by Noam Chomsky, and the meaning of noun phrase in the novel, “An Analysis of Noun Phrase in Percy Jackson and The Sea of Monsters Novel by Rick Riordan”. (Firda Aswarina, 2015). None of the studies above analyzed the construction of the gender aspect especially the masculinity study of *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* novel. Thus, it is the writer's reason to use masculinity theory which was proposed by R. W. Connell in his study with the title “The Constructions of Masculinity in Rick Riordan's novel *Percy Jackson & Olympians: The Lightning Thief*”.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background of the study, the writer tries to discuss about theory of masculinity by R.W. Connell in *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief*. Then, the problem is formulated as follows:

1. What type of masculinities appears in *Percy Jackson & Olympians: The Lightning Thief* novel?
2. How are masculinities constructed in *Percy Jackson & Olympians: The Lightning Thief* male characters?

1.3 The objective of the Study

Related to the research question, this research is attempted to:

1. Find the type of masculinities in *Percy Jackson & Olympians: The Lightning Thief*.
2. Elaborate the masculinity construction in *Percy Jackson & Olympians: The Lightning Thief* male characters.

1.4 Scope and Limitation of the study

The scope of this study is focused on the R. W. Connell theory about Masculinity in *Percy Jackson & Olympians: The Lightning Thief* male characters. This study limits *Percy Jackson & Olympians: The Lightning Thief* male character's dialogue, utterance, and action. Correspondingly, the author's narration in sources of data and other information to support the research like documents, articles, etc.

1.5 Significance of the study

In this study, the significance of the study is separated into two points such as theoretical and practical,

1. Theoretically, the result of this study will be advantageous to enrich, enlighten and broaden the reader's knowledge about male characters in *Percy Jackson & Olympians: The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan which the writer applies masculinity theory by R. W. Connell.
2. Practically, the result of this study is expected to provide a reference for the students of English Study Program at the University of Trunojoyo Madura. This research can be beneficial as a reference to analyze the research which has the same source of data or theory.