

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter explains the background of the study, the statement of the research problem, the objective of the study, the significances of the study, and the scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

There are many literary genres, one of them is novel. Novel is often called as the most perfect complete genre in literature due to its elements such as character, characterization, theme, plot, setting, point of view, personality, etc. Moreover, novel has all of the elements of other elements literary genres even it takes the elements themselves in it. As Eagleton (2005: 1) states in his book that novel cannibalizes other literary modes and mixes the bits and pieces promiscuously together. It means that novel takes all of the elements of other literature's genres and put them in it. It can be seen that in novel, we can find poetry and dramatic dialogue, along with epic, pastoral, satire, history, elegy, tragedy, and any number of other literary modes (Eagleton, 2005: 1).

Of course, as the most complete and perfect literary genre, novel can present and portray many kinds of themes and stories that are able to make the novel is interesting to be read by the readers. The authors will give their best effort to create such a great novel that can be a bestseller novel and has many lovers. They do not hesitate to travel around the world or waste their time to read many histories in order

to get an idea for their novel. They also do not hesitate to be an imaginative person who goes out the real world and enters the other world in order to be able to create a fantasy novel based on their imagination and their expectation of fantastic world and journey.

From many kinds of theme and stories, a fantasy novel is one of the favorite genres of novel among readers. One of the best fantasy novels is the series of *Percy Jackson and The Olympians* written by Rick Riordan. The novel series present myth theme with Greek mythology characters. Among the series, there is the first book entitled *The Lightning Thief* that becomes the bestseller novel. The novel was published in 2005 that consists of 22 chapters and tells about the adventure of Percy Jackson in searching for Zeus' master bolt and unexpectedly searching for his true identity as a son of god.

Next, this novel is going to be the source of data for this study. The novel tells about the life of twelve years old boy whose name is Percy Jackson. Percy Jackson is told in the story as a boy who has diagnosed with ADHD and dyslexia and has troubled behavior in school, especially on field trips. Percy has a stepfather who is abusive and does not care about his mother and himself. However, he never knows who his real father is until he gets into the unexpected long journey to save Zeus' master bolt that reveals all of the facts about him and his true identity. The journey begins when Mrs. Dodds, his pre-algebra teacher turns into a winged monster and attacks him. Then, Grover, his only friend invites him to the other world and tells the fact, including who actually Percy is and what he must do to save the world.

Furthermore, this study is going to analyze myths in the novel through Percy Jackson as the hero character and his journey based on the hero's journey theory by Christopher Vogler since the hero character is the main focus in fantasy novel such *Percy Jackson and The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* by Rick Jordan that becomes the center of the story. Moreover, myth is one of the most interesting topics because it is related to the history and culture of one society. Although myth is a thing that no one can prove the truth upon it, it takes a special and honorable place in societies' hearts. Based on those facts, it is important to analyze the hero's journey in this novel in order to know how a dyslexia boy such Percy Jackson can be a hero who saves the world and what kind of myths that want to be unveiled by the author to the readers.

The hero is the character who takes a great quest to realize his destiny (Stenudd, 2006). In addition, according to Zhamby (2015), hero is the central figure in stories and everyone is the hero of his or her own myth. Therefore, this study attempts to analyze Percy's journey since he is the hero of the novel based on the hero's journey theory by Christopher Vogler. The study is entitled *The Hero's Journey in Percy Jackson and The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* by Rick Jordan.

There are several studies that related to this study both in source of data and theory. Those are: first, *Perseus 'Percy' Jackson: The Re-invention of Mythological Characters in Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* that conducted by Yunita Ariani Putri (2014) from Sebelas Maret University who analyzed the archetypal characters appeared in Rick Riordan's novel entitled *Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief* by using Joseph Campbell's seven archetypal characters and

Riordan's ideology conveyed within this novel. Second, *From Zero to Hero. The Hero's Journey as Presented in J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter Book Series* by Maria Kristjánsdóttir (2011) from University of Iceland that analyzes the series of Harry Potter novel by using the stages of hero's journey from Joseph Campbell and Christopher Vogler theories to explore and explain the phenomenon of the Hero's Journey and the various archetypes known in folklore, and show the ways in which the Harry Potter series conforms to both subjects.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

The problem that is going to be analyzed in this study is formulated in a question that is: How is Percy's journey portrayed in *Percy Jackson and The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* novel by Rick Riordan?

1.3 Objective of The Study

The objective of this study is: To describe Percy's journey portrayed in *Percy Jackson and The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* novel by Rick Riordan.

1.4 Significances of The Study

Theoretically, this study gives benefit to give more knowledge about the hero's journey theory by Christopher Vogler in *Percy Jackson and The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* novel by Rick Riordan. Practically, this study can be a learning tool and comparison tool for the next researchers who want to analyze the same novel or use the same theory.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of The Study

This study analyzes Percy's journey in *Percy Jackson and The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* novel by Rick Riordan. The scope of this study is the hero's journey theory by Christopher Vogler which is used to analyze the novel. Moreover, this study is limited on the characters' utterances and author's narrations which show the stages of hero's journey as the data of the analysis.