

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the explanation of some parts of introduction. They are background, statement of research problems, objectives, significance, scope and limitation of the study, and the definitions of term. Those are as follows:

1.1. Background of Study

Imagination is the beginning of creation. By imagine something, people can show their desire about the dreams, ambitions, or thoughts. It can be shown in several ways such as writing, oration, or action. The process of creative imagination that poured in art of written works are called by literature. It is strengthened by Wellek and Warren (1972:3) statement that literature is a creative act and an art. Hence, generally literature is a creative expression of human imagination or wishes, which hardly ever reflects our actual life. Literature represents a language or a people: culture and tradition. But, literature is more important than just a historical or cultural artifact. Literature introduces us to new worlds of experience.

To this day, novel still maintains its leading position as the genre products the most innovation in literature (Klarer, 2004: 11). It shows that among the three other genres of literary works, people are mostly interested in novel. Novel is a genre of fiction, and fiction may be defined as the art or craft of contriving, through the written

word, representations of human life that instruct or divert or both. Novel can be divided into some categories such as mysteries, thrillers, romances, fantasy, etc.

Fantasy novel is one of literary genre that is very interesting to be analyzed. It has elements or parts that are not realistic. The story usually is based on myth, magic, legends, and fairy tales. As stated in Grenby's book, *Children's Literature* (1988, p.144) : "... Beside text set in other worlds, fantasy includes story of magic, ghost, talking animals and superhuman heroes, of time travel, hallucination, and dreams". Characters may have magical or supernatural powers or use some futuristic technology that allows fantastic things to happen. Therefore, people can imagine something freely by reading fantasy story and also built more their creativity.

One of the famous fantasy novels which is read by children and people in twenty first century is Rick Riordan's works. (Retrieved from <http://www.rickriordan.com/home.aspx>), he is the author of the *New York Times* #1 bestselling author who has already won the top three awards in mystery genre. There are many books that have already written by him, such as *Percy Jackson and The Olympians*, *The Kane Cronicles*, and *The Heroes of Olympus series*. The Heroes of Olympus series are the newest works of him that contains many mythology stories which is setting in modern times. The series contain of five novels which are *The Lost Hero* (2010), *The Son of Neptune* (2011), *The Mark of Athena* (2012), *The House of Hades* (2013), and *The Blood of Olympus* (2014).

When we talk about the hero character, it is always being an interesting topic that never ends. A hero should be defined as a person who goes above their responsibilities to help others, often at risk to their own safety. Joseph Campbell, once said, “a hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than one self (1968: 40).” Therefore, the hero is different and has a special place in our deep heart. So that, the story which contains a theme of hero is very interesting to be analyzed. In this study, the writer is going to analyze two of works of *The Heroes of Olympus* series, since the novels are considered as a popular books due to the novels are one of *New York Times* #1 best-selling. Those are *The Lost Hero* and *The Son of Neptune*.

The Lost Hero is the first book in *The Heroes of Olympus Series* by Rick Riordan. The novel tells about Jason who gets an amnesia. This condition brings him to meet Piper who claimed herself as Jason’s girlfriend and Leo as his bestfriend. They trap in unknown place named the Camp Half-Blood. The place where the descendent of Greek Gods live. After that, they get a command to do a quest to free Hera. The Greek Goddess who chained by their enemy.

While the second book is *The Son of Neptune* that also contain an interesting story as a first book. *The Son of Neptune* tells about the journey of Percy Jackson who can’t remember anything like Jason. He meets Hazel Levesque and Frank Zhang in Camp Jupiter. It is a place for the descendent of Roman Gods live. They also get a

command to do a dangerous quest to free Thanathos-The Death-who chained by their enemy.

Both of novels tell about *the demigods*-half God and mortal-who do a dangerous journey to quest something important for their and community life. As a popular books with the interesting stories by the author's way to bring the Greek and Roman mythology in modern times, these books are very appropriate to be analyzed by using monomyth theory of Joseph Campbell.

Joseph Campbell's concept of the monomyth is a general framework which provides a description of the significant elements of the world's mythology. Mythology is the study of myth. Myths are ancient stories that have been handed down from generation to generation in a certain culture. By studying myth, a person can learn how a culture thought, lived, and expressed themselves. Therefore, this study uses myth as the central concept to analyze the novels. Both of the novels contain a story about hero that have to do a journey for a quest. Hero quest myth is the core pattern of monomyth theory by Joseph Campbell. Standard pattern of mythological adventure of hero is a magnification of the formula represented in the rites of passage: separation, initiation, and return- which might be named the nuclear unit of the monomyth (Campbell, 1968:27).

The Lost Hero and *The Son of Neptune* are the fantasy novels that contain a story of hero journey. Furthermore, Joseph Campbell's monomyth theory is applied to analyze Riordan's *The Lost Hero* and *The Son of Neptune* which are in form of a

novel. The novels are taken as the source of data in this study. This study is going to be unique because Campbell's monomyth theory is applied to analyze a series of fantasy novels from the same author which have a plot structure refers to the hero quest journey. Therefore, this study entitled *The Hero Quest Myth* and use the monomyth theory to analyze the novels.

1.2. The Problem Statements

Based on the background of the study above, the statement of the problem is formulated into how is Campbell's hero quest monomyth applied in the novels?

1.3. The Objectives of The Study

Based on the research problem above, the objectives of the study is formulated to explain Campbell's hero quest monomyth that are applied in the novels.

1.4. The Significances of The Study

This study applies Campbell's hero quest monomyth theory in Rick Riordan's *The Lost Hero* and *The Son of Neptune*. There are two significances that are expected from this study, those are: Theoretically, it can enrich the reader's knowledge about Campbell's hero quest monomyth theory applied in a literary work. Practically, it is expected to use this study as the reference for the next studies of English Department, particularly the study using Rick Riordan's *The Lost Hero* and *The Son of Neptune*.

1.5. The Scope and Limitation of The Study

This study focuses on the utterances of the characters and narrations of the narrators in the novels which belong to Campbell's hero quest monomyth theory. It

consists of his stages of hero journey that is used to analyze Rick Riordan's *The Lost Hero* and *The Son of Neptune*. Furthermore, this study is limited on characters' utterances and narrators' narrations according to Campbell's hero quest monomyth that build only the main storyline.

1.6. The Definition of Term

- Hero: a mythological or legendary figure often of divine descent endowed with great strength or ability
- Quest: a journey made in search of something
- Myth: a story that was told in an ancient culture to explain a practice, belief, or natural occurrence
- Olympus: a mountain in Thessaly that in Greek mythology is the abode of the gods
- Neptune: The Roman god of the sea. Greek form: Poseidon
- Demigod: a person in mythology who has some of the powers of a god : a being in mythology who is part god and part human

(Retrieved from <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary>)