

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Research

Childhood is one of the most important and crucial phases of life growth. At this time, child's mental development is vulnerable to external influences. The influence might become through things like community interest. Literary work can be considered as one of the community interests nowadays. People often use literary work to tell their children tales for entertainment, reminder, or warning. The stories in the literary work deliver values and lessons in its story which can give influence or motivation towards children's development.

There is a literary work written for children to read which called children's literature. Peter Hunt, a British scholar and a literary critic argue in his book entitled *Understanding Children's Literature* published in 1999, "in its most fundamental sense to every critic who uses the term 'children's literature' means: books which are good for children, and most particularly good in terms of emotional and moral values" (15-16). It can be considered that children's literature might give the influence towards children's development whether it is a little or a lot. Through the values and messages in the story this literature could be used to inform the children about the righteousness that the people believe in common. Moreover, the story has a big influence when it has something in common with the reader. The writer believes if the story has the reflection of the reader's real-life story, it will not only be interesting for them but also give them some kind of inspiration. Kathleen Melville, a teacher who writes an article in *Education Week*

*Teacher* official website, also argues that the children are more interested in a story which reflects or have something related to them. In other words, these kinds of stories become an inspiration or even influence for children's development.

Rick Riordan's *Percy Jackson and The Olympian: The Lightning Thief* is one of the famous books among children's literature in recent years. The book is published in 2005 and book won several awards such as Hampshire Book Award and ALA's Best Book for Young Adult 2006. According to Matt Berman in his review on the *Common Sense Media: Ratings, Reviews, and Advice* entitled "The Lightning Thief: Percy Jackson and the Olympians, Book 1 - Book Review" this novel is recommended to be read by children over the age of nine. The main character of the novel, Percy Jackson, lives in a modern era in America instead of in ancient times in Greece. Based on the setting and idea of the modern era, the writer believes that Riordan is trying to portray Percy as the character that can fit the modern young reader. Although the story and the character is a fiction, it is still based on the thoughts or kind of expressions from the author. According to Klarer in his book *Introduction to Literary Studies* published in 2004, "Literature is referred to as the entirety of written expression, with the restriction that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the more exact sense of the word" (1). Analyzing this character development through his journey can help people to understand in maintaining mental or emotion in purpose to stay in the right way. Henry James, a famous American author writes in his essay "The Art of Fiction" which is reprinted on *Partial Portrait* in 1888, "The only reason for the existence of a novel is that it does attempt to represent life" (388-389).

There is a lot of story which brings up the classic topic of heroism and the character change during an adventure such as *The Lord of The Ring*, *Harry Potter*, *How To Train Your Dragon*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, etc. The adventure tells the reader how the character change, complete the quest and become the hero in the end. This change and development depict the human life. Human life has various phases or stages which each presents or have its own meaning and purposes. There are twelve stages of life according to Thomas Armstrong in his website article “The Twelve Stage of Life” in *The American Institute for Learning and Human Development*. The stages are pre-birth, birth, infancy, early childhood, middle childhood, late childhood, adolescence, early adulthood, midlife, mature adulthood, late adulthood, and death and dying. The novel *Percy Jackson and The Olympian: The Lightning Thief* also presents a story of heroism and adventure. It makes the writer believes that this novel can be studied or analyzed using Monomyth Cycle or Hero’s Journey Theory.

## 1.2 Identification of The Problem

*Percy Jackson and The Olympian: The Lightning Thief* known for its heroism topic. It presents a character named Percy Jackson develops and change into a young hero. However, the traumatic loss occurs as the issue in his journey of change. The journey describes the changes he experience so he was capable to think and mentally develop. The writer sees that Percy could be a role model for young reader with age around 9. The way his mental develop is an example of a beneficial change in a posttraumatic child. The mental development is formed and shown in the stages that he goes through in the journey.

This study reveals how the experience of traumatic loss delivers a positive impact on a child's development where it triggers them to seek ways to avoid similar experiences. There are at least two forms of thought shown in the story that can be chosen when encountering another problem, namely overcoming it or avoiding it. In the course of his heroism, Percy chooses to overcome the problems that come and later makes it considered as the first step to becoming a better person. This analysis also explains that traumatic loss experiences towards the children can trigger and prepare them to be able to overcome and passing through other obstacles before reaching the adulthood.

### 1.3 Scope of The Research

In order not to make the analysis compact, clear and does not out of its topic, the writer set several limitations for this research. This research focuses on the analysis of the traumatic loss that occurs in the pattern of Percy's hero's journey. The writer also provides the analysis of the character development which can be seen through the journey.

### 1.4 Research Questions

In purpose to make the research relevant to the scope and limitation, the writer considers these questions to be answer in the research:

1. What are the steps of the journey that leads Percy to become a hero?
2. What is the specific motive that makes Percy takes the journey?
3. How the Hero's Journey of Percy Jackson overcome his traumatic loss?



## 1.5 The Objective of the Research

The first aim of this research is to describe the effect of the experience that causes traumatic loss which can help or give the positive effect in the development of the emotion and human psychology. This research will use the Hero's Journey pattern by Joseph Campbell on purpose to find out how the hero in the story can deal with many experiences that impact and change his personalities. The experience that the writer believes creates the character of hero when facing many problems or issue and make him become a true hero.

Next objective of this research is to show how the process of the character develops through the steps and stages of the journey. The research will also show the reader other factors that can give the influence to push the character to change. Those influences can be said as the reason or motives behind the heroic action in the character.

## 1.6 Review of Related Studies

Rick Riordan's book *Percy Jackson & The Olympian: The Lightning Thief* has already been studied by some researchers. The writer reviews some researches to guide and to avoid similar research objective. First is a thesis by a student from Andalas University, Adelina Putri she studies the novel in her research "Hero Pattern in Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson and The Olympians: The Lightning Thief" in 2010. Her research aims to analyze the hero's journey pattern in Rick Riordan's book, however, she only explores and reveals the three phases of Campbell's theory which are Departure, Initiation, and Return. The researcher just focuses on discussing the three phases which are passed by the hero and does not conclude what is the specific reason how the hero

becomes a hero. However, the researcher proves that the novel has a story framework or steps that follow the stage of the hero's journey pattern in the main character's adventure.

The second reference is an article written by Mugijatna, Sri Kusumo Habsari, and Yunita Ariani Putri entitled "Rick Riordan's Intention in Writing Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief and the Reception of the Readers" in 2014. The authors write this article with an aim to find how the novel mixed those cultures of Greek and American. The topic of the novel is a Greek mythology but the setting is in America. Combination between mythologies and modern culture are analyzed using Paul Ricoeur's hermeneutic theory of interpretation. The researchers do not explore the journey of the character but only analyze the description of Greek Mythology as reflected in the novel, in the author's life and the reader's horizon of expectation. This article finds that the novel presents a blend structure of Greek mythology and the American lifestyle.

The third is a thesis journal by Hasyim As'Ary, a student from Dian Nuswantoro University with a title "Percy Jackson's Obsession and Motive to Get His Mother Back Described in Rick Riordan's The Lightning Thief" in 2014. The aim of the research is to reveal the specific reason for Percy's obsession to get his mother back. The researcher analyzes the novel through the intrinsic elements of fiction but more focus on the character and the plot. The researcher also writes many quotations from the novel to strengthen his argument about the character and the plot. This article does not discuss Percy Jackson and The Olympian: The Lightning Thief using hero's journey theory but it succeeds in proving the motive of the character through intrinsic analysis.

The writer of the thesis also refers to an article by Peter Bray, “The Hero-Journey, Hamlet and Positive Psychological Transformation” published on 2017. This article argues that Joseph Campbell explains that the lives of human beings might be seen as a variation on a single unifying grand narrative (abstract). Campbell obtains the conscious and unconscious themes found in myths and legends that create a metaphor of the heroic human struggle for growth and transformation. This growth and transformation are acquired by the hero on how their response to their adventure and how they face or deal with the obstacles. Bray argues that as a conceptual metaphor, the template of the hero's journey give a chance or a way for the survivor or the professional helpers to consider the long process of trauma recovery organize and make sense of their experiences, and move on with life. Bray concludes that his research finds out that the psychological transformation has the positive impact on Hamlet when dealing with life struggle of trauma experiences. He proves his finding by using the hero's journey template in order to find and outlining the evidence of his assumption or the issue of his research focus.

Next article is from Clive Williams entitled “The Hero’s Journey: A Mudmap for Change” published on 2017. This article writes that the hero's journey has three phases which are like a map of change. The three phases of the journey are meant to inform the client about the point of change process, the expectation and the significant problem or solution that present to complete the story. Hero's journey contains the story of a person who deals with various problems in his or her journey and how they resolve it. The adventure that the hero takes explains that the hero's journey provides a template of all changes which can be caused by the requirement to progress to the next during each stage of the journey. Each stage of the journey presents a comprehensive mud map intended for

a person who seek or force to change. Hero's journey also can be applied to another term such as the one applied by Peter Bray to clients with a trauma. This application proves that hero's journey is offered as a map to understand and navigate the change of process from trauma recovery. In his article, Clive Williams writes that “Campbell (1993) identifies that a Hero's Journey occurs in three sequential phases: Separation, Initiation, and the Return” (6).

Those researchers analyzed the Hero's Journey pattern and character development. Some researchers only analyzed the Hero's Journey pattern without looking further on the issue which occurs in the pattern. However, they succeeded to analyze and prove that each main character in the work follows the pattern of Hero's Journey by Joseph Campbell. The research which analyzed the character development discovers the change towards the character during the journey. They succeeded to prove that the journey helps the character change and overcome their fear and weakness. The previous research above would help the writer to analyze the character development in the object of the research using the Hero's Journey theory.

### **1.7 Theoretical Framework**

This research uses the pattern of the Hero's Journey which is based on the Archetypal approach. Carl Jung is the literary theorist who applies the term of the archetype. In *Critical Theory Today* by Louis Tyson explains,

The word archetype refers to an image, type of the character, plot formula, or the action pattern which then considered as a kind of supertype or model of different



versions of which recur throughout the history of human production: in our myths, literature, dreams, religions, and rituals of social behavior (223).

The archetypes present the symbol that has similar structure around the various cultures which comes from human unconsciousness. The symbol such as fire and ice, heaven and hell, lightning, rain, steam etc. can be simply known in various stories and myths. Joseph Campbell is a theorist that applies the term of archetype to the world of mythologies. He proposes the theory of Hero's Journey to identify the story by believing that the story has some certain phases. The theory is also known as the Monomyth theory but it is now popularly known as Hero's Journey. The patterns of the hero's journey explained in detail using many mythical concepts of the story as the example in Joseph Campbell's book, *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* (1949).

Campbell described that the concept of the Hero's Journey has some specific and different stages which have to be passed in purpose to become a hero. The various stages that the Campbell explains in his book are grouped into departure, initiation, and return. The three group stages also contain some sub-parts or stages. The total number of the stages is amounts seventeen stages.

## 1. Departure

Departure stage is the first stage in Campbell's theory of the hero's journey. This stage is the point when the hero is introduced to a new world different from his ordinary world. This stage also becomes the beginning of the separation between the hero's ordinary world and the other world. There are five sub-stages in the Departure stage. The call to adventure: it is meant to wake the hero up when he faces with the challenge

directly or indirectly. It surprises the heroes because at this point they just realize that there are many things that they do not know yet. Refusal of the call; it happens when the obligation or fear prevent the hero from starting the journey. This mostly leaves the heroes in dilemma because he or she hesitates or still cannot believe in the call although he or she has to accept the call anyway. Supernatural Aid: the guide or magical helper which informs the hero the way they should take when he or she has to choose one. The help sometimes from a magical creature or humankind like a hero. Crossing of the first threshold: is the point when the hero enters the new world and leaves his ordinary world. The first threshold will also become a proving or a test to see the hero's power and knowledge. The Belly of the whale: the representation of a dangerous place or the new world and this stage is the last point of separation from the ordinary world (45-83).

## 2. Initiation

This second stage of Campbell's theory discusses how the heroes pass the obstacles and trials in his journey to become a true hero. The initiation stage contains six sub-stages. First is The Road of Trials which is the point when the hero is forced to prove himself to the people and able to receive or accept the quest. Most of the mythologies story presents the trials as the fight between the hero and the monster. Second is Meeting with the Goddess which is the situation when the hero meets a kind of female figure with the power to support the hero in his journey. The third is Temptation or the stage that will distract the hero from the ultimate quest. The temptation can be presented as a male or female figure, fake power, or the hero's loved one. Fourth is Atonement with the father or the stage when the hero must confront and be initiated by whatever holds the ultimate power. Fifth is Apotheosis which is the stage of gaining a greater knowledge and

understanding. The last is the Ultimate boon or the stage when the goal of the journey has been achieved (89-159).

### **3. Return**

This last stage describes the hero who achieves his goals and gains his true power. However, this stage also discusses another various obstacles and the last threshold in order to make sure or to test the hero's will and power. There are six sub-stages which are; Refusal of return or the part when the hero wants to stay instead of return. This happens when the hero feels comfortable with his new form or live. The magic flight is a hurried dash with treasure from the ultimate boon. The magic flight makes the hero back to the safe place in a hurry or even in an instant. Rescue from without is the stage when the hero is saved by the unexpected character. The savior might be the one that the hero is really known, the god or even a stranger. The crossing of the return threshold is the last obstacle to convince the hero's power. Although the hero returns to the safe place and rescued, the last threshold usually faces by the hero alone and it is more difficult than the first threshold. Master of the two worlds is the stage when the hero completed the journey and balance between the material and spiritual. Freedom to live is the last sub-stage which is presented as the hero has returned and changed so they can live free as they wish (179-221)

#### **1.8 Research Method**

The research is conducted by following three steps methods which are collecting the data, analyzing the data and presenting the result.

### 1.8.1 Collecting the data

The data for this research are taken from two sources which are primary data and secondary data. The primary data collected by a comprehensive reading of the novel *Percy Jackson and The Olympian: The Lightning Thief*. The novel used as the data resource about Percy Jackson's development through his heroic journey. The secondary data are taken from credible article and research from a trusted website, essays, and college student's thesis.

### 1.8.2 Analyzing the Data

The data analyzed by reading the book several times focusing on the intrinsic elements which considered as the clue for and to support the finding of the research. Joseph Campbell's theory about the Monomyth pattern is the basis to analyze and discuss the data. Since the hypothesis of the research is about the psychological change, the writer also includes the explanation that is related to it.

### 1.8.3 Presenting the Result of Analysis

The result presented through thesis paper and presentation. The qualitative and descriptive method presented in composing the result of the research. The quotation of the novel included as the data and evidence which the writer explain and discuss in the description as the analysis.