

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

The journey of a hero usually begins with knights that have a quest or task to save a princess. In classical children literature, princesses are always in trouble and need a hero to solve that. Nowadays there are a lot of young adult works of literature that show that woman can also be the hero.

Women's oppression has been discussed since a long time ago. Aristotle declared that "the female is a female by virtue of a certain lack of qualities", and St Thomas Aquinas believed that woman is an "imperfect man" (Selden 1993). Patriarchal culture exists and grows in many ways, including in literature. In the late 19th century literary works, women were oppressed as the second sex, as a property and they can not have a proper education.

One of the famous authors who show that woman can also be a hero is Michael Scott. In Michael Scott The Official Website <<http://www.dillonscott.com/>>, it is stated that he is an Irish born author who began writing over twenty-five years ago and becomes the most successful author in Ireland. He is considered one of the authorities on the folklore of the Celtic lands and is credited with the resurgence of interest in the subject in the mid-1980s. His collections, such as Irish Folk & Fairy Tales, Irish Myths & Legends and Irish Ghosts & Hauntings have remained continuously in print for the past twenty years and are now included amongst the definitive and most-quoted works on the subject (Scott 2010).

Most of his works contain a variety of genres; including fantasy, science fiction, and folklore. He writes for both adults and young adults and his works have been published in thirty-

seven countries, in twenty languages. In 1995, his book entitled Gemini Game was nominated in Golden Duck in a category Hal Clement Young Adult Award (Scott 2010).

The Alchemyst: The Secrets of Immortal Nicholas Flamel series is the most famous series that he ever wrote that was published in May 2007. This first book win and nominated several awards, such as in 2007 School Library Journal -- Starred Review, 2008 Texas Lone Star Reading List -- Young Adult (Commended), 2009 Nevada Young Readers' Award -- Young Adult (Nominee), 2009 Rhode Island Teen Book Award -- Ages 12 & Up (Winner), 2011 Rebecca Caudill Young Readers Book Award -- Grades 4-8 (Nominee), 2012 Grand Canyon Reader Award -- Tween (Nominee) (Scott 2010).

This series is about twins who are involved in the fighting of a book named The Codex that can summon Dark Elders back to the earth. Nicholas Flamel as the guardian of The Codex has known that this day would happen and the twins have been prophesied long time ago as the two that are one. One is to save the world and the other will destroy it. Flamel, along with his wife Perenelle as the guardian of The Codex must train the twins to save the world from Dr. John Dee, who is trying to summon the Dark Elder.

The Alchemyst: The Secrets of Immortal Nicholas Flamel's main character consists of a twin who is different in gender. In this novel, Scott represents the woman as a hero, though she must pass heroic stages. There are a lot of women acted as minor characters, and Scott gives them their part. Thus, this is making him aware that woman can also be active and progressive along with this book.

Michael Scott has a unique way of writing The Alchemyst: The Secrets of Immortal Nicholas Flamel series. Scott combines various numbers of mythical creatures and people in real life and uses an imaginative story to make this series come alive. The use of various numbers of

legends in real life and numerous mythical creatures described in The Secrets of Immortal Nicholas Flamel series that makes this book unique. Scott also deconstructs this legends' life into his novel and combined it with various mythological creatures that beyond our imagination.

The writer entitles this research "Twin Heroes' Journeys in Michael Scott's Novel The Alchemyst: The Secrets of Immortal Nicholas Flamel: a Study with Joseph Campbell's Monomyth Cycle" as a result of these reasons. First, the writer analyzes The Alchemyst: The Secrets of Immortal Nicholas Flamel because the main characters are twins, who are different in gender. The writer wants to know how the female character is portrayed as a heroine and how she passes the stages as a heroine. So, this research can help others to know more about female character as a heroine.

Secondly, In The Alchemyst: The Secrets of Immortal Nicholas Flamel book the heroism occurs in a different way compared to other children's literature. The writer wants to analyze the Heroes Journey topic for both major characters because the writer thinks that the female character is the heroine. Therefore, this research will academically help other students to comprehend their knowledge about Heroes Journey topic.

Thirdly, The writer is interested in The Alchemyst: The Secrets of Immortal Nicholas Flamel because of its tremendous popularity. Michael Scott is regarded as an expert as a folklorist and the writer believes that his experiences of folklore influence the popularity of his works. Scott's works have not been widely analyzed by Andalas University students, and the writer hopes this research will be useful for other students to know more about Michael Scott's works.

1.2 Research Questions

This research is to answer these following questions:

1. What are the stages that the twins pass through to become a hero/heroine?
2. How does Michael Scott represent gender roles of the main and minor characters in the perspective of patriarchal binary thoughts?

1.3 Objective of the Research

The first objective of the research is to examine our knowledge in hero's journey's theory proposed by Joseph Campbell experienced by the twins in order to save the world and to become heroes. By knowing this pattern, the writer can enhance the knowledge about the main characters and the plot of this book. Secondly, the writer aims to find out Michael Scott's perspective of gender roles in *The Alchemyst: The Secrets of Immortal Nicholas Flamel* book. By knowing the other characters' gender roles, the reader can deeply understand the relationship between characters in this book.

1.4 Scope of the Research

As mentioned earlier, this research focuses on analyzing Sophie and Josh Newman's Heroes Journey as the major characters in the first book of *The Secrets of Immortal Nicholas Flamel* series. The writer uses Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey theory to highlight their journey from the first stages to become a hero/heroine and shows the similarities and the differences of their heroic journey. Additionally, even though there are a lot of minor characters, the writer only analyzes 2 minor characters and how Michael Scott represents their gender roles in *The Alchemysyt: The Secrets of Immortal Nicholas Flamel*.

1.5 Method of Research

In conducting this research, there are three steps to follow; collecting the data, analyzing the data, and presenting the result of the analysis.

5.1. Collecting the Data

In this step, the writer collects data by using the library research method. The writer uses two types of data, which is primary and secondary data. The writer gets the primary data from *The Alchemyst: The Secrets of Immortal Nicholas Flamel* book. The secondary data is from other resources, such as books, articles, internet, journal that related to archetypal criticism.

5.2. Analyzing the Data

The writer analyzes the intrinsic elements of the novel. The next step is analyzing the problem of the research by using theories that already stated before.

5.3. Presenting the Result of Analysis

The result of analysis is presented descriptively.

