

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides a comprehensive overview of the research conducted. This chapter includes five main parts, namely research background, statement of problems, research objectives, research significance, and an explanation of the definition of key terms.

1.1 Research Background

Literary works are a form of art that not only present the beauty of language but also encompass a wide range of meanings and values. In their development, literary works often employ narrative as a primary means of conveying ideas and establishing connections between characters, events, and the stories being portrayed as stated by Dhamale (2023, p. 8) narrative in literary works as a mirror that reflects or conveys values. Various narratives or stories have become part of humanity, reflected in novels, myths, legends, poems or short stories. Along with technological advances and the passage of time, narratives have continued to evolve, one of which is through the medium of film. This development has also led to the rise of various popular literary works that use multiple media platforms. According to McCracken (1998, p. 1) popular literature simply as literature that is read by large numbers of people. As a result, popular literature has become more accessible to a broader audience, especially through film. Visual mediums like film allow popular literary stories to be enjoyed by a larger audience, overcoming the limitations of written texts. By incorporating visual elements, sound, and music, films bring narratives to life in a more engaging and immediate way. Different genres in films fall under popular literature, which is liked by many due to its interesting storylines or the compelling character development.

Film is one of the audio-visual communication media that aims to convey a message to a group of people. Film can also be interpreted as a media that not only provides entertainment but also provides information. According to Pratista (2024,

p.1) Films have two elements, namely the narrative element, which focuses on plot, dialogue or theme, while the cinematic element focuses on the technical part of a film production. With a well-designed story, a film can convey an interesting story. One of the elements of a film is the narrative contained in the film's story itself. A film has a narrative that includes a storyline, characters, settings, and themes. According to Apriliany & Hermiati (2021, p.192) A film is a series of moving images that form a story or can also be called a movie or video. Furthermore, a film can development allows the audience to connect with the characters by understanding their story, emotions and motivations. In films, there are several themes or genres that are very diverse, and each genre has its own characteristics that distinguish one from another. Some popular film genres include romance, fantasy, horror, drama and adventure.

One of interesting film to study is *Dolittle* (2020). *Dolittle* is film directed by Stephen Gaghan. The story centers on the journey of a veterinarian, Dr. Dolittle, who is famous in England and has the extraordinary ability to talk to animals. The *Dolittle* film is a film that has one of the mixed reviews from many critics, both from the story and the visuals of the film. However, *Dolittle* (2020) still attracts the attention of many viewers around the world. One of the factors that makes this film interesting is its concept which combines elements of adventure and interesting character development. Commercially, *Dolittle* was able to achieve significant achievements even though it was released in early 2020, right at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic which had a major impact on the global film industry. Based on data from Box Office Mojo, this film managed to gross more than \$ 250 million worldwide, showing that there is still high interest in classic adventure stories that are repackaged with a modern approach. This achievement is quite impressive, meaning that this film is still able to attract a large audience despite facing challenges in the global market.

In addition, the reason for choosing *Dolittle* is because this film has a unique story and the unique thing about *Dolittle* (2020) is the depiction of the main character. Dr. Dolittle, as an eccentric veterinarian who has the unique ability to talk

to animals. This ability is not only the main attraction of the story, but also the core of his identity as a hero. A skill that not only gives him access to the animal world but also makes him an important link between humans and nature. Another unique thing about Dr. Dolittle is the way he solves problems. He relies on dialogue, ingenuity, and cooperation with animals in carrying out his mission. He faces various obstacles by relying on strategy, empathy, and cooperation with animals, rather than physical strength. This approach distinguishes him from many conventional Hero who often rely on strength or violence. For example, he uses the expertise of each animal to overcome challenges, such as calming enemies with diplomacy or finding creative solutions when faced with danger.

When the structure of the *Hero's Journey* is combined with the adventure formula in a film, the audience is invited to follow a journey filled with challenges, growth, and transformation of the main character. Film becomes an effective medium to bring adventure elements to life, both through narrative and visually, by presenting the protagonist's transformation into a hero and a storyline that follows the typical structure of an adventure formula. This formula usually includes stages in which the main character overcomes various obstacles and completes a mission. Thus, with strong visual presentation and a well-structured narrative, films are able to depict a coherent story built upon the adventure formula, particularly emphasizing the concept of the hero's journey as experienced by the main character, highlighting their transformation and development throughout the film.

In general, in many hero's journey stories the main character is generally known as a hero. Hero is a character who is often to focus in various works of popular literature or popular culture. Popular culture or popular literature that is mass-produced in society. Popular culture products can be found in various fields, the most common examples are film, music, literature, or what can be called popular literature. Based on the statement of Nachbar (1992, p. 13) Popular culture includes far more than just the popular arts; it also encompasses icons, heroes, stereotypes, rituals, and, most importantly, the beliefs and values of the masses. One of the characters that is often depicted in many literary works is the hero. This shows that

a hero is one of the important elements. Hero is also included in popular literature because they are often the center of attention in stories that are popular with the public. Stories about heroes usually contain interesting storylines, conflicts and interesting resolutions, making them easily accepted and liked by the public. Over time, the concept of a hero has developed into various characters that appear in novels, films, and dramas.

The hero is generally the center in the story and takes on the task of completing a mission or dealing with a major conflict. According to Joseph Campbell (2004, p. 35) A hero is someone endowed with remarkable talents and is typically esteemed by their society. The hero has a journey that involves growth and courage in facing challenges or enemies to achieve a goal. Hero's journey tends to follow a narrative pattern as formulated in the Hero's Journey theory, which combines elements of adventure. One theory of the hero's journey was put forward by Christopher Vogler in his book *Writer's Journey Mythic Structure for Writer*. the hero's journey is divided into twelve interconnected stages that form a structure that helps describe the hero's transformation process. According to Satria (2022, p. 613) hero's journey is a common theme in literature, particularly when it comes to the main character. The main character experiences a series of events that will ultimately determine his status as a hero, this can be seen as heroism. The hero's journey is more than merely a sequence of events; it illustrates how each moment contributes to the hero's deep personal transformation. This progression of events mirrors the structure of the hero's journey as it shapes the hero's growth and change. According to Roghdah (2024, p. 3) Hero exists in films with the adventure genre. Which we call it as a superhero. In an adventure genre film, a hero is usually depicted as a strong figure has ability or superpowers. As the quote above, the existence of heroes in adventure films is not only as figures who have physical or super powers, but also reflects the concept of journey and self-transformation. These heroes often experience challenges that test their abilities, both physically and mentally, which ultimately lead them to great change.

In popular literature, there is a pattern that is often referred to as a formula used in developing a story that can make it easier to group based on a particular theme or genre. This formula functions as a basic structure for the story to be more structured and more familiar. As stated by Ulhaq (2023, p. 78) the formula is part of a structure that contains certain themes that form a type of literary work. Formula is an element in popular literary style. Formula is a common method of creating or doing something that involves various required elements. One formula that is often used in story structure is the adventure formula. The hero plays a central role as the main character who begins a challenging journey, faces conflicts, and develops himself through his experiences. This adventure formula is used to understand the storyline more deeply. The hero in this adventure formula is faced with a series of obstacles that trigger self-transformation and hone his courage. With this adventure plot, it can be identified how the hero develops from an ordinary individual to an extraordinary figure and brings significant changes to the story. In the adventure formula, hero face obstacles and dangers and complete important and morally significant missions.

In this study, the researcher used the *Dolittle* movie (2020) as the object of study. Theories such as Hero's Journey or adventure formula are used to help analyse the story patterns and journeys of the main characters in this film. In order for the research to be more relevant, the researcher also refers to several previous studies that discuss the topic of adventure and hero characters in popular films or literary works.

The first, Journal entitled *An Analysis of Deixis In 'Dolittle' Movie* in this analysis aims to explore how the use of deictic words—such as pronouns, time indicators, and place—contributes to character development, interactions between characters, and understanding of context in the narrative. Through this analysis, it can be identified how deixis helps create emotional closeness between the audience and the characters, as well as highlighting the dynamics of complex relationships in the story. The researcher can infer from the results of this analysis of the research that was done that, out of the words that display five deixis, 1238 Person Deixis

were obtained from 574 first person deixis, 327 second person deixis, and 313 third person deixis, 106 Place Deixis, 45 Time Deixis, 226 Discourse Deixis, and 150 Social Deixis so that the total is 1,765 deixis.

Second, a thesis written by Yuli Andriyani entitled *The Construction of Adventure Formula Through Hero in Rick Riordan's The Red Pyramid*. This thesis discusses the first two topics, namely the hero who constructs the adventure formula using Joseph Campbell's theory and the Adventure Formula using John G Cawelti's theory which explains the obstacles and dangers experienced by the characters. There are differences and similarities in Yuli Andriyani's research and this research. Firstly, the similarity between Yuli Andriyani's research and this research is that they use the same research formula, namely the adventure formula. Second, the difference between Yuli Andriyani's research and this research lies in the objects used.

Third, this thesis entitled *Employing Speech Acts to Extrapolating Epic Adventure in Dolittle Movie (2020)* which analyzes the use of speech acts in the film *Dolittle (2020)*. This study aims to reveal Dr. Dolittle's utterances that are indirectly expressed. The results show that among the 5 types of effects, the film contains 4 illocutionary acts, which include Assertive, Directive, Commissive, and Expressive Illocutionary Power.

Fourth, thesis entitled *Flouting Maxim Analysis on The Characters in Dolittle Movie* This thesis analyses the maxim violations in the communication of the characters in the film *Dolittle (2020)* to understand how language use and pragmatic violations affect social interactions and build humour and conflict in the narrative. The purpose of this analysis is to identify examples of maxim violations committed by the characters, such as the maxims of quantity, quality, relationship, and manner, and their impact on the audience's understanding of the characters and the situations they face. According to the study's findings, the researcher discovered that the characters' motivations for breaking the maxims were to conceal the truth, persuade, and entice the audience.

Fifth, thesis entitled *Hero of Adventure Story in James Dashner's The 13th Reality the Journal of Curios Letters Novel*. This study aims to analyze the hero character focusing on the adventure journey experienced by the main character, Atticus Higginbottom. Through a narrative analysis approach, this study will explore how Atticus fulfills the classic elements of a hero in an adventure story, including the call to action, the challenges he faces, and the character growth he experiences. The results of the study are expected to reveal how the heroic structure in this story reflects the larger themes of courage, self-discovery, and the value of friendship, and provide insight into how these elements contribute to the appeal and depth of the adventure story in the novel.

Sixth, thesis entitled *Hero in Adventure Formula of Spider-man Homecoming Movie* by Silvi Nurhakimah. This study aims to explore the hero character's function in Jon Watts' Spider-Man: Homecoming, with an emphasis on how the adventure formula is applied in Peter Parker's journey. Using qualitative analysis methods and film theory approaches, this study will explore key elements of the adventure formula, including the call to action, conflict, and character growth experienced by Peter in his efforts to become a hero. The results of the study are expected to identify how the character of Spider-Man fulfills the hero archetype, as well as how his adventure journey reflects universal themes such as responsibility, identity, and the transition from adolescence to adulthood, providing insight into the appeal of superhero films in the context of popular culture.

Seventh, the research on *Hero's Journey in Percy Jackson and The Olympians: The Lightning Thief (2005)* by Aditya Nanda Difa aims to analyze the journey of the main character, Percy Jackson, and how the experiences and challenges he faces reflect the stages in the narrative structure of the Hero's Journey. According to the study's findings, Percy's journey encompasses not only tangible elements like battling monsters and looking for artifacts, but also emotional development and hero identity. This study employs qualitative descriptive analysis as its methodology, wherein the author identifies and explains the novel's Hero's Journey

stages and investigates the ways in which these components support the character's growth and the story's overarching theme.

From the seven writings above, there are many approaches that can be used to analyze important elements in films, including deixis analysis, character conflict, and violation of maxims in communication and several studies on the hero's journey but with differences in the object of the study. Previous studies have shown that these aspects contribute significantly to the understanding of narrative in a work. With a focus on the Hero's Journey, this study aims to fill the gap in the study of the film *Dolittle* (2020) exploring the hero's journey which includes internal and external conflicts, and understanding how Dolittle's transformation aligns with the classical narrative structure that has been established by the Hero's Journey theory. This allows for a deeper dive into how elements of adventure, conflict, and character dynamics interact to create a richer and more meaningful narrative, and strengthens the relevance of heroic analysis in popular fiction.

1.2 Statement of problems

The main problem in this study is how the hero's journey and adventure formula is applied in both films. This problem is further formulated into several research questions below:

1. How are the stages of the Hero's Journey implemented in the main character of the film *Dolittle* (2020)?
2. How are the elements of the adventure formula constructed in the film *Dolittle* (2020) storyline?

1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the statement of problem above, the purposes underlying this research are:

1. To analyze the application of the Hero's Journey stages in the main character of film *Dolittle* (2020)

2. To analyze the elements of the adventure formula constructed in the storyline of the film *Dolittle* (2020)

1.4 Research Significance

Based on the research background, researcher hopes to provide insight and contribute to literary studies, especially in hero's journey studies. This research also to understand about hero's journey and also adventure formula. Researcher used the theory by Christopher Vogler regarding the hero's journey and theory by John G. Cawelti regarding formula adventure. There are several benefits that can be obtained from the results of this research:

1. Theoretical Significance

This research is expected to enrich the understanding of the theory applied in the analysis, as well as provide deeper insight into the journey of the main character, both hero and adventure formula. Thus, this research can facilitate the understanding of how character development and character traits shape the storyline. Furthermore, this study attempts to increase understanding in the field of popular literature, particularly in the realm of film, by providing a more systematic approach in recognizing the pattern of the main character's journey. Thus, this study should be able to make a significant contribution in understanding the narrative structure and characteristics that exist in film literature.

2. Practical Significance

This research is expected to provide significant practical benefits, especially for English Literature students, by providing useful references for further research on similar topics. In addition to being a reference, this research is also expected to enrich the understanding of the hero's journey and adventure formula, especially related to the journey of the main character and the adventures that appear in the film *Dolittle* (2020). By using Christopher Vogler's theory, this study will provide a comprehensive picture of the narrative structure and character development in the adventure genre, so that it can help other researchers and students in understanding

the concepts related to the hero's journey and the structure of the adventure formula in building a dynamic and in-depth story.

1.5 Definition of Key Term

1. Popular Literature

Popular literature is a type of literature written for public consumption, usually with the aim of being entertaining and easy to understand. It is characterized by a lighter tone than serious or canonical literature, and often follows recognizable patterns and formulas. It typically has simpler characters, plots, and themes. Popular literature includes genres such as adventure fiction, romance, science fiction, and mystery, and is often adapted into other media such as novel, poem, film, or video games.

2. Formula and genre

Formula and genre are two important concepts in literary studies. Genre refers to the category or type of a work based on specific thematic, stylistic, and narrative structure characteristics, such as science fiction, adventure, or romance. Similarly, formula is a recurring narrative pattern within a particular genre, encompassing predictable elements such as plot, characters, and conflict. Formula helps maintain audience expectations toward a certain genre, thereby creating a sense of familiarity and satisfaction.

3. Adventure formula

Adventure Formula is a narrative structure that describes a common pattern in adventure stories, where the main character faces a series of challenges and obstacles to achieve a certain goal. The main character typically has a clear objective but must overcome several obstacles and conflicts that try their bravery. Significant character changes and story developments are frequently brought about by their journey.

4. Hero's Journey

Hero's Journey is a narrative stage journey that describes a hero's journey involving a series of significant events, challenges, and character changes that usually end in achievement. This pattern is used to analyze stories in which the main character experiences growth through experiences full of tests and challenges. A hero will go through twelve stages in the hero's journey.

5. Film

A film is a visual form of communication that combines moving images and sound to convey a story, information, or artistic expression to an audience. As an art form and entertainment, film combines elements such as narrative, acting, cinematography, music, and special effects to create an immersive and engaging experience.

