

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the research which contains five parts. They are: research background, statement of problems, research purpose and significant, frame of thinking, and previous studies.

1.1 Research background

Literary work is the medium used by the author in conveying his ideas, as a medium for literary works to become a bridge that connects the author's thought to the reader. In the development of literary works, one of the creative arts besides novels, poetry, short stories, and dramas is film. A film is a form of mass communication that conveys messages through a combination of various works such as music, drama, arts, and photography. Films can reflect social and cultural reality in a particular nation and era for various purposes. To began developing literary work doesn't only focusing on the text. In literature, the film is part of the mass media in modern communication. The film is an audiovisual or moving image, unlike photos, a film can provide dynamic elements to the objects displayed.

The films have several genres, such as action, adventure, science fiction, romance, horror, drama, fantasy, thriller. One of the most popular film genres is the fantasy genre. Fantasy films usually have fantastic themes, which involve magic, supernatural events, mythology, folklore, or exotic fantasy worlds. According to (Pratista, 2017),

” film fantasi merujuk pada film yang berhubungan dengan magis, mitos, negeri dongeng, imajinasi, halusinasi, serta alam mimpi yang didalamnya memuat pedang sakti, mantera gaib, naga, raksasa, kuda terbang,

karpas terbang, dewa-dewi, penyihir, jin, serta peri adalah yang sering kali muncul dalam film fantasi.”

Based on the quote above, there are several fantasy films such as: *Clash of The Titans* (2010), *Wrath of The Titans* (2012), *Hercules: The Thracian Wars* (2014), *Thor* (2011), *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* (2010), *Immortals* (2011), *Gods of Egypt* (2016), *Aquaman* (2018), *Wonder Women* (2017), etc. Of the several films, the researcher only discusses two fantasy genre films, namely: *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* (2010) and *Aquaman* (2018). Both films tell about demigods with different parent background. The demigod is a term used to indicate a character in a mythology that one parent is a God. From some of the films, the researcher only used two films to be the objects. The films *Aquaman* and *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief*. The two objects have several similarities, such as the exposition the main character, and the factor that foreground become demigod. the main character is a demigod. Where the main character looks like an ordinary human being in general. However, the main character has a background, namely the mixing of divine blood with humans. This causes the main character to have abilities or strengths that are not shared by humans in general. This abilities or strength plays an important role in resolving conflicts that occur in the divine world and the human world. With this, the main character becomes a hero who reconciles the two worlds. In this case, it is to find out the background of the abilities or strengths of the main character. Researchers found several factors that make the main character a demigod and a hero in the two research objects. This is the reason, why the researcher takes the two films.

The characters are an important element in literary work. In the film, the author creates different characters. These characters are images created by the author. According to Adam (1976:165), “character describes something clearly about somebody in a story”. That statement is similar as Abrams saying, “had given and made some models of life as the way of behaving, done by character with the writer’s view about life. The character is a human representative shown in

a narrative work explained by the writer. It has moral quality as expressed in speech and action". (Abrams, 1981:167) The above from quote, it seems that the character has a personality in a story. When moral, disposition and emotional qualities are well conveyed to readers, what they say, dialogue, what they do, it can affect the quality of the story.

The character has a power that dominates the whole story in a literary work. According to Semi (1993:83), "*Pembaca akan mengetahui gambaran watak dan filsafat hidup tokohnya melalui karakter yang ada*". This character is of course created by the author. Different characters will influence the storyline in literary works. Besides, characters can be static, which shows little change and can be dynamic that is, changes that are significantly influenced by narration. Thus, the character has the power to dominate a story. Therefore, in a story, it will be more interesting to be equipped with these characters.

Character is one of the important elements in the narrative. The characters made to distinguish one entity from another (humans, animals, spirits, robots, furniture, and other objects) based on mental, emotional, and social qualities. This character is a personality involved in an event depicted in the story. The types of characters that often appear in stories such as the hero, helper, villain, false hero, donor, dispatcher, and princess.

The demigods are included in the characters in literary works. Demigods were often applied figuratively to humans with extraordinary abilities compared to normal humans. Demigod also refers to the definition of a small god who still lives on earth. The demigod looked like an ordinary human, was of normal height and size, but was handsome and athletic. A demigod was born from a father who was a god, while his mother was just an ordinary human. There is also the mother of the child a god, while the father is an ordinary human. In some Greek mythology, they show stories of amazing heroism to protect the earth from evil and destruction. (terketik.com). In the fantasy genre, Demigod has a power passed down by one of his parents. Although in realizing these strengths not directly, but

slowly with practice. In this discussion, the researcher discusses two literary works, namely films related to demigod characters as follows:

First, the film *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* is a fantasy genre film, directed by Chris Columbus. The film, released in 2010, was adapted from the first book of the *Percy Jackson & The Olympians* novel series by Rick Riordan. In this film, Percy Jackson is played by Logan Lerman. Percy is the main character of the protagonist. Percy is the son of the Greek God of the sea or god Poseidon, and horse race. While his mother is only human. The strength that Percy has, can breathe underwater for a long time, and can control water.

Secondly, the *Aquaman* is a fantasy genre film, released in 2018 based on DC Comics characters and distributed by Warner Bros Pictures. In the *Aquaman* film the main character is played by Jason Momoa as Arthur Curry. He is the son of the Queen of Atlantis names Atlanna, while his father is an ordinary human, a lighthouse keeper named Thomas Curry. Arthur is a demigod; he does not want to be the next king in the country of Atlantis or the kingdom under the sea. Arthur has physical strength and endurance stronger than normal humans. Arthur has abilities such as night vision, being able to see even on the seabed or in low light, communicating with sea creatures through telepathy, breathing underwater and land, holding water pressure, being able to move at super-speed in the water, controlling water, and survive on land.

In both research objects, the literary work has a similar main character as a demigod. According to Sondarika (2015:202)

“dalam pandangan Yunani, dewa-dewa itu memiliki tubuh seperti manusia tetapi lebih besar, lebih indah serta tidak dapat mati. Dewa-dewi memiliki sifat seperti manusia, ada yang baik dan buruk. Dewa-dewi berkeluarga, berperang, dan bersaing untuk mempertaruhkan kekuasaan. Selain dewa-dewi mereka juga memuja hero (pahlawan), yaitu manusia setengah dewa yang sakti namun dapat mati.”

The demigod have supernatural abilities or extra powers that are usually impossible for humans to do. Demigods also gave human-like traits, some are good, and some are bad. Bad can be said to be like a family knocking each other out until a war breaks out. In research, the main characters have similarities and differences in the narrative.

In this study, the researcher chose two films. Researcher discuss the main character of the demigod on the films. Based on the description above, researcher are interest to conduct a research in the title **”THE TWO DEMIGODS OF MAIN CHARACTERS IN THE FILMS *AQUAMAN* AND *PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF*”.**

1.2 Statement of Problem

In the object of research that has been selected on *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* (2010) and *Aquaman* (2018). In this research, the main character is a demigod. Where the main character looks like an ordinary human being in general. However, the main character has a background, namely the mixing of divine blood with humans. This causes the main character to have abilities or strengths that are not shared by humans in general. This abilities or strength plays an important role in resolving conflicts that occur in the god world and the human world. The main character becomes a hero for reconciles the two worlds. In this case, it is to find out the background of the abilities or strengths of the main character. Researchers found several factors that make the main character a demigod and a hero in the two research objects.

The researcher intends to explain or describe the character demigod that exists in the two research objects. Therefore, the researcher can make a statement of the problem, which is what are the factors that cause makes the main characters to becoming demigods in the films *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* and *Aquaman*. and how are the exposition of the main characters

in the films *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* and *Aquaman*. This is to find out and compare how to describe an event or process of demigod occurrence contained in the two research objects. Then, the researchers also compared what are the factors that foreground the main characters to become demigods in the films *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* and *Aquaman*.

Based on statement above, there are some problems that can formulate a research question as follows:

- 1) What are the factors that cause which make the main characters to becoming demigods in the films *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* and *Aquaman*?
- 2) How are the exposition of the main characters in the films *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* and *Aquaman*?

1.3 Research Purpose and Significant

The purpose and the significances of the research are information on what is to be achieved and the significances of this research. Research generally aims to discover new knowledge or develop existing theories and methods.

In accordance to the research questions above, the purposes of this research are as follows:

- 1) To find out the factors that cause which make the main characters to becoming demigods in the films *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* and *Aquaman*.
- 2) To describe the exposition of the main characters in the films *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* and *Aquaman*.

The significances of this research are useful to readers. The significances of this research are divided into two such as: research significant as theoretical and practical.

Theoretical significant:

The research is expected to provide a scientific contribution to research on analyzing the exposition of the main character and the factors that cause which make the main characters to becoming demigods. In this study, there are two films of literary works, such as: Films *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* (2010) and film *Aquaman* (2018). Theoretically, this research aims provide insight and references to readers, especially in the field of comparative literature. This research also provide insight into the theories of how the exposition and the factors that cause which make the main characters to become demigods.

Practical significant:

- 1) To the student, the research is expected to a new reference in analyzing a literary work.
- 2) To the researcher, can add knowledge and insight, in identifying the exposition of the main characters and to comparing the factors that cause which the main characters to becoming demigods in literary works.
- 3) To the reader, the research can provide extensive of significant and knowledge to analysis about demigods in literary works.

1.4 Frame of Thinking

The researcher creates a frame of mind for research in comparative literature studies. Films *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* (2010) and *Aquaman* (2018). In both films, the researcher compared the equation of exposition and compared the factor that cause which make the main character to becoming demigods. Theory and references are used such as a character from Abrams (1999 and 1981), demigod from Nunes (2018), Exposition from Keraf (1981), fantasy from Saricks (2009). Researchers used film theory related to the

genre from Arnheim (1957) and Eneste (1991). The method used in this research is comparative literature by Sussan Bassnett (1993).

Literature work is born because of the author's desire to express his existence which contains certain ideas, concept, and messages which are inspired by the author's imagination and socio-cultural reality and uses language media as their delivery. Literature is a human creation in the form of oral or written creative imagination. Films are included in literary works. Movies are live images, also often called movies. According to Arnheim (1957:8), "film resemble painting, music, literature, and the dance in this respect- it is a medium that may, but need not, to be used to produce artistic result." According to Eneste, Panususk (1991:18), "The movie is combination of a wide variety of arts, namely music, art, drama, literature coupled with photographic elements." The film is an audiovisual literary work. The film produces a combination of still images that glides quickly, resulting in moving images. In addition to moving media, the film is also supported by music, art, drama, and added photography elements so that the result is satisfying for filmmaker, viewers, and researchers. In addition to the moving media and its supporting elements, the film is also a story that was raised by the author.

Character is important element in literary works. A character in a literary work is created by the author to achieve his ideas and feelings about something that happened. A character has the power to dominate the whole story in a literary work. The author can carry this character through a lot of problems in a variety of situations. According to Grolier (1977:291), "*karakterisasi merupakan ciri-ciri dari bentuk fiksi seperti cerita pendek, novel, drama, dan puisi narasi.*" According to Abrams, (1999:32-33), that explain:

"Characters are the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it—the dialogue— and from what they do—the action." (Abrams, 1999:32-33)

“Karakterisasi sering disamakan artinya dengan karakter dan perwatakan menunjuk pada penempatan tokoh-tokoh tertentu dengan watak-watak tertentu dalam sebuah cerita.” (Nurgiyantoro, 2002:165). The character is a human representative shown in a narrative work explained by the writer. It has moral quality as expressed in speech and action.” (Abrams, 1981:167). The author makes different characters. Like the character of a demigod. According to Nunes (2018) that,

”Demigods are frequently found in ancient traditions, and are characterized by being the offspring of humans and a god or goddess... In Greek mythology, Demigods are mainly presented as strong figures, with a heroic character.”

Demigods have the power of one parent who is a god. This will relate to the occurrence of an event within a certain time or is called an exposition. According to (Keraf, 1981:1) that,

“Text exposisi merupakan suatu text yang digunakan untuk menjelaskan atau menerangkan tentang suatu hal atau suatu peristiwa tertentu juga proses terjadinya sesuatu.”

In this research, the demigod entered into film literature. Film *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* and *Aquaman* have a fantasy genre. The fantasy genre can be called creative imagination. The fantasy genre usually depicts stories that cannot happen in real life, which are known as fantasies. The fantasy genre uses magic and other supernatural phenomena as the main elements of the plot, theme, and setting. According to Saricks, (2009: 265-266)

“... but fantasy frequently takes a familiar story, legend, or myth and adds a twist, a new way of looking at things that brings it to life again. The key to fantasy, however, is the presence of magic. If there is no magic, the story may fit in the Horror, Science Fiction, Romance, Historical Fiction, or Adventure genre. When magic is integral to the story, it must be fantasy.”

Researchers used the comparative literature method as a step to analyze. Comparative literature is a study comparing two literary works or more from two countries or two different regions and systematically. This study aims to understand the process of creation and development of literature in a country or region, or with various literary works. According to Bassnett, (1993:31)

“Comparative Literature is the study of literature beyond the confines of one particular country, and the study of relationships between literature on the hand, and the other areas of knowledge and belief, such as the arts (e.g. painting, sculpture, architecture, music), philosophy, history, the social sciences (e.g. politics, economics, sociology), the sciences, religion, etc., on the other. In brief, it is the comparison of one literature with another on others, and the comparison of literature with other spheres of human expression.”

The comparative literature view is a comparative study of two or more literary works with an emphasis on the aspects of the literary work itself. An understanding of comparative studies as a requires two or more works. Or can compare it with literary works of science such as philosophy, history, social science, religion, and other art forms. (Supriadin, 2015). This is related to research using two film objects, which have similarities in the story.

1.5 Previous Studies

This research refers to several published studies and relates to the object and research topic. This research serves as a reference for relevant studies, can

require research to complete this research. And also assign that the research has never been done before. This research is used as a references source, such as:

The first is the study is an undergraduate paper entitled *Comparative Study On The Plot Of Percy Jackson And The Olympians The Lightning Thief's Novel and Movie* (2016) by Dea Herawati from State Islamic University Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. Previous research was taken because it is related to the object of research. This researcher discusses the similarities and differences using the descriptive method. This previous researcher also used comparative theory.

The second study is an undergraduate thesis entitled *Refresentasi Maskulinitas Dalam Film Aquaman (Analisis Semiotika Roland Barthes)* (2019) by Nurul Dewi Prabawaningrum from Muhammadiyah University Surakarta. Previous research was taken because the object is related to the *Aquaman* film. Previous researchers aimed to describe virility in the main character in the film. This previous research used a descriptive qualitative method. The result of the study concluded the main character in the film *Aquaman*.

The third study is undergraduate paper entitled *Comparative Analysis Of The Vampire Character On L.J Smith's The Vampire Diaries And Stephanie Mayer's Twilight* (2011) by Muhammad Nazir from State Islamic University Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. This previous research was taken because, the topic used was related, the character, and this the previous study used a comparative method, this was related to research. This researcher also used descriptive method.

The fourth study in undergraduate paper entitled *Peningkatan Kemampuan Menulis Text Exposisi Dengan Media Audio Visual Pada Siswa Kelas XI SMK Muhammadiyah Kutowinangun Tahun Pelajaran 2016/2017* (2017) by Dwi Findi Faisal from University Muhammadiyah Purworejo. This previous research was taken because, the topic related about exposition. This previous study used a qualitative and quantitative.

The fifth is the study is an undergraduated thesis entitled *Structural Analysis Of Plot In Rick Riordan's "Percy Jackson And The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* (2015) by Dani Irawan from Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University Malang. Previous research was taken because the object was related to the Percy Jackson film and the research topic about the plot. Previous researchers aimed to find the type of plot in Percy Jackson's novel. This previous research used structuralism theory.

