

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter will be divided into some parts which each part deals with the discussion of the matter as represented in its title. All parts will be discussed in sequence as, first, the researcher will explain the background of the research. This part relates to the explanation of the phenomenon, issue, or problem ever emerged in the society and had such relevance with the topic of the research. Second, the researcher will explain the research problems which will be divided into two parts i.e. statement of problem and research question. These parts contain the matters that will be the discussed problem in this research, and will be arranged systematically in the form of explicit yet specific questions. Third, the researcher will explain the objective of this research as specific orientation that is expected to be achieved target. This part commonly is reciprocal with the research question. Fourth, the researcher will explain the research significance that deals with both theoretical significance and practical significance. And the last, is the prior research. This part will elucidate several researches or studies ever conducted before by various researcher that relate to this research.

1.1. Research Background

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone is a novel written by British woman author named Joanne Kathleen Rowling – as known as J. K. Rowling. This is the first book of the Harry Potter series which carries seven books in total. This book was first published in the United Kingdom, by Bloomsbury on June 26, 1997 under the title *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* (Flint, 2017). So, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* is basically a title for the United States published-book in the following year. It was successfully published there by Scholastic Corporation publisher and by the fall of the same year, Warner Bros. was involved in making the feature-film (Davis, 2019). Rowling literally made such a remarkable hit by the first Harry Potter book as her debut novel and continued until the seventh book as

the last volume of the Harry Potter series that later made her become a billionaire author (Ward, 2016).

The novel notably follows an orphan boy named Harry Potter who has no living relatives left but the Dursleys; his uncle – Vernon, his aunt – Petunia and his cousin–Dudley. They are portrayed as the cruel ones who did various cruel treats to Harry until on his eleventh birthday, he discovered that he is a wizard. He was told so by the groundkeeper of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, Rubeus Hagrid who also gave him the letter of acceptance to the school–which he never has a chance to read it when coming in the Dursleys' home at the first time because, they did not even allow him. And from that moment, the journey of Harry Potter in magical world has just begun (Rowling, 1998).

"I'm a what?" gasped Harry.

"A wizard, o' course," said Hagrid, sitting back down on the sofa, which groaned and sank even lower, "an' a thumpin' good'un, I'd say, once yeh've been trained up a bit. With a mum an' dad like yours, what else would yeh be? An' I reckon it's abou' time yeh read yer letter." (Rowling, 1998, p. 55).

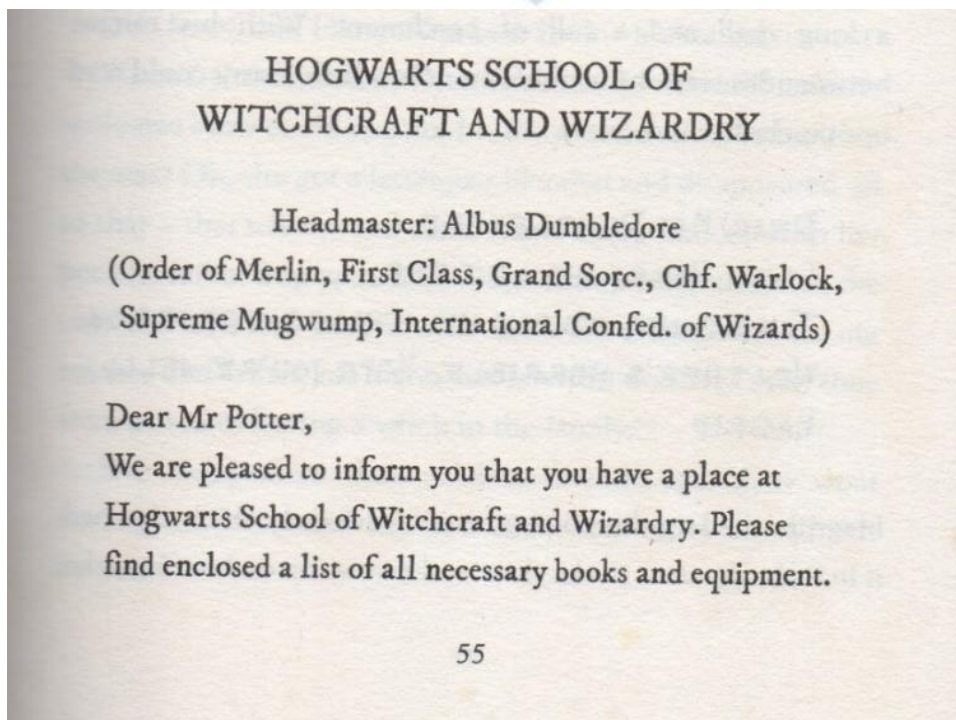


Figure 1 Harry's letter of acceptance

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone and all the rest of the series are part of popular literature, since the books are world-wide popular works – that produced massively for the mass and gained its popularity – it has been read by millions of people, from kids to adults, in many countries with the various background of cultures, traditions, beliefs, and religions. So, it will create different impacts to each reader depending on how the readers take it for themselves. Regarding to it, those who against the materials or contents of this novel believe that *Harry Potter* books must be banned to read, especially by children. The issues were reported by several news media. For instance, this news from BBC News:



Figure 2 BBC News

However, despite the controversy, if the readers could sort out the contents of the story properly, there are also several deeds that are worth to be valued as the examples of moral values. It can be found through the exact personal perspective that the readers chose. If the perspective that the readers chose is proper, then there will be such boundaries that the readers implemented as differentiating of which contents that are suitable and relevance with their beliefs. Thus, the literary works that had been read will not only give the entertainment, but also give such moral values and life lessons.

It is true that there may be several contents that are contradict to a certain religion's values. But it is undeniable too that there is also content which suitable for any human beings regardless their religions nor races, et cetera. For instance, the way Harry Potter as the hero character himself, fighting for quelling the evil thing that would endanger the people around, even if he must put himself in an array of frightening perils to reach the mission. He was willingly sacrificing himself for the better. Those kind of acts of the main character in the novel is called *heroism*.

The term *heroism* refers to the quality features of a hero which reflected into such good traits when accomplishing a great mission as brave, unselfishness, reliable, caring, etc. The hero is always willingly taking risks on completing the mission and saving the others even if it made him sacrificing himself (Allison, Goethal, & Kramer, 2017, p. 5). Those traits reflected in the hero of the story are universally valid to every humankind on earth, not only to one certain religion but to all. For those traits could make human with humanity and good morality.

There are various examples of heroism traits that could actually be considered as the moral values which have such relevance to the reality in human's life in the *Harry Potter* books, or in this research it is the first book of the series titled *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. As how Potter as the main character of the story fiercely fought the bad thing and even the story's villain that could possibly harm the people around or ruin the surroundings, and how he faced the dangerous perils and kept going through until the end, in order to save his world and everything there.

Hence, heroism plays a role in establishing the character of hero itself, for the one – in this case is certain character(s) in fictions – must possess the aforementioned qualities to be considered as hero(es). Hero is commonly known as a central character of fictions who fulfilled such quality features as the criteria, goes through dangerous obstacles, and accomplishes important mission as well. Hero character is often found in an adventure genre of literary works since its nature recognizes as one of hallmark of the genres (Sarrick, 2009, p. 18).

This adventure genre can be found in such popular literary works as prose, either in a form of novel or short story. Adventure genre stories mainly tell about

the hero, either an individual or a group of people, who were set to face and overcome an array of dangerous obstacles in order to reach a great important mission. Sarricks (2009) also states this genre is distinguished by the *actions* that being done by the hero of the story through the story line. Adventure genre has a plot that focuses on an important mission. The hero in adventure genre stories is always in such physically dangers since he sets to overcome serious obstacles. There is generally one overwhelming obstacle that must be overcome, although there are often lesser difficulties along the way (Sarricks, 2009, p. 17).

This novel was chosen as the object of this research because of its story that has such criteria as the characteristics of adventure described. In brief, Flattum (2013) also expresses that “Adventure stories are usually heroic (even when the character is ordinary), fast paced with lots of action, overcoming larger-than-life obstacles, and take us to exotic places.” (Flattum, 2013). Therefore, this study is hereby expected to explain the heroism of a hero character in the novel. The result of analysing the heroism could later figure out which actions of the hero in this novel that reflecting such good traits that relate to the heroism itself.

1.2. Statement of Problem

The object that is used in this research is *Harry Potter and The Sorcerer’s Stone* by British author J. K. Rowling. Considering the described research background before, this research thereby will focus on the matters of hero and heroism in this novel as well as the traits of heroism reflected though the actions of the hero in the story.

To be more specific, the statement of problem described before, has been formulated into two research questions, as follows:

1. 2. 1. How are the Adventure heroes being portrayed in the novel *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*?
1. 2. 2. What are the heroism traits of the Adventure heroes in Rowling’s *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*?

1.3. Research Objective

The aim of this research is to discuss the selected matters as mentioned before in the statement of problem and research question as well. Thus, this research is expected:

1. 3. 1. To discuss the portrayal of Adventure heroes in the novel *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J. K. Rowling.
1. 3. 2. To discover the heroism traits of the Adventure heroes in Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.

1.4. Research Significance

Based on the research objectives above, this research is also expected to convey such significances both theoretically and practically. Particularly to the researcher and generally to others as well. These are the following significances of this research:

1. 4. 1. Theoretically

Since there are numbers of theories that used, this research is theoretically expected to be able to:

- Discuss the portrayal of heroes in adventure genre story;
- Discover the heroism features in an adventure story;
- Provide the elucidation of the adventure story as part of the genres emerged in literary works;
- Convey the explanation of the moral values in such adventure story;
- Contribute a concept and/or a reference for the later researches related to either the heroism or hero-related in reading literary works.

1. 4. 2. Practically

The practical significances of this research can be useful for the researcher in particular, as well as the others in general. As for the researcher, this research would give a new insight, knowledge, and experience personally along the process of selecting the topics, subject and

object of the research, collecting the data, and elaborating the subject matters.

Furthermore, for the others, this research could give a perspective of how urge the reader's discretion is in reading such literary works for it could probably be contradicting with the cultures, traditions, beliefs, even religions. The discussion of this research is expected to help the reader becoming wiser on taking the story and gaining the values of it.

1.5. Prior Research

There are several prior researches ever conducted by various researchers that relate to the topics of this research, as follows:

Table 1 Prior Research

No.	Title of The Research	Researcher	Theories	Object of Studies	Methods
1)	Hero's Archetype in <i>Spider-Man/Deadpool</i> Marvel Graphic Novel	Dede Yusup	Vogler's and Chambell's theory of archetype, hero and hero's journey	<i>Spider-Man/Deadpool</i> Marvel Graphic Novel	Qualitative Descriptive
2)	Symbol of Heroism Act of The Characters in Suzanne Collin <i>The Hunger Games</i>	Kurniawan	Pierce's theory of symbol	<i>The Hunger Games</i> by Suzanne Collin	Descriptive
3)	The Values of Heroism on the Main Character of Frodo Baggins in Jhon Ronald Reuel Tolkien's Novel <i>the Lord of the Rings:</i>	Muhammad Fajar Nursyahid	Palmer's Moral Understanding (Reader Response)	<i>The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring</i> by in Jhon Ronald Reuel Tolkien	Descriptive Analysis

	<i>The Fellowship of the Ring</i>				
4)	Hero's Archetypes in "Django Unchained" Movie Script by Quentin Tarantino	Selma Rosanti Aurini	Hourihan's, Vogler's, and Campbell's Hero Archetypes	<i>Django Unchained</i> Movie Script by Quentin Tarantino	Qualitative
5)	Hero Journey in J. K. Rowling <i>Harry Potter the Order of Phoenix</i> novel.	Mochamad Abdul Latif	Vogler's and Campbell's Character Archetypes	<i>Harry Potter the Order of Phoenix</i> by J. K. Rowling	Qualitative
6)	Archetypal Hero as Reflected in Harry Potter's Character in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter Heptalogy	Firda Amalina	Carl Gustav Jung's Theory of Archetypes	The seven <i>Harry Potter</i> novel series by J. K. Rowling	Qualitative

Based on the data above, there are various researches ever conducted discuss about the topic of Hero in such literary works. There may be similarities and differences as well amongst the aforementioned researches. Hence, here are the further descriptions about each research.

- 1) *Hero's Archetype in Spider-Man/Deadpool Marvel Graphic Novel* by Dede Yusup.

This research conducted in 2018 as an undergraduate thesis. By using the method of Qualitative, this research tends to explain about

archetype of hero and chooses the graphic novel titled Spider-Man/Deadpool of Marvel. The aims of this research are to describe Spider-Man and Deadpool characterized in Spider-Man/Deadpool Marvel graphic novel; to explain Hero's Journey form the heroic archetype of Spider-Man and Deadpool in Spider-Man/Deadpool Marvel graphic novel; and to find out kinds of hero's archetype found in Spider-Man/Deadpool Marvel graphic novel. Therefore, to gain the objectives of the research, the theory of archetype, hero, and hero's journey by Christopher Vogler is used. Moreover, Joseph Campbell's theory of hero and Carl G. Jung's theory of archetype are also used so that the discussion is expected to be more profound.

The relation of Yusup's research with this one is that the former discusses about Hero character and its archetype in literary works. It is relevant to the topic of hero.

- 2) *Symbol of Heroism Act of The Characters in Suzanne Collin The Hunger Games* by Kurniawan.

This research conducted in 2016 as an undergraduate thesis and tends to explain about symbol of heroism act of the character in the novel of Suzanne Collin titled *The Hunger Games* by using the Descriptive method. The aims of this research are to understand the heroism act of the characters described in Suzanne Collin's *The Hunger Games*; to find out the symbol of heroism act of the characters in *The Hunger Games*. In order to gain the objectives of the research, the researcher uses Pierce's theory of symbol triangle.

The relation of Kurniawan's research with this one is that the former discusses about Heroism act in literary works. It is relevant to the topic of heroism.

- 3) *The Values of Heroism on the Main Character of Frodo Baggins in Jhon Ronald Reuel Tolkien's Novel the Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* by Muhammad Fajar Nursyahid.

This research conducted in 2020 as a diploma thesis. The use of Descriptive analysis as the method of the research is expected to help the researcher gain the aim of the research that is the values of heroism of Frodo Baggins as the Ring-bearer. The researcher also uses the pragmatic approach to make the research more profound. To gain the objective of the research, the theory Palmer's Moral Understanding (Reader Response) is used. And as the conclusion, there are some values of heroism of the character Frodo Baggins. The values are pride, dignity, courage, willingness, as well as responsibility.

The relation of research that Nursyahid conducted with this one is that the former discusses about the heroism values of the main character in literary works. It is relevant to the topic of character, hero, and heroism.

- 4) *Hero's Archetypes in "Django Unchained" Movie Script by Quentin Tarantino* by Selma Rosanti Aurini.

This research conducted in 2019 as an undergraduate thesis. The Qualitative method is used in order to gain the objectives of the research which are to find out the archetypes of the hero character that are described in "*Django Unchained*" movie script by Quentin Tarantino; and to find out the archetypes of the hero journey that are portrayed in "*Django Unchained*" movie script by Quentin Tarantino. To analyze the matters, theory of Hero Archetypes by three experts: Hourihan, Vogler, and Champbell is used. As the result, this research finds that the archetype of hero character and hero's journey according to the three experts has such similarities and difference in terms only.

The relation of Aurini's research with this one is that the former discusses about the archetypes of hero and his journey. It is relevant to the topic of archetypes and hero.

- 5) *Hero Journey in J. K. Rowling Harry Potter and the Order of Phoenix novel* by Mochamad Abdul Latif.

This research conducted in 2019 as a diploma thesis. Focusing on the description and analyzation of the patterns of heroic or hero journey in Harry Potter the Order of Phoenix novel, this research uses the method of Qualitative in completing the research. The aims of this research are to analyze the hero journey in Harry Potter and the Order of Phoenix novel; and to analyze the archetypes of hero in Harry Potter and the Order of Phoenix novel. The theory of Vogler's and Campbell's Character Archetypes is used to gain the objectives of this research. As the result denotes that there are stages or steps in the journey of the hero which consists departure, initiation, and return.

The relation of the research that Latif conducted with this one is that the former discusses about the pattern of hero and his journey in literary works. It is relevant to the topic of hero.

- 6) *Archetypal Hero as Reflected in Harry Potter's Character in J.K Rowling's Harry Potter Heptalogy* by Firda Amalina.

This research conducted in 2014 as an undergraduate thesis. The method of Qualitative is used to help completing this research. The aims of this research are to find out Harry Potter character's reflected character archetype by Carl Jung; to describe the pattern of Jung's situational archetypal hero in Harry Potter character. The theory of archetypes of hero by Carl Gustav Jung is used.

The relation of research by Firda Amalina with this one is that the former discusses about the hero character and the Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone as one of her research objects.

All the quoted prior researches above, have a same major discussion that is about *heroism*. However, there are also such differences amongst them as either the subject research or the object research. This study is also discussing about *heroism*. But there is a prime difference between this study and the formers, that is, this study focuses on heroism discussion to later, the findings be used as response to the emerged issue which relates to the object of this research: the reading ban of Harry Potter novel.

1.6. Definition of Key Terms

In order to avoid misunderstanding, there is explanation of several terms that will be frequently mentioned in this research, as follows:

1) Book banning

According to Susan L. Webb, an Adjunct Librarian at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, the term *book banning* is a form of censorship which occurs when private individuals, government officials, or organizations remove books from libraries, school reading lists, or bookstore shelves. It is caused by several reasons that they object to their content, ideas, or themes and typically complain that the book in question contains graphic violence, expresses disrespect for parents and family, is sexually explicit, exalts evil, lacks literary merit, is unsuitable for a particular age group, or includes offensive language. (Webb, 2009).

2) Heroism

Allison et al. (2017) assume that heroism epitomizes the highest level of human behavior and the act of it is considered as heroic act.

“Heroism represents the pinnacle of human behavior. The most noble act that a human being can perform is a heroic act, and the most distinguished life that a human being can lead is a heroic life. More than the pinnacle, heroism occupies a *central* place in human experience.” (Allison, Goethals, & Kramer, 2017, p. 1).

3) Hero

“Heroes are often described as the pinnacle of human greatness, displaying the courage to act with moral fortitude and serving the needs of others ahead of their own needs, often with great personal sacrifice.” (Kinsella, Igou, & Ritchie, *Heroism and the Pursuit of a Meaningful Life*, 2017, p. 2).

4) Adventure story

Adventure story is one of the genres emerged in literary works, especially in prose as novel and short story. According to John G. Cawelti, adventure story is “of the hero – individual or group – overcoming obstacles and dangers and accomplishing some important and moral mission.” (Cawelti, *Adventure, Mystery, and Romance: Formula Stories as Art and Popular Culture*, 1976, p. 39)

