

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents an introduction consisting of seven points: research background, statement of problems, research objectives, research benefits, the definition of key terms, conceptual framework, and previous study.

1.1 Research Background

Onward film is different with any other film produced by Dan Scanlon. The reason is because this film based on true life story of the director himself (Rogers, 2020). Even so, Onward film managed to win several awards. Instead of making the story into a documenter film, Dan Scanlon made it as adventure and fantasy animation film where the main characters act as a hero who goes into an adventure to revive his father, and that makes this film even more unique and different from any other film. Because this film has a story about hero in it, Hero's Journey theory from Joseph Campbell fits as a tool to analyze this film.

The search for material for the research began from the internet, focusing on films with a fantasy genre. After a while, there is a film entitled Onward by Dan Scanlon on a site. Donaldson (2020) says that Onward film gained a lot of positive feedback from many people. Although it was based on a real-life experience, this movie is a hit, making it unique. Dan Scanlon, with his past, made a movie that won some awards, and that is enough reason to choose Onward as research material.

After deciding on the Onward film as an object and finishing watching it, there is an element in every adventure genre movie. The first one is how the Hero or the main characters struggle to finish his quest, leading to fear and trauma. An explanation about fear and trauma from Roni Natov's book called *Perspective on Children Literature* is needed to analyze. The second is more specific because the movie is about a hero. There is one theory that is explicitly described. The theory is called Hero's Journey by Joseph Campbell, this theory state that all hero stories have a pattern or cycle. The reason to choose this theory is that it is relevant to the object. The second one is because of curiosity. Campbell said that every hero story has a cycle or a pattern, so the researcher wants to prove his statement.

This research will focus on the Hero's struggle in finishing his quest using the definition of fear and trauma and how to overcome it in *The Child Hero in Children's Literature Book* by Roni Natov. As for the Conflict, the theory from Sani (1994) is included as a supporting theory to identify it, and Hero's Journey theory by Joseph Campbell. It was mentioned above, and this theory stated that all stories about heroes, either in film or any other work, have the same cycle.

Furthermore, Kurniasang and Aprilia (2017) note that the theory suggests a hero must pass through 17 stages of his journey in life to make him develop. Because *Onward's* film is about a hero, the idea is suited to the object.

1.2 Statement of Problems

The problem formulation is as follows:

1. How does the hero struggle in the cycle to fulfill his quest?
2. How is Joseph Campbell's hero cycle described in *Onward* film?

1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the objectives of this study are:

1. To describe the Hero's struggle in the cycle to fulfill his quest.
2. To describe the hero cycle using Hero's Journey theory by Joseph Campbell.

1.4 Definition of Key Terms

A hero or protagonist has many positive values. According to Farley (1987, in Wetzein, 2001), a hero has the nature of courage/determination and strength, have kindness/merit, love, generosity, skill, and intelligence. Able to attract affection and appreciation from others and able to take risks. Sometimes they can be powerful or weak, but as long as they have the qualities, they belong in the category of heroes.

Onward is a fantasy and adventure movie where all the magic necessary for a fantasy genre began to fade because of the development of technology. The movie itself is unique. Besides the one mentioned above, the story in this movie was inspired by Dan Scanlon himself.

Fears are every day an important part of our lives and stories. Whether they are real fears or fantasy monsters, they suggest the importance of talking about them and finding concrete ways of responding, especially for children.

Hero's Journey theory by Joseph Campbell states that all stories about heroes, either in film or any other work, have the same cycle.

1.5 Conceptual Framework

This research will focus on the Hero's struggle in finishing his quest using the definition of fear and trauma and how to overcome it in *The Child Hero in Children's Literature Book* by

Roni Natov. To identify the Conflict, the researcher uses the theory from Sani (1994) and Hero's Journey theory by Joseph Campbell. It was mentioned above, and this theory states that all stories about heroes, either in film or any other work, have the same cycle. Furthermore, Kurniasang and Aprilia (2017) mention that the theory suggests a hero must pass through 17 stages of his journey in life to make him develop. Because *Onward's* film is about a hero, the theory is suited to the object.

1.6 Previous Study

Several people did the previous studies related to Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey theory. The first research was done by Amalia (2020), entitled is *Hero's Journey Experienced by Jason in Brandon Mull's Beyonders: A World Without Heroes*. The result of this research was how to describe the main character's experience described using the Hero's Journey theory.

The second research was from Satrio and Zulkarnain (2021), entitled *Implementasi Metode Hero's Journey dalam Skrip Cerita "Djammoe."* This research was about implementing a story script using Hero's Journey theory.

The last research was from Fathullaily (2008), entitled *Hero and Villain: A study of Joseph Campbell's Monomyth in Neil Gaiman's The Graveyard Book*. The final result of this research was describing Joseph Campbell's theory from a book.

Similarity to all previous studies with this research is Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey as their theory. The difference between those previous studies and this research is the object. The first is a novel, the second is a script, and the last is a book, whereas this research object is film.