

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the general description of the research. This chapter consists of five components, they are research background, statement of problem, objectives of the research, research significances, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Research Background

Popular literature refers to literary works that are widely read and enjoyed by the general public, often characterized by accessibility, entertainment value, and broad appeal. These works are typically aimed at a mass audience and may encompass various genres, including fiction, non-fiction, romance, mystery, science fiction, fantasy, and young adult literature, among others. They are often distinguished from more niche or literary fiction by their commercial success and broad popularity. Popular literature greatly prioritizes the reader. Unlike literary works that prioritize artistic value or elements, popular fiction is more oriented towards the reader (Adi, 2011).

A variety of genres are included in the category of popular fiction, including well-known literary works including novels, films, and television dramas. These works are often cherished by teenagers for their straightforward and accessible language. Popular literature primarily serves to entertain readers and the broader audience without delving into complex societal issues such as politics, economics, or security concerns (Radway, 1991). Popular literature can be classified into five main moral fantasies, namely mystery, romance, adventure, melodrama, and alien beings. This viewpoint supports the notion that several genres fall under the umbrella of popular literature (Cawelti, 1976).

In contemporary times, numerous literary works have been adapted into films, yet they are still regarded as legitimate forms of literature. The close relationship between literature and film allows for the analysis of films as literary works of equal value. Films, as a part of popular literature, have a significant impact on society,

inspiring change, shaping culture, and influencing public opinion on social issues. The differences between novels and films, including their nature, ways of narration, and effects, have been discussed in the context of enhancing literature teaching by using films. The art of storytelling through film, TV, and literature plays a pivotal role in shaping cultural narratives, reflecting societal norms, and challenging existing stereotypes.

Formula studies in popular literature sometimes referred to as genre fiction or popular fiction, are frequently the subject of studies on literary formula. This genre often adheres to a predetermined pattern. In popular literature, a formula is typically a dependable pattern or structure that appears regularly in a specific genre. Cawelti contends that rather than being restrictive, formulas offer a framework that fosters innovation and diversity within the genre. There are two purposes why are formulas are used in popular literature. In the beginning, it makes readers feel at ease and familiar by letting them interact with well-known plots and characters. Second, by applying and adjusting the formula, enables writers to investigate fresh concepts and subjects inside a genre. Formulas in popular literature are a necessary element that fosters originality and discovery within a predetermined framework rather than a drawback of the genre (Cawelti, 1976). Procedures that develop, alter, and set themselves apart from previous formula represent a form of cultural advancement where readers' or audiences' choices lead to salvation. The reader has categorized it as one of the most well-liked works when they are able to define the formula. A story pattern that becomes popular will surely pique curiosity and hold special significance for a large number of individuals within its society.

The hero's journey serves as a central plot device in countless literary works, particularly in action, adventure, and superhero films. Heroism, depicted through the protagonist's journey, often forms the backbone of these narratives, captivating audiences with tales of growth, resilience, and self-discovery. By tracing the hero's evolution through the stages of the journey, viewers are drawn into a captivating narrative that not only entertains but also offers insights into the human experience. As a hero, the character has to pass several obstacles to reach his goal. Someone

who lives full of life struggles and gets an achievement creates a figure that we call a hero. Not only brave but hero is also always connected with self-sacrifices (Vogler, 2007). The hero transforms the dark into the light, and everything they do is intended to improve things. Because they also impart wisdom, inspiration, and energy into our lives, heroes have a significant and lasting impact on us. Hero is an excellent example of a person who can make other people feel good about themselves. Mother and father are a small illustration of a hero who is always by our side. They are our heroes because they have given us life and protected us while we have grown up to be kind and resilient in the face of adversity. Bad people, on the other hand, can also be heroes since they would benefit their tribe. Consequently, anyone can be a hero.

Marvel's "Black Panther" is a breakthrough superhero movie that embraces African culture and questions social standards in addition to being an entertaining watch. The picture, which was directed by Ryan Coogler, deftly combines themes of power struggles, identity, and responsibility within the fictitious African nation of Wakanda. Fundamentally, "Black Panther" center on T'Challa, played by the late actor Chadwick Boseman, who succeeds his father in Wakanda as king and protector. T'Challa, the Black Panther, has to deal with internal opposition to his reign and exterior dangers to Wakanda's cutting-edge technology. He also has to manage the difficulties of being a leader.

"Black Panther" is an aesthetically spectacular and conceptually dense film that challenges prejudices and presents an Afrofuturistic civilization while showcasing Wakanda's flourishing culture and technological strength. Beyond its artistic accomplishments, "Black Panther" has enormous societal relevance and is a potent symbol of empowerment and representation for Black audiences worldwide. In addition to captivating audiences, Chadwick Boseman's portrayal of T'Challa inspired generations and had a lasting impression on the superhero movie and popular culture scenes.

Black Panther (2018) has include the hero's journey motif into its narrative story. The film ably makes use of careful narrative organisation and character

development that corresponds to the phases in this timeless mythological framework. The story, from T'Challa's first call to adventure to his final triumph as the valiant guardian of Wakanda, speaks to universal themes of development, resilience and the pursuit of justice. Black Panther inspires and entertains the audience by providing a detailed picture of T'Challa's personal development and encourages them to walk their own path of self-realisation and empowerment. As such, the film serves as a monument to the timeless quality of storytelling and cross-cultural adaptability.

Superhero embodies extraordinary abilities and conducts heroic deeds, distinct from ordinary heroes like police, firefighters, or doctors. They possess exceptional powers such as flight, strength, speed, or invulnerability, setting them apart. However, a superhero is defined by their powers, they hold tight to a moral compass. They consistently uphold a strict code of ethics, unwaveringly embodying the epitome of goodness. Rarely do they deviate from this virtuous path, making their moral integrity a defining trait. Superhero's relatability is paramount. Their struggles and challenges resonate with the audience, fostering empathy and connection. Without this relatability, a superhero risks feeling distant and unapproachable, diminishing their impact as a symbol of heroism. Therefore, their humanity, vulnerabilities, and internal conflicts are crucial elements that draw audiences in and make them root for the character's success. A superhero is a beacon of extraordinary power, unwavering morality, and profound empathy. Their combination of unique abilities, moral steadfastness, and relatable qualities distinguishes them as icons of heroism in the collective imagination (Lawrence & Jewett, 2002).

The idea of a hero as someone who exemplifies virtues and ideals that are liked and respected by society remains a major aspect of the current understanding of this concept, even though the definition has evolved over time and may vary across different cultures and societies. It should be acknowledged, nevertheless, that a large number of today's "heroes" rose to prominence by opposing and rejecting the norms of their own cultures. Because of the way they embody our ideals in a world

where they never would have been considered heroes, they end up being our heroes (Sun et al., 2023).

According to Campbell, the hero represents the divine creative and redeeming image that is concealed within each of us and is simply waiting to be recognised and brought to life (Campbell, 2004). Black Panther represents a complex duality as a traditional and contemporary hero. With his roots in African culture and customs, the Black Panther takes on the role of guardian and leader of Wakanda, a made-up African nation. Still, the contemporary Black Panther goes beyond conventional hero clichés. His cutting-edge technology, astute strategic thinking, and unshakable commitment to justice make him a modern-day hero for the twenty-first century. Moreover, the character's portrayal in recent films, particularly in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, has further cemented his status as a symbol of empowerment, diversity, and progress, resonating deeply with audiences worldwide.

An archetype is a recurrent pattern of a character, symbol, or circumstance that appears in all civilizations' mythology, religion, and storytelling. Regarding archetypes, Campbell described his research as an exploration for “the commonality of themes in world myths, pointing to a constant requirement in the human psyche for a centering in terms of deep principles.”(Campbell & Moyers, 1988). According to Jung, an archetype is a formula that emerges as a numerous encounter with our forebears. They are essentially the psychological fallout from countless similar encounters (Gordon, 1968). Both men believed that the human experience may be studied collectively across geography, time, and culture, and that our shared humanity can be traced back to the first moments of human consciousness, from which archetypal elements in modern men and women emanate. Understand archetypes as the ancestors of conscious thought, living in the unconscious mind as psychic manifestations that have no grounding in reality. It is true that humans do not "invent" archetypes; rather, they express them in the conscious domains of literature, art, and religion. This is the manner that unconscious energy take on form.

As a result, the hero is none of us alone and our need to develop into adulthood; he is someone "out there" in the world (Davis, 1997).

Both the classical and modern hero archetypes are characterised by a number of traits, including moral and physical strength, vulnerability, and a sense of obligation or responsibility. They do, however, also differ greatly from one another. Traditionally, heroes from antiquity were portrayed as gods or demigods possessing extraordinary powers and a deep sense of responsibility towards their society or country. On the other hand, modern heroes are frequently everyday people who step up to the plate and overcome obstacles, frequently by using their own resourcefulness and tenacity. Classical heroes have been reimagined and modified in contemporary media to fit new storylines and cultural settings. For instance, the classical hero archetype is frequently embodied by comic book superheroes and movie characters, who are known for their moral and physical prowess, vulnerability, and feeling of obligation to defend their communities (Indick, 2004).

Characters having mixed blood ancestry have also become part of the modern hero paradigm, this is a throwback to ancient depictions of figures such as Teucer, son of Telamon and the Trojan princess Hesione. This is indicative of a larger movement in contemporary literature and media to examine the intricacies of cultural heritage and identity. Although there are many similarities between the modern and classical hero archetypes, they also differ greatly, reflecting the historical and cultural settings in which they are produced and appreciated (Butcher, 2021).

This Research is supported by research related to the topic discussed here. The first research came from Mulyadi (2011) with the title *The Hero's Journey in Bryan Lee O'malley's Scott Pilgrim's Finest Hour*. Based on storytelling comprehension, character development, and the transformative nature of the journey, the study revealed that *Scott Pilgrim's Finest Hour* has the hero's journey proposed by Joseph Campbell, with a few exceptions in the return stage, and focused on the initiation stage, mainly Atonement with the Father and Apotheosis.

The second research from Rachmayanti (2020) with the title Archetype and Heroine Journey in Enola Holmes movie (2020). This research uses a qualitative descriptive method and the main theory for analyzing the data is Christopher Vogler. From data analysis, the findings show that there are 6 archetype data points and 16 examples of the 10 stages of the heroine's journey.

The third previous studies came from Fithrotin (2022) with the title The Analysis of Hero's Journey and Archetype Toward The Main Character as Reflected in Disney Movie: Mulan (1998). This research uses qualitative descriptive method and the main theory for analyzing the data is Christopher Vogler. This study finds all stage of hero's journey and three types of hero archetypes in Mulan character.

The fourth previous studies from Fachmi (2020) with the title Heroic Paradox in Hacksaw Ridge Movie. This study applies Campbell and Vogler's core theory to determine the presence of the Hero formula in a popular literary work. Meanwhile, Rolan Barthes' semiotic theory is applied to determine why the protagonist of this movie is paradoxical. The study's findings offer fresh insights into the paradoxical nature of the hero character, who has believed since infancy that killing is an act that is categorically forbidden by religion.

The fifth previous studies came from Latif (2019) with the title Archetypes and Hero's Journey in Harry Potter The Order of Phoenix Novel by JK Rowling. This study aims to characterise and examine the heroic, or "hero journey," tendencies seen in Harry Potter and the Order of Phoenix. According to the research's findings, there are phases that the hero must go through. Out of the five stages, the writer identified four for the departure stage. The second is initiation, for which the author identified four out of six phases. After the three returned, the author discovered two of the six levels. Furthermore, the author employs Christopher Vogler's theory to identify ten out of the twelve stages of the hero journey and eight characters archetypes.

This study's use of a different object sets it apart from five previous studies and use a different theory from two previous studies, even if the subject matter is similar to the previous ones, which focused mostly on the hero journey and archetype.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the background of the research above, the researcher tries to analyze the problem of this research that concerns to the heroism element through the main character in Black Panther that must be examined further. So the researcher formulated the research question into:

1. What are the stages of hero's journey represented in Black Panther (2018) movie?
2. What are the archetypes of hero that represented classical and modern hero in Black Panther (2018) movie?

1.3 Objectives of the Research

Based on the question of research above, this research has two objectives, as follows:

1. To identify the stages of hero's journey in Black Panther movie.
2. To identify the kind of archetypal of the hero traits in Black Panther movie.

1.4 Research Significances

The result of this study is expected to bring theoretically and practically benefits:

1. Theoretically, the study's findings should, in theory, be helpful to scholars, academic students studying literature in the faculty of culture and humanity, and people in general who are interested in learning more about the study of popular and contemporary literature. especially about using the hero's journey by Christopher Vogler and the archetypal of hero by Bryan Davis, also improving the analysis about heroism.

2. Practically, the researcher hopes in addition to offering more knowledge to students enrolled in specialized courses and to academic and creative professionals generally, the researcher hopes that this research will be beneficial or serve as a reference for other researchers. It will also directly assist the Ministry of Education and Culture in developing policies and programs pertaining to creative hubs.

Since just a few researchers have undertaken research on this topic, it is hoped that this research could help future researchers in determining how to examine literary works using the hero's journey. Specifically literary works with films that expand information about the hero's journey by Christopher Vogler's theory for further research that employs similar theories.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

Definition of key terms is helpful for researchers to provide clear and precise explanations of the core concepts employed in the study by using definitions of essential terminology. By including this definition, the possibility of ambiguity or misinterpretation is reduced and the reader is guaranteed to understand the researcher's intended meaning for every term used in the study context.

1. Popular Literature

Any literary work that is read by a large audience or is meant to be read by one is considered popular literature. In its widest definition, it might encompass very popular nonfiction books, widely read magazines, and specific types of digital materials. The phrase is usually applied to fictional works that are set apart from what is commonly referred to as high literature, artistic literature, or just literature. Popular literature appeals to a broad readership and is largely written for their amusement. Typically, it is written in an easy-to-read manner with an emphasis on tales driven by the storyline rather than in-depth analysis or aesthetic appreciation.

2. Hero's Journey

Hero's Journey is a concept or narrative pattern in stories across cultures and genres. It tells the story of a hero who sets out on an adventure, encounters difficulties, and eventually comes home changed. It consists into twelve stages; ordinary world, call to the adventure, refusal the call, meeting with the mentor, crossing the threshold, test allies and enemies, approach to the inmost cave, the ordeal, the reward, the road back, the resurrection and return with elixir.

3. Archetypes of Hero

The concept of archetypes is an indispensable tool for understanding the purpose or function of characters in a story. Archetypes represent recurring patterns of characteristics and behaviors found in protagonists across cultures and stories. Jung defined his concept of the archetype as a formula that is the result of "countless experiences of our ancestors. They are, as it were, the psychic residue of numberless experiences of the same type." All archetypal heroes share certain characteristics, it consists unusual circumstances of birth, leaves his family and lives with others, traumatic event leads to adventure, special weapon, supernatural help, proves himself on quest, journey and unhealable wound, atonement with father, apotheosis of the hero.