

**THE ANALYSIS OF CHARLIE'S JOURNEY IN *THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER* NOVEL**

**A GRADUATING PAPER**

**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining  
the Bachelor Degree in English Literature**



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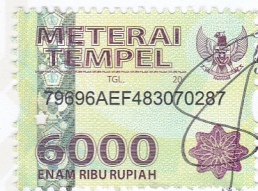


## A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I certify that this graduating paper is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this research. Other writer's opinions or findings included in the research are quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

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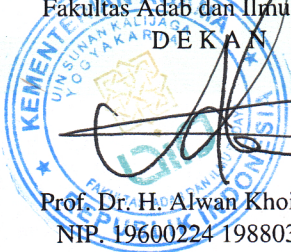
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# **ANALISA PERJALANAN CHARLIE DALAM NOVEL *THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER***

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## **Abstrak**

*The Perks of Being a Wallflower* adalah novel karya Stephen Chbosky. Novel ini mengisahkan tentang perjalanan seorang remaja introvert bernama Charlie. Perjalanan Charlie dalam novel ini adalah semata-mata ingin menjadi pribadi yang lebih extrovert. Dalam cerita ini, Charlie bertemu dengan Bill, guru bahasa Inggrisnya dan memintanya untuk lebih berpartisipasi dalam hidup. Charlie juga bertemu dengan dua seniornya, Sam dan Patrcik yang mengubah kehidupadn remajanya lebih berwarna. Dalam analisa ini, penulis mencoba memberikan pandangan yang lain tentang konsep seorang pahlawan. Konsep pahlawan sendiri biasanya adalah seorang yang kuat, berani dan maskulin. Disini, penulis menganalisa perjalanan seorang pahlawan melalui karakter Charlie yang introvert. Skripsi ini akan menjelaskan bagaimana perjalan seorang pahlawan yang bisa sesuai dalam cerita novel ini. Dalam analisa ini, penullis menggunakan teori perjalanan seorang pahlawan oleh Joseph Campbell. Campbell menerangkan bahwa perjalan seorang pahlwan memiliki tiga tahapan, yaitu Kedatangan, Inisiasi dan Kembali. Di setiap tahapan itu, seorang pahlwan harus melalui tahapan-tahapan untuk menjadi seorang pahlawan. Dalam analisa ini, Charlie mengikuti dua tahapan, yaitu Kedatangan dan Inisiasi. Metode yang digunakan dalam skripsi ini adalah deskriptif kualitatif, karena hasil data yang diperoleh berupa kata atau ungkapan. Data tersebut akan dijelaskan secara deskriptif. Sebagai hasilnya, analisis ini menjelaskan bahwa Charliedapat dikategorikan sebagai pahlawan, karena dia mengikuti tahapan petualangan seorang pahlawan.

Kata kunci: The Perks of Being a Wallflower, Perjalan seorang pahlawan

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# THE ANALYSIS OF CHARLIE'S JOURNEY IN *THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER* NOVEL

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## Abstract

*The Perks of Being a Wallflower* is a novel by Stephen Chbosky. This novel tells about the journey of an introverted teenager named Charlie. Charlie's journey in this novel is simply to be a more extroverted one. Using the theories of a hero's journey, the writer attempts to analyze Charlie's journey from an introverted person to an extroverted person. As we know that the general concept of a hero is a strong person, courageous and masculine person. This research analyzes by giving different views through Charlie's introverted characters as the hero in the story.

This research explains how a hero's journey can be fitted in this novel story. In this analysis, Joseph Campbell explains that the journey of a hero has phases of Departure, Initiation and Return. At each phase a hero must go through the stages of becoming a hero. Charlie follows the phase of Arrival and Initiation. The method used in this thesis is descriptive qualitative, because the results obtained data in the form of words or phrases. The data will be described descriptively. As a result, this analysis explains that Charlie can be categorized as a hero, because he follows the stage of a hero's adventure.

Keyword: The Perks of Being a Wallflower, Hero's journey

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## **MOTTO**

**Trust yourself before anyone else.**

**Things change. And friends leave. Life doesn't stop for anybody. (Stephen Cbhosky)**



## DEDICATION

**This research is dedicated to my beloved family.**





## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

*Assalamualaikum wr.wb*

Praise and thanks to Allah who gives me His mercy and His guidance so I can complete this graduating paper entitled The Analysis of Charlie's Journey In The Perks of Being A Wallflower Novel.

This graduating paper is submitted to fulfill one of the requirement to gain the Degree of Bachelor in State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta.

In finishing this graduating paper, I really give thanks and appreciation for people who helped me, they are:

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Finally, I realized that this paper is far from being perfect, but hopefully, this research can make a contribution to the literary fields.

Yogyakarta, 21 Mei 2017

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Study

Literature is written artistic works, especially those with a high and lasting artistic value (Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition). Literature is made by human. Human can express everything in their mind in order to create a good and interesting literary works. Literature most commonly refers to work of imagination, including poetry, drama, poem, sort story and novel. As the one of the literary works, novel applies a great of writings.

According to Abrams, "The term of the novel is derived from Italian 'novella' that means 'a little new thing', which was a short tale in prose" (Abrams, 1971:110). Novel is an extended narrative that distinguished from the short story. As the fictional literary works, novel has a greater variety of characters and greater compilation of plots. Novels may have any kind of plot such as tragic, satiric, or romantic. Novel and short story have an equal element. Plot, character, point of view, and theme are all elements common to both. Those become a certain reason why most people explore literature through the novels.

Some of novels are representation of human's life through a written words, therefore novel is more realistic. Many writers insert some of their experiences into their novel. In a novel, the author usually strives to provide direction to the reader in order to know the hidden message as a picture of the reality of life through a story that contained in the novel.

Based on explanation above, as one of the American author, Stephen Chbosky offers a unique perspective through his first novel, *The Perks of Being a*

*Wallflower*. Chbosky tries to present his first novel in the form of series of letters. The novel that published on February 1st, 1999 is narrated by a teenager named Charlie. He describes his various life experiences through a series of letters to an anonymous stranger so that the readers feel like Charlie is talking to them. In 2012, Chbosky adapts the novel into a film with the same title.

This novel attracts enough attention at that time because Chbosky describes the life of adolescence with a simple and completely realistic. According to Burhan Nurgiyantoro in his book *Teori Pengkajian Fiksi*, "Novel more represents a picture of real character, a character that comes from the social reality" (Nurgiyantoro, 2010: 15).

This novel tells about a high school freshman. In accordance with the title of his novel *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, Charlie is depicted as a wallflower in this novel. The word wallflower itself means a shy person, especially a girl or woman, who is frightened to involve herself in social activities and does not attract much interest or attention (Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition). As depicted in the novel, the writer argues that Charlie is an introvert person.

An introvert person likes to enjoy spending time alone and find less reward in spending time with large groups of people. He or she may enjoy interactions with close friends and introvert always choose a worthy companion because trust is important issue for him or her (Jung, 1976: 467). An introvert prefers to concentrate on a single activity at a time and like to observe. Those all indicators of introvert are depicted in Charlie's character as the main character in the novel. He enjoys to spend time alone by reading and writing. He also chooses

his friend, Michael as his only best friend because Charlie trust him and can feel to tell everything. Charlie likes to watch people and observe them.

The introversion of Charlie is because of his trauma in the past. Charlie realizes that he is sexually abused in early childhood by his aunt Helen, the most person he loves. Charlie uses defense mechanism to suppress and move on from those haunting memories. When his memories about that sexual abuse may have been repressed, it influenced to Charlie's character.

In this research, the writer tries to describe the alteration of Charlie's character after what happened to him in his past and Charlie's journey become a teenager like every other teenager. Charlie meets with Sam and Patrick and some other friends. They are an open mind people who accept Charlie as the way he is and this makes Charlie feel comfortable and feel welcome among them. For the first time, Charlie joined the party, and he even got drunk. When Charlie feels depressed one day, Charlie tries to calm his mind by smoking, then it goes on all the time. Some Charlie's character alteration in this novel may look negative, this is because the novel *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* has a setting of place in America and describes the life of teenagers at that time. The writer only focus to analyze Charlie's journey to change and escape from his past.

Character is usually used in two contexts. The first context, the characters refer to individuals. The second context, the characters refers to the mixing of the various interests, desires, emotions, and the moral principal of the individuals (Stanton, 1965: 33). In most of the stories can be found a 'major character', characters that is associated with all the events that took place in the story. Normally, these events cause a change in the character or on our attitude toward



the character. The other important evidence is the author's explicit description and author's comments about that character.

As we know that concept of hero commonly is a person with strength, brave, and masculine. This concept has been rooted in the thinking of all people. Through this novel *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, the writer tries to give other perspective about the concept of the hero. Here, the hero of this novel is Charlie. Charlie is an introvert one due to his trauma when he was child. According to Jung, the introvert is more comfortable with the inner world of thought and feelings. Comfortable living alone and being by themselves. It is shown from Charlie's character. The author of the novel even states it clearly at the title of the book "*The Perks of being Wallflower*". The wallflower itself means a shy person and a person who does not associate with surrounding.

Here, the writer tries to give some other perspective about the concept of hero. The concept of the hero in this research is not a strong person, brave or masculine, but an introvert person. The character of Charlie is represented far from the concept of hero commonly. Hence, the writer analyzes how Charlie who is introverted can be fitted as the hero through hero journey.

The writer chooses *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* novel as a subject of research because the writer finds that this novel is interesting. The way Chbosky writes the novel through letters to be one of interest the writer to analyze this novel. In addition, it makes the writer interested to analyze this novel due to the character of the main character in this novel. Charlie, a character in the novel dubbed as Wallflower. But as the story unfolds, the character Charlie from a

wallflower into a man who is beginning to change. Here the authors focus on analyzing the changing character of Charlie in the novel.

In this novel Charlie is depicted as an introvert one. He does not make any friend and associate with other. Charlie prefer spending his time reading books and thinking things. In point of view of Islam, God orders people to know each other and this is can be found in the Quran surah Hujarat, verse 13, it explains about the importance of human to know each other and be socialize:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا ۚ إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ

Which means: O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you people and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed the most noble of you is the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed Allah is knowing and Acquainted.

In the verse above, Allah warns people to know and socialize with each other. Although people come from different nation and tribe. “Mankind” in the verse above refers not only to moslem, yet to all human kind. When people can socialize, and know each other, a peaceful life will be crated.

## 1.2 Research Question

How can the stage of Joseph Campbell’s Hero’s journey fit to story of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* novel?

## 1.3 Objectives of Study

Based on the problem statement above, the objectives of this research isto explain how Hero’s Journey fit the story.

#### 1.4 Significances of Study

This research is very significant to the development of social science both theoretically and practically:

1. Theoretically, this research guides the audience to understand easily about the hero's journey in novel or fiction.
2. Practically, this research is important for:
  - a. Students, this research is significant to help them understand about how to analyze character development in the novel through Hero's Journey
  - b. Lecturers, this research can be used as a reference to give more overview about Hero's Journey the novel.
  - c. Common people, this research hopefully can attract their interest to understand about Hero's Journey and its relation to the novel.

#### 1.5 Literary Review

Literary review presents some related studies from the other students on the same work and the same topic. And here the writer finds four previous researches that discuss about *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* novel as the main object. The first is graduating paper entitled "*The Perks of Being a Wallflower, A Study on Popular Genre*" written by Indhira Putri Pamungkas (2007), student of English Literature at Gadjah Mada University. It describes about the archetypal and formulaic pattern of memoir of the novel "*The Perks of Being a Wallflower*". She tells about how memoir is made this novel as popular literature. She also tells that experiences of the hero in novel are represented as real as possible to the readers. In memoir, the story of novel is believable by the readers by using materials that known is known by the readers, such as person's life.

The second is the research entitled *An Analysis Charlie's Personalities in The Perks of Being a Wallflower By Using Psychonalitical Approach* by Selvi Khusnul Khotimah (2015) from Muhammadiyah Surabaya University. It discuss about the main Character personalities, Charlie and also discuss about the relation between Charlie's personality and his past. She analyzes Charlie's personality and the relationship between Charlie's present life and his past. She uses psychoanalysis theory; id, ego, and superego by Sigmund Freud.

The third research is entitled *Posttarumatic Growth Experienced By The Main Character in Stephen Chbosky's The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (2015) by Enita Rahmah Febriantary, student of State Islamic University Maulana Malik Ibrahim. She describes about the influences of traumatic experiences and the influences of relationship with others after having traumatic experiences. Is discuss about the realtionship between Charlie and his friends, taecher and his aunt because the change of Charlie's persoanlity occurs due to this realtionship with them. She uses psychological analysis theory by Martin Seligman and Mihaly Csikzentmihalyi that is called "Positive Psycology".

The last is the research entitled *The Traumatic Experiences as the Hindrance of Charlie's Personality Development in Stephen Chbosky's The Perks of Being a Wallflower, A Psychosocial Analysis* (2016), written by Tria Nur Arista student of State Yogyakarta University. She identifies how traumatic experiences become the hindrance for the main character of The Perks Being a Wallflower to handle the fifth stage of psychosocial development, and to explain the impact of failure to his personality in the sixth stage. She uses the psychosocial theory by Erikson to answer the objectives of this research.



## 1.6 Theoretical Approach

The Hero's journey is a pattern of narrative identified by the American scholar Joseph Campbell that appears in drama, storytelling, myth, religious ritual, and psychological development. It describes the typical adventure of the archetype known as the Hero.

Hero's journey by Joseph Campbell there are three phases; Departure, Initiation, and Return. In Departure, there are five stages. The first stage is The Call to Adventure, this stage when the hero begins in a normal situation and then the hero receives some information. The hero acts as a call to heads into the unknown world. The second stage is Refusal of the Call, When the call is given, the hero refuses to accept it at first. This may because of obligation, fear, insecurity and any range of reasons that work to hold the person in his or her current circumstances. Then when once the hero has committed to the quest, consciously or unconsciously his guide and magical helper appears or become known. This supernatural mentor will present the hero with artifacts that will aid him later in his quest, this third stage is called Supernatural Aid. The fourth stage is Crossing the First Threshold, this is the point where the person actually crosses into field of adventure, leaving the known limits of his or her world and venturing into unknown. The last stage of Departure is Belly of the Whale, represents the final separation from the hero's known world and self. By entering this stage, the hero shows willingness to undergo a metamorphosis.

The Road of Trials is a series of tests that the hero must undergo to begin the transformation, this stage is called The Road of Trials. The next stage The Meeting with the Goddess, who is incarnate in every woman, is the final test of

the talent of the hero to win the boon of love. The eighth stage is Woman as Temptress, in this step the hero faces those temptation, often of a physical or pleasurable nature that may lead him or her to abandon from his or her quest. It doesn't necessarily have to be represent by a woman. The step which the person must confront and be initiated by whatever holds the ultimate power in his or her life is called by Atonement with the Father. The next step is Apotheosis, this is point of realization in which a greater understanding is achieved. The hero is resolved and ready for the more difficult part of the adventure. The last stage is The Ultimate Boon, is the achievement of the goal of the quest.

The third phase is Return. In this phase is contained six stages, the first stage is Refusal of the Return. In this stage, the hero may not want to return to the ordinary world. The second stage is The Magic Flight, in this stage is when the hero returns from the journey which more dangerous and adventurous. The next stage is Rescue from Without, here may the hero may need guides to set on the quest to bring them back everyday life. The fourth stage is The Crossing of the Return Threshold, this stage is to retain the wisdom gained on the quest. The fifth stage is Master of Two Worlds, in this step has become comfortable and competent in both inner and outer world. The last stage is Freedom to Live, this stage is when the hero turns into freedom to live.

## **1.6 Method of Research**

### **1.6.1 Type of Research**

This is a library research. Here, the writer uses *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* novel as the main source data. The writer works through many of books and other references like articles, journals, and website in doing this

research to support the topic. As a result, library research is appropriate because the writer actually needs these to do this research.

### **1.6.2 Data Sources**

In this research, the writer uses two resources of data, the main data and the supporting data. The main data is the work *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* novel and the supporting data are books that related to the novel and *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* book by Joseph Campbell.

### **1.6.3 Data Collection Technique**

This research uses documentation method. This method is firstly, close reading the work *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* novel and also reading other references that tell about character and characterization. After that, the writer tries to find the main problem in this novel. In addition, the writer also visits library to find the books and more data about the hero's journey. The writer also searches more data about *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* novel and the introvert type in the internet.

### **1.6.4 Data Analysis Technique**

To analyze data, firstly the writer selects some texts that show with Charlie's character development. After that, the writer characterizes Charlie's character and then describes Charlie's character development in the selected texts. Finally, the writer infers the entire discussion to certain conclusion about how does Charlie's character development is represented in the novel.

## **1.7 Paper Organization**

This paper is divided into four chapters. The first chapter describes the general information of the research including the background of study, scope of

study, problem statement, objective of study, significant of study, theoretical approach and methods of collecting data. The second chapter explains about the intrinsic elements of the novel: *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* novel. The next chapter is discusses about the analysis of Charlie's character as the main character of the novel: *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. The last one is the conclusion of the research.





## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 4.1 Conclusion

After doing this research, the writer finds a few things in this novel. The object of this research that has been analyzed is *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* novel. In *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* novel, the author examines the main character in this novel, Charlie. Charlie who also as a hero of this story is an introverted one as described in the analysis above. In analyzing this research, the writer uses the theory of Hero's journey by Joseph Campbell. The writer analyzes Charlie's journey as a hero in the novel using Hero's Journey. Hero's journey by Joseph Campbell itself has phases of departure, initiation and return. In these phases consist of the stages in which a hero has to pass it to be called the real hero.

It has been said before that the purpose of this study is to explain how Charlie and also a hero can be called a hero. Using stages of hero's journey, it has been known that Charlie can be categorized a hero, because Charlie passes these stages. The writer discovers that Charlie passes two phases of Departure and Initiation. In phase of Return, it can not be found in this novel because the main character does not experience repetition on his journey. Charlie goes through all the stages except the second stage, the Refusal of the Call.

In this story, Charlie's goal is to become an introvert and to has a different life from his previous life. As far as Charlie is concerned there is no doubt to continue his journey after meeting with his guides. Although Charlie does not go through the Refusal of the Call stage, he is still categorized as a hero.

The second goal of this study is to provide a new insight into the concept of a hero. In this novel, the author finds that not all a hero has a brave, strong and masculine character. In this research, the writer explains that an introvert one like Charlie can be categorized as a hero.

From the conclusion above that this study explains that Charlie can be categorized as a hero in the novel *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* according to the stages of hero's journey by Joseph Campbell. The writer also concludes that the concept of a hero is not as long as a person with superhuman strength, high courage and masculine. But an introvert, shy and emotional man can become a hero as long as he passes the stages of hero's journey.

## **4.2 Suggestion**

### **4.2.1 Suggestion for Other Research**

This research is the analysis of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* novel by using the stages of Hero's Journey that must be passed by the hero. The writer uses hero's journey theory by Joseph Campbell to analysis the journey of Charlie. The writer then suggests other researcher for analyzing the same novel but with different theory. The writer can suggest the future researcher to make this research as the comparative study for the similar research. By looking to Charlie's character in this novel, this research can be used with the concept of introversion; Psychological Types by Carl Gustav Jung.

### **4.2.2 Suggestion for the Common Reader**

The writer believes that other people has different point of view of reading the novel. This can be caused different interpretation when reading the novel. Then the writer can suggest the other reader to read this novel to be an additional

reading for completing the possible different meaning in this novel. Because this novel has many moral values for the teenagers and parents.



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