

**THE STAGES TO BE A HERO: THE ANALYSIS OF HERCULES  
JOURNEY IN *HERCULES* (2014) MOVIE**

**A GRADUATING PAPER**

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



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**2016**

## 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.

Yogyakarta, 10 June 2016

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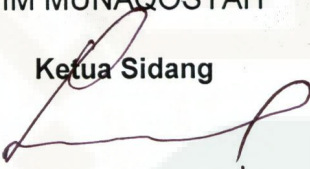
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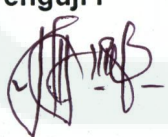
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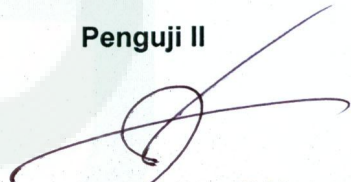
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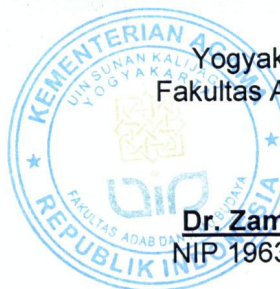
  
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## ABSTRAK

Judul skripsi ini adalah *The Stages to be a Hero: The Analysis of Hercules Journey in Hercules (2014) Movie*. Penulis memilih untuk membahas perjalanan menjadi pahlawan yang dilakukan oleh karakter Hercules dalam film tersebut karena karakternya digambarkan dengan cara yang unik yaitu dia disajikan sebagai tokoh yang terusir dengan tuduhan sebagai pembunuh istri dan anak-anaknya sendiri. Penulis memilih film Hercules karena Hercules adalah tokoh yang paling terkenal dari Mitos Yunani sampai sekarang ini. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode kualitatif dengan mengaplikasikan analisis deskriptif. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis dan menerangkan langkah-langkah yang dilalui oleh karakter Hercules dalam film *Hercules (2014)*. Teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah Teori Perjalanan Pahlawan yang dikemukakan oleh Joseph Campbell dan teori representasi. Berdasarkan teori Campbell ada tiga tahapan yang dilalui seorang pahlawan yaitu Keberangkatan, Permulaan, dan Kembali. Berdasarkan teori representasi, ada empat unsur yang digunakan untuk membuat kesan realitas melalui sebuah film. Berdasarkan analisis dapat ditemukan bahwa film *Hercules (2014)* hanya mengandung dua tahapan sementara tahapan Kembali tidak ada. Meskipun demikian, perjalanan tersebut masih sejalan dengan teori Campbell karena penyebab ketiadaan tahapan Kembali bisa diarahkan pada komposisi plot yang dibuat oleh penulis skrip.

**Kata Kunci:** Teori Perjalanan Hero, film *Hercules*, mitos Yunani, tahapan-tahapan hero.

## ABSTRACT

The title of this graduating paper is *The Stages to be a Hero: The Analysis of Hercules Journey in Hercules (2014) Movie*. The writer chooses to discuss the hero's journey of Hercules character in the movie because the character is portrayed in unique way since he is presented as the expelled person with the accusation as his wife and children's murderer. The writer chooses Hercules movie because Hercules is the most prominent figure from Greek myth until today. The method of this research is qualitative method by applying descriptive analysis. The objective of this study is to analyze and explain the steps passed by Hercules character in *Hercules (2014)* movie. The theory used in this research is Hero's Journey Theory proposed by Joseph Campbell and representation theory. Based on Campbell theory, there are three stages of the hero they are Departure, Initiation, and Return. Based on representation theory, there are four elements used for making the sense of reality through a film. From the analysis, it can be found that *Hercules (2014)* movie contains only two stages while the stage of Return cannot be found. Nevertheless, the journey is still in line with Campbell Theory since the cause of the absence of Return can be referred into the plot composed by the script writer.

**Keywords:** Hero's Journey theory, *Hercules* movie, Greek myth, stages of the hero.

## **MOTTO**

**No matter what you do, people always can find something to say.**

**Be yourself and go a head.**



## **DEDICATION**

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





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*Alhamdulillahirabbil'alalamiin*, praise to Allah SWT, the creator of human being and the whole universe, who always gives me blessing. Peace be upon Prophet Muhammad SAW for bringing us the guidance of life. I have started to do this graduating paper during the early of 2014. After longtime of working on this paper, I can finish this final project completely.

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Finally, I realize that this paper of research is far from being perfect, but hopefully, it can give a contribution to the academic literary field.

Yogyakarta, 13 June 2016

The writer

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background of the Study

Hercules is the famous character that its source is found on Greek myth. Among some of the all Greek heroes, he is even called as the most famous one (Nardo, 2002: 42). He is often described as the person who has the unmatched physical strength, the honesty about his mistakes, and the willing for enduring his punishment (Nardo, 2002: 216). Hercules is commonly presented in the form of the muscular man with the great physical strength.

Hercules is not a pure god but he is a demigod or half god and half human instead. He is the son of Zeus and Alcmene from Medea. The reason behind his birth is that Zeus needs the strong son for helping him to defeat the Giants (Nardo, 2002: 216). From its birth it can be seen that the main point can be noticed from Hercules is his strength.

The popularity of Hercules nowadays can be seen through movie media. There are so many movies presenting the appearance of Hercules as the hero from time to time. Some of the old movies are like the *Hercules* (1957), *Hercules Unchained* (1959), *Jason and the Argonauts* (1963), *Hercules and the Princess of Troy* (1965) and *The Young Hercules* (1998) (Stafford, 2012: 232). In these movies, his presence is in line with the story about his common characteristics.

During 2014, there are two released movies present Hercules as its main character. The first one is the movie entitled *The Legend of Hercules* and it is

released on 10 January, 2014. The movie wins one award and 7 nominations. Nevertheless, the nominations are the worst ones include the worst picture, the worst actor, the worst actress, the worst director, the worst remake, and the worst screen combo.

Then, the second movie is entitled *Hercules*. This movie is released on 25 July, 2014 and it gets 2 nominations. The first is nomination as the choice summer movie and the second is Dwayne Johnson as its protagonist character gets the nomination as the choice summer movie star as it is cited from ([http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1267297/awards?ref\\_=m\\_ttawd&mode=desktop](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1267297/awards?ref_=m_ttawd&mode=desktop)).

While other movies about Hercules commonly presenting him as the hero from the beginning, this movie presents his appearance in a different way. The movie presents the unique Hercules with a different story line from the common story about Hercules and his twelve labors. It shows Hercules as the person who is told as having the bad and sad past time. Nevertheless, his bad and sad past time is revealed little by little along the movie. At first it is revealed that Hercules is expelled because he is accused as the killer of his wife and children. Then, near the end of the movie, it is revealed too what is actually happened in Hercules' past life.

From financial side, *Hercules* (2014) movie also gets the success. Its estimated budget is \$ 100.000.000 while its gross reaches \$ 72.660.029 until 10 October, 2014 (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1267297/>). Besides of the appearance of Dwayne Johnson as the popular action actor today, the success also can be caused by the unique way of presenting Hercules character in the movie.



It is interesting to analyze the uniqueness of Hercules character like that. Hercules is punished and he feels guilty too but at the same time he still confuse about why would he kill his wife and children. That feeling influences his power too. Not until he is released from his guilty feeling he has the amazing power just like the common Hercules in the Greek myth. So, it is actually important to depict the journey of Hercules in this movie since it is different from other movies of Hercules. This movie contains many scenes where Hercules is portrayed as the human.

There is a little discussion about Hercules as a hero in a book written by Joseph Campbell entitled *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*. There Campbell mentions it in three places by using his other name Herakles. The first one is when he discusses about the phase of Belly of the Whale as the part of hero's journey stages by presenting the story about Hercules who defeats the monster in Troy during his journey, then the story about the childhood of the hero by presenting the story about Hercules who strangles the serpent sent by Hera to kill him, and then Hercules twelve labors are presented when he discusses about the hero as a warrior.

In *Hercules* (2014) movie, there is also the story about Hercules and the serpent sent by Hera in the beginning of the movie, the story about Hercules labors also is mentioned several times. Nevertheless, there is no story about his journey in Troy. Based on that fact, the advanced analysis about the complete journey of Hercules relating to his position as a hero is still possible to be presented. Another reason for that is that the discussion presented by Campbell is

only directed into the common story about twelve labors of Hercules while the story presented in *Hercules* (2014) movie does not fit into the labors.

Besides, the fact that there is a long list of movies presents Hercules as its main character shows the popularity of Hercules from time to time. As the popular character in western movie, Hercules can be the imitated figure in life for example about his willing for punishment when he is aware that he has done a mistake.

Based on the reasons mentioned before, the writer then decides to analyze the journey of this unique Hercules in *Hercules* (2014) movie. The analysis then is focused into the discussion of the stages passed by Hercules before he can be the real Hercules as the hero who has the greater power than the common people.

## **1.2. Research Question**

Based on the introduction before, the writer proposes the formulation of this research question as follows:

1. How could the *Hercules* (2014) movie fit into Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey?

## **1.3. Objective of Study**

In line with the introduction and research question above, this research then is purposed to analyze the steps of Hero's Journey in *Hercules* (2014) movie based on Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey theory and to explain it.

## **1.4. Significances of Study**

This academic research has several significances. Its significances can be divided into two kinds. The first one is the academic significance and the second is the practical significance. Both of them are as follows:

#### **1.4.1. Academically**

Academically, this research gives more information in English literature research field especially relating to the movie studies. The research can help the readers to know the deeper meaning about hero by presenting the journey may be passed by a hero. After that, the readers then are hoped to have more appreciation into hero's merit in any contexts for example into the hero that has the merit for Indonesian Nation.

#### **1.4.2. Practically**

Practically, this research can be a model for teacher and student about how to analyze a movie by using Hero's Journey theory presented by Joseph Campbell. Since this research also contains the suggestion, then it can be the basic source for the further research directed into the same movie too.

Besides, for the writer, this research also can be a meaningful result of his study in Department of English Literature Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University Yogyakarta. It also becomes the field for implementing the knowledge about how to write a good paper in certain theme relating to English Literature that is gained through the study.

### **1.5. Literature Review**

The writer does not find the researches about Hero's Journey or any themes in *Hercules* (2014) movie. Maybe that is caused by the fact that *Hercules* (2014) movie is a new movie released two years ago. The writer only finds some reviews of *Hercules* (2014) movie that are published in the internet without deep analysis

inside. So, this research could be the first research proposed about *Hercules* (2014) movie.

## **1.6. Theoretical Approach**

### **1.6.1. Hero's Journey Theory of Joseph Campbell**

The function of the theory is for being used as the tool of analyzing the text. In this research, the writer uses Hero's Journey proposed by Joseph Campbell because it seems to be the appropriate one relating to its focusing point into the plot of the story. The theory is explored completely by Joseph Campbell on his book entitle *The Hero with A Thousand Faces* that is firstly released on 1949.

In his book, Joseph Campbell said about the stages passed during the adventure of a mythological hero (2004: 227-228). He makes the conclusion like that based on his analysis of myths in the world. The myths are presented in the form of analogies and so revealing it by using some key themes presented can bring its real representation. The example is the myth of the gods that give Hercules his twelve labors to live in peace is the analogy that can be revealed by using key theme the call to adventure.

According to Joseph Campbell, there are three stages commonly passed by a hero during his adventure. Every stage contains some derived stages too as the more detailed explanation about the three major stages.

The first stage is the stage of Departure, it contains five stages, they are the call to adventure, refusal of the call, supernatural aid, the crossing of the first threshold, and the belly of the whale (Campbell, 20014: 45).

The second stage is the stage of Initiation, it contains six stages, and they are the road to trials, the meeting with the goddess, woman as the temptress, atonement with the father, apotheosis, and the ultimate boon (Campbell, 2004: 89).

The third stage as the last stage is the stage of Return, it contains six stages, and they are refusal of the return, the magic flight, rescue from without, the crossing of the return threshold, master of the two worlds, and freedom to live (Campbell, 2004: 179).

There is the connection between Hero's Journey theory and the theory of narrative proposed by structuralist narratology, for example Vladimir Propp. The theory uses the model of linguistic analysis to reveal the structure of narrative (Carter, 2006: 47). That is similar into the way of revealing the journey of the hero in the form of three major stages and several minor stages proposed by Campbell. The difference can be found in the form of psychoanalysis concept included by Joseph Campbell into his theory while that cannot be found in Vladimir Propp theory.

The basic concept of Joseph Campbell theory then can be referred into psychoanalysis that is combined with structuralism. Because of its connection with structuralism and psychoanalysis, the paradigm of Hero's Journey theory proposed by Joseph Campbell then is the structuralist paradigm same with both theories' paradigm.

### 1.6.2. Film Theory

Since the subject of this research is film, so the use of film theory for supporting the analysis process of the data is needed. The story in a film is constructed through the moving image and film theory will be useful for analyzing it. The film theory is used as the secondary theory besides of Hero's Journey theory proposed by Joseph Campbell.

In *Concepts in Film Theory*, Dudley Andrew proposes some basic concepts of analyzing film including representation concept. Through the concept, the film then can be analyzed "in terms of a ratio between realistic perceptual cues and cues which mark an effort and type of abstraction" (1984: 42). It means that the film representing an imaginary world that is made to be "real" by using the image interpreted through certain perception.

Then, by quoting Christian Metz (1984: 43), Andrew presents four elements contributes to make the sense of reality through film:

1. Experimental preconditions. It refers to the location used as the setting. The setting of place for the horror movie for example is often found in the form of the isolated house, the basement, or the haunted auditorium for increasing the horrible effect.
2. Analogical indices of object's image to share the actual visible properties of its referent. It is possible for example to find the use of arrow in the movie tells the story of Hercules instead of shot gun. The decoration that is made in Greek style instead of in apartment model is the other example for this element use.



3. The psychological imitation which cinematic flow provides of the actual flow of reality. It relates to the movement made in the scene. The scene of duel between Hercules and Rhesus for example is made as if the duel happens in the real world started from Rhesus comes to Hercules by riding his horse until he is thrown by Hercules.
4. The lure of sound. It supports the image representation used in the scene. The effect can be found in its maximum level commonly in some horror movies. The use of this element in colossal movie also can be found for example the march heard during the coming of Hercules in Thrace.

### **1.7. Method of Research**

According to Strauss (1998: 3) Method means a set of procedures and techniques for gathering and analyzing data. The method means to be explained for making clear about the steps of completing the research. Some explanations about this research method are as follow:

#### **1.7.1. Type of Research**

This research is the qualitative research. According to Strauss (1998: 10), the term refers to any type of research that produces findings not arrived at by statistical procedures or other means of quantification. The research is done as the qualitative research since there are no statistical procedures used during the research process. The choice of using qualitative research is because the writer analyzes the content of the movie instead of analyzing the effect of the movie for

the reader for example. The content analysis like that is more appropriate to be done by using qualitative method.

### **1.7.2. Data Sources**

There are two kinds of data used in this research. The first is the primary data and the second is the secondary data:

1. Primary data are the main data to collect and analyze as an object of the research. The source of the primary data in this research is the 2014 movie entitled *Hercules*. The data taken from the movie are the data that have the connection with the object of this research that is the journey done by Hercules character. The units of primary data analyzed are in scene unit and script.
2. Secondary data are some data that support the research. The secondary data that are used by the researcher are sourced from any references, for example books about Hercules and the information about *Hercules (2014)* movie from internet.

### **1.7.3. Data Collection Technique**

During the research, the writer collects the data based on some continued steps:

1. *Hercules (2014)* movie as the source of the main data is watched repeatedly for understanding the whole story and the possible scenes of the movie to be analyzed. The sign of understanding is when the writer can notice the scenes that can be analyzed as the main data.
2. The script of *Hercules (2014)* movie is read for getting the clearer

dialogues presented in the movie. The parts that are read are in the scenes planned to be analyzed.

3. The writer looking for the possible references relating to the object that is the journey of Hercules character in *Hercules* (2014) movie.

#### **1.7.4. Data Analysis Technique**

The phase of data analysis of this research is done in some organized steps as follow:

1. Both of the data are analyzed by using hero's journey theory presented by Joseph Campbell. The analysis is focused into the stages of the Hercules journey inside *Hercules* (2014) movie and then it is explained in description form.
2. The analysis is supported too by using film theory for presenting the image of the scene to make the analysis clearer.
3. The final analysis step is that the writer makes a conclusion based on the analysis done.

### **1.8. Paper Organization**

This research consists of four chapters. Chapter one presents introduction of the research that contains the background of study, research questions, objectives of study, significances of study, literature review, theoretical approach, method of research, and paper organization. Chapter two presents the intrinsic elements of *Hercules* (2014) movie and the review of Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey theory. Chapter three presents the analysis of the Hercules journey in *Hercules* (2014) movie and the explanation about it. Chapter four is the conclusion. It

explains the conclusion of this research and the suggestion for the further researcher and for the reader.



## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

After discussing the content of *Hercules* (2014) movie based on Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey theory in the previous chapter, this chapter presents the conclusion of the discussion. Besides, there are also some suggestions for both of readers and other researchers presented here.

#### **4.1. Conclusion**

After analyzing Hercules phases to be a hero in *Hercules* (2014) movie, there is the conclusion can be presented. The phases are fit into the theory about Hero's Journey presented by Joseph Campbell in two stages. Nevertheless, it does not fit perfectly because the third stage cannot be found there. The cause for that can be referred into the limitation made by the script writer of the movie. The story presented reaches its ending without the scene of Hercules returning to the common life.

One finding also must be stated here relating to the explanation about connection between the narration sequence and the stage of Hercules' journey. The first stage is started not from the beginning of the story since the story is started by the brief review about the origins of Hercules. The review that is narrated by Iolaus can be said as the introduction of the movie and it becomes the part of the plot but that does not become the part of the Hercules' journey in the movie.

## **4.2. Suggestions**

### **4.2.1. Suggestions for Future Researchers**

This research is done by using Joseph Campbell theory about Hero's Journey in *Hercules* (2014) movie. The writer then suggests the future researchers to make this research as the comparative study for the similar research. This research for example can be used as the example from where the other research may be started.

In his book, Joseph Campbell also often mentions Sigmund Freud and Carl Gustav Jung. Because of that, the Hero's Journey theory that is proposed by him also contains the Psychoanalysis theory especially relating to the interpretation of dreams which is related to unconsciousness by Sigmund Freud and the archetypes by Carl Gustav Jung. The presence of the stage contains the meeting with the goddess for example closes to the concept of anima concept in Jungian psychoanalysis.

Based on the fact, the writer suggests the future researchers to analyze the psychological condition of Hercules. That can be done for example by using psychoanalysis theory proposed by Sigmund Freud about the effect of guilty feeling.

### **4.2.2. Suggestion for Common Readers**

The people who watch *Hercules* (2014) movie could learn something from the movie. That can be different between one person and another. Here the writer suggests one possible learning to be taken from that.



The movie presents the story about Hercules who is tricked to be accused as the killer of his wife and children. The story shows that the accusation is wrong and that is done because of the fear of King Eurystheus when he sees the popularity of Hercules among his people. In the Holy Qur'an surah Al-Baqarah: 178 there is the statement about the punishment for the killer:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الْقِصَاصُ فِي الْقَتْلِ ط

Translation: *o ye who believe! The law of equality is prescribed to you in case of murder* (Ali, 1989: 71).

Nevertheless, the accusation of the killer must be done carefully. There are some aspects must be checked includes the evidence and the witness. Checking the evidence only as it happens in the accusation of Hercules in *Hercules* (2014) can be something wrong especially because there is the possibility that the evidence is tricked.

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