

**I SPIT ON YOUR GRAVE : A STUDY ON HERO'S JOURNEY**

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

Yogyakarta, 10 June 2017



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# **I SPIT ON YOUR GRAVE: A STUDY ON HERO'S JOURNEY**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The title of this graduating paper is *I Spit on Your Grave: A Study on Hero's Journey*. The writer chooses *I Spit on Your Grave* movie because the main character of this movie is a heroine. Jennifer, the main character of this movie is depicted as a beautiful and strong woman who wants to finish her second novel. She faces many obstacles, like the cruel, wicked men, and dangerous situation in her journey. And, the writer chooses to discuss Jennifer's journey because the journey that experienced by Jennifer contains the issue of Joseph Campbell's hero's journey. The method of this research is qualitative method by applying descriptive analysis. The objective of this study is to describe the stage of Jennifer's journey and how it can be fit with the hero's journey stages. The theory used in this research is hero's journey theory by Joseph Campbell and also film theory. Based on the theory, the hero's journey is divided into three stages that are Departure, Initiation, and Return. From the analysis, Jennifer only undergoes the journey until Initiation. The result of this research concludes that Jennifer's Journey fits with the concept of Joseph Campbell's hero's journey but the last stage cannot be found. And also it proves that the heroine exists.

**Keywords:** Jennifer, *I Spit on Your Grave* Movie, hero's Journey, heroine.

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# I SPIT ON YOUR GRAVE: A STUDY ON HERO'S JOURNEY

By: Taufik Andy Prastiyo

## ABSTRAK

Judul skripsi ini adalah *I Spit on Your Grave: A Study on Hero's Journey*. Penulis memilih *I Spit on Your Grave* (2010) movie karena karakter utama dalam film ini adalah seorang pahlawan wanita. Jennifer adalah tokoh utama dalam film ini yang digambarkan sebagai wanita yang cantik dan kuat yang ingin menyelesaikan novel kedua nya. Dia mengalami banyak tantangan seperti kekejaman, orang-orang jahat, dan situasi yang berbahaya dalam perjalanan nya. Dan penulis memilih untuk membahas perjalanan Jennifer karena perjalanan yang dialami Jennifer berisi isu hero's journey dari Joseph Campbell. Metode yang digunakan adalah metode kualitatif dengan mengaplikasikan analisis deskriptif. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mendeskripsikan tahapan-tahapan perjalanan Jennifer dan bagaimana tahapan tersebut sesuai dengan tahapan-tahapan perjalanan seorang pahlawan. Teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah teori hero's journey nya Joseph Campbell dan juga teori film. Berdasarkan teori tersebut, perjalanan pahlawan dibagi dalam tiga tahapan yaitu *Departure*, *Initiation*, dan *Return*. Dari analisis, Jennifer hanya melalui perjalan nya sampai tahapan *Initiation*. Hasil dari penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa perjalanan Jennifer sesuai dengan konsep *hero's journey* dari Joseph Campbell meskipun tahapan terakhir tidak ditemukan dan juga pahlawan wanita itu ada.

Kata Kunci: Jennifer, *I Spit on Your Grave*, *hero's journey*, pahlawan wanita.

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**MOTTO**

**MY TRIP**

**LILLAHI TA'ALA**



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## **DEDICATION**

This Graduating Paper I dedicate to:

**My beloved father and mother**

**My brothers**

**My great friends**

**You**



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Yogyakarta, 10 June 2017

The Writer

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## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1. Background of Study**

Movie is a popular literary work which is different from three major kinds of literary works: prose, poem, and drama. Movie is a text that contains photo (picture) collection. It creates an image of real life (Danesi, 2002:108). It is a new media which can present the literary works in three dimensions: the idea, the work, and the audio-visual element. Movie has an attraction that can satisfy the audience. Actually, Movie attracts many people's attention because it contains a new way to enjoy entertainment such as story, event, music, and drama which are popular in public (McQuail, 2010:36).

Movie, a product of popular culture has given a major impact for society. It is a form of art, a source of entertainment and a powerful tool to educate and indoctrinate the audience. Through the mental and cultural experience they have, the audience plays an active role consciously or unconsciously to understand a movie (Pratista, 2008:3).

Movie has some genres, there are: action, adventure, animation, biography, comedy, drama, fantasy, sci-fi, western, and horror. The movie that is chosen by writer is a horror. Horror movie is a movie designed for causing terror, fear, dread, scare, or panic for the audience. Horror movie is also a movie with the full

exploitation of horror element that aims to raise the tension of the audience (Pinel, 2006:124). According to Charles Derry, he divides horror into three subgenres, there are: First, horror-of-personality is the kind of horror that is no longer personifying mythical character as a source of horror. Second, horror-of-the-Armageddon is the kind of horror film that strums archetype story/mythology of the apocalypse. Third, Horror-of-the-Demonic is a film that offers a theme about the bad world because Satan's power in the world and always threatens the life of mankind (1977:97).

In the kind of horror, horror object is no longer a figure characterized by monsters, but ordinary people who look normal and usually only at the end of the story seem a terrible temper. Typically, this subgenre leads to psychological horror films. For example, *The Last House on the Left* and *I Spit on Your Grave*.

*I Spit on Your Grave* (2010) movie written by Meir Zarchi and directed by Steven R. Monroe. This movie is a violent or horror movie and a remake movie from a controversial movie *I Spit on Your Grave* (1978) better known by name, *Day of the Woman*. In May 2010, the movie was released and became part of Texas Frightmare Weekend in Texas, USA ([www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com)). Moreover, the movie won an award in Toronto After Dark Film Festival 2010 for the best feature film.

*I Spit on Your Grave* movie tells about a horrific story of writer Jennifer Hills. Firstly, Jennifer Hills is a beautiful writer. She looks for peace and quiet area to write her next novel. Furthermore, she retreats from the city to a little

cabin in the woods. She enjoys her trip to Mockingbird Trail, her cabin's name. Lost, she pulls to gas station for gas and asks the address which she wants to go. At the gas station, there are three men who try to seduce Hills. After she pays, she continues her trip to Mockingbird Trail. She finds her cabin in the woods close to the river. She feels comfortable in her new cabin and starts to write her next novel seriously.

Furthermore, three men bring a nightmare, degradation, rape and violence. They leave Jennifer for dead. Soon, she returns for vengeance. She traps and tortures them one by one by using the extreme ways. Finally, she becomes a psychotic and has an evil character to take her revenge.

It has been known that many movies which put women only as a complement or display, and not infrequently as the object of sexuality. Movies often raise the issue of gender, or gender discrimination. Just as women's lives are generally constructed in the film as a male companion who always obeys the will of men and always becomes a sweetener or an additional cast. Women are shown to attract the audience's attention either in terms of sexuality and weakness (Prabosmoro, 2006: 36). In the film, the image of women enters as a mere complement, because women are portrayed as a gentle, lover, sobbing and so forth.

With the development of era, the role of women in the movie has changed, the rise of the world cinema industry has created a figure of hero who is constructed by women. Many movies feature female figures as brave, tough,

strong, confident and able to fight men. The female figure is often raised as a heroin. Previously, it is rarely found heroine characters who have an exclusive portrayal of woman in the the movie because they are considered less visible strong, less powerful and less proportionate to act as a heroine. The female hero is also shown to have a beautiful face. There are several movies featuring heroine like Tomb Raider movie. In regard to the problem, do women have a distinctive character as a hero that men do? Or just the same does heroine exist? If it is similar, of course the heroine do exists.

The writer chooses *I Spit on Your Grave* movie because woman as the main character of this movie. Jennifer is depicted as a beautiful and strong woman. The writer is interested in exploring Jennifer's journey. She faces many obstacles, like the cruel, wicked men, and dangerous situation. The writer assumes that the journey that experienced by Jennifer contains the issue of hero's journey.

Concerning that issue, it is appealing to be analyzed using hero's journey theory by Joseph Campbell. The theory is necessary for analyzing the issue because this research focuses on the main character's journey. The writer also uses the film theory to support the analysis. The cinematographic of the movie uses to show the character of the main character.

## **1.2. Research Question**

Based on the description of the background above, the question that will be delivered by the writer is how can the stages of Joseph Campbell's hero's journey fit to the story of *I Spit on Your Grave* (2010) movie?

### 1.3. Objective of Study

The objective of this research according to the problem statement is to discuss about how can the stages of Joseph Campbell's hero's journey fit to story of *I Spit on Your Grave* (2010) movie.

### 1.4. Significances of Study

This research is necessary to analyze the step of hero's journey based on *I Spit on Your Grave* movie. The theory of hero's journey can be applied in *I Spit on Your Grave* movie to find the stages of hero. This research also enriches the discussion about Heroine movie especially *I Spit on Your Grave* Movie. It could prove that Heroine contextually exists.

### 1.5. Literature Review

*I Spit on Your Grave* (2010) movie has been used as a topic of writing by several writers. But the writer of this research finds one academic paper which has a similar topic with this research. The movie tells about psychoanalysis theory. The writer finds one paper used *I Spit on Your Grave* (2010) movie as a study about feminism theory.

The paper is a graduating paper of The University of Western Ontario student, Kayley Ann Viteo (2012) entitled *Day of The Woman?: Feminism and Rape-Revenge Films*. In this paper, she focuses on the dominant discussions about feminism and woman taking place at the time. Moreover, she compares the original *I Spit on Your Grave* (1978) movie with a remake *I Spit on Your Grave*

(2010) This thesis also examines the film in terms of their narrative structure and general aesthetic elements.

Therefore, according to the prior research, the writer considers this research is different. The writer considers that the research from Kayley is completely different because she uses feminism theory while the writer uses Joseph Campbell's hero's journey theory to find the stages of hero in the *I Spit on Your Grave* movie.

## **1.6. Theoretical Approach**

According to Silverman, theory is a set of concepts used to analyze and explain some issue (Silverman, 2000:77). In this research, the writer uses hero's journey theory, also film theory is used to support the theory of analysis.

### **1.6.1. Hero's Journey**

Hero's Journey is a concept introduced by Joseph Campbell in *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*. Campbell divides Hero's Journey into three stages: Departure, Initiation, and Return, which are explained as follow.

Departure is the first part of hero's journey. It consists of 5 stages. The first stage is The Call to Adventure. In this stage, the hero have a normal situation and life and suddenly get some information or tasks that lead them into the unknown world. The next is the second stage of the departure called the Refusal of the Call. After the hero receives the call, he/she will refuse to do it. It happens because the hero feels that the adventure is a dangerous and risky task. The third stage is Supernatural Aid. In this stage, after the hero has committed to the quest, there will be a person who will guide the hero in the adventure. This person is



called a mentor. This mentor will give the hero a weapon or magical power that aids the hero later in his/her quest. The fourth is The Crossing of the First Threshold. In this stage, the hero actually crosses into the field of adventure. The hero leaves his/her own world or place and ventures into an unknown and dangerous place where the rules and limits are not known. The last stage is The Belly of the Whale. This stage is the representation of the final separation from the world that is known by the hero. By entering this stage, the hero shows willingness to undergo a metamorphosis, even the hero will probably face death.

Initiation is the second part of hero's journey. It consists of 6 stages. The first is The Road of Trials. This is the stage in which the hero faces a lot of tasks. It can be mental and physical obstacles. While doing the journey, the hero may meet a powerful female figure with whom he finds unity. The goddess may be a mystical or supernatural being or she may be an ordinary woman with whom the hero gains support and synergy, this stage called The Meeting with the Goddess. The third stage is Woman as the Temptress. In this case, the hero will meet the temptation often in female form and it may lead the hero to abandon or stray from the quest and it can make the hero fail to do the quest. The fourth is Atonement with the Father. In this stage the hero may fight against a 'father figure' who must be beaten, persuaded or whose approval must be achieved in some way. The fifth is Apotheosis, or a point of realization, in which a greater understanding is achieved. Armed with this new knowledge and perception, the hero is resolved and ready for a more difficult part of the adventure. In this stage, the hero's highest self or divinity is revealed. The final one is The Ultimate Boon, or the

achievement of the goal of the quest. It is what the person going to the journey that he wants to get.

Return is the last part of hero's journey. It consists of 6 stages. The first is The Refusal of Return. In this stage the hero may not want to return to the ordinary world because he/she has found bliss and enlightenment in the other world. The second is The Magic Flight. Sometimes in this stage, the hero must escape from the boon, and sometimes it makes the hero face an adventurous and dangerous returning from the journey. The third is Rescue from Without. In this stage, the hero returns to the ordinary life by unexpected assistant because the hero has been weakened by the journey. The fourth is The Crossing of the Return Threshold. In the way of return, crossing the threshold may not be an easy task because the hero may face the last challenge. After the journey complete, the hero becomes a master of both worlds: the world in adventure and the world of ordinary life. Afterward, the hero can pass over the threshold between the two without further trial. This stage called Master of the Two Worlds. The last is Freedom to Live. After doing the journey, the hero has the right to choose the better life which is lead to freedom from the fear of death.

### **1.6.2. Film Theory**

Film theory is used to support the analysis. According to Robert Stam, film theory is an evolving body of concept designed to account for the cinema in all its dimensions (aesthetic, social, physiological) for an interpretive community of scholar, critics, and interested spectators (Stam, 2000:6). As the main data of the research is a movie, the writer uses a film theory to explore the cinematography

that can support the analysis. The writer focuses on the cinematography by analyzing type of shot, camera angle, and lighting. The analysis of cinematography of the movie is needed in order to find out the meaning behind everything that presented in the image of the movie.

## **1.7. Method of Research**

The research method is needed to help the writer achieving the purpose of research. This chapter will present Type of Research, Data Sources, Data Collecting Technique, and data Analysis Technique.

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

The writer uses a qualitative method to analyze this research. As Sugiyono said, Qualitative is used to examine the condition of the natural object where the researcher is the key instrument for designing, collecting, and analyzing the data (2009:15). This method can be described as a method of collecting data, in which the researcher does not do any interviews but only gathers and observes data from some referential books, website, and other data resource.

### **1.7.2. Data Sources**

The data sources in this research are primary data and secondary data. The primary data is the main data used in the research. The primary data are *I Spit on Your Grave* movie itself and the unit data are the events of story of the movie.

The secondary data is supporting data used to enrich the research. They are the script and the captured image of the movie.

### **1.7.3. Data Collecting Technique**

The writer takes the data from the movie, *I Spit on Your Grave*. The writer reads the movie repeatedly to find character, characterization, and plot of the movie. The next step is collecting necessary data from the script and captured images that contain representative aspects to support the analysis. The last is classifying the data based on the theory.

In order to collect more data related to the movie, the writer also reads some books, some references, and some literature reviews to help getting more information and understanding about the theory. Besides, the writer also searches some necessary information in the library and internet.

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

This research will use a descriptive analysis. The writer analyzes all the data descriptively using the hero's journey theory. After searching and collecting the data, the writer classifies the data based on the theory including the character's action, event. Then, the writer analyzes them by determining the connection between the stages. However, before the writer focuses on the analysis, the writer firstly analyzes the intrinsic element of the movie. Furthermore, the writer begins the analysis to answer the problem statement. Afterwards, the writer selects and connects the data with the problem. The last is finding the connection among the data to answer the problem statement. In consequence, the writer concludes the analysis comprehensively.

### **1.8. Paper Organization**

This paper is divided into four chapters. The first chapter is about the introduction of the research which includes background of the study, research question, objective of the study, significances of the study, literary review, theoretical approach, method of research, and paper organization. The second chapter describes intrinsic element of *I Spit on Your Grave* movie. The third chapter is the analysis of the data. The last chapter is conclusion of the research which is contained the conclusion of this research.

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

After analyzing the content of *I Spit on Your Grave* movies based on Joseph Campbell's Heroes Journey in the chapter three. This chapter presents the conclusion of the analysis. Besides, there are also some suggestions for both of reader and other researchers presented here.

#### 1.1. Conclusion

After analyzing *I Spit on Your Grave* movie using Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey, there is the conclusion can be presented. Based on the analysis of heroine's journey in the character of Jennifer, it can be said that every person can be categorized as a hero or heroine. Women have a distinctive character as a hero that men do. It proves that the heroine is exists. Then, the main character in *I Spit on Your Grave* (2010) movie, Jennifer can be categorized as heroine based on the hero's journey theory.

The journey of Jennifer of this movie is fit into the theory about Hero's Journey presented by Joseph Campbell. Jennifer only undergoes the stages until the stages of Initiation. The last stages of Return cannot be found. The apotheosis stages become the climax of the story when Sheriff Storch is dead. The ultimate boon is the end of the story after she realizes that she has gone through many obstacles in her journey. Finally, she can take revenge to her rapists. And also she can continue her second novel and her life normally.



#### 4.2. Suggestion

The research is the analysis the journey of the main character in *I Spit on Your Grave* (2010) movie by using the stage must be passed by a heroine. The theory used is hero's journey theory of Joseph Campbell. The writer then suggests the future researchers for analyzing the same movie by using the different theory or different focus. The future researchers for example can analysis the phantasy of the main character by using the phantasy theory. Also, they can make this research as the comparative study for the similar research. This research can be used as the example from where the other research may be started. The writer believes that other people have the presumption when they watch the movie. the writer then suggest the reader of this research to use it as the additional reading for completing the possible meaning gained after watching the movie.

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