

**HERO'S ADVENTURE IN J.R.R TOLKIEN'S TRILOGY :  
THE LORD OF THE RINGS**



**A Thesis  
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## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Study

Novel is a kind of literary works that records any kind of movement in a society. In short, we can say that novel is the mirror of the society. Nowadays people are starting to make novels as their primary reading books since novels are not only educate the readers but also entertain them. Unfortunately, most of the reader regards novels only as the entertaining tools to fill in their spare time. That is why most of the readers are not interested in analyzing the intrinsic content of a novel especially the mythic content. Most of the researcher deals with the idea of something implicit, or something hidden behind a word that need to reveal. So, in order to conduct a research, the reader must know about the concept of myth they are facing with first. And it is hard for the readers to understand what the real meaning of the novel they read is.

That is why, the advanced research on the myth concept is needed in order to understand a novel. Nowadays, there are several studies about the myth research and myth criticism. They are, "The Vile Effect of Magic Ring towards Human Being in the Lord Of The Rings" (2006) by Anton Delfano Fadli, The Hero Patterns In Bernard Evlins's The Adventure Of Ulyses" by Surya Elviza (2006), The Archetypal Images in JRR Tolkien's Silmarilion By Eka Putra (2004). And also titled "Hero Pattern and Archetypal Image of Bilbo in JRR Tolkien's "The Hobbit"" by Sri Oetami (2004). The four theses are a further research about the myth research and the myth criticism. They talk a lot about the archetypal approach and the hero pattern reflected in the novel they

choose. Unfortunately, when they come into the hero pattern; they did not explain the whole part of the Hero Adventure, but only some of the steps are mentioned inside their analysis.

From the statement above, the writer sees the complete version of a literary work analysis consists of more details and deeper understanding on the myth theory, is needed in order to analyze the story. That is the reason why writer commits the study with the specification above.

For this research the writer, choose J.R.R Tolkien's trilogy entitled The Lord of the Rings. The writer takes this novel because JRR Tolkien as the author can portray the event in the story smoothly; he also had his own version about the world long before human filled the earth. The story seems to be so real that made the reader drag into the story and start to believe it as a myth. Here the writer sees that the novel consists of the mythic content. The trilogy has the complete content of the concept of myth especially the hero journey concept. Therefore, this trilogy is a perfect example for the hero journey.

The most important thing in this research is that in identifying the hero adventure based on the novels, we need to concern on the details of the story. So, the writer will conduct the Monomyth cycle and its seventeen steps completely as reflected in the main character's lives.

## **1.2. Identification of the problem**

Based on the explanation above, the main problem in this research is about in what specification of the "Hero" concept that the writer want to describe to the readers since we are used to accept that hero are always human, great and strong who can defeat

many powerful monster bare handed or armed. Meanwhile, based on what we can see in the trilogy, the hero was a Hobbit, that is very different from the hero concept we used to see. In the trilogy, Frodo as the main character is portrayed as an ordinary creature with no power at all. The other ring bearers must protect him. One thing that describes him as hero is that he has a strong will to fulfill his destiny. That is why the writer eager to reveal about how does The Monomyth cycle described in Tolkien's trilogy: The Lord of the Rings throughout the main character Frodo Baggin and what is the hero concept that the writer of the novel is trying to tell.

### **1.3. Objective of the study**

There are two objectives of this research. They are, the first: The theoretical objective that is aimed to develop the mythic theory, since most of the students thinks that myth is something absurd, not realistic and hard to accept.

And the second is the practical objective that is aimed to reveal the hero's journey by using theory proposed by Joseph Campbell (The Monomyth Cycle) that is reflected throughout the events faced by the main character Frodo Baggin.

### **1.4. The limitation of the problem**

There are some cases that can be studied from the novel, however in this analysis, the writer will limit the study based on:

1. The concept of heroism that the author of the trilogy is trying to reveal to its readers.

2. The Monomyth cycle described in Tolkien's trilogy, The Lord of the Ring, throughout the main character, Frodo Baggin.

### **1.5. Method of the research**

Related to what the writer try to describe in this research, the writer follows two steps to complete the analysis. They are collecting the data and analyzing the data.

#### **1.5.1. Collecting the data**

In collecting the data, the writer uses the library research method. This research results in two kinds of data; they are the primary data and the secondary data. The primary data comes from the trilogies The Lord of the Rings: the Fellowship of the Ring, the Two Towers, and the Return of the King through comprehensive reading and Meanwhile, the secondary data are gained from other sources such as books, and internet research related to the subject of this study, that can be used in supporting the primary data.

#### **1.5.2. Analyzing the data**

In analyzing the data, the writer does some steps started with analyzing the intrinsic elements of the novel that give contribution to this research. The next step is analyzing the extrinsic part of the short stories such as the biography, or even the culture where the literary work is born. As long as it can support the research, then it will be count as a data.

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION

If we talk about the archetype based on the way of an author write a story, we can see that most of the flow of the story is affected by the authors unconscious. The Same case also found in J.R.R. Tolkien's literary works. Even though he insists that his trilogy have nothing to do with his personal life, writer still can see that some part of the trilogy is connected with Tolkien's life.

The first evident we can see is how Tolkien depicted the ring as something that promised ultimate power to its bearer. The ring looks so shiny and promises a luxurious appearance for the wearer, but behind it, the ring also carries the evil spells that can change the owner's personality into someone negative. The fact that the ring is a never-ending thing since it will always round and round give a promising power to its wearer, as they get what they want, the ring will turn its wearer into bad. The way Tolkien describe the ring is somewhat the same with his opinion on the industrialization that happened during his community that time. The industrialism can change people into individualize and greed. He sees that the industrialization only brings destruction to the nature and change the social construction as well as their culture.

The other evident is the picture of the Hobbit in Shire is actually referred to Tolkien's homeland when he was a little boy. Most of the setting inside the story is alike with the depiction inside the trilogy. And many other proof that show the correlation between the trilogies with Tolkien's life.

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