

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the study

In analyzing popular literature, formula is a valuable thing that we should to note. According to John G. Cawelti in his book: *Adventure, Mystery and Romance: Formula stories as Art and Popular Culture*, formula is a narrative construction or dramatic principle that is used in a number of literary works. Formula can be used to name plot (1). Then, formula refers to the plot that embodies the type of story which inspired the author to write the story. Thus, the formula is part of a structural component (plot) that has detailed themes which forms a type of literary work.

Cawelti also stated that the definition formula in the popular literature is the same with the term genre in the discussion of classical literature. Formula is a configuration or blend of a number of specific cultural conventions with a more general story form or archetype (Cawelti 6). If in the discussion of classical literature we know the distribution of genres such as novels, plays, poetry, then in the popular literature there is adventure, mystery, romance, alien being and state, as well as the melodrama or tragedy.

From the view of adventure genre, John G. Cawelti defines adventure fiction as the story “of the hero - individual or group - overcoming difficulty

and dangers and finishing some ethical and significant mission (2). He also insulates to the archetypical nature of this story pattern, which can be traced back to ancient myths and epics. Thus, novels in the adventure genre are action-packed, characteristic a hero on a mission, and are often set in mysterious locales throughout the journey times.

An identifiable hero is always found in the adventure fiction, he is character whom readers like and to whom they relate. He achieves his fraught by means of his cleverness and skill, mission. The one the feature in adventure genre is the personality of the hero. Although inroads have been made by women, as will be seen below, this remains a male-dominated genre; he is a strong, honorable man, committed to his assigned mission. Both physical and intellectual skills are required: the hero must act to accomplish his mission, but he must also be able to figure out the puzzles along the way (Saricks 19).

The Golden Compass novel is a novel written by Phillip Pullman and categorized as an adventure fiction. Lyra as the main character in this novel is taking her journey to the Northern Lights (Bolvangar and Svalbard). Lyra is doing some mission such as rescue her best friend, Roger Parslow and the missing Gyptians's children abducted by the Gobblers in Bolvangar and also rescue Lord Asriel who is imprisoned in Svalbard by bears since the church againts his experiments on 'Dust' and also give the alethiometer to Lord Asriel in which she thinks it is needed by him to reveal Dust, thus it is constantly that Lyra Belacqua is supposed to be an identifiable hero and

protagonist character in this Novel is. In *The Golden Compass* novel, Dust accumulates around people when their daemons stop changing – that is, when they go through puberty and grow up. As the radical theologian Rusakov discovers, it is the ‘physical proof’ that something changes when innocence becomes experience (Pullman 224).

A journey or quest is essential to the adventure fiction because without it there is no adventure (Saricks 16). Cawelti said that the true focus of interest in the adventure story is the character of hero and the nature of the obstacle he has to overcome (40). According to Campbell, a hero is a male or a female who ventures forth from the world of common day into a region of supernatural wonder: fabulous forces are there encountered and a decisive victory is won: the hero comes back from this mysterious adventure with the power to bestow boons on his fellow man (263). Thus, the hero must leave the world of his or her everyday life to undergo a journey to a special world where challenges and fears are overcome in order to secure a quest, which is then shared with other members of the hero’s community.

The act of giving up his life to someone or something greater than himself is one of the characteristics of a hero. In Franz’s words, a hero is abnormal, divine, beyond human limitations, even in novels and films, the hero is someone who has found or done something beyond the normal range of achievement and experience (Campbell 165). However according to Margery Hourihan in his book, *Deconstructing of Hero: Literary Theory and*

1.6. Methods of the Study

1.6.1 Research Design

This study will be library research. One of the characteristic in doing library research is working through many books, journals, articles, and other supporting references to support the research. *The Golden Compass*, a novel written by Phillip Pullman is choosing as the object of analysis. So, through descriptive analytic method this study wants to get the valid description about how Lyra leads herself as a hero and all her hero pattern

1.6.2 Source of Data

There are two data sources used by the writer for this research. They are primary data and the secondary data. Those primary data are taken from the novel itself that was written by Phillip Pullman. While, the secondary data are taken from book of Margery Hourihan theory of Heroic Patterns. This study analyzes phrase and sentence that relates to the hero pattern of Lyra as the main character.

1.6.3 Method of Collecting Data

This research uses the documentation method. At first, this study will tries to find the book and other sources related to archetypal criticism of heroes character. Then, this study takes any statement and conversation in the novel which is related to the problem analysis. In this case, the writer focuses on the Hero pattern of Lyra to the Northern Lights.

