

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of Research

Fundamentally, popular literature divides into two categories: non-fiction and fiction of popular literature. Non-fiction of popular literature generally is a literary work in the form of an essay, and fiction of popular literature is a creative work or imagination in the forms of a novel or it can be a movie (Adi, 2016). A movie becomes one of the objects in popular literature study since it was affected by the development of era that influenced the fiction of popular literature which evolved in common with new media technology, radio, film, up to the internet (Glover & McCracken, 2012).

A movie also has the builder elements like in literary works. Some of the elements of the narrative movie are characterization and point of view, editing and narrative structure, and then the last is the style of language (Adi, 2016). Besides, the movie as part of popular literature contains arts also a fictional elements. Moreover, movie and literature also have in common; both of them lift a narration (Story of events) in it. This was explained by Adi (2016) :

*“Dapat dikatakan bahwa dalam banyak hal novel populer sama dengan film naratif, tetapi kesamaan yang pasti adalah narasinya. Kedua bentuk fiksi tersebut merupakan suatu cerita hanya saja medianya berbeda. ... karena movie dalam bentuk audio visual, sedangkan novel pemaparannya berbentuk verbal saja.”*

“It can be explained that in many ways of popular novels are the same as a narrative film, but the definite similarity is the narrative. The two of the fiction form is a story but with different media. ... Since movies are in the form of audio visual, while the novels are in the form of verbal.”

Movie is also has a narration that present a story of life and conflict of the characters. However, movie is a literary works that not only presents a life stories or manifestation of life through a language, but also an audio visual. Through a

film, there are will be presented with a more real depiction of stories. Since, nowadays there are many fictions or novels which were later made into films. The audience will see what is described and hear what is said in the novel. Adi (2016) argued that making novels into this film was for satisfying, and to be able to find out what the audience wanted to see in the novel.

*The Fate of the Furious* movie is one of The Fast and the Furious franchise that produced since 2001. This franchise tells a story about illegal street, crime, spying (espionage) that also has several of themes, such as family, love, kinship, and racing. The success since the first series of the franchise, entitle *The Fast and the Furious* (2001) made this franchise movie has the Highest-Grossing -occupies seventh place- of all time that produced by Universal Studio (Mood, 2019). Roundly, this franchise has produced eight movies and two short movies. Therefore, from the whole of The Fast and the Furious franchise, Dominic Toretto is one of the dominant main characters who nearly always appear.

One of the prominent characters is Dominic Toretto who almost appeared since the first series of the franchise. Initially, he is known as an elite street racer who suspected hijacking moving trucks to stealing expensive electronic equipment (*The Fast and the Furious: 2001*). This is the reason for Dominic Toretto and his family and crew become a police fugitive. Up to the fifth series, Dominic Toretto who previously ran off with the help of Mia and Brian on his way to prison (*Fast & Furious: 2009*), then make an alliance with federal agents to obtain the dangerous drug lord (*Fast Five: 2011*). Moreover, in next series Dominic Toretto is required by federal agent in (*Fast & Furious 6: 2013*) and by the Covert Operation leader (*Furious 7 2015*) to hunt down and catch criminals. Furthermore, the last franchise that released is *The Fate of Furious* movie (also called as Fast & Furious 8/F8) is showed the character of Dominic Toretto who must save his family from the hands of villains. Therefore, the character of Dominic Toretto has changed. He is no longer known as a fugitive or a car hijacker.

In *The Fate of Furious* (2017), there are present a story of Dominic Toretto who is going to a risky adventure to save his family. Disregards all the possible

risks and dangers that will he get from betraying his friends, Dominic Toretto who in threatened must do all of orders of the Cipher. Dominic Toretto fights and overcomes the obstacles to complete its mission. He faces the long obscurity and obstacles and also barriers during the journey to complete his mission. Furthermore, this movie also presents how Dominic Toretto is always succeed in overcoming obstacles and challenges in front of him. Although, since he is not God, Dominic Toretto is still an ordinary man who has some flaws in him. However, in generally Domini Toretto used to always handle the problems and complete the missions.

This research is going to analyze *The Fate of the Furious* movie which released in 2017 and will focus on the representation hero in Dominic Toretto and hero's journey that carried out by him. The term of hero indeed not only refers to a character in story that role as the main character or protagonist, but also refers to an adventure story that the main character (in the story) does the heroic actions (Adi, 2016). In accordance with Cawelty (1976) that "The central fantasy of the adventure story is that of the hero –individual or group– overcoming obstacle and dangers and accomplishing some important and moral mission. ... and passing through the most frightening perils to achieve some triumph." Based on the quotation, known that a hero is the character that has an extraordinary qualities, generally appear in an adventure story that shows an heroic actions in completing a mission or quest, also courageous to face an obstacles to acquire the purpose of the adventure.

As explained above, a hero is the character who has courage to do something for them or to help others without fears of risk or dangers that will be obtained. Elizabeth Svoboda emphasize that people who are brave to do something, risk themselves to help others are a hero (2013). Furthermore, Svodova also explained that, "...everyone can be a hero, or that everyone can do a heroic things that are will be useful in such a situation" (Svodova, 2013). Therefore, everyone, anyone and whatever they are can become a hero in their own life. In accordance with Campbell (2004):

“... a male or female who ventures forth from the world of common day into a region of supernatural wonder: fabulous forces are there encountered and decisive victory is won: the hero comes back from this mysterious adventure with the power of bestows boons on his fellowman.”

A hero either man or female or whatever they are going to journey or adventure to face a variety of obstacles and barriers without fear of danger and risk. Those who are going to a journey or adventure bring the particular purposes and motives respectively, to bring a peace, to solve a problem, or even the personal motives (Adi, 2016).

Moreover, in the study of popular literature, there is a term known as formula. The term of formula is a narrative pattern to determine an element of the convention of literature (Adi, 2016). Therefore, in the study about hero, there is a narrative pattern that determines how the journey or adventure that usually passed and faces in the narrative adventure of hero. As for, one of the formula or a standard path which is a reference to describe the journey of hero in carrying out the mission, are represented in the rites of passage: *Separation* (Hero leaves his life in order to a mission) – *Initiation* (where's the hero faces obstacles) – *Return* (hero escaped on his mission) that called as monomyth (Campbell, 2004). The hero must complete the quest by overcoming the some threshold and trials in his journey. Therefore, after overcoming all of the long obscurity, obstacles and challenges, the hero then reach his goal and will accept his triumph.

The reason why the author take Dominic Toretto in *The Fate of the Furious* movie and discussed the hero's journey, other than because of the popularity of the franchise, or because the character of Dominic Toretto that has changed, it is also because the storyline in this eight series movie is shows the sacrifice for family carried out by Dominic Toretto. Furthermore, in this movie, the character of Dominic Toretto also clearly shows the nature of guarding and protecting the family relationships and kinship. He faces a long obscurity, obstacles and risky challenges that could dangers his life. Dominic Toretto who has a incredible strength both physical and intellectual, can survive from the

complicated situation. There is a lot of scene that shows the heroic action of Dominic Toretto, such when he tries escape and at the same time lead a missile toward a Russian Submarines. This scene is present a heroic action of Dominic Toretto who dared to risk his life in order to completes his mission.

The topic of this study is based on previous studies that become the reference material and inspiration. In an essay by Emma Klevskog entitled *Robert Langdon's Hero's Journey: Reading the Novels of Dan Brown with the perspective of the Monomyth* (2017) there are discuss about the journey of Robert Langdon in Dan Brown's Novel is a Hero's journey. This research shows that although without supernatural abilities that usually have by the character of hero (mythology), he has the characteristic of a contemporary action hero. In the study with Campbell's theory, the character of Robert Langdon not too accurate or exact as hero that picture in monomyth. However, the character of Robert Langdon shows that it is literate with hero of our time.

In addition, there are other studies that also discuss the journey of a hero. This study by Tutta Kesti is also used J. Campbell's monomyth and applied in novel *The Lord of the Rings*. The title of the study is *Heroes of Middle-Earth: J. Campbell's Monomyth in J.R.R Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings (1954-1955)* (2007) that not only discuss the main character, but also the side character in the novel. The study concluded that the journey of a hero can not only be found on the main characters, but can be seen and also found in other characters. Moreover, this study shows that the characters in *The Lord of the Rings* are very compatible with the hero's represented by J. Campbell's that passed the stages of Hero's Journey.

Another research about hero's journey is the one that is written by Cici Nurdina. The title of undergraduate thesis is *Hero journey in C.S Lewis The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (The Return to Narnia) Novel* (2016), this is discussed a hero journey with using Joseph Campbell's theory and also discuss about archetypes of character using Vogler's theory to analyze the other characters that are close to hero and to know the real hero in novel. The study shows that there are several stages of Monomyth (theory from Campbell) that are

not passed by the character of hero in the novel. Likewise, with the use of theory from Christopher Vogler, also shows that there are several stages that are not found. This study concludes that *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (The Return to Narnia)* neither follows a narrative pattern from the hero's journey theory by Joseph Campbell nor the archetypes theory by Vogler.

The last research that still discuss about hero's journey with the use of the same theory from Joseph Campbell is written by Rahmad Khanafi. The title of the study is *Joseph Campbell's Monomyth as Presented in Spiderman Film* (2016). The study shows that from the three stages that mentioned by Joseph Campbell (*Departure, Initiation and Return*), there are only *Initiation* and *Return* stage that follows the pattern of monomyth. Although, still not all stages are exactly follow the narrative patterns. As in the last stage, in the stage of *Return* only found the "Refusal of The Return" phase. However, the writer of the study believes (since this is a film that has a sequel) that there is a possibility for stage of *Return* to be found in the next sequel.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher took the same theory from the four previous studies that are using the theory of hero's journey from Joseph Campbell. As for, the writer tries to apply it to *The Fate of the Furious* movie that writer does not find yet in the faculty of English Department. This research discussed about the character of Dominic Toretto that represent several character of hero and also the hero's journey that passed by him during the journey to complete the mission. Entitle this research is "*Dominic Toretto's Journey as a Hero in the Fate of the Furious Movie.*"

## 1.2 Statement of Problems

Based on those presented in the background above, the author tries to analyze the problem in this research to reveal the hero journey of the main character Dominic Toretto in *The Fate of Furious* movie, follow with J. Campbell's Monomyth perspective which formulated into two:

1. How is the hero representations in Dominic Toretto in *The Fate of the Furious*?
2. How are the hero's stages of Dominic Toretto in his Journey based on J. Campbell Monomyth perspective?

### **1.3 Research Objective**

Based on statement of problems above, the objective of this research is to answer the question or problems of study. Therefore, the objectives of this research are:

1. To discuss the representation of Dominic Toretto as a hero in *The Fate of the Furious*.
2. To discuss the stages of Dominic Toretto's journey as a hero based on J. Campbell's Monomyth perspective.

### **1.4 Research Significance**

Through this study, the researcher expected the result of this research to enlarge the knowledge of the representation of hero popular literature, especially in film *The Fate of the Furious* as action, crime and adventure genre. Then, this research is also expected to be able to provide knowledge about the stages of hero journey of the character, especially applied in movie.

In addition, this research is expected as reference of the other researcher about J. Campbell's Monomyth; the three phase of hero's journey, especially in applied toward the main character of Dominic Toretto in film *The Fate of the Furious*.

### **1.5 Definition of Key Terms**

In this research, there are some of the words turned up as the key term of the research. They are as follows:

1. Dominic Toretto : A fictional character from The Fast and Furious franchise.
  
2. Hero : Hero is an individual or group that overcoming obstacle and dangers and accomplishing some important moral mission, passing through the most frightening perils to achieve some triumph (Cawelty J. G., 1976)
  
3. Hero's Journey : Hero's Journey is a journey formula of character that called to carry out a certain mission with purpose to completing and get triumph (Campbell, The Hero With A Thousand Faces: Commemorative Edition, 2004)
  
4. Monomyth : A stage or narrative pattern identified of character of hero represented in the rites of passage: separation – initiation –return. This is the standard path by Joseph Campbell which is usually passed by a hero (Campbell, The Hero With A Thousand Faces: Commemorative Edition, 2004).
  
5. Adventure : Adventure is one of genre in popular literature. An adventure genre is a story about completing a mission or quest. This genre presents a story about a struggle of man to get what the goal of the



adventures (Cawelty J. G., 1976).

6. Formula : Formula is as a concept of system classification, boundaries or patterns that born from a particular culture a period of time

7. Structuralism : This concept is show that each element has a specific task in accordance with their respective structures (Anggraeni, 2017).

8. Film : Film is a work that conveys stories through audio visual.

