

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Chapter I is an introduction that introduces the general description of the research. This chapter presents the background of the research statement of the problem, research objective, research significance, conceptual framework, and previous study.

1.1. Background of the Research

Popular fiction according to Radway has several categories, including popular literary products that are already well-known in society such as novels, films and dramas. These literary works are usually loved by teenagers because they have simple and ordinary language. The presence of popular literature itself has a function to entertain readers and the general public and does not show life problems such as political, economic, or security issues. This opinion is reinforced by Cawelty's opinion that several general can be classified as popular literature, including adventure, mystery, and romance. Popular literature can be classified into five main moral fantasies, namely adventure, mystery, romance, melodrama, and alien beings (Cawelty, 1976: 39).

In this research, the researcher will analyze one of the films which is included in the popular literary genre. The object of this research is the Hacksaw Ridge movie script. Previously, researchers had several objects in this study, including the 1997 film, Jumanji The Next Level, Hacksaw Ridge and Captain Fantastic. However, in the end the researchers chose the film Hacksaw Ridge as the object of this study due to several considerations. This consideration is because this film has elements that exist in popular literature, even though the drama genre, but in taking the theme and

language style it can be easily understood, this is what makes researchers take this film. After all it has several different elements from other films. In addition, the main character in this film also has the concept of a hero in popular literature so that the researcher takes Hacksaw Ridge as the object of this research.

Hacksaw Ridge is Mel Gibson's most authentic revenge on the directorial field after 10 years of absence. Hacksaw Ridge is a perfect blend of biography (without losing any of the characters), war (without losing humanity), and a touch of religion (without having to quote verses and commentaries). Mel knows where Hacksaw has to go. He also knew how to connect audiences with Desmond, and he managed to direct this film. Hacksaw Ridge is a three-way war film. First, war is the most painful thing without using music. All that was heard were screams, sighs of gunpowder, roasted human bodies, grenades and hot lead flowing through the air. This scene lasted for 15 minutes. then forcing researchers to understand humanity. Second, the war was accompanied by music playing that accompanied the emotions of the audience. Third, the war climax that takes the audience to the end of the story by presenting it through a visual sequence that makes us unable to look away several times. Because it presents real images, artistic systems, and sounds that make us feel like we are entering a battlefield.

Hacksaw Ridge is a war drama biographical film that premiered in 2016. Hacksaw Ridge follows a classic story about a war hero from the United States who fought in World War II. The film takes a very interesting and unusual story idea, namely the story of the life journey of a soldier who refuses and will never take up arms. Even though this person is the main character in this story, so what if a soldier doesn't want to hold a weapon, how can he fight his enemy without killing while fighting. Hacksaw Ridge itself was directed by actor and director Mel Gibson and produced by Terry Benedict, Paul Currie, Bruce Davey, William D. Johnson, Bill Mechanic,

Brian Oliver and David Permut. The script from the film Hacksaw Ridge itself was written by Andrew Knight and Robert Schenkkan based on the true story of US medical soldiers during World War II.

Hacksaw Ridge tells of an American soldier named Desmond Doss who is played by Andrew Garfield. In contrast to military soldiers in general, since the beginning of the military in his camp, Desmond firmly refused to lift and touch weapons. In 1920's Virginia, Desmond Doss as a child nearly killed his own younger brother. Years later Doss has grown up helping and bringing a wounded man who was bleeding to the hospital then he met nurse Dorothy Schutte from the incident and it was at this meeting that Doss's human souls about war emerged. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Doss enlisted in the Army as a combat medic. Long story short, Doss's unit completed basic training and then released for prime time leave, where on this leave Doss intended to go home and marry Dorothy but his refusal to carry a firearm made it said to be insubordination. Then Doss is not given leave and fails to marry Dorothy, even though Dorothy has been waiting at the church in the hope that Doss will come home and marry her but Doss never comes, because Doss is being punished and locked up in prison.

Captain Glover and Dorothy visit Doss in prison trying to convince Doss to plead guilty so that he can be released without charge but Doss refuses to compromise his conviction. At his trial Doss pleaded not guilty but before being convicted by the judge his father broke into court with a letter from his former commander and explained that his son's pacifism was protected by congressional law. So that the charges against Doss were dropped and Doss had the right to fight without using weapons and Doss married Dorothy. Doss units are assigned to the 77th Infantry division that is deployed in the Pacific. During the Okinawa battle, the Doss unit was told to board and secure the Maeda Escarpment (Hacksaw Ridge). After successfully

climbing the Hacksaw Ridge and fighting, Doss's unit lost to the Japanese and suffered heavy losses in the initial battle. But there is an incident that makes Doss get respect from his colleague who used to hate him. When Doss tries to save his comrade from the Japanese army attack, he breaks his reluctance to hold a weapon for the sake of his partner, thus creating a moment that makes Doss talk about his reluctance to hold a gun.

After successfully lowering dozens of soldiers, including several Japanese soldiers, Doss returned to the base with a tired face and a body covered in blood. The initial plan was that American troops would return to the Hacksaw Ridge and then attack the Japanese troops again because reinforcements had arrived. Then Doss's colleague told them that they were going back to attack on the condition that Doss had to come with them, because these people were inspired by Doss's selfishness and they wouldn't launch an attack without him. The incoming reinforcements turned the tide of battle and pushed Japan into a tight spot. The Japanese adopted a strategy of pretending to surrender and at once the Americans believed. Suddenly one of the Japanese soldiers who were surrounded by Doss' unit threw a grenade which injured him by the grenade explosion, but managed to save and bring home his comrades. Basically, this film has a very strong story base. The basis of the story is what can make this film unique, the premise written by the author has a very large event. This filmmaker raised how the story of someone who experienced a second world war. After all, history is a very important point, by being brought back through a film, history will continue to be known.

One thing that became the reason why researchers took the film Hacksaw Ridge was because researchers were interested in analyzing the main character in the film Hacksaw Ridge. The premise of the story in this film is very strong, that is the reason why researchers took Hacksaw Ridge as the object of this research. In addition, the

topic that the researchers took in this study was about the nature of the paradox that the main character in the film Hacksaw Ridge has. In writing or novels, paradox is often used to describe conditions or describe something that is contradictory. For example, someone who feels happy when he meets his family, but also feels sad because he has to leave his family and go overseas. Just like what happened in the film Hacksaw Ridge, the element of paradox is presented by the story maker. The paradoxical value that the researchers found in this film is the character Dessmon Doss has as the main character. The paradox that the main character in this film has is the character or characterization of Dessmon Doss who does not want to wield a weapon on the battlefield. Meanwhile, everyone would know that whoever went to the battlefield would accept and protect himself by wielding a weapon. However, in this story, Dessmond Doss does not want to hold a weapon because he does not want to kill humans, this factor that makes researchers interested in further researching the characterization of the main character.

Based on the background of this research, because Hacksaw Ridge is included in the category of popular literature, the researchers used theories related to popular literature. In addition, the researcher also added several additional theories to be able to analyze hidden messages using semiotic theory. Semiotics is the science of meaning that is processed from signs. Language is a sign; literature is also a sign. In this study, researchers analyzed what signs were in the Hacksaw Ridge film for analysis researcher.

In addition, there is a term in popular literary studies of the main character who has the action or adventure genre, the main character is replaced by the term hero or heroine. Hero itself is aimed at the main character who has a male gender and the heroine is the main character who has female gender. Heroism is a moral concept with many dimensions. Heroes are determined according to individual tastes and that is why they are very strong subjective. The title "hero" is the determination of "high

value" or value given to someone by people as an effort to show gratitude and admiration for their great generosity (Pukinskienė, 2006). This is what makes researchers take this theme for further research on the personality of the main character in the film Hacksaw Ridge.

The Hero's Basic Pattern according to Vogler (2007, p. 29) "The critical point of a hero is sacrifice, this sacrifice takes many forms. Self-sacrifice here is not only limited by one's actions or possessions but can also be like sacrificing one's ego or identity. "Meanwhile according to Campbell (2004, p. 36)" the hero is a symbol of the creative image and divine redemption hidden in all of us, just waiting to be known and turned into life. " Recognizing archetypal characters in literature raises several patterns that respond unconsciously in a way that is similar to awareness of several heroic levels.

In this study, the researcher saw that the heroism of the main character is in accordance with what Vogler said and has its own uniqueness. This uniqueness is the nature of the main character who does not want to fight and take up arms. However, like it or not, the main character must hold a weapon and must join the battle. The researcher saw that many paradox values existed in the character of the main character so that in this study the researcher took the title Heroism Paradox in Hacksaw Ridge.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

The problem in the object of this research is the nature of the main character. The main character has a paradoxical nature, but it is still awkward because it must be examined further so that the researcher has two problem formulations in this study to be able to examine the paradoxical nature of the main character. Based on the research background above, the research limits the analysis on Hacksaw Ridge movie into two

research questions as follows:

1. How is the hero journey as main character in Hacksaw Ridge movie?
2. Why the hero as main character acts paradoxically?

1.3. Research Objective

Dealing with the statement of problems, this research has two objectives gained by the researcher as follows:

1. To find out how the hero journey is presented in Hacksaw Ridge movie.
2. To find out why the main character acts paradox.

1.4. Research Significance

1. Theoretically

This research is expected to add the study of some fields for the reference in the study of literature, especially the theory of hero or hero archetypes and hero or hero journey to provide knowledge to the reader. The researcher wants to give information about how the stages of the hero or heroine's journey are present in some stories, especially in the movies. The researcher uses Hacksaw Ridge movie as one example or reference that the stages of hero journey applied in that movie's story.

2. Practically

Through this research, the researcher hopes that the reader will get more knowledge about their awareness of the literary works because there are so many

aspects in the literary work. Also, the reader will be more interested in literary works. They will be understanding in many overviews, especially when theory is applied in the movie

1.5. Conceptual Framework

The story of the film Hacksaw Ridge is a story taken from the incredible true story of a soldier named Desmond Doss who saved at least 75 lives on the battlefield during World War II. Doss was the first opposing (conscientious) warrior to be awarded the Medal of Honor and was called a hero by his close friends for his bravery on the front lines and saving the lives of his friends.

Within the framework of this research, in analyzing this research, the first thing the researcher does is to understand the whole story content of the film Hacksaw Ridge. After the researchers understood the entire contents of the film's story, the researchers looked for several suitable theories as the basis for analyzing the Hacksaw Ridge story. In this study, because the film Hacksaw Ridge is included in the study of popular literature, the researchers used popular literature theory.

In the study of popular literature, the theory that the researcher uses in this research is Campbell's theory which discusses how the main characters in popular literature are formed. The main character in popular literary studies is known as Hero and Heroine. Then, in the explanation of this theory, in popular literature, the main character has a number of formulas. This has been explained by Campbell how story writers use a formula in creating the main character. In this study, the first step that researchers analyzed was to discuss the journey of the main character in the film Hacksaw Ridge. The hero journey suggested by Campbell has several points, including The Call to The Adventure, Refuse to Call, Magic Aid, The Crossing to Adventure and several other points.

This theory is very helpful for researchers in understanding the storyline of Hacksaw Ridge because researchers can clearly see how the character formation of Doss is. Hero Journey itself is simply an identification of how the hero travels in a story, with the smaller the area of analysis it is easy to analyze. One of the studies of popular literature itself is to see whether there is a development or not in a story from time to time. The value of heroism itself is inseparable from the word hero, which means someone who does an action outside the actions of most humans in general. Some people argue that heroes are people who have high morality and courage in sacrificing to fight for the fate of others, on the other hand there are also those who argue that heroic actions are simply defined as all actions that benefit others.

Courage is manifested through heroic actions in an effort to achieve the desired results. Doing the right thing is the basis of heroism but the emphasis on the word 'risk' because heroism is often dangerous for heroes also involves personal sacrifice. Heroes are often depicted as soldiers who take heroic actions in the form of real wars in defense of the country. Soldiers in war films are identified as people who courageously take up arms against enemies on the battlefield. For some people who have firm belief in their religion, war is an act that is not justified because in its action war is an act of violence that can take the lives of others. As a solution to this, medical soldiers became an alternative to continue serving the country without losing their lives, on the contrary, saving lives by helping other wounded soldiers. In this study, researchers used the Vogler theory.

In simple terms, the reason why researchers use the hero journey theory is to identify which factors can shape the creation of the main character. This is the researcher's first focus in this study, because after understanding what factors can make the main character have such characteristics, the researcher can easily

understand the intent or message that the creators of the Hacksaw Ridge story want to convey. However, it does not only depend on the Hero Journey theory, to get what messages are present in the Hacksaw Ridge film, in this study the researcher uses additional theory to be able to find out the message the story maker wants to convey, namely by adding the semiotic theory of Roland Barthes.

Roland Barthes is famous for his understanding in understanding a text. In his theory, he revealed that the meaning of the text is very broad so that it must be examined more carefully in accordance with the knowledge of each reader. The researcher understands that using Roland Barthes' theory as a supporting theory in this study is very appropriate because the researcher can understand messages that are not conveyed clearly by the story maker. In order to understand the value of the paradox in the film Hacksaw Ridge, the researcher uses Barthes' semiotic theory by looking for meanings in a text between denotative and connotative meanings.

Denotatively, maybe other viewers have understood how the whole story line is in the Hacksaw Ridge film, however, researchers have new findings that the film has a paradoxical value. In order to be able to understand and explain why the main character is paradoxical, the researcher uses Barthes's theory as an additional theory in order to understand the intent and purpose of the story maker. Barthes said that in a sign there are always other signs or have other meanings so that further research is needed in understanding the sign. Language is a sign that has a very broad meaning, therefore the study of signs in language is very important. Combining Hero Journey theory with Semiotics helps researchers write more comprehensive research in guessing the intent and purpose of the story maker.

1.6. Previous Study

Before taking the theme, object and making a title in this study. Researchers have conducted several researches to look at some of the previous studies, the first research the researchers read was by Elsha Marshus (2017) entitled *The Masculinity of The Heroine in the novel Suzanne Collins Adventure The Catching Fire*. In this study, he used qualitative methods, data from the fire novel *The Catching*. She uses Bernstein and Halberstam's grand theory as well as the supporting theory by Hourihan and R.W Connell, for the results of explaining the main character (katniss) who is categorized as a heroine because she becomes the leader and follows the adventures of the hero. And for the second result explains that through her character, Katniss shows the heroism of a masculine woman.

Second, the study of this research is with a thesis entitled "*The Stage to be a Hero: The Analysis of Hercules Journey in Hercules (2014) Movie*" by Totok Zuniato from the English Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University Yogyakarta in 2016. This research describes how the theory of the hero's journey is in accordance with the film *Hercules*. This study uncovers the hero's journey according to Vogler's version. There are several stages of the hero's journey according to the film *Hercules*. In this study, researchers found two stages of the hero journey in the film *Hercules*. Researchers have not yet found the final stage of the hero's journey because at the end of the *Hercules* film, Hercules' character does not return to ordinary life.

Third, the thesis written by Cici Nurdina with the title "*Hero Journey in C.S Lewis' The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (The Return to Narnia) Novel*". This study analyzes the journey of the hero in the novel, explains how the journey of the heroic character in the novel gives an atmosphere of heroic imagination. Primarily, the researcher came up with a thesis describing the heroic character of his

journey.

Fourth, Muhammad Fajar Nur Syahid's undergraduate thesis entitled *The Values of Heroism on the Main Character of Frodo Baggins in Jhon Ronald Reuel Tolkien's Novel the Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Rings*. In this paper, he analyzes the novel by identifying the heroic values of the main character. The analysis focuses on how heroic values can be better understood in relation to the main character.

Some of the studies that have been mentioned above have similarities with the research that will be carried out by researchers, namely taking the theory of heroes but having different objects. But in this case, the researcher will provide a different analysis. Therefore, based on the above definitions, the aim of this study is to thoroughly explore how the main character is described as a paradoxical figure. Because what the researcher found before, this character is paradoxical, besides research on paradoxical characters will provide useful information for readers so that this research has benefits. One of them is to explore the storyline in this film thoroughly and present the messages implied in this film. Because in fact to be able to find out what message the writer actually conveyed, several ways and approaches had to be used in expressing it, one of which was to analyze the main character in the film entitled "The Paradox of Heroism in Hacksaw Ridge".

1.7. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid any misunderstanding some words in this research, the researcher explains the definition of key terms in this section which are related to this research, the definitions are:

1. Hero Journey: Narrative pattern identified by the American scholar Joseph Campbell that appears in the drama, stories, myth, religious rituals, and psychological development. This illustrates the typical adventure from the basic

pattern is known with "The Hero", which people go and make a journey to achieve something large in the name of the group, tribe, or civilisation.

2. Archetypes: The contents of the personal unconscious are chiefly the feeling-toned complexes, as they are called; they constitute the personal and private side of psychic life. The contents of the collective unconscious, on the other hand, are known as archetypes (Jung,1981:4). The concept of archetypes is an indispensable tool for understanding the purpose or function of characters in a story. (Vogler, 2007:24).

3. Popular literature: a literature categorized into entertaining and commercial literature. Those entertainment and commercial are related to the reader. The reader will be amused by the story in popular literature and commercial aspects will arise from the sale of the literary work.

