

# **THE HEROINE'S JOURNEY IN SUZANNE COLLINS**

## **THE HUNGER GAMES**

**Pungky Priska Sari**  
**Fakultas Ilmu Budaya**  
Universitas 17 Agustus 1945 Surabaya  
pungkypriscasari@gmail.com

### **ABSTRACT**

The focus of this thesis is about The Heroine's Journey in Suzanne Collin's novel entitled *The Hunger Games* (2008). This study analyzes the heroine's journey by applying the theory from Maureen Murdock. The object of this study is the main character of the story, Katniss Everdeen. From ten stages of the heroine's journey from Maureen Murdock's theory, the writers finds five stages, namely: the first is seperation of the feminine, the second is identification with the masculine, the third is the road of trials, the fourth is illusory boon of success and the last is the initiation of the goddess. Heroine's journey is a stage about growth, the main character must endure each stage of the journey and then the character must be passed successfully through the stages then she could be called as heroine. The writer has analyzed about the heroine that has been facing the obstacles during the danger in the games. The result indicates that the heroine in The Hunger Games novel has gone through several stages in the heroine's journey by Murdock. The heroine in The Hunger Games has passed through five stages of the heroine's journey cycle.

**Keywords :** *Heroine, Heroine's Journey, The Cycle of Heroine's Journey*

### **ABSTRAK**

Fokus dari skripsi ini adalah tentang The Heroine's Journey dalam novel Suzanne Collins yang berjudul *The Hunger Games* (2008). Studi ini menganalisis perjalanan pahlawan wanita dengan menerapkan teori dari Maureen Murdock. Objek penelitian ini adalah tokoh utama cerita Katniss Everdeen. Dari sepuluh tahapan perjalanan pahlawan wanita dari teori Maureen Murdock, penulis menemukan lima tahapan, yaitu: pemisahan feminin, identifikasi dengan maskulin, jalan pencobaan, anugerah ilusi kesuksesan dan inisiasi dewi. Perjalanan pahlawan wanita adalah tahapan tentang pertumbuhan, sang tokoh utama harus menjalani setiap tahapan perjalanan dan kemudian sang tokoh harus berhasil melewati tahapan-tahapan tersebut agar ia bisa disebut sebagai seorang pahlawan. Penulis telah menganalisis tentang pahlawan wanita yang telah menghadapi rintangan selama bahaya dalam permainan. Hasilnya menunjukkan bahwa pahlawan wanita dalam novel *The Hunger Games* telah melalui beberapa tahapan dalam perjalanan pahlawan wanita tersebut. Pahlawan wanita di *The Hunger Games* melewati lima tahap siklus perjalanan pahlawan wanita.

**Kata Kunci :** *Pahlawan Wanita, Perjalanan Pahlawan Wanita, Siklus Perjalanan Pahlawan Wanita*

## INTRODUCTION

Gargett in *Heroism and Passion in Literature* (2004) states that heroism means heroic conduct or qualities that also define as man superhuman qualities that favored by the gods or demigods. Secondly, it may mean an illustrious warrior and also in addition, it can signify a man admire for achievement and

noble qualities. Heroism is originally a martial virtue in classical times that generally restricted to men only. But for the Greek and Romans, the definition of heroism signified deeds of exceptional bravery, daring and physical courage. As the centuries passed however different types of bravery and non martial courage also accepted as heroic.

The transformation from the heroine's journey as the female version of the hero's journey template had made a enormous change to whole aspect of human life especially woman. the heroine's journey is the new kind of heroism to build and attain gender equality between men and women. The heroine's journey makes many feminist women, especially Maureen Murdock to courageously against the hero's journey at that time and also as the feedback to Monomyth (hero's journey) model.

The writer determine to choose the theory of heroine's journey by Murdock fot The Hunger Games novel because the female hero is a really powerful, strong and pertinent topic to the novel and also the main character that has a role as the heroine in her family and as well as her environment. Moreover, the discrepancy between the rich and the poor in the novel makes the main character to do the work like men do just to fulfill the needs of the heroine's family that consist of the mother and the younger sister. So, the main protagonist works really hard, like poaching the animals at the forest, taking up the plants that can be eaten in the woods, and anything else to make money.

## METHODS

The writer uses qualitative research in analyzing The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins. The writer categorizes the research into qualitative due to the research that doesn't require a statistics data to analyse and investigate the fact. The types of data in this research is textual data, which are consist of word and sentences. In the data source there are consist of two categories, first is main data and second is supporting data. The main data source is from *The Hunger Games* novel. The supporting data are from books, journals and articles which relate with the topic of the heroine's journey by Maureen Murdock. For the novel, the writer reads the *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins that published in 2008 and consists of 27 chapters and 374 pages.

The problem statement can be expressed as follow.

1. How is the reflection of heroine's journey in Collins' *The Hunger Games* ?

## DATA ANALYSIS

This section presents findings and discussion of this study based on the data gathered during observation. Findings are

present the result of the analysis upon the data. Then, discussion offer some explanation about findings. This discussion presents the analysis based on the research question. The following is the description of both findings and discussion.

### **Katniss Everdeen's Journey as Heroine in The Hunger Games**

In the story, Katniss becomes the breadwinner at an early age ever since her father passed away, she becomes responsible to her family and she also tried her best to collecting food from hunting on the woods and then selling them to the black market. Katniss as the heroine or female protagonist frequently ventures protective environment as her male counterpart. The journey propose the heroine chance to evolve qualities such as boldness and skills. Frequently the heroine is in accordance with spiritual or natural values that the society suggest but doesn't practice.

### **Separation From The Feminine**

Heroine's journey as the topic of her book from the father's daughter in general that makes the separation of the feminine

comes to not wanting to be like the mother. Maureen Murdock wrote the book already over 30years ago when women were not in the working world, so a lot of daughters didn't identify where they're most they wanted to identify with their fathers so that they could have power.

The separation from the feminine can be included in after Katniss' father passed away and her mother becomes stressful that made her not doing anything to be responsible in the family. Katniss kind of missing the parental figure in her family, so the hard situation forced Katniss to be the breadwinner for her family to replacing her father that can be seen in the quotation below:

She must have really love him to leave her home for the seam. I try to remember that when all I can see is the woman who sat by blank and unreachable while her children have turned into skin and bones. I try to forgive her for my father sake, but to be honest I am bot the forgiving type.  
(Collins, 2008:8)

In quotation above, it explains that after the death of Katniss' father, all she can remember when she saw her mother is just only a woman who only sat by and only spacing out while Katniss and Prim has turned to skin and bones and even though Katniss has been trying to forgive her mother but she realized that Katniss herself is not the forgiving type.

### **Identification With The Masculine**

The identification with masculine is when the heroine enfold new way of life. This often implicates choosing path that is different than heroine's determine societal role. The heroine entering some masculine identity that also can be the reflection of heroine in *The Hunger Games*, that is base on the characteristics of main character shows in this novel. It also can be seen like in the below quotation that shows the main character's masculinity through the hunting that she has been doing ever since her father passed away:

I swing my legs off the bed and slide into my hunting boots. The supple leather that molded to my feet I pull on trousers and a shirt, tucks my

long dark braided hair up into a cap and grabs my forage bag. On the table under a wooden bowl to protect it from hungry rats and cats alike, sits a perfect little goat cheese wrapped in basil leaves. Prim's gift to me on the reaping day. (Collins, 2008:4)

### **The Road of Trials**

The road of trials is when the heroine confluence the trials and she meet people who trying to avert the heroine from chase the chosen path or try to destroy the heroine. That can be seen after Effie seems to show her dislike toward the previous tribute couple, then Katniss decided to show Effie the disgusting gesture as the sign of her resistance like in the quotation below:

"At least you two have decent manners" say Effie as we are finishing the min course. "The pair last year ate everything with their hands like a couple of savages, It completely upset my digestion." Peeta is a baker son. My mother taught me and Prim to eat properly, so yes, I can handle a fork and knife but I hate Effie Trinket's comment

so much I make a point of eating the rest of meal with my fingers. Then I wipe my hands on the tablecloth. This make her purse her lips tightly together. (Collins, 2008:42)

### The Illusory Boon of Success

The illusory boon of success is a situation when the heroine overcomes the obstacles in her ways. That can be related to the part when Katniss feels thirsty and fatigue all over her body, but Katniss keeps on searching for any sign of water that can be seen in the following quotation:

Fatigue is begining to sette on me, but it is not the usual tiredness that follows a long hike. I have to stop and rest frequently although I know the only cure for what ails me requires continued searching. I try a new tactic, climbing a tree as high as I dare in my shaky state, to look for any sign of water. But as far as I see in ny direction there is the same unrelenting stretch of forest. Determined to go on until nightfall I walk until I am stumbling over my own feet. Exhausted I haul myself up

into a tree and belt myself in. I have no appetite but I suck on a rabbit bone just to give my mouth something to do. (Collins, 2008:159)

### Initiation and Descent To The Goddess

The initiation and descent to the goddess is a situation when Katniss meets the avox girl in the Capitol. It shows when despite the strong traits that Katniss had, she still feels guilty back then when she can't save someone from the death even though it is not really her fault. She ashamed that she didn't help that person until it was too late that the person got killed by Capitol that can be seen in the quotation below:

She avoids my eyes, gives a small nod and heads out to the door. I'd set out to tell her I was sorry about dinner. But I know that my apology runs much deeper. That I am ashamed I never tried to help her in the woods. That I let the Capitol kill the boy and mutilate her without lifting a finger just like I was watching the game. I kick off my shoes and climb under the covers in my clothes. The shivering hasn't stop.

(Collins, 2008:81)

## CONCLUSION

To conclude after analyzing the datas above, the heroine's journey in The Hunger Games depicted the reverse role of gender between the female and the male protagonist. Katniss as the main character and also as the role of the heroine in the novel has been describing herself to be more masculine than the male protagonist in the novel. Her struggle against the oppression that she has been through her whole life in Panem finally reach its peak when she volunteer as the tribute to playing the hunger games to replacing her sister who previously chosen as the player. Katniss has been become the breadwinner at an early age since her father passed away, she becomes responsible to her family.

The exposition of Katniss as the heroine figure in The Hunger Games and also in the novel Katniss was described as the breadwinner in her family to replacing her father after the death of her father in the coal mining explosion, her father who was the only person that responsible in charge of head in the family and also a figure that she respected the most. The struggles of Katniss

against the oppression from the Capitol also become a really interesting subject in the story that made her seems perfect to be described as the heroine.

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