

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

In the context of screenwriting, particularly in animated movie script, the depiction of characters and heroic values often reflects ongoing social, cultural, and psychological shifts within society. A movie script not only functions as a blueprint for visual entertainment, but also serves as a medium for embedding moral messages, humanistic values, and the narrative journey of characters in discovering their true identities (Jeffries & Sommers, 2024). One of the most commonly explored themes in contemporary movie script is heroic transformation, namely the evolution of a character from an ordinary individual into someone who embodies courage, responsibility, and wisdom.

A conceptual framework frequently applied to analyses character development in scripts is the Hero's Journey, introduced by Joseph Campbell. In his seminal work *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* (1949), Campbell posits that myths and narratives across cultures share a similar structural pattern, whereby a hero departs from their ordinary world, confronts various trials, acquires new knowledge or power, and ultimately returns to deliver positive change to their community (Rogers et al., 2023). This framework highlights a universal narrative cycle typically followed by protagonists in heroic storylines, consisting of three core stages: departure, initiation, and return. Throughout these stages, the character experiences profound transformation, evolving from a common individual into a hero who possesses newfound wisdom and responsibility.

The Hero's Journey concept has been widely adopted in modern literature, films, and popular culture. In the world of animation, Disney has been very successful in integrating this narrative structure into its movie script (Prokhorov, 2021). Many Disney protagonists, such as Simba in *The Lion King*, Elsa in *Frozen*, and Moana in *Moana* (2016), represent the stages of departure, initiation, and return as described by Campbell. *Moana 2*, the sequel to Walt Disney's *Moana* (2016), is an interesting example to examine using the Hero's Journey theory.

In this sequel, Moana once again embarks on a journey full of challenges, both physical and emotional. She must leave her comfort zone, face difficult trials, and discover new strengths within herself. This process illustrates a heroic transformation that corresponds to the stages of the Hero's Journey according to Campbell. Moana not only struggles against external obstacles, but also faces internal conflicts that require her to grow into a wiser, braver, and more responsible leader for her community (Ramadhan, 2024).

An analysis of the *Moana 2* (2024) script reveals a progressive representation of female heroism that moves away from traditional male-centred narratives by emphasizing empathy, cultural identity, and moral courage. The script demonstrates a clear application of Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey, with Moana's character development articulated through a structured sequence of departures, trials, and returns. Symbolic elements such as the ocean are written as a calling force by reinforcing her "call to adventure," while challenges constructively test her leadership and inner conflict. Critically, the script not only depicts external conquest; it also highlights psychological transformation, demonstrating that true heroism emerges from self-mastery and social responsibility (Briandana & Hajariah, 2018). In previous studies, Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey theory has been widely applied to analyses the journeys of characters in film. Some of these studies examine the film *Moana* (2016) with a focus on the main character's process of self-discovery, while others examine *Zootopia* (2016) and *Black Panther* (2018) to show how Campbell's Monomyth concept is reflected in modern narratives. These studies prove that the structure of the hero's journey remains relevant in understanding character development patterns in contemporary works.

This study departs from the application of Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey theory, which is the basis for understanding the journey and transformation of heroes in literary works and movie script for two main reasons. First, this approach allows researchers to identify how modern movie script reinterpret classical mythological structures to suit the context and values of today's society. Second, this analysis provides a deeper understanding of the representation of female heroes, who are now increasingly becoming the centre of narratives in heroic stories.

Based on previous studies, this research offers a distinct contribution because it focuses on the *Moana 2* (2024) movie script, which has not yet been widely examined in academic discourse. While the script of the first installment emphasizes themes of self-discovery and exploration, the *Moana 2* script constructs a more complex transformational arc, depicting Moana's narrative progression from a young adventurer into a leader and protector of her people. This significant development in character writing positions the *Moana 2* script as a valuable text for analysis through Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey framework, which allows for a detailed identification of the stages of heroic transformation embedded in its narrative structure.

This study uses a qualitative narrative approach with a primary focus on analyzing the movie script *Moana 2* (2024). This approach is chosen because it enables the researcher to explore and interpret the narrative structure, character development, and symbolic meanings embedded in the story, particularly in relation to Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey theory. Through this approach, the study examines how Moana's heroic transformation is constructed through narrative elements and stages of the monomyth. A more detailed explanation of the research methods and analysis procedures will be presented in Chapter III.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the above background, the issues identified in the study entitled "The Analysis of Moana's Heroic Transformation in the Movie Script *Moana 2*" show stages of heroic transformation that are in line with Joseph Campbell's concept of the Hero's Journey. This movie script presents important events that describe the process of departure, initiation, and return. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct an in-depth analysis of how Moana's transformation represents a modern form of the hero's journey in the context of female characters.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

To ensure that this study, entitled "The Analysis of Heroic Transformation of Moana's Character in Movie Script *Moana 2* (2024)," remains focused and on

track, the scope of the study is limited to analyze of heroic transformation of Moana's character in the script of Moana 2 (2024).

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

Based on the background and identification above, the research questions in this study are as follows:

1. What are the characterization of the main character presented in the script of Moana 2?
2. What are the plot and setting in the *Moana 2* movie script support Moana's heroic transformation?
3. How are Joseph Campbell Theory reflected in Moana 2 movie script moana 2?
4. How do intrinsic and extrinsic elements build the theme in the Moana2 movie script?

1.5 Objectives of the Problem

The objectives of this study, in accordance with the research questions above, are to:

1. To analyze the characterization of Moana's character in *the movie script of the Moana 2*.
2. To analyze the plot and setting that make up Moana's heroic journey.
3. To analyze Joseph Campbell theory.
4. To elaborate the intrinsic and extrinsic elements build the theme in the Moana2 movie script

1.6 Benefit of the Problem

1.6.1 Theoretical Benefits:

This study is expected to contribute to literary studies and movie script analysis by demonstrating the relevance of Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey theory in understanding the heroic transformation process of main characters, especially female characters in modern movie script.

1.6.2 Practical Benefits:

The results of this study can be used as a reference for students, researchers, and movie script enthusiasts who want to understand how Disney animated movie script, particularly Moana 2, reconstruct classical mythological structures through the heroic transformation of their main characters.

1.7 Systematic Organization of the Research

The research paper titled “Analysis of Heroic Transformation of Moana's Character in Movie Script Moana 2” will be systematically structured as follows:

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

This chapter explains the background of the problem, identification, limitations, problem formulation, objectives, benefits, and systematic organization.

CHAPTER 2: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter presents a review of related research, a theoretical framework, and an explanation of Joseph Campbell's Theory of Heroic

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODS

This chapter describes the research design, data sources, data collection techniques, and data analysis procedures.

CHAPTER 4: THE ANALYSIS OF HEROIC TRANSFORMATION OF MOANA'S CHARACTER IN MOVIE SCRIPT MOANA 2 (2024)

This chapter contains an analysis of heroic transformation of Moana's character in movie script moana 2 based on Joseph Campbell Theory of Heroic

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION

This chapter presents conclusions drawn from the findings and suggestions for further research