

**BECOMING THE DRAGON WARRIOR: AN ANALYSIS OF PO'S
HERO'S JOURNEY IN *KUNG FU PANDA MOVIE* (2008)**

FINAL PROJECT

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PUTRI NUR AZIZAH

30802100037

**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF LANGUAGES, LITERATURE, AND CULTURE
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PAGE OF APPROVAL

A Final Project entitled

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Prepared and presented by:

PUTRI NUR AZIZAH

30802100037

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Destary Praptawati, S.S., M.Hum.

Advisor

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30802100037

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And Declared Acceptable

Board of Examiners

Chairman : Destary Praptawati, S.S., M.Hum

Secretary : Afina Murtiningrum, S.S., M.A

Chairman : Diyah Fitri Wulandari, S.S., M.Hum

Semarang, June 4th 2025
Faculty of Languages, Literature, and Culture

Destary Praptawati, S.S., M.Hum.

Advisor

STATEMENT OF WORK'S ORIGINALITY

Hereby, I honestly declare that the undergraduate thesis I wrote does not contain the work or part of the work of other people, except those which were mentioned in the quotation and references, as a scientific paper should. If my statement is not valid in the future, I absolutely agree to accept academic sanctions in the form of revocation of my paper and my degree obtained from that paper.

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Putri Nur Azizah

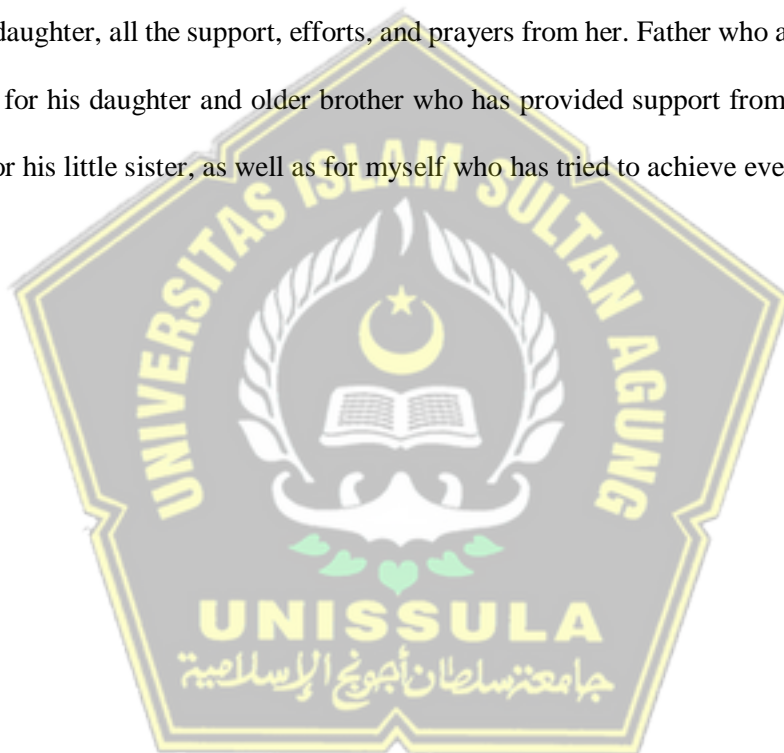


MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“Be grateful for every step you take and make all your dreams a reality. Your parents are waiting for your return with hopes and a new degree that they have worked for.”

“There is no success without hard work, no success without prayer, and there will be no ease without devotion to parents.”

I dedicate this final project to my parents and my older brother. My mother who has fought for her daughter, all the support, efforts, and prayers from her. Father who always provides support for his daughter and older brother who has provided support from the start to the finish for his little sister, as well as for myself who has tried to achieve everything.



ABSTRACT

Nur Azizah, Putri. 30802100037. Becoming The Dragon Warrior: An Analysis of Po's Hero's Journey in *Kung Fu Panda* Movie (2008). Final Project of English Literature Study Program. Faculty of Languages, Literature, and Culture. Sultan Agung Islamic University. Advisor: Destary Praptawati, S.S., M.Hum.

This study analyzes the hero's journey of Po in the *Kung Fu Panda* (2008) movie. The purpose of this study to analyze the stages of the hero's journey and the most difficult step that Po experiences. This study was the hero's journey theory by Joseph Campbell. The hero's journey theory explains that there are three stages that a hero experiences, namely, departure, initiation, and return. In these three stages, there are five steps of departure, six steps of initiation, and six steps of return.

This study used descriptive qualitative method. There were two types of data used in this study, primary data and secondary data. Primary data were taken from monologues, dialogues, and narratives in the *Kung Fu Panda* (2008) movie. Meanwhile, secondary data were taken from e-books, e-journal articles, and other texts related to the hero's journey. In this study, there were several steps used in data collection, such as watching and reading the script of the movie, classifying the data, and reducing the data to obtain conclusions.

The results show that there were thirteen steps in Po's journey, namely five steps of departure, four steps of initiation, four steps of return, and the most difficult step in his journey, which was the call to adventure. In the analysis of hero's journey theory by Joseph Campbell, Po is a hero who successfully passes the stages of the hero's journey and brings prosperity to society.

Keyword: *Hero's Journey, Departure, Initiation, Return, Kung Fu Panda*

INTISARI

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Penelitian ini membahas *hero’s journey* yang dilalui oleh tokoh utama Po pada film *Kung Fu Panda (2008)*. Tujuan penelitian ini untuk menganalisis tahapan *hero’s journey* dan tahap tersulit yang dilalui karakter utama Po. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori *hero’s journey* dari Joseph Campbell. Teori *hero’s journey* menjelaskan bahwa terdapat tiga tahapan yang dialami seorang pahlawan, yaitu *departure*, *initiation*, dan *return*. Dalam tiga tahap tersebut, terdapat lima langkah *departure*, enam langkah *initiation*, dan enam langkah *return*.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Ada dua jenis data yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini, yaitu data primer dan data sekunder. Data primer diambil dari monolog, dialog, dan narasi dalam film *Kung Fu Panda (2008)*. Sedangkan data sekunder diambil dari e-book, e-jurnal artikel, dan skripsi lainnya yang terkait dengan *hero’s journey*. Pada penelitian ini ada beberapa langkah yang digunakan dalam pengumpulan data yaitu menonton film, membaca script film, menggolongkan data, dan mengurangi data untuk memperoleh kesimpulan.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat tiga belas langkah dalam perjalanan Po, yaitu lima langkah *departure*, empat langkah *initiation*, empat langkah *return*, dan langkah tersulit dalam perjalanannya, yaitu *the call to adventure*. Dalam analisis teori *hero’s journey* oleh Joseph Campbell, Po merupakan pahlawan yang berhasil melewati tahapan-tahapan dalam *hero’s journey* dan membawa kemakmuran bagi masyarakat.

Kata Kunci: *Hero’s Journey, Departure, Initiation, Return, Kung Fu Panda*

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This final project is far from perfect, there are still deficiencies found in this final project. However, the researcher hopes that this study can be useful for others.

Semarang, May 22th 2025



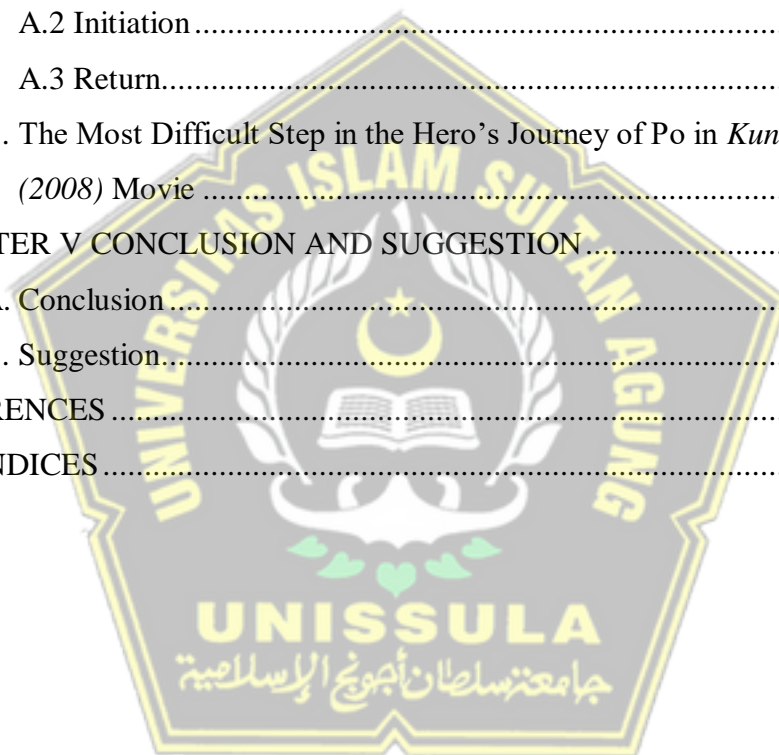
Putri Nur Azizah



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Chapter one is the opening of this study, it will explain the background of the study, problem formulation, limitation of the study, objectivities of the study, and significance of the study. In addition, it will also explain the outline of the study that will be built in this study.

A. Background of Study

Literary works are the result of authors' imaginations that cannot be separated from life (Rahayu 744). There are two forms of literary works: fiction and nonfiction. Fictional literary works include prose, poetry and drama. Nonfiction literary works include essays, biography, autobiography, and literary criticism. Movie is a realization of fictional literary works that express ideas, feelings, and experiences. It is formalistic, in the sense that it focuses on specific forms and permutations of various literary and movie genres (Cahir 9). Movies is a form of literary work that tells a story with moving images, sound, and visual elements. It is a modern evolution of literature that engages the audience emotionally. Movies are categorized by their genres: action, adventure, horror, animation, comedy, and drama.

Genre is a concept used in the movie studies and movie theory to describe similarities between groups of movies based on aesthetics or broader social, institutional, cultural, and psychological aspects. Movie genres are stylistic categories that organize movies based on criteria such as setting, characters, plot, mood, tone, and theme. Every successful movie must have an interesting

message or story topic. Various characteristics of the topic or message form in a film are called themes. There are many depicted theme in movies, one of them is heroism. This movie theme tells about the journey of a hero in the face of challenges to achieve goals. In the hero's journey theory, the hero is a protagonist who is going on a journey to achieve change for lives. According to Campbell, "A hero 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 men" (28). Therefore, Hero's Journey is a common narrative archetype, or story archetype, involving a hero going on an adventure, learning a lesson, gaining victory with his new knowledge, and returning home. The hero's journey actually contains seventeen interconnected stages. The standard path of the mythological adventure of the hero is a magnification of the formula represented in the rites of passage: separation or departure-initiation-return: which might be named the nuclear unit of the monomyth (Campbell 28). In the first stages the hero will go out of his world with the purpose of achieving his goal. Next, on his journey the hero will meet with extraordinary forces and obstacles. After the hero successfully passes it, he will get victory and return to his world in the hope of bringing change to society.

Related to the topic of hero's journey, there is previous study related to this topic that comes from the final project of Wayan Stefani Widiyani who is a student of Universitas Teknokrat Indonesia. This study is entitled "Hero's

Journey of The Main Character in The School for Good and Evil Movie”. The relationship between this study and previous study is that the previous study discussed how the main character traveled the hero's journey, while this study will explore the stage hero's journey that character Po takes and what is the most difficult stage hero's journey challenge that the character experiences.

Some of today's popular movies use a journey plot such as the *Kung Fu Panda* (2008) movie which is the object of this study because this study likes the courage and effort made by the main character Po in playing the hero. Unlike other movies that tell the hero's journey. The film *Kung Fu Panda* (2008) has visuals that amaze the audience. With diverse animal characters, interesting animation presentations, and a background of cliched Chinese life. Besides that, the kung fu action performed by Po succeeded in making the audience feel the spirit possessed by Po. The interesting dialogues and characters of the movie also add to the appeal of the movie. Therefore, this study is interested in analyzing the stages of the hero's journey and the most difficult obstacles Po went through to achieve his victory. So this study can be said as new study of the topic and object that was selected.

B. Problem Formulation

There are two problem formulations in this study, which are as below:

1. What are the stages of hero's journey experienced Po in *Kung Fu Panda* (2008) Movie?
2. What is the most difficult step in the hero's journey of Po in *Kung Fu Panda* (2008) Movie?

C. Limitation of the Study

This study focuses on analyzing the stages of hero's journey that the main character, namely Po, in *Kung Fu Panda (2008)* movie, plays the role of a hero in the movie. In other words, the goal of the study is to identify the most difficult step experienced by the main character, namely Po, in his journey using the theory of Hero's Journey by Joseph Campbell.

D. Objectivities of the Study

Based on the formulation of the problem, the objectives of this study are as below:

1. To identify the stages of hero's journey of the main character, namely Po in *Kung Fu Panda (2008)* movie.
2. To explain the most difficult step of the hero's journey of the main character, namely Po in *Kung Fu Panda (2008)* movie.

E. Significance of the Study

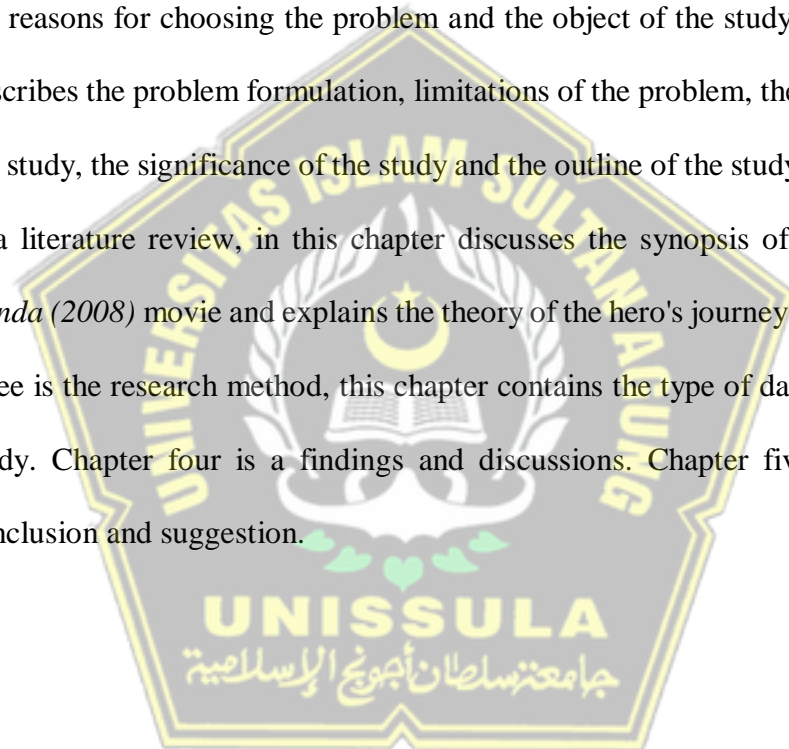
The results of this study are to support the readers understanding of the Hero's Journey by Joseph Campbell and the following are two important aspects of this study:

1. This study can help provide a detail understanding for readers and further study about how the stages of the hero's journey based on the hero's journey theory.
2. The result of this study is a reference for future students of the English literature study program at the Faculty of Language, Literature and Culture,

Sultan Agung Islamic University in the analysis of novels and movie that relate to the theory of the hero's journey.

F. Outline of the Study

The writing of this study includes five chapters. Chapter one is the introduction, the chapter explains the background of the study which explains the reasons for choosing the problem and the object of the study. This chapter describes the problem formulation, limitations of the problem, the objectives of the study, the significance of the study and the outline of the study. Chapter two is a literature review, in this chapter discusses the synopsis of the *Kung Fu Panda (2008)* movie and explains the theory of the hero's journey. Then chapter three is the research method, this chapter contains the type of data used in this study. Chapter four is a findings and discussions. Chapter five consists of conclusion and suggestion.



CHAPTER II

REVIEW AND RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter will present a synopsis of the movie and explain related literature from Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey theory. It supports this study in analyzing the hero's journey of the main character in the *Kung Fu Panda (2008)* movie.

A. The Synopsis of the movie

Kung Fu Panda (2008) was a Wuxia comedy movie produced by DreamWorks Animation in 2008 and distributed by Paramount Pictures. The movie was directed by John Stevenson and Mark Osborne. The movie, which premiered on June 6, 2008, won numerous Annie Awards and became the world's highest-grossing animated movie. The Chinese version of the *Kung Fu Panda (2008)* movie told the story of the lives of animals with various skills. In addition to providing entertainment, this movie succeeded in providing motivation and enthusiasm for the audience. In the *Kung Fu Panda (2008)* movie, the director told the story of Po's journey as a fat panda, the son of a clumsy noodle seller, who had a tough spirit in pursuing his dream of becoming a Dragon Warrior.

Po's journey began when he learned that a renowned kung fu school led by Master Oogway was holding a competition to select the Dragon Warrior. This made Po determined and excited to join the competition. Without waiting long, Po immediately told his father and asked for his blessing. However, without listening to his father's advice, who wanted him to inherit the noodle

shop, he went straight to the Jade Palace, where the kung fu school was located. He tried various ways to get into the Jade Palace because the competition had already begun. One by one, the Furious Five, students of Master Shifu, a teacher in the Jade Palace, took turns showing their skills, starting with Tigress, Monkey, Mantis, Viper, and Crane. After that, it was time for Master Oogway to choose who deserved to be the Dragon Warrior. But unexpectedly, fate chose Po to become the Dragon Warrior when he suddenly fell from the sky due to his various efforts to get into the Palace Courtyard. Seeing this, the Furious Five and Master Shifu did not accept it because they did not know who the fat panda Po was, who had suddenly fallen from the sky and was appointed as the Dragon Warrior.

Seeing Po's body as a fat and sloppy panda, the Furious Five doubted and considered Po unfit to be the Dragon Warrior who would defeat Tai Lung. Apart from the Furious Five, Master Shifu also did not accept Po's selection as a dragon warrior and they did various ways to repel Po so that he would leave the palace. However, all of Master Shifu's efforts to drive Po away were in vain as Po persisted even though he had to overcome great obstacles to learn kung fu.

It was one night when Master Shifu received news that Tai Lung was released from prison and was on his way to the Palace. Hearing this, Master Shifu realized that the only hope to defeat Tai Lung was Po because Master Oogway was no longer around. Despite the many doubts that Master Shifu felt towards Po, he finally told the Furious Five and Po that Tai Lung had been

released from prison and was on his way to the palace. Hearing the news, the furious five and Po were shocked. Po began to doubt whether he could defeat Tai Lung. Without waiting long, Po immediately ran away, but Master Shifu quickly stopped Po's attempt to escape from his responsibility of being chosen as a Dragon Warrior. Master Shifu and Po's debate lasted for a long time. Master Shifu tried to give Po the understanding to fulfill his responsibilities as a Dragon Warrior. However, Po made various refusals because Po actually knew that Master Shifu and the furious five did not like him and doubted him as a dragon warrior. After various reasons that Master Shifu revealed, Po finally agreed to become a student of Master Shifu to learn Kung Fu to achieve his goal of defeating Tai Lung.

In the morning, Master Shifu accidentally saw Po performing perfect Kung Fu techniques. This was where Po's journey to his new world started. Master Shifu invited Po on his journey to the place where Kung Fu was born. Master Shifu taught various Kung Fu techniques that he had previously taught to the Furious Five. Po experienced various stages of his hero's journey to reach his destination. The most difficult stage of the hero's journey for Po was when he tried to start his journey and realized his destiny to become a Dragon Warrior. When he returned to the palace, Po finally received the Dragon Warrior Scroll and officially became a Dragon Warrior. But he was surprised when he opened the empty Dragon Warrior Scroll. Master Shifu told Po that the secret of the Dragon Warrior Scroll did not exist. Hearing those words, Po tried to find

understanding and meaning from everything. Finally, Po left the Jade Palace and went home to meet his father.

After meeting his father, Po finally realized that the secret was in his own belief. The stages of Hero Po's journey to achieve his peak finally started when he met Tai Lung at the palace. Their fight for the Dragon Warrior Scroll lasted for a very long time. Po and Tai Lung competed with each other to defeat one another. Various supernatural powers supported Po in defeating Tai Lung, and in the end, Po achieved his victory by using one of the Wuxi moves and the help of the powers around him. Po was happy that he had finally achieved his goal and saved all the people from Tai Lung.

B. Related Literature

B.1. The Definition of Hero's Journey

The hero's journey or monomyth is a universal pattern the protagonist (hero) follows in a book or movie. The hero's journey is a series of heroism in which the experience has different characteristics (Jullius et al 613). Joseph Campbell is an American mythologist who first proposed the theory of The Hero's Journey based on Carl Gustav Jung's theory of the Hero Archetype. Campbell the first time he coined the term "hero's journey" was in 1949, famously in his comparative mythology book *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*. It is a non-fiction book, and an important work on comparative mythology by Joseph Campbell. In the present publication, Campbell discussed his theory of the hero's archetypal journey found in the mythologies of the world. that the essential myths from around the world that have endured for thousands of years

all have a fundamental structure, which Campbell has called a monomyth or hero's journey.

Campbell's representative observation leads to development of the hero's journey, which is a profound illustration and holistic metaphor for the monomyth. The hero's journey illustrates the stages of transformation experienced by heroes. This is the narrative pattern that can emerge physically, psychologically, emotionally, and spiritually. This narrative pattern is at the very same time simple yet rich in interpretation. It is visible in various applications of the hero's journey. Therefore, Hero's Journey is a common narrative archetype, or story archetype, involving a hero going on an adventure, learning a lesson, gaining victory with his new knowledge, and returning home. According to Campbell, "A hero 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" (23). Therefore, a hero will go on his journey and will encounter various encounters, obstacles, and battles that must be won. After achieving victory, the hero will return to his home world and of course with the change of a community, region, or society.

Furthermore, a hero's journey is one of self-realization while completely living a conscious life. The hero's journey is a transformation metaphor in a deep internal journey, which in every place and time shares a path that can lead through the great movements of separation, initiation, and return (Jullius et al 614). In a conscious state, the hero will transform on his journey. According to

Allison and Goethals, “The description of the hero's journey points to three different transformations: Transformation of background, transformation of self, and transformation of society. Without a transformation of the background, the hero cannot transform herself, and without a change in herself, hero cannot change the world” (381). So, the stages must be passed by the hero to realize change.

B.2 Stages of The Hero's Journey

In the theory of hero's journey by Joseph Campbell, a hero must go through stages in his journey in becoming a hero. According to Campbell, “The hero's journey actually contains 17 interconnected stages. They mirror three main phases: departure, initiation, and return. The hero is introduced in the ordinary world where he or she receives the call to adventure. The individual is at first reluctant (refusal of the call). Next, a mentor (supernatural aid) encourages the hero to depart. Then, the crossing of the first threshold enables the hero to enter the special and unknown world (the belly of the whale) for initiation. Here, the individual encounters tests, allies, and enemies (the road of trials) and approaches the inmost cave (the meeting with the goddess, woman as the temptress) to endure the ordeal (atonement with the father, apotheosis). Thereafter, a reward is the ultimate boon. The hero may be tempted to rest at this stage, believing that he or she has already gained all things ever desired (refusal of the return). However, it is vital to return. After further challenges in the special world (the magic flight, rescue from without) the hero goes back with the crossing of the return threshold to enter again the ordinary world. The

hero experiences a resurrection which transforms him or her into being a master of the two worlds. Finally, the return with the ultimate boon benefits the ordinary world, thereafter offering a freedom to live” (28). The explanation of Joseph Campbell stages of the hero's journey theory are as below:

B.2.1. Departure

Departure is the stage where the hero's journey begins, the point at which the hero decides to leave the familiar environment and answer the call to adventure. This stage has several steps:

1. The call to adventure

According to Campbell, “This first stage of the mythological journey-which we have designated **the “call to adventure”** signifies that **destiny has summoned the hero**” (53). The call of adventure means the reason a hero embarks on a journey.

2. Refusal of the call

According to Campbell, “He mentions that the rejection of a hero on a call because he could **show the limitations of the character's behavior caused by several things such as environmental influences and also other factors**. This shows that the hero is **a victim that needs help**” (54). After a hero is given the call, then the hero is faced with a choice, accept the call or reject it. The hero may initially reject the call for various reasons. These may include feelings of lack of knowledge, lack of confidence, being too young for adventure, fear, insecurity, and incompetence.

3. Supernatural aid

For those who have not refused the call, the first encounter of the hero-journey is **with a protective figure** (Campbell 63). After the hero accepts the call, several favors are given to help the hero during the journey. The aid helps them become stronger, wiser, and more confident. Heroes who are willing to accept the call, there will be a protective figure who will accompany the hero until the mission is completed.

4. The crossing of the first threshold

In this stage the hero goes forward in his adventure until he comes to the “threshold guardian” at the entrance **to the zone of magnified power** (Campbell 71). This is a stage when the hero will leave his world and will begin his journey that he has never been on. at the stage of the crossing of the first threshold the hero will begin to face the first obstacle.

5. The belly of whale

According to Campbell, “Passage over the magical threshold is **a transit into the sphere of rebirth is symbolized in the worldwide image** of the womb from the belly of the whale” (83). At this stage, the hero will face new things in continuing his mission. The hero has a new soul that he does not yet have in order to achieve his goal.

B.2.2. Initiation

Initiation is the second stage after the departure stage passed by the hero. At this stage the hero will meet various experiments, challenges, and changes. This stage has several steps:

1. The road of trials

The hero must survive a succession of trials. According to Campbell, “Traversed the threshold: **the hero must survive a succession of trials**” (89). At this stage the hero is faced with many trials and in various ways he must survive for his goal.

2. The meeting with the goddess

According to Campbell, “The term goddess here does not have to be a woman but anyone with **an inspiring nature**” (108). This stage represents a deep encounter with the goddess or nurturing, often symbolizing love, compassion, or wisdom. After passing through several obstacles the hero meets the goddess and can gain insight or receive special gifts from this encounter.

3. Woman as the temptress

In this stage, a hero will encounter an evil figure, not always a woman. **This figure can make the hero lose his motivation to defeat his enemy and continue his quest** (Campbell 111). In this step, the hero encounters a challenge that will make him or her forget about the main mission. In this case Joseph Campbell symbolizes this obstacle with a woman.

4. Atonement with the father

This stage often **involves resolving the conflict** or even gaining their approval or forgiveness, aligning themselves with a father figure or authority figure who plays a role in their character development (Campbell 135). The character meets someone with whom he has a conflict or problem, such as his father or a powerful figure in his life.

5. Apotheosis

The hero **reaches a higher understanding or awareness of the purpose of their journey, this stage represents significant personal transformation and growth, with new knowledge the character is ready to overcome the larger internal or external conflicts present in the story and often prepares them for the final stage of the journey** (Campbell 147). Apotheosis means the hero has reached a higher level.

6. The ultimate boon

According to Campbell, “This stage is the ease with which the adventure **is accomplished signifying that the hero is a superior man, a born king**” (159). The last level of this stage is when the hero achieves the final goal or the reward of the hero's mission is achieved.

B.2.3. Return

Return is the last stage after the hero has passed departure and initiation. At this stage the hero will return with changes. This stage has several steps:

1. Refusal of the return

According to Campbell, “The final stage of his adventure is **supported by all the powers of his supernatural patron**” (182).

This explanation shows that the hero's journey gets a lot of support from the life around him so that the hero can more easily achieve his goals.

2. The magic flight

This provides an interesting experience for a hero (Campbell, 186). This is the final step in the journey of the hero and all his supernatural powers.

3. Rescue from without

The hero may have to be brought back from his supernatural adventure by assistance from without (Campbell 192).

4. The crossing of the threshold

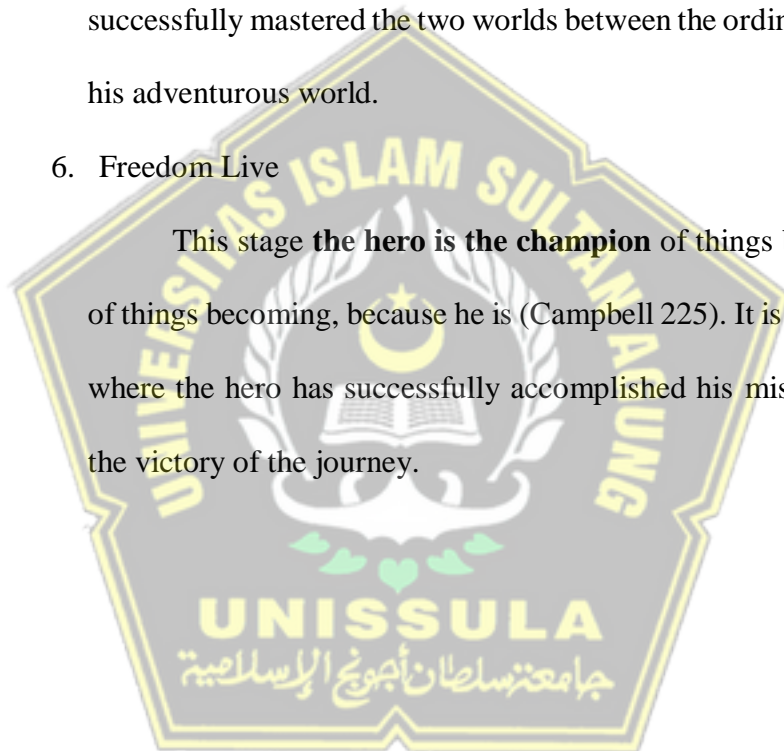
The returning hero, **in order to complete his adventure, must survive the impact of the world** (Campbell 203). The returning hero will receive something real, having achieved a soul-satisfying vision, the passing joys and sorrows, trivialities and noisy obscenities of life.

5. Master of the two worlds

Freedom to pass back and forth across the world division, from the perspective of the apparitions of time to that of the causal deep and back—not contaminating the principles of the one with those of the other, yet permitting the mind to know the one by virtue of the other is the talent of the master (Campbell 212). In this step, the hero successfully mastered the two worlds between the ordinary world and his adventurous world.

6. Freedom Live

This stage **the hero is the champion** of things becoming, not of things becoming, because he is (Campbell 225). It is the final stage where the hero has successfully accomplished his mission and won the victory of the journey.



CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter presents the research method of the study. Research methodology explains the strategies that will be used in collecting data and analyzing data to answer the problem formulation. This chapter consists of some parts: type of research, type of data, data organizing, and analyzing the data.

A. Type of Research

This study used a qualitative descriptive method to analyze the data, which means that the data collection process is qualitative and the discussion was reported in a relevant description. According to Creswell, qualitative research was a study that investigates various social or human problems. So that researchers develop a complex and holistic picture, analyze words, report detailed information, and conduct research in a natural setting (Anizdom22).

This study analyzes the film Kung Fu Panda (2008) with the hero's journey theory by Joseph Campbell. Therefore, qualitative description is used to analyze Po's hero's journey.

B. Types of Data

In this study, two types of data were used: primary data and secondary data. Primary data original data collected for the study and secondary data was data collected to support the study (Hox et all 593).

B.1 Primary Data

Primary data is the main source in this research. Primary data in this study was collected from dialog, monologue, and narration in the Kung Fu Panda (2008) movie.

B.2 Secondary Data

Secondary data were supporting data related to the study topic. Secondary data in this study include articles, journals, e-books, and previous research related to the hero's journey.

C. Data Organization

C.1 Data Collecting Method

Data collecting method was a basic step in this study that purposes to find significant data. The following were some steps used in data collecting methods:

C.2 Watching the Movie

The first step of data collecting data was watching the movie. In this step, the study had to repeat several times to watch the movie. It was the purpose of making a deep understanding of the hero's journey depicted in the movie. In addition, in analyzing a movie, the researcher must understand the storyline in detail to present a more objective perspective.

C.3 Reading the Movie Script

The second step was reading the movie script. Reading the movie script was purposes to collect data in the form of sentences, narratives, prologues, dialogues and descriptions related to the topic to be analyzed in this study.

C.4 Identifying the Data

The third step was identifying the data. Identification data can be done in the form of monologues and dialogues on characters or scientific articles. In this step, it focused on finding parts of the object study by highlighting and underlining parts of the object that relate to the topic of the study.

C.5 Classifying the Data

The next step was classifying the data. After the data was collected, the study will classify the data obtained into a table called an appendix. The classification will be adjusted to the problem formulation. The table consists of the contents of the movie script, scenes, types of analysis, references, and comments.

C.6 Reducing the Data

The last step of data collection was reducing the data. In this step, the data collected in the study will be reselected and only the accurate and relevant data will be used to answer questions in problem formulation.

D. Analyzing the Data

The data section consists of data that was analyzed and reported. In this study, the *Kung Fu Panda (2008)* movie was used as the object of the study. This study will analyze the hero's journey theory by Joseph Campbell on the character Po in the *Kung Fu Panda (2008)* movie. The results of the analysis and findings were reported in Chapter VI: findings and discussion.

CHAPTER IV

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This chapter consists of finding and discussion about Po's Hero's Journey in the *Kung Fu Panda (2008)* movie to answer the two problem formulations mentioned in chapter one. This chapter focuses on analyzing the stages of hero's journey and the most difficult stage of Po in the *Kung Fu Panda (2008)* movie. According to Campbell, "The hero's journey actually contains seventeen interconnected stages" (28). As previously explained in the hero's journey theory by Joseph, it has been explained that there are three stages that a hero must be successful. The three stages are explained into seventeen steps but it is explained that not all Monomyth will display the stages, and in the same order as described by Joseph. So, in this study the author only found thirteen steps experienced by characters on the topic of the *Kung Fu Panda (2008)* movie, namely five steps of departure, four steps of initiation, and four steps of return. The steps that are not completed are the meeting with the goddess, woman as the temptress, refusal of the return, and master of the two worlds.

A. The Stage Hero's Journey of Po in the Kung Fu Panda (2008) Movie

This section aims to answer the first problem formulation about the stages of hero's journey experienced by Po in the *Kung Fu Panda (2008)* movie. Based on the theory of hero's journey by Joseph Campbell, the study explains there are three main stages in the hero's journey namely Departure, Initiation, and Return.

A.1 Departure

This stage is where the hero's journey begins, when the hero chooses to leave the familiar life and call a journey. The departure consists of five steps as follows:

1. The call to adventure

The call to adventure is the first step of departure. This step the hero will get the mission to journey.

“This first stage of the mythological journey-which we have designated the “call to adventure” signifies that destiny has summoned the hero” (Campbell. 53).

The hero's journey begins when Po receives a call to adventure. Every hero that receives a call to adventure will face various challenges and problems that must be solved. This step is explained by the study from the quotes in the movie as below:

OOGWAY: You.

PO: Me?

Oogway grabs Po's hand and holds it up for all to see.

OOGWAY: The universe has brought us the Dragon Warrior!

(Kung Fu Panda, 00:15:24-00:15:33)

This quote shows the first step of the hero's journey. This first step introduces us to a hero and the main character is Po. Po's journey

begins when he learns that there will be an election of the dragon warrior. with strong enthusiasm he immediately goes to the jade palace in order to watch the Furious Five fight to become the dragon warrior. all efforts Po did in order to get into the show arena. unexpectedly in a ridiculous way Po managed to get into the show arena and unexpectedly he was chosen as a dragon warrior. He couldn't believe that the son of a noodle seller could be chosen as a dragon warrior which was actually his dream. Master Oogway also reveals that Po is a descendant of the Ancient Panda who helped him in the past. After being chosen as a dragon warrior he must continue his ultimate journey to defeat Tai Lung a tiger who is a kung fu master.

2. Refusal of the call

After the step of the call to adventure the hero will face the step of refusal of the call. In this step the hero will feel doubt and there is a possibility that the hero will refuse the call for several reasons.

“He mentions that the rejection of a hero on a call because he could **show the limitations of the character's behavior caused by several things such as environmental influences and also other factors.** This shows that the hero is **a victim that needs help**” (Campbell. 54).

The hero will feel doubt, fear, and lack of confidence in going on the journey. This is reflected by Po in the quote below:

PO: Come on! How am I supposed to beat Tai Lung? I can't even beat you to the stairs.

SHIFU: You will beat him because you are the Dragon Warrior! He pushes Po back with the staff.

PO: Ow! You don't believe that! You never believed that! From the first moment I got here, you've been trying to get rid of me.

Shifu pokes him again, this time causing Po to fall on his back.

SHIFU: Yes. I was. But now I ask you to trust in your master as I have come to trust in mine.

PO: You're not my master. And I'm not the Dragon Warrior.

Po shoves the staff away and gets up.

(Kung Fu Panda, 00:48:29-00:48:55)

The quote shows the debate between Master Shifu and Po. The debate lasted for a long time because Po revealed to Master Shifu that he rejected his journey and he was not a dragon warrior. It happened because Po felt that he will not be able to defeat Tai Lung because of his limited strength and abilities. Knowing this there are many doubts in Po because he does not master kung fu in any way. But Po must still do what is his responsibility.

3. Supernatural aid

After the hero decides to accept the call at this stage is his first meeting with a mentor. This mentor will help him in completing his journey.

“For those who have not refused the call, the first encounter of the hero-journey is **with a protective figure**” (Campbell. 63).

Master Shifu is a protective figure who will help Po and provide direction on the next steps. This is explained in the quote that the hero needs a mentor figure as below:

Po looks down at the Valley, then turns back to Shifu.

PO: **I stayed because I thought if anyone could change me, could make me... not me, it was you. The greatest kung fu teacher in all of China.**

SHIFU: **But I can change you! I can turn you into the Dragon Warrior! And I will!**

(Kung Fu Panda, 00:49:16 – 00:49:33)

This quote shows Po explaining to Master Shifu that he wants to ask Master Shifu for help to be his teacher to learn kung fu. Po had a strong desire to change his kung fu skills. Knowing about this, Master Shifu accepted Po's request. This can explain that a hero still needs a protective figure in completing his journey.

4. The crossing of the first threshold

In this step the hero will complete his journey and towards greater challenges. So that in this step the hero must prepare and survive the various challenges will occur.

“The hero goes forward in his adventure until he comes to the “threshold guardian” at the entrance **to the zone of magnified power**” (Campbell.71).

One of Po's big challenges is learning Kung Fu. The hero will face new challenges which are explained in this quote below:

As Shifu turns the corner he sees Po's shadow as he performs some amazing Kung Fu.

Entering the kitchen, Shifu finds Po is stuffing his face with food. Seeing Shifu, he stops mid-munch.

In silence they eye each other. Shifu surveys the room -- broken lock, smashed doors, unhinged cabinets. Po belches.

(Kung Fu Panda, 00:51:50-00:52:04)

This quote shows Po's persistence in trying to master kung fu. When the Master Shifu approaches the sound he is hearing, it turns out that the Master Shifu can see Po's kung fu skills starting to show. Even though Po is unconscious, the skills he has will help him to overcome the bad things that will happen during his journey.

5. The belly of the whale

This step is the last part of the stage departure. In this step the hero will face great challenges that will test his courage. Where in this situation will give rise to new things from the figure of a hero.

“That the passage of the magical threshold is a transit into a sphere of rebirth is symbolized in the worldwide womb image of the belly of the whale” (Campbell.83).

In this step Po will face great challenges that will bring about changes. This is shown in the quote below:

PO: I stayed because I thought if anyone could change me, could make me... not me, it was you. The greatest kung fu teacher in all of China.

SHIFU: But I can change you! I can turn you into the Dragon Warrior! And I will!

PO: C'mon, Tai Lung is on his way here right now. And even if it takes him a hundred years to get here, **how are you gone change this.... into the Dagon Warrior? How? How? How?!**

In frustration, Shifu yells out the answer.

SHIFU: I don't know!!! (then, resigned)
I don't know.

PO: That's what I thought.

Shifu walks away, leaving the path open to Po.

(Kung Fu Panda, 00:49:15-00:50:20)

In this quote, it is depicted that the belly of the whale is a state where the hero will conquer something he has never known. In this movie, it is shown in the situation when Po and Master Shifu's debate occurs in the middle of the story. The debate is full of emotions as both characters know that they will have a great responsibility that they have never experienced. Po must accept his destiny to become a dragon warrior like he never imagined to defeat his enemy. Meanwhile, Master Shifu has to think hard about how to teach Po kung fu so that he can defeat his enemy.

A.2 Initiation

Initiation is the second stage of the hero's journey. In this stage the hero will face trials, challenges, and changes. The initiation consists of the steps as below:

1. The road of trials

The road of trials is the first step in the initiation stage. In this step the hero encounters many trials and receives help from a mentor or supernatural help the hero encounters.

“Once having traversed the threshold; **the hero must survive a succession of trials**” (Campbell. 89).

In this step, Po as a hero must survive various challenges. there is a way that Po can survive the next steps as shown in the quote below:

KLUMP! KLONK! THUNK! Shifu peeks back inside and finds Po perched atop the high shelves jamming more cookies into his mouth.
Po notices Shifu walking back in.

PO (mouth full): Don't tell Monkey.

He glances back down at Shifu, whose disbelief turns to a wise smile.

SHIFU: Look at you.

PO: Yeah, I know. I disgust you.

SHIFU: No no, I mean... how did you get up there?

PO: I don't know. I guess I-- i don't know. I was getting a cookie...

He looks at the cookie and
then can't help but eat it.

SHIFU: And yet you are ten feet off the ground and have done a perfect split.

PO: No, this... this is just an accident.

He and Po stare at each other for a beat. Then...

WHOOOMP! Po slips and crashes to the kitchen floor. A cookie rolls over to Shifu. He picks it up.

SHIFU: There are no accidents. Come with me.

(Kung Fu Panda, 00:54:38 – 00:54:49)

At this stage, after Po has crossed the threshold and tried to accept his destiny to become a dragon warrior, he feels anxiety about how he should face his enemy. Without realizing it when he was angry, he did some kung fu moves in order to get some food. Seeing this incident Master Shifu felt that there was a good kung fu power inside Po and that power would help Po to get through the series of trials he would face on his next journey.

2. Atonement with the father

In this step the hero encounters a father figure. Where they will align themselves with each other in resolving a conflict.

“This stage often **involves resolving the conflict** or even gaining their approval or forgiveness, aligning themselves with a father figure or authority figure who plays a role in their character development” (Campbell. 95).

In this step, the hero's conflict resolution receives help from a father figure as in the following quote:

FLASH FRAME -- Shifu leaps atop one of the rocks and looks down at Po.

SHIFU: Do you want to learn Kung Fu?

PO: Yeah...

SHIFU: Then I am your master!

PO: Okay!

Tears of joy well up in Po's eyes.

SHIFU: Don't cry.

PO: Okay.

Po sniffs the tears back and smiles

(Kung Fu Panda, 00:54:35-00:54:55)

This stage describes the resolution of the conflict experienced by the character. This resolution is assisted by Master Shifu who acts as the father figure depicted in this stage. After passing through the previous stage, Master Shifu took the initiative to invite Po to the valley of kung fu with the aim of finding answers to his problems, namely how to teach

Po kung fu. After arriving at the kung fu valley and after Po listened to Master Shifu's story, the two characters finally agreed to become a teacher and student to learn kung fu. Hearing Po's agreement to become Master Shifu's student, they immediately started learning kung fu.

3. Apotheosis

In this step, the hero achieves an understanding of the main purpose of his journey. The hero has gained new experiences and is ready for the final stage of his journey.

“The hero reaches a higher understanding or awareness of the purpose of their journey, this stage represents significant personal transformation and growth, with new knowledge the character is ready to overcome the larger internal or external conflicts present in the story and often prepares them for the final stage of the journey” (Campbell.101).

In that step, Po's growth transformation is shown in the quote below:

Po looks at his father with dawning realization. He picks up the Scroll.

For a moment, Po stares at his reflection on the scroll, then he smiles serenely. He gets it now.

PO: There is no secret ingredient...

Po turns back to look at the palace.

(Kung Fu Panda, 01:09:35-01:09:50)

This quote shows that the hero reaches a higher understanding. From his father's statement, Po realized that the power of the Dragon Warrior Scroll came from his beliefs. When he realized this, Po immediately said goodbye to his father and continued his journey to become a real dragon warrior in order to achieve his main mission to defeat Tai Lung.

4. The ultimate boon

The ultimate boon is the last step of the initiation stage. In this step the hero reaches the final goal of his journey.

“The ease with which the adventure is here accomplished signifies that the hero is a superior man, a born king”
(Campbell.159).

In this step, the hero will find it easy to achieve the goal of his journey, which is shown in the quote below:

Tai Lung's nerve attack has no effect on Po. Frustrated, he delivers a double-fisted punch to Po's belly.

The shockwave ripples through Po's entire body and Po's arms come back and strike Tai Lung, sending the leopard crashing back into a building. Po looks at his hands, amazed at what he just did.

Tai Lung rises from the rubble and runs at Po again. But Po strikes back, using an unorthodox panda-style technique, even getting Tai Lung to chomp down on his own tail. Po

gives Tai Lung a butt bump that sends him crashing into a building.

(Kung Fu Panda, 01:18:12-01:18:45)

This quote shows that in completing his journey, Po found it easy to defeat his enemy Tai Lung. A wave of strength suddenly appeared in Po when he battled with Tai Lung. Po found it easy to defeat Tai Lung due to the power he possessed.

A.3 Return

Return is the last stage in the hero's journey. The hero will return after achieving his goal. In this stage there are several steps that the hero of the journey follows:

1. The magic flight

In this step, the hero will face the last obstacle or enemy on his journey.

“The final stage of his adventure is supported by all the powers of his supernatural patron” (Campbell.182).

In this situation the hero will get support from any direction as depicted in the following quote:

TAI LUNG (heavy breathing): You... can't defeat me.

You're just a big, fat panda!

SCHWING! Po grabs Tai Lung's finger. Tai Lung's eyes go wide.

PO: I'm not a big, fat panda. I'm the big, fat panda.

Po's pinky pops up. Tai Lung gasps.

TAI LUNG: The Wuxi Finger Hold!

PO: **Oh, you know this hold?**

TAI LUNG

You're bluffing. You're bluffing! Shifu didn't teach you that.

PO: **Nope. I figured it out.**

He flexes his pinky...

PO: **Skadoosh!**

(Kung Fu Panda, 01:19:15-01:19:55)

This quote shows when the hero passes the final stage of initiation. Where Po defeats Tai Lung by using The Wuxi Finger Hold which, Tai Lung does not have. With the support of all his strength and destiny, Po finally achieves his victory.

2. Rescue from without

In this step the hero will return after achieving the goal of his journey.

“The hero may have to be brought back from his supernatural adventure by assistance from without”

(Campbell. 192).

After making the journey, the hero also needs help to return home, as illustrated in the following quote:

Villagers emerge from hiding. Po walks out from the mist looking very much like the warrior from the opening dream.

KG SHAW

Look! The Dragon Warrior.

As he nears, we see that his hat is an up side down wok and his scarf is a torn apron.

(*Kung Fu Panda*, 01:20:01- 01:20:20)

This quote shows when the hero should return. Po must return after defeating Tai Lung with his strength. Po's journey home was accompanied by a thick fog that enveloped his body and when he arrived, the villagers welcomed him happily. This thick fog is the power of one of the kung fu moves, the Wuxi finger lock, which Po used to defeat Tai Lung.

3. The crossing of the return threshold

After achieving his goal, the hero will return to his world with various changes.

“The returning hero, in order to complete his adventure, must survive the impact of the world” (Campbell. 203).

After the hero returns with various changes, the hero must survive and continue his life as depicted in the following quote:

Villagers CHEER the Dragon Warrior. Po's Dad emerges from the crowd.

PO'S DAD: That's my boy. That big, lovely kung fu warrior is my son!

PO: Thanks, Dad.

(Kung Fu Panda, 01:20:30 – 01:20:55)

This quote shows when the hero has returned from his journey. Po's return was welcomed with joy by the people. They appreciated Po for being their savior. The happiness was evident in all of them. after achieving his victory Po must still hold the responsibility to continue his life.

4. Freedom of live

This step is the final step of the hero's journey. After successfully achieving his goal, the hero now feels freedom.

“The hero is the champion of things becoming” (Campbell. 225).

In this step the hero has become the champion of his journey as depicted in the following quote:

SHIFU: Master! Shifu! Shifu! Are you okay?

Shifu weakly opens his eyes.

SHIFU: Po! You're alive! (then, darkly) Or we're both dead.

PO: No, Master, I didn't die. I defeated Tai Lung!

SHIFU: You did?!

Shifu smiles and shakes his head in disbelief.

SHIFU: Wow. It is as Oogway foretold -- You are the Dragon Warrior. You have brought peace to this Valley. And to me. Thank you. Thank you, Po. Thank you...Thank you.

(Kung Fu Panda, 01:21:30 – 01:22:17)

This quote shows when the hero has become a winner. When Po had achieved his victory, he immediately went to Master Shifu to give the good news. When Master Shifu heard the news, he was very grateful to Po for saving everyone and Master Shifu declared that Po was the real dragon warrior.

B. The Most Difficult Step in the Hero's Journey of Po in *Kung Fu Panda* (2008) Movie

Based on the theory of the hero's journey by Joseph Campbell, a hero will go through seventeen steps in his journey. In order to achieve his goal, the hero will go through various obstacles and difficulties. In this study, the most difficult step experienced by the main character Po in the *Kung Fu Panda* (2008) Movie will be explained. In the hero's journey, Po experiences various obstacles that require him to survive. In this most difficult step, it will form a strong hero character in facing challenges. Where in the hero's journey, the researcher explains that the most difficult step that the main character faces is The Call to

Adventure which is the first step in the first stage, namely Departure. Po experiences many obstacles in the Call to Adventure step as described in the following quote:

OOGWAY: You.

PO: Me?

Oogway grabs Po's hand and holds it up for all to see.

OOGWAY: The universe has brought us the Dragon Warrior!

(Kung Fu Panda, 00:15:24-00:15:33)

In this movie analysis, the most difficult step of the hero's journey for a hero is the first step, which is the call to adventure. The quote describes the call to adventure of Po who was chosen as a dragon warrior. Realizing this, Master Shifu gives Po the understanding that his adventure to become a dragon warrior is not easy. Before embarking on his adventure Po must first understand the secrets of the dragon warrior within the dragon warrior scroll. Although Po is just an ordinary panda and the son of a noodle seller who never learned kung fu, he is still eager to learn it even though he knows that it is difficult. In addition, at this step is a period of character transition from his world.

This quote shows that the fate of being a dragon warrior made Po sad because he felt that he was not a kung fu expert after he failed to pass the kung fu training arena in the training hall. At this stage, Po faces many internal and external factors that result in his doubts and self-doubt. While external factors from his environment, Po is underestimated by his friends. Po felt that all his

friends and Master Shifu didn't like him for being chosen as a dragon warrior by accident. Hearing all Po's complaints, Master Oogway tried to convince Po that he was a great dragon warrior. Po just needed to raise his spirits to try to accept the new things in his life. Even though it was hard for Po to accept that his destiny as a dragon warrior was to fulfill his responsibilities, he realized that he did not have the strength to be proud of.



CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Chapter five is the last chapter in this study. This chapter contains conclusions and suggestions. The conclusion in this study is based on the results of the analysis in chapter four about the hero's journey by the main character Po in the movie *Kung Fu Panda* (2008).

A. Conclusion

Based on the results of the discussion in chapter four, it can be concluded how the hero's journey of the main character Po in *Kung Fu Panda* (2008) movie. In Joseph Campbell's book entitled *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* 1949 explains the stages that a hero goes through on his journey. Campbell in his book explains that there are three main stages that must be passed on the hero's journey, namely Departure, Initiation, and Return. The departure is the stage where the hero's journey begins, the point at which the hero decides to leave the familiar environment and answer the call to adventure. This stage has several steps are the call to adventure, refusal of the call, supernatural aid, the crossing of the first threshold, and the belly of whale. The initiation stage the hero will meet various, experiments, challenges, and changes. This stage has several steps are the road of trials, the meeting with the goddess, woman as the temptress, atonement with the father, apotheosis, and the ultimate boon. The return stage the hero will return with changes. This stage has several steps are refusal of the return, the magic flight, rescue from without, the crossing of the threshold, master of the two worlds, and freedom live.

The three main stages are explained into seventeen steps. In his hero's journey, Po goes through thirteen of the seventeen steps. In the departure stage, Po goes through all the steps, including the call to adventure. When he was chosen to be the dragon warrior, the rejection of the call was experienced when he felt that he would not be able to make his journey so Po met a supernatural aid who would become a mentor and help him during his journey. The mentor is the Master Shifu who will protect Po as he crosses the threshold of the first door and proceeds to the second stage of initiation.

During the initiation stage Po goes through four steps. The road of trials is where Master Shifu discovers the power within Po that will help him through the trials he will face on his journey. Atonement with the father is where Po finally accepts to become Master Shifu's kung fu student. Apotheosis stage Po has realized the true meaning of the dragon warrior so that in the ultimate boon Po defeats Tai Lung. In the return stage Po goes through four steps namely the magic flight, Rescue from without, the crossing of the return threshold, Freedom of live with the support of the forces around him finally Po defeated Tai Lung and returned from his journey with victory.

From the thirteen stages that Po passed through, the most difficult stage was the Call to Adventure because Po, an ordinary panda and noodle seller's son, it was so difficult to accept that his destiny as a dragon warrior was to fulfill his responsibilities, he realized that he had no strength to be proud of.

B. Suggestion

Based on the conclusion of this study, there are some suggestions that can be given to the next researchers. Researcher can analyze other movie heroes using the hero's journey theory because this theory is flexible to be applied to all types of literary works. In addition, readers can also analyze the series of other *Kung Fu Panda* movies using literary theory.



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