

Chapter I

Introduction

1.1 Background of the study

The inner journey of the hero is sublime in the story so it cannot easily be seen. The reason is it concerns with the mental state or changes in psychological condition of the hero. In the beginning the hero is usually indecisive and afraid to enter the different world. Through the story, the hero learns to accept that s/he is the fated person and embraces the task and finish the quest. The decision and actions of the hero from the beginning of the story to the end usually will change and shows that the hero turns into more mature and responsible individual. Based on these argument, it is good to have a better understanding of the inner journey of the hero, because it shows how someone, main character, Hero, is changing to be better person. This inspires the reader to be the better of themselves accordingly.

The corpus of this study is the Assassins Creed: The Secret Crusade Novel which is a historical fiction novel by Oliver Bowden. The novel is the third historical fiction novel adaptation of the mega hit videogames by Ubisoft. This third novel settings is in the time of Third Crusade, when Christianity and Muslim were at war for Jerusalem. The war is not only between two parties but behind it there were also two different power also at war. First is the Templar which has a vision of advancement by human under their belief. The other was Assassins, who has the vision that the freedom of humanity have to be protected. The conflict in this novel is very interesting, due to its complexity, between parties but also the vision of two organizations.

The story retells the journey of Altair ibn La-Ahad, the master assassin from the Assassin guild which also grand ancestor of the previous novel. From his childhood, his downfall, his quest of redemption whilst revealing of truth of the war, the conflict between two visions and the hardships he face to fulfill his destiny and problem of his personal life.

The novel is chosen because, the main character is showing transformation from the arrogant and smug into someone who adored and able to lead the organization and make it so powerful. The setting also become the reason of choosing this novel. Difficult time like war, creates a condition where the main characters will undergo an inner journey to grow, to make him be able to face the problem or to make right decision in the future. Hence the researcher decided to conduct a research to find the hero's inner journey in the novel by utilizing Vogler theory of hero's inner journey.

1.2 Research Question

- How do the hero's inner journey portrayed in the novel?
- What are the varieties of hero's portrayed by the main Character Altair ibn Al-Ahad in the novel?

1.3 Scope of the Study

The Study focus on analyzing the stages of hero's inner journey through post-structuralism and the varieties of heroes portrayed by the Altair in the novel by analyzing selected narration and dialogues with Vogler's *hero's inner journey theory*.

1.4 Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study is to find out the hero's inner journey and the varieties of hero in the novel *Assassins Creed: Secret Crusade* by Oliver Bowden through the main character, Altair bn Al-Ahad.

1.5 Significance of the study

The study will be useful for the English department students of State University of Jakarta who want to have deeper analysis of hero's inner journey and the varieties hero in literary criticism.