

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the background of the study, research questions, the purpose, the limitation, and the significance of the study.

#### **1.1 Background of Study**

Power is a natural process in the fabric of organizational life (Haugaard & Clegg, 2012), it is the ability to influence or control others (Nelson & Quick, 2012). Foucault recognizes that power is not just a negative, coercive and repressive things that forces us to do things against our will, but also a necessary, productive, and positive force in society (Gaventa, 2003). One of the most influential theories of power comes from the work of French and Raven (1958), they are social psychologist who conducted the study of power in 1959. Relating to social communication studies, they defined social power as the potential for influence on others (Lunenburg, 2012). They identified five sources of power that can be grouped into two categories: organizational power (legitimate, reward, coercive) and personal power (expert and referent). Hence, *Percy Jackson and The Olympian* series is depicted with the most powerful Greek gods, Zeus takes control of the sky, Poseidon with the sea, and Hades controls the Underworld.

The series give a thorough story of the Olympian gods and their children in order to prevent a war between gods and Titans. These gods are built in Greek Mythology and the ultimate ‘source’ of Greek myths is the people who originally made them up, and told them as stories, and passed on later generations (Miles,

2009). The similarities between the myths from different cultures reveals the existence of universal archetypes, which Jung believes that all humans share the certain innate unconscious psychological forces (Jung, 1957). Mythological narrative study also plays an important role in every genre of Greek literature to explain natural phenomena, cultural variations, traditional enmity and comity (Hansen, 2004). Since the story is born based on the hero of the ancient myth stories like Hercules and Perseus, many sources of Greek mythologies patterns are used in the series (Riordan, 2016).

*Percy Jackson and The Olympian* is a five-novel series written by American author Rick Riordan, an adventurous and mythical journey from a half-blood child of the Greek God, Poseidon. The series itself has won an award of *New York Times* #1 best-selling in 2010 (Newswire, 2011). The first book, *The Lightning Thief*, becomes the start of Percy's journey as a demigod (half-blood child) as well as his first quest to retrieve Zeus' lightning thief to prevent the war between gods. The second book is *The Sea of Monsters* which depicted Percy's role as a hero to save the Camp Half-Blood that was under attack by another demigod. The other books, *The Titan's Curse*, *The Battle of The Labyrinth*, and *The Last Olympian*, have displayed Percy's other journey to save the Olympians that was attacked by Kronos. Relevant to the Olympian series analysis, the writer finds a number of researches to support this study.

One of the previous research is Nugroho, Sutarto, and Setiawan's "*The Archetypal Analysis on Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson and The Olympian: The Sea of Monsters*" (2014). This study aimed to know and analyze what archetypal

elements of myth found in the novel and its relation to American ideology. He used Frye's archetypal theory and Althusser's ideology and the result shows that summer with romance is the archetype exist in the novel also the America ideology that showed in the research is about the superiority of USA, using Percy Jackson as the main character as the modern world in the Greek environment.

Another study is conducted by Alhimni (2014), in the research "*Mythological Characters Representing The United States Environmental Issues In Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson and The Olympian Series*", she used mythological study to help understand mythological characters and their function within the realm of preserving natural sources. She also used Eco-criticism to analyze the environmental degradation which happen in America as portrayed in the novel. The result shows Poseidon, Pan, and Satyrs symbolize environmental issues in America, particularly about the degradation and the effort to make them better.

A previous research in relation to power is conducted by Sadati, Jafari, and Sokhavar's (2013) in "*Rebelling against the Dominant White Culture: Foucauldian Study of the Concept of Power in Imamu Amiri Baraka's Dutchman*". The research studies in the light of Michel Foucault's ideas in order to scrutinize the notion of power and the possibilities of resistance against power in the society of America during 1960s. The main focus of this research is to analyze the main characters of Dutchman, Clay and Lula, in terms of the possibilities of resistance to the prevailing power and of trying different modes of being a self in the society of the United States during 1960s. This research shows that a Foucauldian

resistance does not lead to total freedom of power, but it includes an individual's performing some possible actions in the scope that is defined by power itself.

Another research is conducted by Royanian in "*Power Relations and the Sources of Power in Macbeth: A Foucauldian Study*" (2016). The objective of the research is to investigate the concept of power and its relations in Shakespeare's tragedy, *Macbeth*. The concept of power and power relations are of prime importance in Foucauldian study and much of his thinking has been devoted, though indirectly, to clarify this concept and redefine it. This paper takes Foucauldian look at the play and to see how power exists in *Macbeth*. He also look at how different institutions and individuals that are source of power produce and distribute power and knowledge in society. Hence to mention some major discourses in *Macbeth*, a Foucauldian discourse analysis used to lay the emphasis on power and power relations. Then to elaborate the concept of power and to see how power works throughout the play.

Remarking the previous researches above, the writer is interested to conduct a further analysis of power influence within the mythological characters in the novels. This research analyzes through the Greek mythological study to identify mythological characters in Rick Riordan's *Percy Jackson and The Olympian* series which correlate with power influence. The researcher uses John French and Bertram Raven's source of power to categorize which mythological characters that have influenced other characters in the novels and point out the effects throughout the novels.

## **1.2 Research Question**

1. What are mythological characters that reveal the scheme of French and Raven's source of power?
2. How does each type of power influence of the mythological characters effect other characters in the series?
3. What power is the most influential in the series?

## **1.3 Purpose of the Study**

1. To discover the mythological characters in the series that reveal the scheme of French and Raven's source of power.
2. To discover the effect of the mythological characters' power influence toward other characters in the series.
3. To discover the most influential power in the series.

## **1.4 Scope of the Study**

This study centralizes on the mythological characters in Rick Riordan's *Percy Jackson and The Olympian* series which represent French and Raven's power influence through out the series.

## **1.5 Significance of the Study**

This study is conducted to give a further understanding to the students of English Department in State University of Jakarta about mythological study and power influence in Rick Riordan's *Percy Jackson and The Olympian series*. The series has a plenty of dominant authority which portrayed by the Greek gods over their half-blood child.