

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the study

Struggle values are values that are based on the goals to be achieved. The values of struggle will usually appear when the main character is experiencing problems in his life. The process of solving problems is basically called struggle (Suma, 2017).

Heroisme is a description of a person's heroic attitudes or actions in fighting. In English, a hero is called "hero" which means a legendary figure in mythology who is gifted with extraordinary strength, courage and ability, and is recognized as a descendant of the gods. A hero is a figure who always defends the truth and defends the weak. A national hero who wholeheartedly loves his nation and country so that he is willing to make sacrifices for the preservation and glory of his nation is also called a patriot. A hero is someone whose actions are successful for the benefit of many people. His actions have an influence on other people, because they are considered noble and beneficial for the interests of the nation's community or humanity (Sriwulandari, 2021).

The hero in this case is not someone who wants to win in war, but the hero is how he solves the problems he is facing. Vogler further stated that heroes in modern times no longer slay dragons and mythological creatures or even adventure into mountains, seas and other magical places, but rather they can adventure in the life that occurs around them, help others, and defeat the thoughts of others. evil thoughts that dominate their hearts (vogler, 2007 in (Noviana, 2019)).

Based on the book by Christopher Vogler, there are twelve stages of the journey. These twelve stages are also called the hero's journey. Based on the statement above, there are twelve stages that the hero must go through, namely: Ordinary World, Call to Adventure, Rejection of the Call, Meeting the Mentor, Crossing the First Threshold, Test, Ally, Enemy, Approach to the Deepest Cave, Trial, Reward, The Path of Return, Resurrection, And The Last One Is Returning with Elixir. Moreau as quoted in Satrio and Zulkarnain, the epitome of the Hero's Journey story structure is the Hero's adventure in facing his fears and changing into a better and new person, this is what makes this story structure very close emotionally to humans (Satrio and Zulkarnain 4). In any good story, the hero can grow and change, journeying through life to become someone who changes from weakness to strength, love to hate, stupidity to wisdom, and back again. With this emotional journey, the audience gains an emotional connection with the hero and makes the story worth watching (Vogler 7).

When we enter a story, whether it is a fairy tale or a myth, we will wonder about the role played by each character. According to Vogler, understanding the role each character plays in a story is called archetype. Archetypes are divided into eight parts: Hero, Mentor, Threshold Guardian, Herald, Shapeshifter, Shadow, Ally, and Trickster (Vogler 26). "The importance of identifying archetypes is because the concept of archetypes is an indispensable tool for understanding the purpose or function of characters in a story" (Vogler 24). So it is easier to understand the dynamics of the characters in the story if the archetypes are identified.

In the midst of the success of super-powered heroes such as in several films produced by Marvel Studios, such as Iron Man (2008), Thor (2011), and The Avengers: Age of Ultron (2015). Hollywood began to innovate by presenting heroes with different nuances. The father figure has begun to be used as a modern hero figure in several Indonesian and foreign films, such as Fatherhood (2021), Saturday with Father (2016), Miracle In Cell No. 7 (2013), The Pursuit of Happiness (2006) and Taken (2008).

Taken is a thriller or action film released in 2008. Directed by Pierre Morel, written by Luc Besson; Robert Mark Kamen, and played by Liam Neeson, Famke Janssen, Maggie Grace, Xander Berkeley, Holly Valance, Katie Cassidy, Leland Orser, Jon Gries, David Warshofsky, Olivier Rabin, Gérard Watkins, Arben Bajraktaraj, Camille Japy, Nicolas Giraud, Goran Kostić, Nabil Massad. This film tells the story of a former CIA member who tries to get back his only daughter who was kidnapped by an Albanian syndicate gang. Bryan Mills is a former CIA agent who has retired from his duties to spend more time with his only daughter. This film tells the story of a former CIA member who tries to get back his only daughter who was kidnapped by an Albanian syndicate gang.

There are several studies regarding the twelve stages of the Hero's Journey theory by Christopher Vogler, such as in research (Maslahatin. A, 2022) with the title "A Hero's Journey Analysis of The Main Character Ben Cash in The Captain Fantastic Movie". This research uses qualitative methods, and obtained The result is that Ben Cash, as the main character, is a hero, seen from his life journey which is in accordance with the twelve patterns of stages of the hero's journey in Christopher Vogler's theory and based on analysis using archetypes theory. Second,

research by Fajria Noviana (2019) with the title "Representation of the Hero's Journey in the Character Chihiro in the Anime Spirited Away by Miyazaki Hayao" which reveals the process of the heroic journey of the main character of the anime Spirited Away named Chihiro based on the Hero's Journey theory put forward by Vogler. The research results obtained by Chihiro's Adventure have succeeded in changing her personality from being timid, spoiled and whiny to being brave, independent, calm and confident, and full of compassion. The process of Chihiro's heroic journey proves the truth of Vogler's definition of a hero, while also proving that winning a 'fight' does not always involve physical strength. There are times when thinking intelligence and emotional intelligence are needed even more. The similarity of the research that the researcher will carry out with research that has been carried out previously is the same as using Christopher Vogler's theory to analyze the stages of the hero's journey. The difference is that the research that the researcher will carry out uses the film TAKEN (2008), because no research has been found regarding the film Taken (2008).

The reason for choosing heroism in the film Taken, directed by Pierre Morel, is because the author believes that there is a form of heroism that can be analyzed through film. The author also believes that further analysis can be applied to this film to help readers expand their knowledge about how a father struggles, love and care to protect his child. Films that tell stories of heroism or belong to the action film genre are the films that are most liked by audiences in the world. This film is also translated into various languages such as: Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, English, Arabic, German, Albanian, so that it can cover many world

audiences and is 89% popular with viewers. This film continues until TAKEN 3. This makes the writer interested in analyzing this film.

### **1.2 Problem Statement**

1. How is the depiction of heroic traits in the film "TAKEN" written by Luc Besson and Robert Mark Kamen using the twelve stages of the Hero's Journey theory by Christopher Vogler?
2. What kind of journey of heroism is depicted by Bryan Mills' character in the film "TAKEN" by Luc Besson and Robert Mark Kamen?

### **1.3 Research Objectives**

1. To identify the depiction of heroic traits in the film "TAKEN" written by Luc Besson and Robert Mark Kamen through the twelve stages of the Hero's Journey theory by Christopher Vogler.
2. To know the journey of heroism as depicted in the film "TAKEN" by Luc Besson and Robert Mark Kamen.

### **1.4 Scope and Limitation**

This research focuses only on the main character Liam Neeson who becomes Bryan Mills, who displays the events and circumstances that mark the Hero's Journey. Therefore, this research aims to describe the stages carried out by Bryan Mills as a Hero in the film and analyze the roles played by the characters in the film according to the twelve stages of the Hero's Journey theory by Christopher Vogler.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

It is hoped that the results of this research will be useful for the development of science, especially regarding literature.

It is hoped that the results of this research will increase the author's knowledge in the field of literature and can be used as a reference for similar research at the next stage.

### **1.6 Definition of Key Terms**

Heroisme is someone whose actions are successful for the benefit of many people. His actions have an influence on other people, because they are considered noble and beneficial for the interests of the nation's community or humanity (Sriwulandari, 2021). The hero in this case is not someone who wants to win in war, but the hero is how he solves the problems he is facing.

