

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Produced by Gary Rose in 2012, *The Hunger Games* is known for its success as a motion picture. *The Hunger Games* movies are actually an adaptation from a successful Novel Trilogy written by Suzanne Collins. The Trilogy was first published on September 14 of 2008 by Scholastic Press. Belonging to Young Adult Fiction (YAF) category, *The Hunger Games* Trilogy is well received by the public instantly, “millions of teenagers on both sides of the Atlantic are reading the YAF books, and sales have jumped 150 percent in six years” (Walsh, 2014). With the increasing number of fans in Young Adult Fiction, *The Hunger Games* won the California Young Reader Medal as "Best Books of the Year" in 2008.

In terms of the content, *The Hunger Games* Trilogy is a typical dystopian novel which is full of violence, fights and wars, depicting a dark dystopian future. Dystopia means “worse than the society in which the reader lived” (Claeys & Sargent, 1999, p. 2). Yet lately, dystopian novels like *The Hunger Games* Trilogy have “dominated the young adult –better known as YA- bestseller lists” (Donston-Miller, 2014). The demand makes Dystopian themed Novels reign the market. There are many novels similar to *The Hunger Games* Trilogy, and some of the examples are *Divergent*, *The Maze Runner* and *The 5th Wave*. These three novels are also then adapted to motion pictures. Although many

novels share the similar theme to that of *The Hunger Games*, the spotlight does not fade from *The Hunger Games* Trilogy.

Suzanne Collins invents a character named Katniss Everdeen whom she uses as the main character of the novels. Through the trilogy, the stories use Katniss' point of view. Katniss Everdeen is a sixteen-year old girl who lives in district 12 of Panem. Katniss is a unique female character who “focused on the day-to-day work of living, Katniss isn't terribly sentimental – a characteristic that sets her apart from many other girl heroines (think of Bella from *Twilight*)...” (Shmoop Editorial Team, 2008, p. para. 16). Katniss is an independent girl who struggles to live in a Post-apocalyptic World of future named Panem. It is a country that comprises North America. The country was built after Dark Days, a series of natural disasters followed by war. In Panem, Katniss lives as a lower class girl who just wants to survive from daily life misery and hunger. She is the breadwinner in her family as she needs to take care of her depressed mother and her younger sister.

Katniss' ordinary life begins to change when her younger sister is chosen to be a tribute at “The Reaping”, representing her district on the 74th Annual Game called *The Hunger Games*. “The Reaping” is held right before *The Hunger Games* starts. At “The Reaping”, male and female tributes from age twelve to eighteen years old are chosen randomly to become a tribute. A tribute is a representative of a certain district in Panem which later will be a player at *The Hunger Games*, a game where a tribute has a quest. The tributes of the game have to stay alive, not to be killed by other tributes, or to be killed by the game. The total amount of twenty four tributes will be placed inside a dome-shaped arena located in the Capitol where cameras will be put all over the dome for

pleasure of the game viewers as a show and entertainment. The dome is created so that the tributes cannot run away from the game. It traps them inside, and a tribute has to face the other twenty three rivals, including the one who comes from the same district.

The idea of the game scares everyone in all Districts, including Katniss. Being afraid to lose her sister on the game and as well as feeling responsible as an older sister, Katniss volunteers herself to replace her sister. Katniss does not realize that volunteering as a tribute in *The Hunger Games* will change her life and that volunteering as a tribute will be a part of her journey of becoming a remarkably revolutionary heroine of Panem.

Fictional heroine in novels, regardless of their gender actually has shown certain patterns as proven by previous studies on Heroes and their archetypes. One of the experts who studies about archetypal pattern of heroes is Joseph Campbell (2004) with his theory of *The Hero's Journey*. Joseph Campbell (2004) finds structural elements on mythical heroes that he sees throughout the storylines of myths. These structured-storylines or patterns Campbell (2004) calls as "The Monomyth" which is then developed into "The Seventeen Stages of the Hero's Journey." Campbell's Monomyth (2004) can be seen in the journey of Katniss Everdeen in becoming the heroine in *The Hunger Games*.

Throughout the novels, Katniss' character evolves from a very young and naive character to become a symbol of revolutionary heroine figure of Panem. It is the character development of Katniss Everdeen from the beginning to the end in the novel trilogy which attracts the writer to study the trilogy. By applying Campbell's Hero's Journey (2004) to Katniss' journey, the fast-paced storyline of how Katniss becomes a heroine could be delineated in seventeen stages with structured explanations.

However, there are some previous studies about *The Hunger Games*. The first studies is written by Dimas Pamungkas Sugiarto Utomo (2015) entitled *The Master and Slave in The Movie "Hunger Games"* and the second one is written by Hidayatun Nikmah (2014) entitled *The Representation of Heroine's Myth by "Katniss" in The Hunger Games Movie*.

In a research that was written by Dimas P. S. Utomo, he studies *The Hunger Games* movie which is the first movie out of four, an adaptation from the Novel Trilogy. Dimas uses a theory about master and slave. He finds that there are a lot of elements that represent master and slave in the movie. The result of the analysis is that Capitol or the capital city of Panem acts as the master and Panem acts as the slave. (Utomo, 2015).

In Hidayatun Nikmah's research, she studies the character of Katniss Everdeen using Campbell's Hero's Journey which she refers as The Hero's Myth and the symbols in *The Hunger Games* movie. In her research, she finds fourteen out of seventeen stages. Based on her research, she concludes that Katniss' character fits as a hero (Nikmah, 2014). Nevertheless using the same character and theory, the writer will use all of the seventeen stages to the Novel Trilogy and will not include the study of the symbols in order to focus on one matter.

Even though having the same title and characters, there are a lot of differences in the novels and the movies of *The Hunger Games*. There are several scenes and characters that are omitted in the screen because “in adapting the book into a motion picture, it was inevitable that changes would be made: characters would be removed, dialogue would be edited out and certain scenes would be deleted.” (Hanlon, 2012). This affects the real plot that Suzanne Collins writes in the novels. This matter encourage the writer to do a research on the novel instead of the movie, not just one but the whole trilogy as a unity to Katniss’ Journey.

1.2. Field of the Study

The field of the study is literature which focuses on the study of character.

1.3. Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is about the patterns in the journey of Katniss Everdeen to become a heroine in the Trilogy. The patterns will be found by applying the theory of The Hero’s Journey by Joseph Campbell (2004).

1.4. Problem Formulation

1. What are the stages of Campbell’s Hero’s Journey experienced by Katniss to become a heroine?
2. How does Katniss experience the stages of Campbell’s Hero’s Journey based on the Trilogy?

1.5. Objective of the Study

To interpret the stages experienced by Katniss Everdeen's character in *The Hunger Games* Novel Trilogy using Campbell's Stages of Hero's Journey.

1.6. Significance of the Study

Katniss Everdeen is a unique female character that is rare to find on any fiction. Unlike most female protagonists, Katniss has more masculine traits than her feminine traits. Katniss uniqueness inspires the writer to study her character. Through the novels, Katniss' character develops, from a regular citizen of Panem to become a rebel against the regime of the President of Panem. By applying Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey theory, the writer hopes that Katniss' character development will be explained since Katniss' journey in becoming a heroine influences the changes of her original traits and personalities. Even though a fictional character, Katniss Everdeen influences female young adults and teenagers and a study of her character is expected to delineate people clearer about experiences that a heroine must go through to become one.

1.7. Definition of Terms

Archetypes

Archetypes are "forms or images of a collective nature which occur practically all over the earth as constituents of myths and at the same time as individual products of unconscious origin." (Jung, *Psychology and Religion*, 1938).

Dystopia :

Dystopia is what “...the author intended a contemporaneous reader to view as considerably worse than the society in which the reader lived” (Claeys & Sargent, 1999).

The Hero’s Journey/ The Monomyth :

The Monomyth is “the standard path of the mythological adventure of the hero is a magnification of the formula represented in the rites of passage: separation—initiation—return” (Campbell, 2004).

Heroine :

Heroine is “the female character in book or film who is usually good.” (Cambridge Dictionary, 2008).

