Research Article

THE ANALYSIS OF HEROIC CHARACTERISTICS IN PETER PEVENSIE

Sarawut Boonruk[1*], Sasiwimon Phlaichum[2], Viroj Asavajaruphan[3] and Suwanna Yutthapirut[4]

[1, 2]Phranakhon Rajabhat University

[3]Marie Upatham School

[4]North Bangkok University

[*]E-mail: sarawoot.b@pnru.ac.th

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ABSTRACT

This present study aimed to explore Peter Pevensie's heroic characteristics, quests that he encountered in the movie, and his hero portrayal in the movie. For this reason, *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* movie was employed as the main data for analysis. The study was analyzed through heroic characteristics framework (Stillman, 1977). The critical lens of literary work was employed to analyze Peter's heroic characteristics. Researcher's diary was employed to summarize and analyze his heroic characteristics. The findings showed that he demonstrates core heroic characteristics such as responsibility, fairness, protectiveness, moral judgement, leadership, courage, caregiving and emerging bravery. Meanwhile, he faces various heroic quests, e.g. escaping the White Witch's forces, receiving sacred weapons, defeating Maugrim, joining Aslan's army. The movie portrays him as a dynamic hero whose confidence grows through guidance, experience, moral commitment. Overall, his character represents a classic growth-hero model is formed through trials and mentorship.

Keywords: Hero Representation, *Narnia*, Young Adult Literature

INTRODUCTION

In the world of reading, many people read many genres of books. They are many types of books in library for reading. Novels are among of readers' targets for entertaining purposes. Novel is a literary work in the formed of narrative styles. It focuses on the main themes, experience and problem life usually play the important point in the story (Ardayati & Rahayu, 2017). There are important elements such as character, plot, point of view, setting, characterization, tone, and theme in the novel.

Furthermore, many novels were adapted into the screen plays such as drama, and in the movie, etc. After huge success of printed version, they ascended to the most favorite choice of entertainment. In other words, movie is one of the significant parts of people's entertaining alternative. It can enhance imaginative world and teach embedded morality for daily life lessons. However, novelists often include

a protagonist in their works, especially heroes who conquer quests. They must pass impossible missions during the journey. Previous studies on heroic characteristics were explored to see how their characters depict.

Moreover, studies on heroism often catches people's interest because it connects closely to everyday human experiences. People are often related the topic of heroism, engaging with asking questions, reflecting their own understanding of heroes, and sharing personal experiences about it. Heroism is widely known concept that can profoundly influence both individual and society. Campbell (1949) suggested that heroes function as powerful sources of inspiration and have played a vital role in philosophy, literature, and the arts. Meanwhile, Gash and Conway (1997) conducted a study included pilot work with children to categorize the characteristics of their hero characters. It revealed that there are various characters such as active, beautiful, brave, brilliant, caring, confident, good-looking, helpful, honest, kind, loyal, strong and warrior. It is important to note that they recognized character traits from different domains such as movie, TV, community, religion, music, sport, and other broad categories. However, some novels were adapted to produce movies. It finally made box office worldwide. Many movies tend to use as a tool to entertain and amuse people or audience in the movie theater, but some of them are very successful during that time.

The movie that derived from the novel or young adult literature (YA) that has successful is still little when compared to other movies. Moreover, there are many movies that relate to young people and teach morality based on religion. Among many of them is the *Chronicles of Narnia: The lion, the witch, and the wardrobe* movie. This movie is based on *Narnia* young adult literature, the writing of Clive Staples Lewis or C.S. Lewis. The movie was released on December 9, 2005, in both Europe and North America. There were positive reviews and was highly successful and recognized at the box office and grossing more than $745 million net worldwide. The movie franchise earned strong, generally positive Rotten Tomatoes scores because the films blended ground-breaking CGI with faithful, family-friendly adaptations of C.S. Lewis's classic books (Rotten Tomatoes, 2005). According to the success of the movie and positive reviews from movie critics. There is still lack of exploring Peter Pevensie's heroic characteristics both in the movie and novel. Peter is one of the protagonist who has an important role to defeat the White Witch, a main antagonist in the movie and what are his characteristics of being a hero. Previous studies mainly focused on portrayal of teens in popular literature, overall characters in Narnia, and other characters in the novel (Gregory, 2012; Suwastini, et al., 2020; Yanti, 2021).

The present study was focused on aspects of Peter Pevensie including his heroic characteristics, quests, and a hero portrayal in the movie. The outcome of the study would be applicable in some contexts of English reading or literature class discussion within the realm of literary research network.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This study was a qualitative research, which focused on content analysis of the literary work. The main research questions aimed to explore the heroic characteristics of Peter Pevensie represent in the movie and novel. There were three research questions as follow:

One: What are heroic characteristics of Peter Pevensie?

Two: What are quests that Peter Pevensie encounter in the movie?

Three: How Peter Pevensie is a hero portrayal in the movie?

LITERATURE REVIEW

There are many sources and literature review that need to study for further understanding. This part of the study was explored the related literature to support the findings. There are topics of the *Chronicles of Narnia: The lion, the witch, and the wardrobe*, *Peter Pevensie*, main villain of the movie, representation, characteristics of heroes, and related studies. These were employed as the conceptual framework and keys concepts to be discussed in the results.

The Chronicles of Narnia: The lion, the witch, and the wardrobe

Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy are sent to live in a professor's house to escape the air raids in London. While playing hide-and-seek, Lucy discovers a magical wardrobe that leads her to another world called "Narnia", where she befriends a faun. At first, her siblings do not believe her story, but they eventually enter Narnia together. There, they meet the Beavers, who tell them about the land and its fate. Edmund betrays his siblings and sides with the White Witch. With the help of Aslan, the four children defeat the White Witch. They are crowned as the rulers of Narnia kingdom, but later return through the wardrobe to the professor's house, where they become children again, wearing the same clothes as before.

Peter Pevensie

Peter Pevensie is the eldest of the Pevensie siblings. In the novel, his character is mainly revealed through his actions, thoughts, and dialogue. Peter is portrayed as wise and kind because he consistently tries to act fairly, listens to his siblings' opinions in every situation, and offers balanced judgments. Before the children are sent to a small village to escape the war in London, their parents ask Peter to take responsibility for his younger siblings (Yanti & Bidari, 2021).

Main villain in the movie

Queen Jadis or the White Witch was the sole surviving resident and the self-declared final Queen of Charn. She is a main antagonist in the novel or movie. She was an extremely powerful sorceress and was once the most notorious ruler of Narnia.

Heroic Characteristics

There are various characters of hero such as doubtful or mysterious origin, neither fools nor invulnerable. Especially, important events emerge, heroes are called upon to make a journey or to follow a goal or quest to complete the mission. Their paths are not always direct or clear to the heroes. They are surrounded with dangers, loneliness, and attraction. Many quest tales provide friends, servants, or followers as company for heroes. Heroes usually have guides. They often descend into darkness and are not the same after emerging from the darkness. With few exceptions, mythological heroes are male (Stillman, 1977). Moreover, on the hero representation, many scholars suggested that fairy tales, cartoons, or movies often portray good people and heroic figures as beautiful, pretty, or attractive (Eco, 2004; Klein & Shiffman, 2006).

Related Studies

A great number of related studies of Narnia revealed that it was focused on four siblings, two boys and two girls. Peter Pevensie is the oldest boy, and the leader of the group. He always decides for his siblings. There are many characters in the movie that play vital roles to fulfill the story. However, there are two types of characters in the movie namely major and minor characters. Major characters get more scenes or screen times than the minor ones. Thus, major characters have important roles in the movie (Mulyawan, 2015; Yanti & Bidari, 2021). The Prevensies family during their stay in professor's house are included Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy who are major characters. One of the siblings who has important role is Peter. Peter is a protagonist in this movie and portrayed as a hero who partly conquered the White Witch. It is obvious that novel or movie always show a male hero rather than female (Stillman, 1977). They have to go through dangerous missions or quests which surrounded with major dangers. Moreover, they have guides to help them defeat the enemy such as consultants, etc. There are many quests for Peter in the movie and how Peter is explained as a hero. What reasons behind his success in defeating the White Witch? This study is designed to fulfill the research questions.

Based on the previous explanations, this study is aimed to investigate the hero characteristics of Peter as well as quests and hero images from the movie perspective. All literature review is used as a conceptual framework for analyzing data.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The framework was employed key theories from literature review, heroic characteristics, and related studies to analyze Peter Pevensie's character in the movie. It could shed light on how his character was illustrated in the movie.

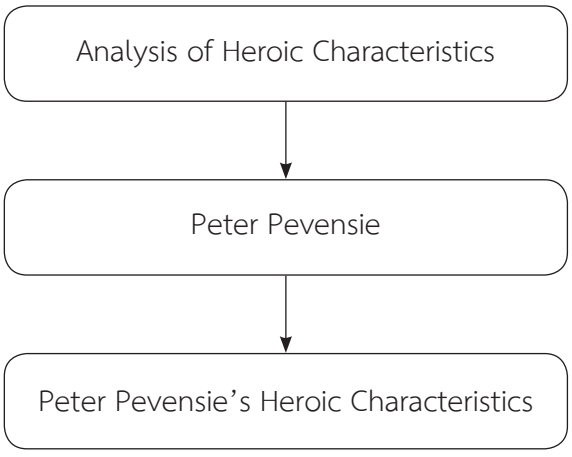


Figure 1 Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework shows the process of the present study, which aims to analyze the heroic characteristics of Peter Pevensie in the movie. It consists of three components.

First, *Analysis of Heroic Characteristics* serves as the theoretical framework of the study. This stage involves applying the concept of heroism and relevant literary theories to examine the qualities and actions that define a hero.

Second, *Peter Pevensie* is the focus of the analysis. As the main character selected for this research, Peter's actions, decisions, dialogues, and interactions throughout the movie are explored to determine how he demonstrates heroic characters.

Finally, *Peter Pevensie's Heroic Characteristics* represents the outcome of the analysis. Based on the textual evidence from the novel, the study identifies and explains Peter's heroic characteristics, such as courage, leadership, responsibility, self-sacrifice, compassion, and integrity. These findings demonstrate how Peter develops into a heroic figure and how his character reflects the concept of heroism in the literary work.

All in all, the framework illustrates that the study begins with the analysis of heroism, applies it to Peter Pevensie as the unit of analysis, and summarizes by identifying and interpreting his heroic characteristics.

METHODOLOGY

Data were analyzed by employing the theories from the conceptual framework as main research tools to analyze heroic characteristics of Peter Pevensie in the movie "*The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*" in 2005. The researcher employed researcher's diary to summarize and analyze his heroic characteristics based on three research questions. Then, researcher rewatched the movie for two times to ensure the reliability of the data.

RESULTS CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

According to the results, there are three points to be discussed the phenomenon of Peter's heroic characteristics and in-depth details from the movie. The researcher rewatched for movie for two times to ensure the reliability of the data. This discussion was explained based on the facts revealed and conclude how he portrays the heroic traits in the movie. The analysis was discussed through three research questions.

The first point to be discussed, firstly, Peter followed Edmund, his brother and wanted to help him from the White Witch. He did not have any confidence to defeat the White Witch because of his young age and Aslan encouraged him to be the army leader. Aslan supported him all the time and after Peter defeated against Maugrim's subordinate, he appointed him as the knight of Narnia. The important position to encourage his strengths to grow older. This could help him grow stronger both mental and physical strengths. Peter wanted his siblings to go home and did not want them to join the war because they are too young. He cares his siblings. From this view, Peter tried to protect his siblings no matter what happen from war. It means that his characteristics reveal through his action and beliefs of what is right or wrong. According to Yanti and Bidari (2021) Peter Pevensie is the eldest brother of the Pevensies family. His characterizations reveal through his actions, thoughts, and speeches. He is kind and wise because he tries to be fair and listens to his brother and sisters' opinions and gives fair comments for it. He has a huge burden to take care of his siblings when they move to the professor's house as a family leader. From this point, the movie perspective reflects of how smart he is. His siblings want to fight the White Witch for everyone in Narnia to protect lives and maintain the peace in Narnia.

The second point to be discussed, there were many quests that Peter must face in the movie. First, Peter met Maugrim, the wolf of the White Witch, her subordinate. They ran toward the beavers' cottage to capture them. Second, Peter received weapons such as sword, and shield from Father Christmas. He could use them to protect everyone. Third, he fought Maugrim team on the frozen river and survived from them. Fourth, Peter and his siblings met Aslan in his camp. Fifth, Peter defeated Maugrim. After that Aslan appointed him as Sir Peter, the knight of Narnia. Finally, Peter defeated the White Witch army, Aslan helped him to kill her. In summary, it is important to note that all heroes need to face many dangerous quests to achieve his goals. Stillman (1977) stated that heroes' ways are surrounded with dangers, loneliness, and attraction. It is common that hero always has the mission to survive from because it could reflect how brave he is. It could prove his brave to grow older and stronger ever before. Nevertheless, he has guides and consultations to provide ways of defeating obstacles along his ways.

The third point to be discussed, according to the movie, Edmund plays a significant role to encourage Peter to become a hero. Peter wants to help Edmund, his younger brother from the White Witch because he betrays his siblings to join her in the first time. He told everything to her. It seemed

that he was innocent and trust the stranger to respond to his hunger for the witch's sweets. However, Peter realizes that Edmund is in danger, he wants to help him. During many incidents happened in his life, he gained confidence and strength from everyone around him and fight the White Witch at last. Peter represents the way of the hero should be in the movie to protect lives. The hero representation of Peter portrays him as a good people who needs to help his younger brother from danger. According to Eco (2004) and Klein and Shiffman (2006) stated that in fairy tales, cartoons, or movies often portray good people and heroic figures as beautiful, pretty, or attractive. When considering Peter's appearance and his figure from movie perspective, his appearance is good looking and attractive male that portrays the heroic figure. His distinctive role and charisma play a vital role to keep people watching the movie. This character is quite dynamic in term of character development from start the end of the movie. At first, he does not have confidence, bravery to fight the White Witch. After everyone encourage him, he gains more confidence and bravery to fight the evil witch.

In summary, Peter lacks self-confidence in the beginning. However, the people around him encourage him to stand against the White Witch, especially Edmund, who plays a significant role in supporting him, along with Aslan and other siblings. In the end, Peter can defeat the main villain because others trust him. Stillman (1977) explains that mythological heroes are typically portrayed as male figures who undertake quests or dangerous missions. They are accompanied by their friends or followers and received guidance along their journey. Peter meets many of the characteristics of a hero (Stillman, 1977). He is depicted as a medieval-style knight, which is clearly shown in the movie when Father Christmas gives him a sword and shield. These items symbolize the traditional weapons and armor of a knight as he prepares to confront the White Witch. Therefore, Peter Pevensie becomes a hero through several contributing factors, particularly the influence and inspiration of his younger brother Edmund.

SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The suggestions of the present study yielded various perspectives for EFL classroom implementation. The focus on Peter character about his heroic characteristics. Moreover, the character was portrayed from young novel. It is appropriate for applying in the English reading and literature classroom. Especially, teaching reading skills and vocabulary through story line. EFL teachers might select some passages and teach reading skills for young learners and moral lesson. On the other hand, teachers might adapt content to teach reading and creative writing for university level. Learn how to reflect their opinions towards reading material and group discussion.

On the contrary, the present study only focused on heroic characteristics of Peter, the main protagonist in the movie. The future research should be explored other characters with hero

characteristics and compare with the rest protagonists in the movie. This study was conducted from movie perspectives only. Novel reading should be investigated for in-depth analysis.

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