THE RELATION OF JOURNEY IN RICK RIORDAN'S THE SEA OF MONSTER AND HOMER'S THE ODYSSEY TRANSLATED BY SAMUEL BUTLER

Awanda Eki Safitri
Christinawati

ABSTRACT

This study aims to find the relation of journey in Rick Riordan's The Sea of Monsters and Homer's The Odyssey translated by Samuel Butler. The Odyssey is known for its famous story of Odyssey's journey in the Sea of Monsters. While, The Sea of Monsters by Riordan tells about the modern version of The Odyssey that tells the adventure of Percy Jackson. Thus, the data collected with the close reading. For the data analysis, the writer firstly analyses plot, setting, characters, and theme of both story. Then, the writer uses findings from previous analysis to analyses the relation of journey by using intertextuality. The results of the analysis are: first both plots are almost the same but the chronological orders of The Odyssey in The Sea of Monsters are modified into different orders, second the setting of both stories are located in the Sea of Monsters but there are some modifications of place and time, third the characters of monsters and gods in both stories are almost the same but in The Sea of Monsters the characters appear more modern, fourth the themes of both stories are about the hardship of achieving goals, and the last the relation of journey in both stories is agreement, since there are many elements of The Odyssey that shapes the story of The Sea of Monsters.

Keywords: Adventure; Agreement; Journey; Sea of Monsters; Odyssey

1. Introduction

literary works such as novel, short story, drama, sometimes has some similarities. For the example, the work has the same characters, plots, or themes. Those similarities in the literary texts are possible, since texts are "tracings of otherness" and largely shaped by "the repetition and transformation of other textual structures" ("Intertextual Adaptations and Literary Discourses" 1). Of course, before writing a literary text, the authors have read many books and have many life events in their lives that influence their points of view. Those experiences not only influence their points of view, but also the way they write and how they create their literary works. In addition, the authors consciously and unconsciously embody the traces of the previous texts they have experienced during their lives (Manak 14). For the example, the works havein content that tell the story of Greek mythologies. Greek mythologies often inspire many authors to create and write the story about Grecian in a whole new form in their themes, plots, and characters. Based on that reason, the aim of this study is to find the relations in Rick Riordan's *The Sea of Monsters* and Homer's *The Odyssey* translated by Samuel Butler by applying Intertextual approach.

In this study the writer uses Intertextuality y to analyze both stories. According to Kristeva, Intertextuality is constructed as a mosaic of quotations; any text is the absorption and transformation of another (Orr 1). The traces of intertextuality can be seen in Rick Riordan's *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series entitled *The Sea of Monsters*. It tells the story of Percy's adventure in order to survive as a demigod (half-human and half-god). In this story Percy must rescue Grover who takes as a captive in Polyphemus' Island, by Polyphemus the Cyclops. At the same time he has to save Camp Half-Blood from Luke and the Titan Kronos' attacks by finding the Golden Fleece in order to cure the Thalia's poisoned tree (a tree that strengthens Camp Half-Blood's magical boundary) in the Polyphemus' Island. During his journey to the Polyphemus' Island, Percy is helped by Annabeth (daughter of Athena) and Tyson (a young Cyclops and Percy's half-brother), and later on he is helped by Clarisse (daughter of Ares) (Riordan's*The Sea of Monsters*).

The second novel used in this study is Homer's *The Odyssey* translated by Samuel Butler. *The Odyssey* is one of the two well-known epic poems by Homer, which was translated by Samuel Butler into a prose form in 1898 (Gutenberg.org). *The Odyssey* tells the story about Odysseus (also known as Ulysses in Roman myths) who comes back home after the Trojan War. Odysseus takes ten years joining in Trojan War, and another ten years to come back to his homeland. So, consequently, it takes twenty years to return

to Ithaca, his homeland. During his journey, Odysseus struggles from several obstacles (Butler *The Odyssey*).

In both stories the similarity and contrast of *The Sea of Monsters* and *The Odyssey* are very interesting to discuss. The aimof this study is to analyze the relation of the journey in Riordan's *The Sea of Monsters* and Homer's *The Odyssey* translated by Butler. By analyzing both stories using intertextual theory, this study will reveal the whole meaning of the texts through their historical relation between the prior texts, in *The Sea of Monsters* and *The Odyssey* (Pradopo 167). The writer will focuses on analyzing plot, setting, character, and theme from both stories to find out the relation of the journey. In addition, this study shows that there is intertextual relation of the classic literature and the modern one. It turns out that pop literature for children makes the reader get interested in reading historical books without even tracing the origin of the stories. It shows that classic literary texts are able to transcend into modern and popular literature and form the different story. This kind of literature that transcends from the other literature enriches the number of literary texts.

There were no previous studies on Riordan's Percy Jackson and the Olympians series *The Sea of Monster*. While on Homer's *The Odyssey*, there were many studieswith various theories, including intertextual theory. Moreover, there were no other studies of intertextuality, which have similar topic to the writer's. Thus, the writer wants to take a chance to discuss both works in an academic study.

2. Intertextuality

The term 'Intertextuality' is acknowledged by Julia Kristeva, a Bulgarian-French philosopher, literary critic, psychoanalyst and linguist, in the late 1960s. Even though Kristeva founded the term 'intertextuality', but originally, the concept comes from Russian literary theorist, Mikhail M. Bakhtin. Bakhtin more concerned about the relation of text (word) and its social situations, "for Bakhtin it stems from the word's existence within specific social sites, specific social registers and specific moments of utterance and reception (Allen 11). Yet, Bakhtin also stated that text/word, "emerges from a complex history of previous works and addresses itself to, seeks for active response from, a complex institutional and social context: peers, reviewers, students, promotion boards and so on (Allen 19).

Furthermore Barthes also stated that "texts generate their meaning out of their relation to literary and cultural systems, rather than out of any direct representation of the physical world" (Allen 12).

So, Bakhtin gives the idea that text/word is related to its specific social situations and its historical context. Moreover, in the term, 'Intertextuality', the relation is likely within its historical context of the literary work itself. Due to, any literary work is related with the other literary work produced in the same time, or with the previous works, or with the following works (Pradopo 167). Since, literary work is always related to its historical context, Riffaterre suggested the term 'Hypogram'. Hypogram is the relation of a literary work that becomes the creation of other texts background, "a text's hypograms will be those of its signs which relate to already existent semiotically signifying words or word-groups within the sociolect (texts produce their significance out of transformations of socially normative discourse)" (Allen 122). Riffaterre also suggested in *Semiotics of Poetry* that the new text gains its whole meaning within the relation of other text, weather the relation is agreement or disagreement (67).

Due to thw above consideration, Barthes reconsiders that the nature of a literary work is

> "no longer the product of an author's original thoughts, and no longer perceived as referential in function, the literary work is viewed not as the container of meaning but as a space in which a potentially vast number of relations coalesce" (Allen 12).

Barthes argued that a literary work does not emerge as an original form, but emerge from the compilation of previous literary works. So that, Barthes suggested the term of the death of the author, because in Intertextuality authors produce their literary works from the compilation of previous literary works, and literary works do not emerge from authors' own unique consciousness (Allen 14).Therefore, within the relation of Barthes' "The Death of the Author", Kristeva founded the term 'Intertextuality'. According to Kristeva, Intertextuality is a mosaic of quotations; any text is the absorption and transformation of another (Orr 21). From the definition of intertextuality, texts are always relates to each other. Kristeva argued that authors do not create their texts from their own original minds, but rather compile them from pre-existent texts (Allen 35).

However, according to Gérard Genette who elaborates Claude Lévi-Strauss's notion of the *bricoleur*, states that

> "whether he be one of Lévi-Strauss's primitive mythmakers or a Western literary critic, creates a structure out of a previous structure by rearranging elements which are already arranged within the objects of his or her study. The structure created by this rearrangement is not identical to the original structure, yet it functions as a description and explanation of the original structure by its very act of rearrangement. To put this simply, the bricoleur-critic breaks down literary works into 'themes, motifs, key-words, obsessive metaphors, quotations, index cards, and references" (Allen 96).

From the explanation of *bricoleur*, even though a literary work emerges from the compilation of the previous woks, however it has a creative process that's distinct in its own uniqueness.

3. Analysis

Since Intertextual theory concerns about the relation of one text to another, the relation of journey in Riordan's *The Sea of Monsters* and Homer's *The Odyssey* translated by Samuel Butler is an agreement. From the analysis of plot, setting, character, and theme of the story, the writer will formulate the relation of journey in both stories.

First, from the similarity and contrast of the general plot *The Sea of Monsters* and *The Odyssey* have the same plot. Both stories tell about a hard journey in the Sea of Monsters. *The Sea of Monsters*, tells about a hard journey of Percy in the Sea of Monsters. During his journey Percy has to overcome some dangerous obstacles from monsters and people that want to stop him from his journey. It is the same as in *The Odyssey* that tells about Odysseus who has to overcome dreadful fate during his journey in the Sea of Monsters after he joined the Trojan War to come to his homeland in Ithaca. However, the purpose of both hard journeys is different. The purpose of Percy's journey is to save his friend and the camp Half-Blood; while the purpose of Odysseus's journey is to come back to his homeland in Ithaca.

From the similarity and contrast of actions in plot, both stories have some similar actions. In *The Sea of Monsters* and *The Odyssey* there are some same actions that appear in both stories. The actions that appear in both stories are, first, the Laistrygonians' attack; second, the Hermes' aids; third, the battle with Charybdis and Scylla; fourth, the Circe's Island; fifth, the Siren's Island; and the last, is the Polyphemus' Island. Even though those actions appear in both stories but the chronological orders of those actions are different. In *The Sea of Monsters* those actions are presented in the complication, crisis, and climax of the story; while in *The Odyssey* all of those actions are presented in the crisis part of the story. Consequently, the action of climax of both stories is different. In *The Sea of Monsters*, the action of climax is located in the last action that is the Polyphemus' Island. This action is the highest point of the story because Percy fulfils his journey by arriving in the Polyphemus' Island where he saves Grover and takes the Golden Fleece. Meanwhile, the climax of *The Odyssey* is not included in all of those six same actions that appear in both stories. In *The Odyssey*, the action of climax is when Odyssey kills the suitors of his kingdom in Ithaca.

From the similarity and contrast of general setting in *The Sea of Monsters* and *The Odyssey*, the setting of place of both stories is the same. Both stories take place in the heart of the strongest Western Civilization country at the time. However, the difference is *The Odyssey* takes place in the past of the strongest Western Civilization country while *The Sea of Monsters* is in the present of the strongest Western Civilization country. *The Odyssey* takes place in the Ancient Greece where the origin of the Western Civilization occurred; while *The Sea of Monsters* takes place in the United States of the current heart of Western Civilization. Consequently, the difference of the setting of place also determines the setting of time that makes the setting of time of *The Odyssey* is in the ancient time while *The Sea of Monsters* is in modern time.

From the similarity and contrast of character, both stories have some similar characters. In *The Sea of Monsters* and *The Odyssey* there are some same characters. The characters that appear in both stories are first, the Laistrygonians; second, the God of Messenger "Hermes"; third, Charybdis and Scylla; fourth, Circe; fifth, the Sirens; and the last is Polyphemus the Cyclops. Those same characters that appear in both stories have some similar traits. Six of them still have their traits described in *The Odyssey* but they also

have some different traits that appear in *The Sea of Monsters*. In *The Sea of Monsters* those characters appear more modern following the setting of time of the story.

The last is from the similarity and contrast of the theme in both stories. The theme of both *The Sea of Monsters* and *The Odyssey* is someone should be firm in facing the hardship of achieving the goal. Both Percy and Odysseus have to make struggle to do a dangerous journey in the Sea of Monsters. However, the goal of Percy and Odysseus' journeys in the Sea of Monsters is different. The goal of Percy's journey is in order to save Grover from Polyphemus and to find the Golden Fleece to cure Thalia's tree.

From those similarities and contrasts of elements of the story in *The Sea of Monsters* and *The Odyssey* we can find out the relation of journey in both stories. The relation of journey in both stories is an agreement, since almost all elements of *The Sea of Monsters* are similar to *The Odyssey*. Moreover, the author of *The Sea of Monsters*, Riordan, also stated that he took his idea of creating a story from Greek Mythology. One of the Greek Mythologies used by Riordan is *The Odyssey*, which tells about an adventure of a Greek hero, Odysseus.

"I tend to think of a myth and then explore how it would play out if it were happening in the modern-day world. I modify all the myths I use, but I stick very closely to their structure" (Thorpe Online).

However, even though almost all element of *The Sea of Monsters* are similar with *The Odyssey*, there is also some modification of *The Sea of Monsters* that distinguishes from *The Odyssey*. We can point out all of the modifications in *The Sea of Monsters* from its contrast with *The Odyssey*. The major contrast of both stories is that *The Sea of Monsters* tells about the more modern story with modern setting. *The Sea of Monsters* tells the continuation of the story of the Olympians who live nowadays.

"It is easy to imagine the modern context by, say, having Aries riding on a motorcycle. These myths are universal and are totally ingrained in our culture. We are still struggling with the same things, so they fit neatly into the modern world" (Thorpe Online).

From the meaning of modification in plot, setting, characters, and theme in *The Sea of Monsters* and *The Odyssey* the study can find out the meaning of modification of *The Sea of Monsters* elements to *The Odyssey* in both stories. The meaning of modification of *The Sea of Monsters* elements to *The Odyssey* is in order to attract readers, especially children to read the story. According to Riordan

"He says he isn't trying to preach to children, only seduce them into - reading with humour, terror and excitement to keep them on the edge of their seats from page to page" (Williams online).

As in the previous analysis the writer explained that the targeted reader of *The Sea of Monsters* is children since this story is included in children's literature.

In addition, the purpose of the modification of the modern version of the Olympians is to make the reader of *The Sea of Monsters* related themselves into the characters in the story. As previously stated, the writer mentioned about *The Sea of Monsters* or *Percy Jackson and the Olympian* series that is able to attract many dyslexic children to read this story because one of the main Percy's traits is close to them.

"You read a lot of books and none of them have a hero who is dyslexic or has ADHD – it's always perfect people in a perfect world - doing perfect things. Percy is, in fact, very flawed and he has to fight against that and at the same time fight monsters" (Williams Online).

4. Conclusion

Since, in Intertextuality concerns about the relation between texts and how texts are relates to each other. The relation of Intertextuality can be seen in Rick Riordan's *The Sea of Monsters* and Homer's *The Odyssey* translated by Samuel Butler. This study found there is intertextual relation between *The Sea of Monster* and *The Odyssey*, especially the relation of journeys in both stories. As in both stories that tell about a hard journey of the main character in the Sea of Monsters. This study also shows that the classic work such as *The Odyssey* is able to transcend into a whole new form of literature for young readers by modifying some elements of the story. *The Sea of Monsters* that tells the same story as *The Odyssey* is about a hard journey in the Sea of Monsters that has some modified elements such as plot, setting, character, and theme. However, those modified elements have some similarity and contrast. Both stories tell about the same plot that is a hard journey in the Sea of Monsters with different purpose of the journey. There are also some actions of *The Odyssey* that appear and modified in *The Sea of Monsters*. In the

setting, both stories take in the same place within different actual location. For the characters, there are some characters in *The Odyssey* that appear in *The Sea of Monsters* with some different traits. Also the theme of both stories that tells about the hardship of achieving goal is the same but goal of each story is different. Nevertheless, even though there is some contrast of those elements of the story, the relation of journey in *The Sea of Monsters* and *The Odyssey* is agreement. It is because *The Sea of Monsters* follows the structure of *The Odyssey* with some modifications. However, those modifications in the plot, setting, characters, and theme of *The Sea of Monsters* are different from *The Odyssey*.

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