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Hero Archetypes Analysis of Super Mario Bros (2023) Movie

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Article Info	ABSTRACT
	This study aims to provide theoretical and practical insights into literary work analysis. Theoretically, the research is supposed to advance knowledge of literary criticism, particularly Jung's archetypal ideas. Practically, the research is predicted to be valuable for future studies in using archetypes in literary criticism for individuals eager to investigate and deepen their understanding of hero archetypes. This study adopts a descriptive and qualitative research analysis method. There were found five archetypes from twelve hero archetypes. There are, The Innocent, Ruler, Destroyer, Warrior, and Lover. This study not only focuses on the complexity of character development, but also the reoccurring narrative scenes. A thorough analysis of important scenes, dialogues, and moments throughout the film reveals how each character portrays different characteristics of the hero archetype.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The term archetype has long been used to refer to the core personality pattern from which duplications develop. It is about archaic basic sorts of universal images that have been in collective unconscious contents from the beginning of time (Daniels, 2011). The characteristics of archetypes may be confusing, as they may be both good and bad (Shelburne, 1976). Jung's broad and detailed study includes archetype theory. According to Jung, the self-realization that becomes full, or the 'true self,' is a human's process of becoming a genuine self. The archetypal features are portrayed in literary works since literature imitates human existence based on real or imagined happenings (Nursidik & Mustofa, 2021). An archetype serves two roles: it develops the story and clarifies a character's role in it. There are several archetypes that could be used to identify characters in a tale.

Heroes are represented because, whenever on a journey, the hero's characteristics are inextricably linked. Campbell (2004) highlights the several stages a hero must go through to achieve his or her goal in a story. A hero must embark on a trip, leaving behind his comfortable world in favour of a new one that will put him to the test. This new realm will provide challenges that the hero must face and overcome. After that, the hero must overcome the difficulties to return to his normal life. Each move they take to achieve their goal is laden with hardship. Once a hero decides to start on an adventure, there is no turning back. It may be seen in films with hero's issue. Heroes are represented because, whenever on a journey, the hero's characteristics are inextricably linked. Campbell (2004) highlights the several stages a hero must go through to achieve his or her goal in a story. A hero must embark on a trip, leaving behind his comfortable world in favor of a new one that will put him to the test. This new realm will provide challenges that the hero must face and overcome. After that, the hero must overcome the difficulties in order to return to his normal life. Each move they take to achieve their goal is laden with hardship. Once a hero decides to start on an adventure, there is no turning back. It may be seen in films with hero's issue.

The existence of movies is sometimes seen as a subcategory of literature since it has certain fundamental characteristics with classic literary genres such as books, theater, and poetry. Film, like

literature, uses narrative structure, character development, and symbolism to tell tales, explore topics, and investigate the human experience. One of the primary grounds for perceiving cinema as a literary genre is its narrative quality. A movie, like a novel or a short story, follows a defined storyline with a beginning, middle, and finish. Movies frequently contain characters who grow and evolve as the tale goes, allowing the viewer to connect with complicated concepts, emotions, and moral quandaries.

The animated *Super Mario Bros* movie released in 2023 is an adaptation of the 1985 Nintendo's game with the same name. This film is not only a popular spectacle among children but also a source of interest for many adults. It has attracted the attention of adult associations and has been the recipient of several prestigious awards. In the history of that game, the *Super Mario Bros* movie. is known as an interesting game that has a good story and triggers people to play the game. In 2023, the game was adapted into a movie, which reaped the feeling of déjà vu when watched. Therefore, it is of interest to investigate the components that contributed to the success of this film. Encouraging the investigation of cinematic components, such as directing, animation, and music composition, can provide a deeper understanding of how the film managed to create a deep and enthusiastic engagement for its audience. Looking at the hero in the main character of the *Super Mario Bros* movie, Mario who was popular at the time of the movie's release and decades after, also provides an important context for how the movie influenced perceptions of the values of confidence, courage, and kindness among its audience. Against the theory of hero archetypes, the characters in the Super Mario Bros (2023) movie such as Mario as main character, Toad, Peach Princess, Bowser, and also Luigi have interesting theories to discuss, especially the theory of the hero's archetype studies. The objective of this study is to portray the hero archetype in the movie characters as reflected in the *Super Mario Bros* (2023) movie.

This study aims to provide theoretical and practical insights into literary work analysis. Theoretically, the research is supposed to advance knowledge of literary criticism, particularly Jung's archetypal ideas. Practically, the research is predicted to be valuable for future studies in using archetypes in literary criticism for individuals eager to investigate and deepen their understanding of hero archetypes utilizing Carl Jung's ideas, especially students.

There are barely any studies in the field of archetypes analysis especially movie or novel's character analysis. After analyzing the main characters of R and Julie from *Warm Bodies* movie, Syarifah Rizakiah et al (2018) found five archetypes from the main characters of the movie, such as persona, shadow, anima, animus, hero by using Jung theory of archetypes and emphasizes that archetypes are ancient or archaic images derived from the collective unconscious and are expressed through dreams, fantasies, and delusions. On the other hand, Chevie Nurdayanti et al (2020) conducts an analytical archetypes study on novel entitled *Hush* novel. By using Jungian theory of archetypes study, the author shows some of archetypes in the main character of the novel such as the persona, shadow, anima and animus, great mother, wise old man, and the self in Patch's personality. Study related about hero archetype by using Campbell theory was carried out by Yanpulomi (2023). The article discusses the hero archetype in George R. R. Martin's *A Game of Thrones*, having a focus on the characters Jon Snow and Daenerys Targaryen, using Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey framework. It describes six sub-stages of the hero's journey that appear in the novel: the call to adventure, supernatural help, crossing the first threshold, the belly of the whale, meeting with God, and meeting the mentor. The study concludes that both characters have yet to confront their final trials, yet their paths reflect archetypal elements common in literature.

Previous research suggests similarities between the analysis of archetypes and the journey of the main character in novels and films. Some studies focus on identifying archetypes in literary works. However, there is no existing research that applies the theories of hero archetypes to the Super Mario Bros movie.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This study adopts a descriptive and qualitative research analysis method with the aim of defining and elucidating the archetypes present in the lead character of the movie *Super Mario Bros* Movie. The primary focus of the research is to employ Carl Gustav Jung's archetype ideas, specifically exploring the hero archetype within the film. The writer intends to identify and analyze the stages of character archetypes exhibited by the main character, utilizing Jung's theoretical framework as a lens for interpretation. The results of the analysis are in the form of words (Kuswoyo and Susardi, 2018).

The data collection technique is the technique used by the writer to collect data (Yunara and Kardiansyah, 2017). The data collected in descriptive analysis is in the form of words, and not numbers (Rido, 2015). In more detail, the method of data collection can be done by way of cataloging, classifying, noting, categorizing, and paraphrasing (Sriastuti, 2023). These are the steps for collecting the data of the study:

1) Watch carefully from beginning to end the movie *Super Mario Bros* (2023) movie as the object of this research.
2) Understand the contents of the movie and involve it according to the problem of the study.
3) Looks for data or phenomena in the movie related to the theory that the writer uses.

4) Highlight a mark on the scene and dialogue.
5) Collect data by rewatching every scene and dialogue in the movie.
6) Rewrite data or phenomena taken from the movie based on theory used.

3.   RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The study focuses how hero archetypes *in Super Mario Bros* (2023) movie characters are portrayed and this movie tells the story about Mario and Luigi fell into the pipe and arrived at the mushroom kingdom and save Luigi from the tyrant. There were five archetypes from 12 hero archetypes. There are, The Innocent, Ruler, Destroyer, Warrior/Hero, and Lover.

a. The Innocent

Figure 1. The Toad talk to Princess

Time   : 0: 35:43 - 0:36:04
Toad   : "*Come on Guys*"
Princess : "*A Toad brave enough to join me*"
Toad   : "*I Fear nothing*"
Princess : "*Well, that settles it, you're coming with us, let's move*"

The data above shows that Toad believes in his abilities. The dialogue "*I fear nothing*" portrays the Toad believes in his abilities, potential, and self-esteem. Toad believes in his ability to help Mario and Princess on their journey. He explains that Toad has courage and will protect them during their journey. Toad who believes in his unique ability belongs to the naive group of people because he has strong confidence to be able to face the challenges of even complicated cases. He understands that he has a certain value for his ability. According to Pearson (1991), The innocent is the impulsive, gullible child that has the hope to go on the adventure despite being somewhat dependent. Fearing desertion, the innocent look for protection. Their optimism and faith in others, which enabled them to receive assistance in carrying out their valiant missions, are their greatest assets. Mark and Pearson (2001) Demonstrate how the various layers of archetype innocent range from childish simplicity to a mystic integrity. The toad as an innocent, shows his naivety, trust and a heavenly sense of peace. It can be concluded that Toad characteristic can be indicated as an innocent.
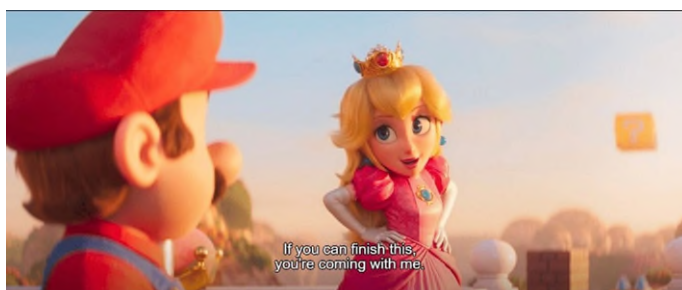
b. The Ruler

Figure 2. The Princess give Mario a test

Time   : 0:28:00 - 0:29:06
Princess : "*If you finish this, you're coming with me*"

The data above shows the Princess character portrayed as a ruler, which in the dialog above "*If you can finish this, you're coming with me*" shows that the princess character trains to test Mario's ability in training before Mario goes to save Luigi from Bowser's kingdom. The ruler represents as a skill and the power to control (Hartwell ve Chen, 2012). According to Pearson (1991), the ruler is portrayed as someone who wants to rule and dominate society in order to live a contented and comfortable existence. By testing Mario, the Princess asserts her leadership and she doesn't just let Mario rush off but ensures that he meets her standards by showing her control over the situation. The dialogue "*you're coming with me*" highlights her authority as a ruler, she holds the final say on whether Mario is ready, showing her role as the one who guides and leads. According to Pearson (1991), the ruler archetype fears chaos and seeks control, the Princess's test portrays her need for order and preparation, ensuring everything is under control before going on a risk journey, from this conversation and situation of this scene, it can be indicated her as a ruler.

c. The Destroyer

Figure 3. Bowser spoke to his troops

Time   : 0:33:20 - 0:33:56
Bowser : "*Then I will power up with this star, and destroy the Mushroom Kingdom*"

The data above shows the Bowser character portrayed as a destroyer, Which in the dialog above "*Then I will power up with this star and destroy the Mushroom Kingdom*" shows the Bowser mission to destroy the Mushroom Kingdom by using star power. His character exhibits a desire for total destruction, obsession with power. Additionally, the dialogue "power up" suggests the destroyer relies on external sources of power to intensify their destructive potential. According to Pearson (1991), the destroyer is a depiction of this character that involves brutal imagery and actions. They may endanger others and seem indifferent to their own physical or emotional well-being. As seen from the dialog he speaks, as well as his desire to destroy a territory and then take control of what he wants, it can be indicated that Bowser as a destroyer.

d. The Warrior/Hero

Figure 4. Mario accept a challenge from Cranky Kong

Time   : 0:46:31 - 0:46:57
Mario   : "*I will fight your son and win*"

In this scene, Mario asks Cranky Kong's Kingdom to fight with Mario to fight Bowser who will attack the Mushroom Kingdom. Cranky Kong as the king, challenged Mario to fight with his son as a condition for them to cooperate with Mario. The dialog "I'll fight your son and win" shows Mario's character as a Warrior.
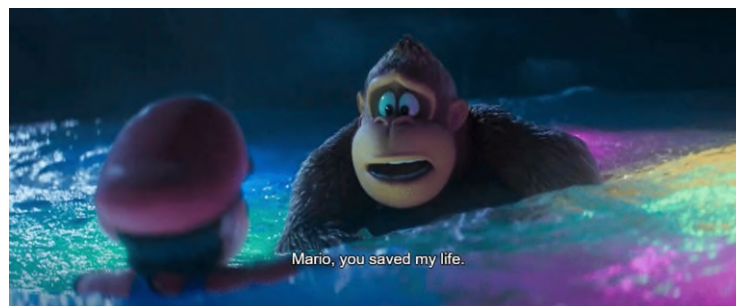
Hero Archetypes Analysis of Super Mario Bros (2023) Movie (Muhammad Daffa)

Figure 5. Mario saved Donkey Kong

Time   : 1:01:31 - 1:02:37
DK   : "*Mario, you saved my life*"

In this scene, Mario saves Donkey Kong from drowning when they both fall into the sea during their fight against Bowser's army. The dialog "*Mario, you saved my life*" shows that Mario has the attitude of a warrior where they save each other during battle and saves someone from a dangerous situation.

Figure 6. Mario in Bad Situation

Time   : 1:17;25
Bowser : "*Are you too scared Mario*?"

During the fight against Bowser, Mario felt that he would not win against Bowser, in this situation Mario experienced mental chaos. Arriving where Mario gets his spirit back through the memory of his journey so far.
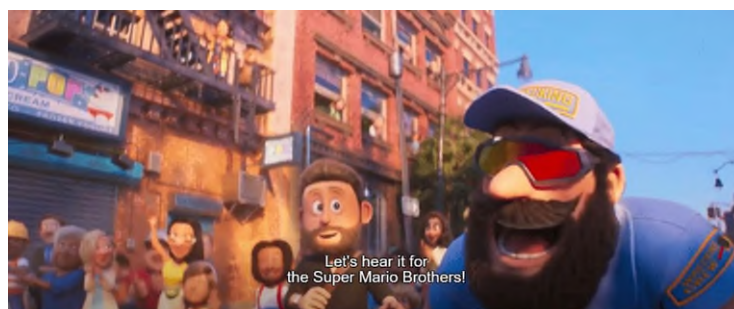

Figure 7. Mario Brothers saved the city

Time   : 1:22:04

After all the difficulties Mario had faced, in the end Mario was able to defeat Bowser and save the Mushroom Kingdom and also the city of Brooklyn, and in the end the name Mario brothers was remembered in the city of Brooklyn and considered a hero.

In some stories, the warrior is the sole figure who confronts the dragon after everything else seems gone. The warrior battles for themselves or the civilization around them. Mario's primary mission during his journey is to free his brother, Luigi, from Bowser's Kingdom. However, he dedicated himself to winning the

battle to save his brother and the Mushroom Kingdom. But in order to save his brother, Mario must carry out several tests from the Princess, save his partner from danger, go through various dangers and fight the king to save his brother and save the inhabitants of Mushroom Kingdom. According to Annabel Nelson (2024), The hero does not have an easy path. This path includes risks, sometimes fighting an opponent, and enduring hardships while embodying the characteristics of humility and endurance. After Mario had gone through the many challenges he faced, as well as having a strong determination to face the dangers that would be faced by him, it can be indicated Mario as a warrior/hero

e. The Lover

Figure 7. Mario and Luigi fight with Bowser

Time   : 1:19:14

This scene shows where Luigi saves Mario when Bowser attacks him with fire. At that moment, Mario and Luigi get additional strength and attack Bowser simultaneously. In this case, we can see a spirit of love between the Mario brothers. According to Pearson (1991), All forms of love, including friendship, parental affection, and spiritual love, are represented by the lover archetypes and also fortify himself when Mario is in a bad situation. But the greatest lover we know these days is romanticism. There were moments when the lover experienced turmoil and anguish. But they would always pursue the ecstasy of real love, which would make them happy and assist them in committing. Growing up with Mario as a brother as well as a work partner, helping to face danger together and helping each other out, it shows that Luigi as a lover.

Previous studies have analyzed about how the archetypes can be portrayed in literature work especially in movie and novel. First, focusing on how the main characters' archetypes are portrayed through their action and development in the movie and the archetypes such as persona, anima, animus, and shadow manifest as a image stemming from the collective unconscious (Syarifah Rizakiah, 2018). Moreover, another study has analyzed how archetypes shows in the novel by providing a literary analysis of archetypes within the written text, which allows for a broader exploration of internal psychological traits, and emphasize the collective unconscious and universal imagery (Chevie Nurdayanti, 2020). Yanpulomi, (2023) headline how archetypes can be portrayed by Campbell's theory of the hero journey, which is more specific to the structure of heroic narratives rather than a broader psychological framework such as collective unconscious. Provides a detailed breakdown of the hero archetype through the lens of narrative progression, offering insights into how the hero archetypes evolves within a storyline. As a result, the variety of approaches demonstrates how different frameworks can provide unique insights into archetypes study.

4.   CONCLUSION

Based on the results, the writer finds that the five archetypes drawn from Carl Jung's hero archetype, as shown in the *Super Mario Bros* (2023) movie, clearly demonstrate how these archetypal features are reflected by the various characters. A thorough analysis of important scenes, dialogues, and moments throughout the film reveals how each character portrays different characteristics of the hero archetype. This study not only focuses on the complexity of character development, but also the recurring narrative scenes that match with Jungian psychology, providing a better understanding of heroism as depicted in the media.

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