

**HERO'S JOURNEY IN "THE POPPY WAR" NOVEL
BY R. F. KUANG: ARCHETYPAL APPROACH**

THESIS



BY:

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FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES
PUTERA BATAM UNIVERSITY**

2025

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**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Sarjana Sastra (S1)**



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SURAT PERNYATAAN ORISINALITAS

Yang bertandatangan di bawah ini, saya:

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Menyatakan bahwa skripsi yang saya buat dengan judul:

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Adalah hasil karya sendiri dan bukan "duplikasi" dari karya orang lain. Sepengetahuan saya, di dalam naskah skripsi ini tidak terdapat karya ilmiah atau pendapat yang pernah ditulis atau diterbitkan oleh orang lain, kecuali yang secara tertulis dikutip di dalam naskah ini dan disebutkan dalam sumber kutipan dan daftar pustaka. Apabila ternyata di dalam naskah skripsi ini dapat dibuktikan terdapat unsur-unsur PLAGIASI, saya bersedia naskah skripsi ini digugurkan dan gelar yang saya peroleh dibatalkan, serta diproses sesuai dengan peraturan perundang-undangan yang berlaku.

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Batam, 18 July 2025



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DECLARATION OF THE THESIS ORIGINALITY

I, Maria Magdalena Gelu Dolun, NPM No. 181210020,

Hereby declare that the term paper entitled:

**HERO'S JOURNEY IN "THE POPPY WAR" NOVEL BY R. F. KUANG:
ARCHETYPAL APPROACH**

is the real work of myself and I realize that this thesis has never been published in other media before, partially or entirely, in the name on mine or others.

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181210020

APPROVAL PAGE

**HERO'S JOURNEY IN "THE POPPY WAR" NOVEL
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181210020**

The thesis has been approved to be examined on the date as indicated below

Batam, 18 July 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Robby Satria', written in a cursive style.

**Robby Satria, S.S., M.Hum.
Supervisor**



ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini menggunakan desain penelitian deskriptif kualitatif untuk menganalisis tahapan Hero's Journey yang dialami oleh tokoh utama, Fang Runin (Rin), dalam novel "The Poppy War" karya R. F. Kuang, yang menjadi objek dalam penelitian ini. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengkaji bagaimana narasi Rin sejalan dengan teori monomit Joseph Campbell (2004), yang membagi perjalanan heroik ke dalam tiga tahap utama: Separation, Initiation, dan Return, dengan total tujuh belas sub-tahap. Analisis dilakukan menggunakan pendekatan arketipal yang berlandaskan pada teori Carl Jung, dengan penekanan pada simbol-simbol universal dan pola karakter yang berulang dalam karya sastra. Data dikumpulkan melalui metode studi pustaka, dengan "The Poppy War" sebagai sumber data primer dan teks-teks teoretis sebagai sumber data sekunder, serta teknik close reading. Data dianalisis melalui analisis pendahuluan yang mencakup unsur intrinsik (alur, latar, tokoh, sudut pandang, dan tema) serta unsur ekstrinsik menggunakan kerangka teori Hero's Journey dari Campbell. Hasil penelitian disajikan dengan metode naratif-deskriptif melalui penjelasan interpretatif yang didukung kutipan langsung. Penelitian ini memiliki signifikansi dalam kontribusinya terhadap kritik sastra dengan menerapkan teori mitos klasik pada fiksi modern dan mendorong analisis interdisipliner lebih lanjut terhadap narasi kontemporer. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa perjalanan Rin memenuhi seluruh sub-tahap dalam tahap Separation dan Initiation, sementara beberapa sub-tahap dalam fase Return tidak ditemukan atau mengalami modifikasi. Hasil ini menunjukkan bagaimana novel ini menyimpang dari struktur heroik tradisional dengan menggambarkan bentuk kepahlawanan yang lebih gelap dan realistis yang dibentuk oleh trauma, konflik, dan pencarian identitas.

Kata Kunci: Kritik Mitos, Pendekatan Arketipal, Perjalanan Pahlawan

ABSTRACT

This research employs a descriptive qualitative design to analyze the stages of the Hero's Journey experienced by the protagonist, Fang Runin (Rin), in R. F. Kuang's novel "The Poppy War," which serves as the object of the research. The study aims to examine how Rin's narrative aligns with Joseph Campbell's monomyth theory (2004), which outlines three main stages: Separation, Initiation, and Return, divided into seventeen sub-stages. The analysis adopts an archetypal approach grounded in Carl Jung's theory, emphasizing universal symbols and recurring character patterns in literature. The data were collected using a library research method, with *The Poppy War* as the primary source and theoretical texts as secondary sources and the close reading for its technique. The data were analyzed through preliminary analysis, covering both intrinsic (plot, setting, character, point of view, and theme) and extrinsic elements using Campbell's Hero's Journey framework. The results were reported using a narrative-descriptive method, presenting evidence through interpretive explanation supported by quotations. This research is significant for its contribution to literary criticism by applying classical myth-based theory to modern fiction and encouraging further interdisciplinary analysis of contemporary narratives. The findings reveal that Rin's journey fulfills all sub-stages of Separation and Initiation, while some sub-stages in the Return phase are either absent or modified. These results illustrate the novel's subversion of traditional heroic narratives, portraying a darker and more realistic vision of heroism shaped by trauma, conflict, and identity.

Key Words: Myth Criticism, Archetypal Approach, Hero's Journey

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

MOTTO

“No matter how hard or impossible it is, never lose sight of your goal.”

(Monkey D Luffy)

DEDICATION

**I dedicate this thesis to my parents, my family, and everyone who believed in
me when I doubted myself.**

**I dedicate this thesis to myself, thank you for being strong enough to finish
what you started.**

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

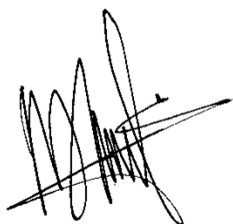
All praise and gratitude are due to the Lord of the worlds, who has shown mercy and provided gift, allowing the researcher to complete this thesis titled “Hero’s Journey In “The Poppy War” Novel by R. F. Kuang: Archetypal Approach,” for the requirements of the undergraduate study program (S1) in the English Literature Study Program, Putera Batam University.

The researcher realized that this thesis is far from perfect. As a result, the researcher will gladly accept criticism and suggestions. With all the limitations, the researcher also realized that this thesis would not be complete without help, guidance, and encouragement from the various parties.

Furthermore, the researcher would like to express here sincere gratitude to:

1. Dr. Nur Elfi Husada, S. Kom., M.SI., as a Rector of Putera Batam University.
2. Dr. Michael Jibrael Rorong, S.T., M.I.Kom, as the Dean of the Social Science and Humanities Faculty of Putera Batam University.
3. Nurma Dhona Handayani, S.Pd., M.Pd., as Head of the English Department of Putera Batam University and as academic advisor.
4. Robby Satria, S.S., M.Hum. as the supervisor of researcher, who has given his continually guidance, advices, and contribution in the studies of researcher throughout all the semesters in Putera Batam University.
5. All lecturers of Department of English Literature, for their knowledge, motivation, and suggestion during my study and research at Putera Batam University
6. My beloved parents, for their unconditional love, endless prayers, and constant encouragement. Their sacrifices and support have been my biggest source of strength.
7. My siblings, for always cheering me on, making me laugh in difficult times, and reminding me to stay hopeful and strong
8. All of my friends in the thesis guidance with all the information and knowledge they have given me.

Batam, 18 July 2025



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