

**TRAGIC HERO ANALYSIS ON APOLLO IN RICK
RIORDAN'S *THE TRIALS OF APOLLO: THE HIDDEN
ORACLE***

THESIS



BY:

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UIN SUNAN AMPEL SURABAYA

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TRAGIC HERO ANALYSIS ON APOLLO IN RICK RIORDAN'S *THE TRIALS OF APOLLO: THE HIDDEN ORACLE*

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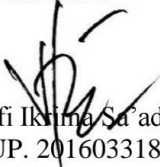
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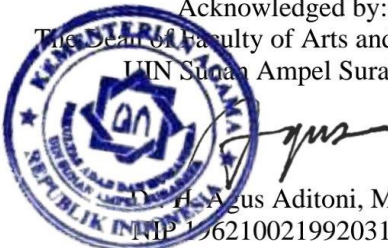
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Family, although it can also come from a lower social level. Each of them had unique childhood experiences that shaped them into heroes.

This study analyzed Rick Riordan's fictional character named Apollo as a tragic hero in the novel *The Trials of Apollo: The Hidden Oracle*. *The Trials of Apollo: The Hidden Oracle* is an adventure-fantasy neo-mythological novel written by Rick Riordan. The novel is based on Mythology in Greece and Rome. First released on May 3, 2016, the novel is the first book of The Trials of Apollo series. The series is the spin-off to its predecessor, the Greek mythology fantasy novel *Percy Jackson and the Olympian*.

This story centers on the god Apollo as the main character. Because of the mistakes he made, his father Zeus cursed him and turned him into a human. He was exiled to New York city from Olympus. Then he was saved by someone called Meg. He and his friend, who is a half-blood of god or further referred to as "demigod," went camping Half-blood to carry out the mission to restore his status as a god.

Apollo, as the main character in this story, is described as a selfish and narcissistic god. Since being sent down to earth and becoming an ordinary human because of his descendant's fault, everything he thinks goes the opposite way. Therefore the researcher found that Aristotle's theory of tragic hero is the appropriate theory for this research. The researcher also used new criticism as the supporting theory to better understand Apollo's characterization.

Occasionally, the author of a literary work may explicitly characterize a character in the story. However, there are literary works in which a character's description is implied. It can be discovered through conversations or dialogues. The explicit representation is more approachable to the readers than the implicit one. Because the author only presents a clue to establish the character's characteristics, the implicit or indirect characterization would be complex. In this example, the researcher will use a New Criticism Theory to represent the main character to determine how he acted to his origin.

2.3 previous studies

Another thing to notice before the researcher conducts the study is that this has not been done before. As a result, the present researcher explored Rick Riordan's *The Trials of Apollo: The Hidden Oracle* as the subject of research or used the same tragic hero theory as the current study. The researcher discovered eight previous studies.

The first is a research conducted by Dewi Savitri Permatasari from English Literature, Faculty of Languages and Arts, State University of Surabaya. The title is Neo-Mythologism and The Individuation Process of The Contemporary Character of Apollo in Rick Riordan's *The Trials of Apollo: The Hidden Oracle* (2017). This research examines Apollo's individualism change throughout the story. The researcher relates Apollo's attitude with Carl Jung's personality theory and finds that Apollo, as the god, becomes humbler and nicer when turned into a

human since, as a god, he is very stubborn and selfish. This change happens because the conflict arose.

The second research is conducted by Nadya Hera Devanty, a student of English literature, Airlangga University. The title is Paradoxical representation of nature in Rick Riordan's *The Trials of Apollo: The Hidden Oracle*: an ecocritical study (2019). This research explores the paradoxical existence representation shown in the novel *The Trials of Apollo* by Rick Riordan: *The Hidden Oracle*. The writer applies the Theory of Ecocriticism by Lawrence Buell. The researcher found that nature is presented as strong and weak simultaneously, and nature is shown as anthropocentric since it still needs humans to keep it safe.

The next is a research conducted by Catarina Bintang Sukmajanti, a student of language and arts at Sanata Dharma University Yogyakarta. The title is A study of poetry translation principles and acceptability of *The Trials of Apollo: The Hidden Oracle* (2018). This research analyzes poetry translation and acceptability. The researcher relates the acceptability of the poetry with the theory of acceptability by Larson and found that 35 out of 39 poetry translations found 36 poetry is found acceptable.

The last is a research conducted by Gatot Wikanto, a student of the English letter department at Sanata Dharma University Yogyakarta. The title is the message revealed through Apollo's conflict in Rick Riordan's *The Trials of Apollo: The Hidden Oracle* (2019). This research analyzes Apollo's characterization, the conflict he faces, and the message revealed through the

conflict. The researcher uses New Criticism as the leading theory to analyze the study. Then the researcher found that the message revealed that sacrifice anything, be brave to take the risk, and never give up.

Then the researcher also found several studies related to the theory of tragic hero by Aristotle. Daniel Rom conducts the first, a student of Stellenbosch University, entitled *The Suffering Heracles: An Analysis of Heracles as a Tragic Hero in The Trachiniae and the Heracles* (2016). The study used Aristotle's theory of tragic hero to analyze Heracles as the tragic hero. Heracles' complexity as a mythological character stems partly from the Greeks' perception of him as both man and god in various situations. As a result, he is one of the ancient Greek world's only true demigods. This research also found that the *Trachiniae* and the *Heracles* are remarkable not because they put tragedy on Heracles for no reason but because they specifically examine this crucial part of his character. Instead of simplifying the problem, they bring it to a tragic end. As a result, we may better understand Heracles in this position, *The Suffering Heracles*.

Mahbuba Rahman conducts the second, a student at BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh, entitled *Evolution of the Tragic Hero: A Shift from God to Man* (2015). The study used Aristotle's theory of tragic hero to examine the diversity of tragic heroes in five plays. The study is divided into five chapters, which examine the ancient idea of the tragic hero and the Aristotelian concept discussed in *Poetics*. This study looked at how Sophocles framed his tragic hero in terms of basic Greek notions, including religion, law, crime, and punishment. The second chapter examines the renaissance notion of a tragic hero as depicted by

Christopher Marlowe and William Shakespeare, which differs from the Aristotelian model in a subtle but fundamental way. The third chapter discusses the modern notion of a tragic hero, which deviates from the conventional image of a tragic hero and emphasizes the transition from God to Man.

The next is conducted by RR. Lira Dewi Cahyaningrum, a student from Santa Dharma University, Yogyakarta, entitled Representation of Creon's Tragic Hero in Sophocles' *Antigone* (2007). The study used Aristotle's theory of tragic hero to describe what Creon as a tragic hero is to convey as the profound portrayal of Creon as a monarch. According to the writer, Creon's characteristics as a king included being loyal (to Thebes), obstinate (stubborn), arrogant, self-absorbed, authoritarian, stupid, male-chauvinistic, narrow-minded, fond of his family, affluent, not greedy, noble, influential, and intelligent. Second, the researcher can determine that Creon is an Aristotelian tragic hero based on his qualities.

The last is conducted by Sandra Siti Nurhanah, a student of Islamic State University of Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung, entitled Tragic Hero in Eugene O'Neill's *The Hairy Ape*. (2019). The study used Aristotle's theory of tragic hero to analyze tragic hero in Eugene O'Neill's *The Hairy Ape*. As a result of the analysis, the researcher discovers characteristics and factors that are the origins of the tragic hero's issue. Yank's ordinary hero transforms into a tragic hero due to the story, which criticizes his friends. The main characters that continuously urge Yank to be a tragic hero are the main factors that make him a tragic hero.

“Before dinner, I teleported to the Grove of Dodona, deep within the camp’s forest. Just as before, the ancient trees whispered in a cacophony of voices – snatches of riddles and songs, bits of doggerel (some of it actually about dogs), recipes and weather reports, none of it making much sense. Brass wind chimes twisted in the branches, reflecting the evening light and catching every breeze. ‘Hello!’ I called. ‘I came to thank you!’ The trees continued to whisper, ignoring my presence. ‘You gave me the Arrow of Dodona as my guide!’ I continued I detected a tittering of laughter among the trees. ‘Without the arrow,’ I said, ‘my quest would have failed. It sacrificed itself to defeat Python. Truly, it was the greatest in all the grove!’” (Riordan, 2020, p. 238)

