

**STEVE ROGERS'S HERO JOURNEY IN THE CAPTAIN AMERICA:
THE FIRST AVENGER (2011)**

Mochammad Alwi Husein

English Department, Faculty of Language and Arts, Universitas Negeri Surabaya

mochammad.18009@mhs.unesa.ac.id

Abstrak

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengekspos karakter utama, perjalanan Steve Rogers sebagai pahlawan, di *Captain America: The First Avenger*. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan Monomit dari Joseph Campbell. Dimulai dengan *keberangkatan*, *inisiasi*, dan *kepulangan*. Analisis mengungkapkan bahwa Steve Rogers memulai Perjalanannya ketika dia ingin bergabung dengan militer. Dia melewati banyak kesulitan yang mempengaruhi perkembangan karakternya. Dia mendapatkan kemampuan manusia super dan fisik manusia super, membawanya ke dunia berbahaya yang tidak diketahui. Dia bertemu dengan seorang wanita bernama Peggy Carter, yang membantunya dalam perjalanannya. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa siklus Monomit dalam urutan ini berakhir di tengah tahap *Kembali*. Ini menyiratkan bahwa film ini adalah tindakan pemicu dan langkah pertama dalam perjalanan Steve Roger untuk menjadi pahlawan di akhir perjalanannya.

Kata kunci: Perjalanan Pahlawan, Monomyth, Tahapan, Joseph Campbell, Karakter

Abstract

The purpose of this research is to expose the main character, Steve Rogers's journey as a hero, in *Captain America: The First Avenger*. The study uses Joseph Campbell's Monomyth approach. It begins with *departure*, *initiation*, and *return*. The analysis reveals that Steve Rogers begins his Hero's Journey when he wants to join military. He goes through many hardships that affect his character's development. He gets superhuman abilities and a superhuman physicality, leading him to an unknown dangerous world. He meets a woman named Peggy Carter, who assists him in his story. This research concludes that the Monomyth cycle in this sequence finishes amid the *Return stage*. It implies that this film is a triggering act and the first step in Steve Roger's journey to becoming a hero at the conclusion of his journey.

Keywords: Hero's Journey, Monomyth, Stages, Joseph Cambell, Character

I. INTRODUCTION

A film can be created by filming a real scene with a film camera, using classic animation techniques with CGI and computer animation, or combining many current techniques and additional visual effects. Films are classified into numerous genres action, adventure, comedy, horror, documentary, tragedy, romance, and mystery. Films can be fiction, actual tales, or a combination of those two. Fiction defines as an ideal universe created by someone's imagination that includes characters (Nurgiyanto, 1998). Character is a crucial aspect of the film. A character is a person in a literary work who has an identity established by their look, dialogue, behavior, name, and ideas in their head. The characters make the film look more alive (Milawaty,

2011). Especially for the main characters, he has an essential role in films. They have a massive influence on representing the important thing a film wants to deliver to the audience (Rujito, 2013).

In superhero movies, the Heroic Imagination Project defines a hero as an individual or a network of people that take action on behalf of others in need, or in defense of integrity or a moral cause. It implies that heroes have an indirect responsibility to help people or eradicate evil because they can do so (Wulandari, 2018). It is not easy to decide who deserves the title "Hero" in real life (A. Amalia, 2020). We can see heroes through existing references such as in books, comics, videos, or maybe movies. A hero is someone who has stood out for freedom and equality for people from different backgrounds of life. (Regalado et al., 2017). Such an act

refers to "heroism." According to Joseph Campbell (2004), a hero is someone who has given or dedicated his life to something greater than himself (Campbell, 2004). Heroes can set off on adventures on purpose or heroes can be thrown into the adventure.

When people watch a movie, especially the one with a heroic theme, they only focus on the hero as the main character. People are too concerned with what the hero accomplishes, what he obtains, what talents he possesses, and how the hero feels during the movie. This is not a big problem or abnormal occurrence in real life, but there are other important factors than the main character, one of which are the stages of the hero's journey (Franco et al., 2011). The stages that the hero must complete or encounter along the way until he gets the power that he wants to become a hero. All stories consist of common structural elements of the stage found universally in myths, fairy tales, dreams, and films (Mohammadi, 2013).

There are several studies have been conducted to discuss the hero's journey by Joseph Campbell's approach, one of them is Joseph Campbell's Monomyth as presented in Spiderman Film by Rahmad Khanafi, He chose Spiderman Film because of the theme contained inside its about heroism in his study, the only reason why he chooses that theme because heroism is natural identifying feature in every human. Khanafi analyzes the journey of Peter Parker as the main character in this movie become a heroic figure. Khanafi uses the hero's journey theory by Joseph Campbell (Khanafi, 2016) According to the theory, the hero's journey and hero as the main character in many stories, fairy tales, and myths around the world, unconsciously appear in similar shapes and patterns.

Other studies by Rohmat Anang Fakhruddin and Pratiwi Retnaningdyah (2019) in their research "Monomyth Analysis on Katniss Everdeen's Journey in Suzanne Collin's The Hunger Games 1st Series" also use Monomyth by Joseph Campbell. In their study, they are focusing on the transformation of the character Katniss Everdeen. Throughout her journey, she gains two identities one is an ordinary person and the other one is a winner that is loved by everyone (Fakhruddin & Retnaningdyah, 2019). Captain America: First Avenger is the first movie in the Captain America series. In this particular series, Steve Roger is the main character in this film. As I Made Purnawan, et al. said in their study "main characters are the important role that contributes to developing the plot of the story" (Purnawan et al., 2017) According to Maemunah Endah Study (2008), the

event about a serum will completely change the whole plot. That does not make sense because is hard to believe if it did not happen in real life (Sari, 2008). The explanation about that makes researchers excited about what's about to happen in Steve Rogers's Journeys.

In this research, the writer only focuses and wanted to show the transformation of Steve Rogers, the main character that appears in this film. Rogers grew up suffering from numerous health problems in his childhood, and upon America's entry into World War two, he got a rejection from serving in the United States Army despite several attempts to enlist. He is so determined to become a soldier in order to prove to his loving mother and closest friend that he is capable of being a soldier (Zatalini, 2018). Rogers ultimately meets someone who would completely change his life. He chose a path that effectively change his journey. Because of the serum that makes him younger and physically very strong, a man who is brave, wise, charismatic, and highly upholds the dignity of his country. He did not think much about the serum and decides to take it. Here, he showed the attitude of a passionate young man without knowing the consequences of his actions. Having a high patriotism spirit, young Steve still has a big ego, ignorant and careless (F. Amalia, 2014). Even though the serum makes Steve Rogers step up to another big journey that awaits him. It is time when Steve Rogers' adventure in this film begins to become exciting. After receiving the serum, he needs to accomplish something extraordinary like saving everyone's lives and protecting his country in order to prove to himself that he is worthy to be a hero (Bryan, 2020). But even after having a superpower, Steve Rogers is still like an ordinary person. Having a superpower does not make he can manage everything on his own. He still needs help from people around him to solve problems along his journey (Sugeng et al., 2019).

According to Joseph Campbell's theory(2004), the hero must go through three main stages on his journey to becoming a hero. Each of the main stages has a series of sub-stages. There are five total stages in *departure*, six sub-stages in *initiation*, and six sub-stages in *return*.

The *departure* stage starts with the *call of adventure*, which implies that a hero, as an ordinary person, is invited or called to begin an adventure in his life as a hero. The hero may have bad thoughts or feelings along his journey, and he must decide his journey's destiny. This stage is referred to as *refusal of the call*. *Supernatural aid* is a common sight in the

hero's theme in which a hero receives assistance from helper figures to assist him in resolving a problem along his journey. *Crossing the first threshold* stage challenges a hero to face new and perhaps dangerous situations. The hero transforms while in the *belly of the whale*. Become a better and enhanced version of himself. The hero experiences many difficulties, temptations, and trials throughout the *initiation* stage of his journey. Such as the *road of trials* and *the woman as temptress*. The *road of trials* aims to better prepare the hero to face the enemy or the problems that await him. While in *woman as a temptress*, there are feminine figures that will divert the hero from his goal. If there is a disruption, there is someone who can assist, namely at the stage of *the meeting with the goddess* and *atonement with the father*. A meeting with those people will help the hero to continue his journey. While the other two, *apothecosis* and the *ultimate boon*, are stages in which the hero becomes a better version of himself and achieves the objective that he always desired. For the *return* stage, the hero needs to accomplish the last six stages in order to complete Joseph Campbell's hero journey. Starting with *refusal of the return*, the hero with all his wealth, knowledge, and power, the hero can make the decision to refuse to return to where he came from, and can create a new life anywhere he wants. *The magic flight* and the *crossing of the return threshold* stage where the hero faces more dangers and difficulties than in *departure* stage. Even on the *return* journey, the hero always receives assistance from the people he meets along the journey hence, the stage is known as *rescue from without*. The hero reaches, the very end stage of his journey. *Master of two worlds* and *freedom to live*, is where the hero finally has the power and knowledge to even change everything around him and even get a better life with it.

So the purpose of this study is to apply Joseph Campbell's Monomyth to the main character in *Captain America: The First Avenger*, Steve Rogers. The writer chose Steve Rogers as the main character in the film because the writer was interested in character transformation that will affect the whole plot and story. The writer also wants to tell the audience that there is a journey that awaits even at the end of the journey. The paper argues that Steve Rogers as a hero experiences needs to through those the stages of a hero's journey from *departure*, *initiation*, and then *return*.

Method

This study employs Joseph Campbell's monomyth concept to reveal the hero's journey of Steve

Rogers, the main character of *Captain America: The First Avenger*. The article employs Joseph Campbell's monomyth as appeared in this film. The main data are gathered by analyzing and watching *Captain America: The First Avengers*. The data would mostly take the form of images of scenes (screenshots), actions, dialogues, and timestamps from the film. The information obtained from the film was analyzed and elaborated upon using Campbell's monomyth approach.

Findings and Discussions

Findings

The writer can show the main data related to the hero's journey to employ in this article after conducting research and collecting sample data. The concept of hero's journeys is to transform a character from ordinary person to outstanding hero. Steve Rogers is the main character in this story. In order to finish his adventure, he must proceed through three big stages based on Joseph Campbell's hero's Journey. The stages divide into three main stages, departure, initiation, and return. However, some of the sub-stages especially in the return stage not be used by the writer because some of them, unfortunately, did not exist or appear in the movie. Therefore, there are only eleven stages that appear in this movie.

Discussions

The ordinary world is the place of the hero lives and shows the background of the hero. The story takes time in 1943 when wars are still raging around the world. The war that occurred lost many lives and caused widespread destruction. The number of victims made young people hasten to join the military. Steve Rogers was one of these youths. He, at that time, was a person who had a bad physical form but had a high patriotic spirit to defend his nation.

Departures

Departure is the first step or stage of the hero. It is the starting point of the hero's journey from his comfort world to a completely whole new world. *Departure* describes as the release of the parental authority of a child to face a new life. In *departure*, usually tell how the conditions in the past before becoming a hero. Like how he looks, how life, his background, and family situations in the past. The things that underlie a *departure* can be many things, for example, proving himself, keeping promises, and

personal satisfaction. All of that can be used as a reason or guidance for someone to start a *departure*.

The Call to Adventure

This is the very beginning of the hero's journey. The first sub-stages of *departure*. This part is the beginning of the hero's journey where he often faces or experiences problems that prevent him from developing his character. Joseph Campbell stated that "*the beginning of a hero's journey is from problems (blunder)*" (2004) (Campbell, 2004). From that problem, the hero will have to make a decision that would change his life. In the First Avenger, Steve Rogers also has problems in the beginning. Here he describes as a young man in his twenties whose physical form is weak, even weaker than an ordinary person. He is also too skinny to become a soldier. The story begins when he wants to join the military.

(00:08:42)



Image 1: This scene is when Rogers wants to join military in World War two.

As you can see in the image above, Steve Rogers is on a call to see if he is fit for military service. This is the first problem that Steve Rogers must face. He insists on joining the military because he wants to follow his father's path. He wants to fight like real soldiers who put their lives at risk to protect their country. However, in image one, Steve Rogers is a tiny young man, perhaps too skinny for ordinary people, shorter and wobbly even while walking. A hero's journey might begin with a variety of circumstances. In the case of Steve Rogers, the pattern of the hero's journey always begins with the hero himself.

Refusal to call

Campbell state about this stage, Campbell states, "*walled in boredom, hard work, or 'culture,' the subject loses the power of significant affirmative action*

and becomes a victim to be saved" (2004: 59) (Campbell, 2004). It can be conclude that the hero's journey it's not always about happiness. Sometimes, the hero needs to face the negativities to survive on his journey. That's *the part of refusal the call*.

(00:08:55)



Image 2: In this scene, the Doctor rejects Rogers registration because Rogers was diagnosed with many ailments.

This stage is about the hero facing the unknown things in his journey. The hero may feel negative about what is going to happen throughout the journey. As a result, Rogers got a rejection from the military. And the worst is, upon further inspection, he has an even worse problem. He is diagnose with a various list of ailments, one of them is asthma. The doctor even said, (00:08:55 – 00:08:59)" *sorry son, you won't be able to regis for asthma alone*".

Supernatural Aid

Supernatural aid is a part when the hero needs some sort of assistance or guidance to help him upon his journey in the most critical crisis in his life to survive to the next stage. Campbell states, "*For those who have not refused the call, the first encounter of the hero-journey is with a protective figure (often a little old man) who provides the adventurer with amulets against the dragon forces he is about to pass*. (Campbell, 2004) "

(00:16:05)



Image 3: Doctor Abraham Erskine summoned Rogers to a private room to interview him.

Fortunately, as Campbell stated about the “old man”, the helping figure that would help Steve Rogers on his journey, precisely an old man, the name is Doctor Abraham Erskine. Doctor Abraham Erskine was the head of the superhuman project. Doctor Abraham overhears Rogers arguing with his friend in several previous scenes and insists on entering the military. This is what leads the Doctor to call him to a room. First, he starts interrogating him because Rogers's motive to become a soldier catches his interest. The doctor says, “five exams in five different cities” (00:16:11 – 00:16:13) Then Rogers reply “it might be the wrong file” (00:16:14 – 00:16:15) The Doctor replies, “it’s not the exam i am interested, it’s the five tries” Then the Doctor start asks the question “do you want to kill N*azis?” (00:16:16 – 00:16:24) as a test. The Rogers answer, is “I don’t wanna kill anyone. I don’t like bullies, I don’t care where they came from” (00:16:34 – 00:16:39) Impress by this “little guy” answer doctor offer a chance, only one chance for him if he wants it. This is the part in which the hero Steve Rogers receives assistance at a crucial moment, allowing him to progress to the next stage. An assistance that makes him become a soldier.

Crossing the First Threshold

The crossing of the first threshold is a step at which he will be tested to see if he is worthy of joining the military. As Campbell stated, *Such custodians bound the world in the four directions –also up and down – standing for the limits of the hero’s present sphere, or life horizon. Beyond them is darkness, the unknown, and danger;-* This stage is the beginning where he will face all kinds of things in the unknown, maybe even dangerous. Rogers did not become a soldier immediately after receiving approval from the doctor. To become a real soldier, he must face and pass a test in this stage.

(00:19:57)



Image 4: The scene depicts Rogers lined up to begin his first training to become a soldier.

As shown in the above picture, Rogers and the other cadets get an order to line up and give instructions. Rogers and the others begin by reading a book to study the military. Then, they will practice their physical

abilities like climbing ropes, crawling, running, etc. During the training, other cadets bully Rogers every time because his physique is weaker than others. At this stage, he must either get good grades or pass this trial to continue to the next stages.

{00:24:00}



Image 5 : Rogers jump to a grenade and cover it with his body.

There is a scene that shows the first heroic action done by the main character Steve Rogers and also crucial for him to move on to the next stage. When he and others are training, the colonel of the division throws a grenade as a “test” to see how brave the soon-to-be soldiers are in dealing with the situation. When the colonel shouts the word “Grenade!” The others cadets scatter and running away. But Rogers, immediately jumps to the grenade and covers the grenade with his body while shout “get away, get back” (00:23:54 – 00:23:57) without thinking about his own. That action makes Doctor Erskine smile at the colonel and makes him more certain that Rogers is a suitable candidate for the superhuman project.

The Belly of the Whale

The belly of the whale can be symbolized as a fresh birth or rebirth. It means that the hero begins with a new thing such as appearances, talents, or even material.

(00:37:15)



Image 6: This scene shows Rogers' physical appearance changing as a result of the success of the superhuman experiment.

In this particular scene, Steve Rogers has a completely different physical appearance. Beforehand,

he was a skinny guy, short, and look weaker than a normal man. But now, after receiving serum from a superhuman project, he became a "real" man who has a strong physique, is muscular, height, and looks strong. At this stage, Rogers has a new ability that brings him closer to being the true soldier he has always desired. However, this stage indicates that a new journey awaits. As a true soldier, he also has a new goal.

Initiation

The hero continues his journey in a completely new world throughout the *Initiation* phases. Rogers needs to learn how to use his strength or talents after receiving a new gift in previous stages that help him proceed to the next journey. After leaving the *departure* stage, the hero will start the main part of *the initiation* stage. The hero's main role in the adventure is *initiation*. There is six sub-stage within the *initiation* stage.

The Road of Trials

This stage is another journey where the hero needs to do a series of trials. These trials are made to test whether the hero can complete this trial and prove his new abilities. Campbell states: *"The hero is covertly aided by the advice, amulets, and secret agents of the supernatural helper whom he met before his entrance into this region. Or it may be that she here discovers for the first time that there is a benign power everywhere supporting her in her superhuman passage."* (Campbell, 2004:97). The statement also can be explained as, the trial of knowing your allies and enemies.

(00:38:39)



Image 7 : Rogers shows his anger emotions due the death of doctor Abraham Erskine.

The first trial he must face is the pursuit of Doctor Erskine's murderer. Previously, following a successful super soldier project and Rogers successfully becoming a "superhuman", Doctor Erskine was shot by an unknown man. Rogers, rage by that accident, begins to pursue the murderer. At first, he confuses because of his new physique. He is still unable to fully control his

own body. He sometimes crashes into stuff in front of him.

(00:41:14)



Image 8: Doctor Abraham's murderer held a kid as a captive.

Rogers almost apprehends the killer, but he escapes, and the murderer abducts a child. This is the second trial he must accomplish to follow the murderer while rescuing a child held captive by the murderer. Rogers chases him to a dock, where the killer, thankfully, ran out of bullets and makes him throw the child and flee. Rogers immediately rushes to save the child, who responds, "don't worry, I can swim." Rogers then continues his pursuit of the murderer. The murderer had a mystery watercraft that he intends to use for running, but Rogers able to wreck the boat and capture the murderer. However, the murderer committed himself by poisoning himself, while saying "All hail Hydra". This accident will lead Rogers to discover who his true enemies are.

The Meeting with the Goddess

This stage is called *meeting with the goddess*, it can describes as a cooling trip or finding peace after experiencing all kinds of dangerous things. At this stage, maybe the hero is given a blessing that might help the hero on the journey that awaits. The *Goddess* describes as a female figure who will give moral support, wisdom, and even blessings to the hero on his journey.

(00:52:24)

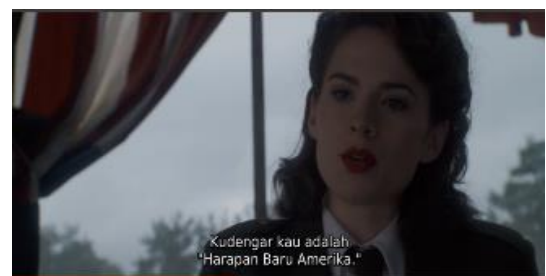


Image 9: Peggy Carter comes to see Rogers to encourage him.

Rogers, despite the fact, becomes a soldier, Rogers did not immediately get the task that he wants. He has the order to become a mascot, sing, act, etc. Which had nothing to do with the military. Because of that, he was even made a joke by the military army because the things he did were very embarrassing. In the above particular scene, there is a woman that approaches Rogers, Rogers who was pondering at that time, is surprised by the arrival of a woman, whose name was Peggy Carter. Rogers complains about his current job, but he could not do much about it. Peggy encourages him "you're made more than this you know" (00:52:41 – 00:52:44) The word makes Rogers reflect and realize that the things he did were one way he had to go. Peggy Carter is a heroine who assists Rogers in dealing with the difficulties that he experiences along the journey. In this film, Peggy Carter refers to a *goddess*.

(00:55:39)



Image 10: Peggy is eager to assist Rogers as much as she can, in order to help Rogers' mission successful..

Unfortunately, bad things occur. During their conversation, Rogers knows that his best friend James Barnes "Bucky" was caught by the enemy and reportedly did not survive. Rogers convinces that his friend is still alive, and Rogers plans to carry out a rescue mission on his own. Peggy then follows him and convinces Rogers that she can help him. Peggy informs Rogers of the enemy's coordinates and assists him as much as possible to ensure the mission's success.

Woman as the Temptress

Woman as the temptress can describe as a test where the hero must be able to control temptation in everything, including the seduction of beautiful women that the hero might meet in his journey. Women can compare to men's main weaknesses. A *temptress* can make a man attract and surrender to a woman only with his words.

(01:17:04)



Image 11: In this scene, a woman is attracted to Rogers and attempts to seduce him.

Words spoken to men can sometimes make men helpless and tend to control by lust which at the same time, increases a sexual desire. As shown on image above, Rogers who rarely spoke with a woman at that time seems nervous and helpless at the words spoken by that woman. Even when the woman pulls his clothes, he cannot do anything except give up. Peggy catches them kissing which makes Rogers nervous and accidentally offends Peggy. This makes them argue simply because of the problem of a woman.

Apotheosis

There is a stage before apotheosis called Atonement with Father; however, that stage did not exist in this film, so the writer chose to skip through to the next stages. Apotheosis is a stage in the journey when the hero reaches a greater level. With the new knowledge, the hero is more determined and prepared for the most challenging phase of the journey. From this statement, it's indeed obvious that the hero has achieved his goal despite everything he has gone through. The journey ahead still seems to belong and probably gets more difficult.

(01:31:41)



Image 12: Rogers feels sad and frustrated after losing his friend.

Previously, before the scene above, Rogers was eager to catch Doctor Zola the evil doctor. He decides to catch doctor Zola while he still has the opportunity. However, the doctor anticipates this. There is a robot waiting for Rogers and blasting him and his friends Bucky. They manage to avoid the first blast, but unfortunately, the robot shoots another blast again that makes Bucky bounce and fall into the snowy mountain. Feeling guilty about his friend's death, Rogers feels sad and upset. Peggy reassures Rogers and tells him he is not alone. Rogers says "I am going after Schmidt, I am not gonna stop to all of Hydra death or captured. Rogers vows to hunt down all members of Hydra including its leader Schmidt, the main villain in this movie, and his nemesis. He felt that by exterminating them the people would be at peace.

(01:45:04)



Image 13: Schmidt was burnt until nothing left after touching the plane's core.

Previously, a meeting held to hunt down Schmidt. Then it determine that Rogers would strike Hydra's last base directly. Rogers and the other soldier successfully enter the Hydra's last base. Rogers initially enters as a prisoner alone as bait, to find out exactly where Schmidt is. Rogers hustles inside their base and manages to meet up with Schmidt. Schmidt was beating Rogers at that time. Just before he gets shot by Schmidt, the other soldiers rush in and attack the Hydra base. After the attack, Schmidt fled by plane. Rogers knows that happen and immediately chases him with Peggy in a car. He finally can board the aircraft and then sneaks into a room. There, he directly got shot by Schmidt. They fought fiercely, Rogers attacking Schmidt with his shield and sending Schmidt crashing and damaging the main engine of the plane. Schmidt instantly death as he touches the engine's core. After going through all the challenges he faces before, he finally successfully achieves his goal, executing Schmidt and destroying the Hydra headquarters. With Schmidt's death, Steve Rogers' hero journey has come to an end.

The Ultimate Boon

This stage describes a hero who travels a long journey and faces dangers, finally arriving at a point where he manages to get what he wants. Previously, it was stated that the ultimate boon that Rogers that he needs to achieve is to eradicate all Hydra members and its leader, Schmidt. He believes that by accomplishing all of that, he will be able to stop the war, saving many people's lives and protecting his nation. Furthermore, he might not lose his beloved one anymore.

(01:47:42)



Image 14: Rogers realize that the plane automatically will crash in New York

After the death of Schmidt, Rogers rushes to the plane's control and realizes that the plane he currently driving automatically, would crash into New York City. He reports the incident to the military. Peggy, who receives the call, advises him to land the plane at the nearest airport, but Rogers cannot do it because his plane has severe damage. With the aircraft heavily broken, Rogers decides to land it manually to avoid crashing and causing casualties. Rogers then tells Peggy "this is my chance" After saying that, they chat for a while, but their chat gets suddenly cut off. Rogers makes the ultimate sacrifice by crashing the plane with him on it into the ocean to save his beloved country and saves many lives.

(01:48:55)



Image 14: People are celebrating the end of World War II.

After that accident, the people celebrate their victory over the ongoing war. They rejoice, cheer, and wave their flags. With the end of the war, surely no more people losing their families, and the country lives in

safety and peace. *The ultimate boon* here does not experience directly by the hero. The ultimate service honor for a soldier is to keep the country secure and protect the people so they can be happy and smile.

Return

At this stage, the hero drives to complete the journey, leaving the unknown land with wealth, wisdom, courage, and knowledge. The hero's adventure has come to an end. Hero has the option of remaining in this world or returning to the previous world. However, in this film, Rogers is unable to *refuse to call* since he must stay to remain in the current world because he has to sleep for about seventy years without his knowledge, and he is unable to return to the past in his old life. So, at this stage, the writer chose not to include all of the *return sub-stages* because they did not appear in the film.

The Magic Flight

Magic flight is a moment when the hero returns to an unknown world where the hero's journey is even more dangerous and difficult than when he is at *departure*.

(01:53:23)



Image 15: Rogers confuses about the situation around him

Since he must stay to live in the present world, Rogers, who rarely awakens from his sleep, realizes that his surroundings are strange. Rogers, feels intimidated, bursts inside the building, and attempts to flee. When he arrives at an unfamiliar route, he confuses about his current situation. Rogers has no choice but to adapt to today's society. That means he'll have to deal with new issues, new foes, and new allies.

Rescue from Without

During this stage, the hero will meet and get help from unexpected figures or figures from people he

does not recognize while traveling on his adventure. Campbell states, "*The hero may have to be brought back from his supernatural adventure by assistance from without. That is to say, the world may have to come and get him. For the bliss of the deep abode is not lightly abandoned in favor of the self-scattering of the awakened state*" (Campbell, 2004:192). That also means, even though the hero already has everything, he still needs some guidance or help during his adventure.

(02:03:15)



Image 16: A man with a blindfold, came to see Rogers.

As soon as Rogers leaves the building, he circles by a lot of cars. Confuses by the situation, then suddenly, someone who wears a blindfold says that Rogers has nothing to worry about. This man would later help Rogers on his next journey. He is also the one who tells Rogers that he has sleeping for seventy years. This man approaches Rogers when training in a gym. Rogers asks "you here with the mission, sir? (02:03:14) - "to the blindfold man replies, "I am," Rogers asks again "tryna get me back on the world?" the man firmly answers, " tryna to save it (02:03:21) " Dialogue with this person also signals the end of Steve Rogers' journey in this film.

Conclusion

This study investigates the hero's journey of the main character and applies Joseph Campbell's Monomyth to Steve Rogers in *Captain America: The First Avenger*. To reveal Steve Rogers' hero's journey, three main stages must be completed. Each stage contains a series of sub-stages. *Captain America: First Avenger* film, is a nearly ideal form of Steve Rogers as a hero. *Departure* is the first stage of the hero's journey. It Starts when Rogers wants to become a soldier. To ensure his journey, Rogers must face negative thoughts, put himself in danger, and seek assistance or guidance. After all of that, Rogers was finally granted a new power. During *the Initiation stages*, granted new powers, Rogers must face a variety of *trials* in the next round, one of them is dealing with a woman. In a heroic

movie, a hero often faces a goddess or a feminine figure. Women may be both a *goddess* or a *temptress* at moments. After gathering all his experience and passing the trials, Rogers put it to the ultimate test through *apotheosis*. It is a time in which he must use all of his power and knowledge to achieve the real goal that he wants. The hero's mission has finished, and now he has proceeded to the next stage, *the Return*.

In this movie, however, Rogers was unable to decline *the refusal of call* since he was forced to remain in the current world and he was unable to return to the past in his previous existence. In the *return* stage, only appears two sub-stages. Steve Rogers' *magic flight* occurs when he is entirely immersed in an unknown environment with everything he has from earlier stages. Despite this, he is terrified, unfamiliar, and bewildered by the new objects around him. Fortunately, Rogers encountered someone willing to assist. He assists Rogers in adjusting to his new surroundings. This movie sets the foundation for the character Steve Rogers in the future Captain America film series. Rogers got all of the experience, gifts, and assistance he needed on his journey in this movie. *Captain America: First Avenger* marks the start of Rogers' journey to becoming a superhero who has always been admired by the world.

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