



**HEROISM ASPECTS OF PRINCESS DIANA  
IN PATTY JENKIN'S WONDER WOMAN**

**A FINAL PROJECT**

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for S-1 Degree in American Studies in English Department  
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## PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer honestly confirms that she compiled this final project by herself without taking any results from other researchers in S-1, S-2, S-3, and in diploma degree of any university. The writer ascertains that she does not quote any material from other publications or someone else paper except from the reference mentioned.

Semarang, October 2018

Shella Febiola Siswanto

## MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“The fruit of your own hard work is the sweetest.”

**Deepika Padukone**

“Pleasure in the job puts perfection in the work”

**Aristotle**

“There is no elevator to success. You have to take the stairs”

**Unknown**

I dedicated this paper for my beloved parents,

and to all people who always support me.

Thank you for unconditional love.

**APPROVAL**

**HEROISM ASPECT OF PRINCESS DIANA  
IN *WONDER WOMAN* MOVIE**

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Shella Febiola Siswanto

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## ABSTRAK

*Wonder Woman* merupakan film yang disutradarai oleh Patty Jenkins, yang menceritakan mengenai seorang pejuang perempuan yang berasal dari pulau Themyscira yang ingin menghentikan perang dunia dan menyelamatkan orang – orang yang ada di bumi ini. Tujuan dari penulisan ini adalah untuk menunjukkan aspek – aspek heroisme yang ada pada tokoh Putri Diana di dalam film *Wonder Woman*. Penulis menggunakan penelitian pustaka untuk mengumpulkan data. Analisis ini juga didukung oleh elemen ekstrinsik pada film dimana penulis akan mendiskripsikan teori Philip Zimbardo yang ada pada film *Wonder Woman*. Hasil dari penelitian ini adalah Putri Diana memenuhi aspek-aspek heroisme menurut Philip Zimbardo seperti menjadi seorang sukarelawan, membantu orang atau komunitas yang membutuhkan pertolongan, berani menghadapi resiko yang akan terjadi, dan memberi pertolongan tanpa meminta imbalan

Kata kunci: aspek – aspek heroisme, film, pahlawan, aktris.

## 1. Background of study

A hero often comes to our mind and people generally think of Superman, a military person who was in a war, or a person who has saved someone's life. Besides, they also do other things to help people and it makes them dominant from us. On the other hand, the hero stands for a great and brave warrior who is ready to give his life in order to gain immortal glory, and continue to live in the social sphere, in the memory of his descendants. The attitude of hero means a heroism which is an expression of self-actualization and a pinnacle social state of fundamental interest to humanistic psychology and the field more broadly. Heroism does not only contain an attitude but also heroic action in a humanistic perspective. It is frequently viewed as an aspect of human behavior, therefore, watching a heroic act can attract our attention. When people want to achieve a heroic status, she or he should have the courage and special skill.

One of the movies which talk about heroism is *Wonder Woman*. It describes the world that will be destroyed and there will be a big world war. If this situation does not stop, all humans in the world will die. Gal Gadot who act as Princess Diana tries to leave her island in Themyscira to stop the world war and she tries to save the world from Ares, who is God of war. When she stops the world war, she lost someone, Steve, that already sacrifices himself to destroy the

bombs during the war. But in the end, she could kill Ares and save all humans in the world.

The heroism of Princess Diana to risk her own life plays a significant role in *Wonder Woman*. She gains the nature of heroism after she decides to leave her island. She also concerns about human salvation. Selwyn W. Becker & Alice H. Eagly (2004:163) say that heroism consists of actions to help others, despite the possibility that they may result in the helper is death or injury.

*Wonder Woman* movie is released in 2017. It is an American superhero movie based on DC comic character that published by American comic and distributed by Warner Boss. The movie is directed by Patty Jenkins and the screenplay is Allan Heinberg. The stars of this movie are Gal Gadot as Princess Diana, Chris Pine as a Steve Trevor, Conny Nielsen as Hippolyta, David Thewlis as Patrick Morgan/ Ares, Robin Wright as Antiope, Danny Huston as General Erich Ludendorff, and Elena Anaya as Isabel Maru / Doctor Poison.

There is an objectives of this paper that will be analyzed by the writer. It is about the aspect of heroism. The writer also uses a library research in collecting the data and some references from final academic papers, internet, online journal, and books.

## **2. Theoretical Framework**

### 2.1 Heroism

Heroism is a man's attitude that stands out for his courage and sacrifice in defending the truth. Heroism can be accepted in society when his or her action has an impact on the environment.

According to William R Thomas (2001:1), the concept of heroism is self-sacrifice. Heroism is not always apparent because heroism is the condition of someone who wants to help each other by her/his sacrifice. To achieve a great purpose a hero must have a strong heroism soul which it cannot be bought to reach a fame or material.

Heroic imagination project which is prepared by Philip Zimbardo says that heroism consists of several aspects. First, doing voluntaring and intentionalizing; second, conducting in service of people or communities in need; third, doing brave to take any risk that will happen; fourth, initiating without the expectation of material gain.

It can be known that heroism must have a courage and sacrifice in his or herself to achieve a goal. Heroism also plays an important life because it has a great impact such as help other people, reduce the crime, transform society in significant and positive ways.

### **3. Research Methods**

In order to collect and analyze the data, the writer uses library research. Library research is the way to obtain the data by studying books and other sources in the library. Mary W. George (2008:6) mentions that library research involves identifying and locating sources that provide factual information or personal/expert opinion on a research question; necessary component of every other research method at some point. The writer using any source for gathering the data.

This paper uses the sociology of literature approach to analyze the act of heroism in the movie. Sociology of literature approach is based on the assumption that a literary work reflects a community's life and it has a connection with society. Robert Escarpit (2013:38) tells that sociology of literature approach portrays the concept of literature not as an aesthetic one but as a socio-cultural fact. So, this paper uses library research and sociology of literature approach to analyze the data .

## 4. Extrinsic Aspect

### 4.1 Heroism

*Wonder Woman* movie represents the heroism in the character of Princess Diana. In this movie, the writer analyzes the aspect of heroism in this movie, such as when Princess Diana becomes voluntary as a hero, conducted in service of people or communities in need, being brave to take any risk that will happen, and initiated without the expectation of material gain.

In the movie, *Wonder Woman* tells the story of Princess Diana who lives in Themyscira with Amazon women. She has been trained since childhood and prepared to face Ares' threat who can attack Themyscira island. One day, Steve Trevor, an American soldier is stranded in Themyscira island and he meets Princess Diana. He says that Ares who is the god of war would destroy all the contents of earth and he wants to take control of it. Diana tries to stop Ares by traveling the hemisphere to complete her mission. Heroism is showed in Princess Diana's soul when she tries to fight Ares who wants to destroy the world.

Princess Diana is a great woman and it can be known that she always tries to find Ares's existence. In this movie, it is shown that Diana is not an ordinary woman because she has a great power that can fight the enemies out there. Ron Liebermann says that heroism has three characters which are character development, ethical living, and critical thought. The character development in this movie is when Princess Diana and her team are blocked by the German's

army, and Steve says to her to not get closer because it dangerous, but she against Steve's word and fight the army like a Wonder Woman.

The writer found that Princess Diana wants to complete her mission against the enemy and save the world. One of the heroism characteristics can be seen when she fights against Ares in the harbor. She struggles to defeat Ares although it is not easy to fight with him. Ares has a great power that not all people can defeat him.

Aspects of Heroism in Princess Diana are reflected in :

- a. Princess Diana's voluntaring action



Picture 4.1

Princess Diana's mother  
does not give her permit

(00:39:02)



Picture 4.2

Princess Diana trip  
to stop the world war

(00:39:41)



Picture 4.3

Princess Diana  
acts as an  
ordinary woman

(00:50:00)

One day Princess Diana finds a pilot from Germany and his name is Steve who is stranded on Themyscira island. He tells her that in his world there will be a big world war. People on earth will die and the world will be destroyed. Princess Diana thinks that this is Ares's act because he is the only person who can destroy the world. Princess Diana decides to go from her island and join with Steve to stop the world war. She also becomes a volunteer to help stop the world war as a

hero. At first, Diana's mother disagrees with her decision, but she still wants to leave the island and goes with Steve. Princess Diana sails to the island where Steve lives. She also disguises herself as an ordinary woman so that her existence is unknown.

Steve : "So, you here me to let me go?"

Princess Diana: "I tried, but it's not up to me, I even asked them to send me with you or anyone on Amazon"

Steve : " The Amazon"

Princess Diana : "It is our secret duty to defend the world and I wish to go but my mother will not allow it."

Steve : "Well, I can't say I blame her. The way this war is going."

Princess Diana: "I wouldn't want to let anyone. I care about her."

*(Wonder Woman, 00:39:02)*

It can be known that Princess Diana who acts as a volunteer decides her intention to go with Steve and protect all people on the world from the world war. She has fulfilled one aspect of heroism which is doing voluntary and intentional.

b. Princess Diana's conduct in service to people or communities in need



Picture 4.4

Princess Diana  
comes to village

(01:12:22)



Picture 4.5

Princess Diana  
help people  
in the village

(01:13:05)



Picture 4.6

Princess Diana  
becomes *Wonder  
Woman*

(01:13:49)

Princess Diana, Steve, and their team go to find the enemy that wants to defeat the world. During their trip, they meet many people run and bring their items. Princess Diana tries to find what happened in there, suddenly a woman comes to Princess Diana and tells about what happened in there. She knows that the German's army has taken all items in the village and makes people in there become slaves. She feels sad to know that and become a Wonder Woman and collects all power to against the German's army. Princess Diana opposes Steve's opinion against the German's army because she wants to help people in the village.

Villagers : "Help, please help. They've taken everything  
homes, food, the ones who couldn't escape, they  
took as slaves"

Princess Diana : "Where did this happen"?

Villagers : "Veld.. On the other side of No Man's Land" (*Wonder  
Woman*, 01:13:05)

When Princess Diana is on her way and passes through a village, she meets one of the villagers and they ask help to her because German's soldier wants to destroy the village. It can be known that Princess Diana is conducted in service to people that need her help. This characteristic included in one of the heroism aspect.

c. Princess Diana's bravery to take any risk that will happen



Picture 4.7

Princess Diana goes to meet Ares

(01:40:56)



Picture 4.8

Princess Diana against Ares's soldier

(01:41:30)



Picture 4.9

Princess Diana against Ares on harbor

(01:43:21)

Princess Diana makes the next trip to meet Ares who is the enemy that wants to defeat the world. She goes along with riding a horse, then Steve follows her. When she arrives on the harbor, she tries to enter the gate without Ares permission and fighting with the soldier in there. Finally, she meets with Ares and they fight each other. Princess Diana is very brave to face Ares in the harbor and she is not afraid what will happen with her. Although Ares has a superpower and nobody can fight with him but Princess Diana never gives up to fight with him.

Ares : "What a surprise, strange."

"Unfortunately I have another matter to attend to"

Princess Diana: "You will soon find out"

(*Wonder Woman*, 01:43:21)

Princess Diana brave to take any risk that will happen to her when she becomes a hero to help other people and the world from the world war. She is not afraid of anything that will harm her. It can be known when she meets with Ares and he wants to kill Princess Diana. This characteristic is one of the heroism aspects.

d. Princess Diana's Initiation without the expectation of material gain



Picture 4.10

Princess Diana sadness  
due to Steve's sacrifice  
(02:03:40)



Picture 4.11

Princess Diana succeeds  
save the world  
(02:07:26)



Picture 4.12

Princess Diana says  
about what she has done  
(02:09:56)

It can be known from the picture 4.10, 4.11, 4.12 that Princess Diana is fighting with Ares on the harbor and suddenly Steve comes and says that he will be fine. He tells her that he can save the world today but she can save the world the next day. He tells about it because he wants to sacrifice himself to explode the poison gas on the plane. At first Princess Diana feels sad because she loves Steve now. When he can explode the plan, she becomes angry and takes out all her power to defeat Ares. In the end, Princess Diana succeeds in saving all people in the world. She also says that she wants to save the world because she wants to bring a peace to the world.

Princess Diana: "I used to want to save the world to end war and bring peace to mankind. But then I glimpsed the darkness that lives within their light. And now I know, only love can truly save the world. So, I stay, I fight, and I give, for the world I know can be."

One of Diana characteristics which are initiating without the expectation of material gain can be known when she wants to protect the world and do the best.

This characteristic is proven one of heroism aspect that is written by Philip Zimbardo.

## 5. Conclusion

*Wonder Woman* tells Princess Diana's experience that helps people in this world from world war. She decides to leave her home and go to other parts of the world to stop the world war. She has a strong will and makes her promise that she will save all people from the world war. The film is directed by Patty Jenkins and it shows the characteristics of heroism in the main character. Heroism can be seen when she fights with her enemy to stop the world war. The characteristics of a hero that describe her background are courage, sacrifice, and kindness. It can be shown when Princess Diana being a hero in this movie.

The heroism aspects shown in the movie are doing voluntary and intentional, conducting in service of people or communities in need, braving to take any risk that will happen, and initiating without the expectation of material gain. Princess Diana characteristics proves Philip Zimbardo heroism aspects. So, the aspect of heroism that contains in the movie is satisfactory the character of Princess Diana.

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