

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Term "myth" has also been extended to denote supernatural tales that are deliberately invented by their authors (Abrams, 1999:171). In the past, there are so many people in many regions (such as Greek and Celt) are believed in myth, commonly about God and Goddesses. Myth usually contains the story about the origin of the universe, the gods, and the things like other supernatural and myth still cannot be verified scientifically. Further, Sharma (2012:4) states that, Mythology is a set of stories or beliefs about a particular person, institution or situation. It refers to a study of myths or to a body or a collection of myths.

Based on the statement, for some people mythology is something that is rarely believable, but still no one believes about certain mythology and keep rolling until now, such as Santa Claus, which until now still more questionable about his existence. In addition, according to Feller (2003:20)

“Myth is everything and nothing at the same time. It is the true story or false one, revelation, sacred or vulgar, real or fictional, symbol or tool, archetype or stereotype. It is either strongly, structured and logical or emotional and pre-logical, traditional and primitive or part of contemporary ideology.”

The quotation above describes that mythology is different from folklore and legend, but it is an imagination of human beings who are trying to explain the natural phenomena that exist at the time associated with trust in the power of invisible. However, because of human limitations in explaining these things so that tends to be referred with a God and Goddess, as well as the character in the mystery and

something mystical. Human curiosity cannot be satisfied only on the basis of observation or experience. Based on that, people guess answers of his curiosity, for example “Why there is rainbow?” Because, it cannot be answered, people assumed the phenomenon is caused by seven angels.

Every country has their own belief of mythology but the writer is interested to conduct an analysis in-depth on one of the mythology from Norse in North Germanic people. Norse mythology is a mythology that is about gods and goddesses live in Asgard where in Norse mythology known as nine worlds described as a tree called Yggdrasil and at the branches and roots are different world. The worlds are namely Asgard, Vanaheim, Alfheim, Midgard, Jotunheim, Nidavellir, Niflheim, Muspellheim, Helheim.

The mythology from Norse however, is turn into one of the literary works that until today people just know them as a tale and folklore. In accordance, in this modern life, there are so many literary works that are telling about Norse Mythology, about Odin, Thor and others. One of the famous literary works that describes about Norse mythology is from Rick Riordan entitled *Magnus Chase and The Sword of Summer*.

In the novel, the story begins when Magnus lived alone on the street Boston after his mother Natalie Chase died, he had two best friends who are often regarded as Mom and Dad, named Hearth and Blitz. On his 16th, he had to face the death, because suddenly he has to accept the fact that he is a descendent of Norse God and must fight with Surt, who is destined to kill him on the field but Magnus took a sword to fight the Surt. As it turns out, in the Norse world, one who died as heroes is taken by Sam Al-Abbas the Valkyrie to Valhalla which is a haven for the heroes

who served Odin. Apparently, life in Valhalla is not as easy and wonderful as the picture of heaven. Magnus lost his sword and had to run his mission to prevent the Ragnarok, one way was to fight with Surt and Fenris.

The writer uses *Magnus Chase and the Sword of Summer* novel by Rick Riordan as the object of the research because the writer finds out that the novel tells about the story of Norse mythology. This novel is a trilogy of fantasy novel, comedy-drama and mixed with mythology story. The first book, *The Sword of Summer*, the second book, *The Hammer of Thor* and the third book is *The Ship of the Dead*. The novel is bestselling books in 2015 and has received many awards such like New York Times Children's Middle Grade Hardcover Best Seller list, Amazon's bestselling Children's Books list for 2015. It also won the Goodreads Choice Award for Middle Grade and Children's books in 2015.

Further, the writer also wants to describe god and goddesses of Norse mythology that reflected in the novel. Moreover, the writer is interested to analyze the topic since mythology is unusual and the writer wants to give more information and knowledge for the reader.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background of study, the writer formulates the research question into:
How is the Norse Mythology reflected in the *Magnus Chase and the Sword of Summer* Novel by Rick Riordan?

1.3 Research Objective

Concerning to answer the research question above, the purpose of this research is to describe the Norse Mythology reflected in the *Magnus Chase and the Sword of Summer* Novel by Rick Riordan.

1.4 The Use of Research

By doing this research, there are several uses for the reader from this study such as theoretical and practical.

1.4.1 Theoretical Uses

Theoretically, this analysis is used to help the researchers and readers to deepen knowledge in conducting analysis related to the Mythology. In addition, in this paper, the writer hopes that it can give contribution toward literature study especially in enriching knowledge about Norse Mythology.

1.4.2 Practical Uses

Practically, the result of this analysis is to give information to the readers especially in the literature and contribute to the knowledge about mythology. In addition, this analysis paper is expected as the references for readers and researchers especially in English Literature in analyzing the novel based on Semiotic approach.

1.5 Scope of Research

The scope of study is intended to limit the analysis and to focus on Norse mythology. Therefore, to limit the discussion, the writer focuses on the discussion related to the myth in Gods and Goddesses and also other creatures from Norse mythology in *Magnus Chase and the Sword of Summer* novel by Rick Riordan. However, remembering that there are so many gods and goddesses in Norse

mythology, the writer believes that the author only put some of them in the novel.

The writer uses Roland Barthes theory and semiotic approach to analysis the novel.