CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION

1. Background of the Research

Moana is a 2016 American computer animated musical fantasy adventure movie, which is produced by Walt Disney Pictures, and distributed by Walt Disney Pictures Studios Motion. The film was directed by Ron Clements and John Musker, and Osnat Shurer as producer. Meanwhile, the script was written by Ron Clements, John Musker and Taika Waititi. Then, voices for some of the main characters in this film were filled by Auli'i Cravalho, Dwayne Johnson and Alan Tudyk.

Moana was released theatrically in the United States on November 23, 2016, in Disney in the form Digital 3-D, Real-D 3-D, D-Box, and premium large formats. The film received critical acclaim, with particular attention directed to its animation, music, and voice cast. It grossed over $642 million worldwide. Along with *Zootopia*, it marked the first time since 2002 that Walt Disney Animation Studios released two feature films in the same year. It received two Academy Award nominations at the 89th Academy Awards: "one for Best Animated Feature and another for Best Original Song "How Far I'll Go".

The story of the movie tells about Maui, a demigod, who stole the mystical heart of goddess *Te Fiti*. The heart was a small luminous stone which had the power to create life. Maui stole it to give it to humanity, but as he fleed the island with the stone, he was attacked by a lava monster, *Te Ka*, causing the stone to fall from his

hand and disappear into oblivion. Centuries later, there lived a girl name *Moana*, the princess of a small island in Polynesia, who had a special connection with the ocean. The ocean called out to her but her family prevented her from ever venturing out beyond the reef, for the fear of losing her. As *Moana* grew up, she was told that a life of being the village's chieftain awaits her. But her heart was set on venturing out into the ocean.

The islands around them slowly began to fade away and fall into disrepair because of the curse caused by Maui when he stole the heart. Several stories and secrets were revealed to *Moana* by her cooky grandmother, and they convinced her that she had been chosen by the ocean to find Maui and restored the heart of *Te Fiti*. Along with her pet chicken *HeiHei*, she set out on the ocean to search for Maui. When she found him, she realized that he was an extremely self-centered, self-absorbed, egomaniac. She had to get inventive and treat him with utmost respect in order to get him to find the lost heart of *Te Fiti*. Maui and *Moana* form a special bond, she thaught him to think about others and to be generous, and he took a liking to her, teaching her how to navigate the waters and sheltering her from all the troubles along the way. When they went to replace the heart of *Te Fiti* into the mother island, the lava demon *Te Ka* striked again, breaks Maui's magical hook in the battle, robbing him of all his powers.

Maui lost hope but motivated *Moana* to finish the task on her own and egged on by this newfound courage; she put her skills to use and replace the heart of *Te Fiti*. Goddess *Te Fiti* returned in full bloom and the islands around Polynesia were rid of the curse that was causing them to perish. Goddess *Te Fiti* even repaired Maui's broken hook restoring his powers.

The presence of *Maui's* character that was voiced by Dwayne Douglas Johnson inside of the movie makes the story more interesting to be watched. Furthermore, the presence of the character also seems to show Polynesian myth, since the main character in the story shows characteristics of Polynesian myth such as a demigod and bringing magical hook. as stated by Tregear (1891) "In one of his most famous exploits *Maui* uses the jaw bone as a fish hook and hauls up the North Island of New Zealand single handedly when it was in the form of a massive fish". Then, it indirectly attracts the researcher's attention to know more about the issue. Moreover, according to Lombardi (2017):

> A myth is a traditional story that may answer life's overarching questions, such as the origins of the world or of a people. A myth can also be an attempt to explain mysteries, supernatural events, and cultural traditions. Sometimes sacred in nature, a myth can involve gods or other creatures. And a myth presents reality in dramatic ways.

The quotation above implies that myth can help to answer human's questions about the existence both the existence of the world and creatures. In other words, myth can give an understanding to human about something that happened in the past, though the truth is still questioning until now. In addition, myth can also be a standard to explain actual events like cultural traditions and even actual or supernatural events. It implies that by learning myth we can answer human question about past occurrences and supernatural occurrences.

In other words, 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. According to Thomas Kightley on his book *The mythology of ancient*

Greece and Italy "Mythology is the science which treats of the myths various popular traditions and legendary tales current a people and objects of general belief ".

Myth appears in a community like Polynesia, since every community has their own story of its creation. As stated by lombardi (2017) Myth can explain and answer humans questions about past occurrences. Therefore, myth will appear in every community, which has story in its creation in the past. Polynesia is a vast region of the Pacific Ocean consisting of many hundreds of widely separated culturally and politically diverse island groups. Ranging from Midway and Hawaii in the north to New Zealand in the south, the triangular area called Polynesia also includes Tahiti, Samoa, Tonga, Tuamotu, the Cook Islands, and the Pitcairn Islands. Although Polynesian myth of deities and creation took different forms on various islands, many of the basic stories, themes, and deities were surprisingly similar throughout the region. For example, in Polynesia there are differences forms and name of god. According to Torben Monberg in his book *Ta'aroa in the Creation Myths of the Society Islands* (1956:256):

> "On Mangaia Tangaroa is the child of Vatea and Papa and brother of Rongo, with whom he fights for supremacy over the world.In New Zealand Tangaroa is the child of Rangi and Papa and the divine progenitor of all fishes and reptile on earth. In the Samoa Islands Tagaloa appears in several texts as the seventh generation in the genealogy of the creation, which starts with the mariage between the High Rocks and the Earth Rocks. In the Tonga Islands Tagaloa also seems to be of a later generation in the genealogy of the creation, and only in a few texts does he appear as a god of creation. In the Marquesas Tanaoa (Takaoa) was merely one of the gods of nature. His domain was as in New Zealand the sea and the winds, but he was alRo connected with fishing and the crafts".

From the quotation above, Polynesian has differences about names of god of creation. In *Mangaia* and New Zealand they called god of creation as *Tangaroa*, while in *Samoa* Island and *Tonga* island they called god of creation as *Tagaloa*, then in *Marquesas* they called god of creation as *Tanaoa* or *Takaoa*. Even though Polynesian myth has differences, but the main idea or the main form of their myth is still the same. These differences influenced by language that different every single of island in Polynesian islands.

The issue of Polynesian myth in Disney's Animation movie *Moana* attracts the writer to conduct this research, in this research the writer interested to analyze about Polynesian Myth. Therefore, the writer chooses Disney's Animation movie *Moana* (2016) as the object of analysis. The writer chooses Disney's Animation movie *Moana* because this movie seems to show about Polynesian myth. By having the this research, the writer wants to show to the reader that movie can be used by the director not only to entertain the reader but also to describe about myth of some tribe especially Polynesian myth.

The myth becomes important to be discussed since by understanding myths, we begin to understand our history, our faith and ultimately better understand ourselves. Further, Polynesian religion and mythology placed a great emphasis on nature, particularly on the ocean environment. It is influenced by the geographical location of the Polynesian archipelago region surrounded by oceans. On the other hand, Polynesian myth with the same story will be named differently in every

Polynesian island. This part makes the researcher interested to analyze which Polynesian myth that appears in *Moana* movie.

1.2 Research Question

According to the background of the research which has been elaborated previously, the writer formulates the problem into "What are the Polynesian Myths described in Disney's Animation Movie *Moana*?"

1.3 Research Objective

This research is intended to describe the Polynesian Myths in Disney's Animation Movie *Moana.*

1.4 The Uses of the Study

Theoretically, this research will enrich and deepen comprehension of the readers who are interested in discussing about Polynesian Myth Disney's Animation Movie *Moana* in the framework of literary discussion.

Practically, this research will be useful for the readers and other researchers who need information about Polynesian Myth. The researcher also expects that this research become a reference for the next researchers who analyze Polynesian Myth in literature study.

1.5 Scope of the study

In order to answer the problem formulation, the researcher needs to decide the scope and limitation of the study. The study focuses on analyzing Polynesian Myth seen in Disney's Animation Movie *Moana* and to support the analysis the researcher uses Mythological approach and Polynesian myth concept to avoid a broad analysis.