

ABSTRACT

This thesis is a reading of *Alif the Unseen* novel, which tells the heroic journey of a hacker who lives in fictionalized Middle East region during the Arab Spring. This thesis is research under the Transnational American Studies paradigm which tries to contribute to the reading of *Alif the Unseen* through the Jungian Archetype point of view and Campbell Hero's Journey to see the main character as the archetype of the American Hero. Using both theories, this thesis discusses the archetype of American heroes in the main character in the novel. The researcher also looks at the position of the main character as an American hero in the Arab Spring discourse. Also, this research benefited from the theory of the American Hero proposed by Theodore L. Gross to determine what justification for a character in literary work to be categorized as an American Hero.

By analyzing the American Hero against the backdrop of Arab Spring discourse this research finds that the main character named Alif in the novel is an American hero because of two reasons. First, Alif fulfills the requirement to be categorized as an American Hero proposed by Theodore L. Gross that stated the American Hero shows the embodiment of American Ideals. They are The individual, equality, wealth, pluralism, and liberalism. Second, based on Jung's and Campbell's theorization, Alif goes through 3 stages and 16 sections in Hero's Journey, namely Stage 1 Departure contains 5 sections: Call to Adventure, Refused to the Call, Supernatural Aid, The Crossing of the Threshold, and the Belly of the Whale. Stage 2 contains six sections: The Road of the trial, Woman as a Temptress, Atonement with a father, Apotheosis, and the Ultimate Boon. Stage 3 has 6 sections: Refusal of the Return, The Magic Flight, Rescue from without, The Crossing of the Return Threshold, Mastering of the Two Worlds, and Freedom to Live. These two things illustrate the feasibility of Alif's character as an archetype of an American hero.

Alif the Unseen manifests Alif as the American Hero amid the Arab Spring discourse. By positioning Alif in the middle of political chaos in the Middle East Wilson creates a dichotomy between the United States and the Middle East. Also, the manifestation of American Hero is useful in creating and maintaining territorial and ideological practices that foster the presence of the United States in the world's politics through literary work.

Keywords: Carl Jung, Campbell, American hero, a hero's journey, Arab spring.