

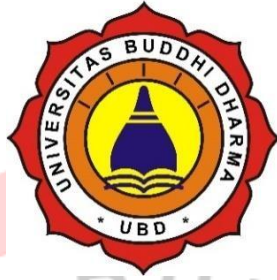
**THE ANALYSIS OF LESTER PAPADOPOULOS'
CHARACTERIZATION AS A NARCISSIST
IN "THE TRIALS OF APOLLO - THE HIDDEN ORACLE",
A NOVEL BY RICK RIORDAN**

**Presented as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Undergraduate
Program**

By

**KEVIN CESSARRYANO THUNGEDY
20140610147**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES
BUDDHI DHARMA UNIVERSITY
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FINAL PROJECT APPROVAL

Final Project Title : The analysis of Lester Papadopoulos' characterization as a narcissist in "The Trials of Apollo - The Hidden Oracle", a novel by Rick Riordan

Name : Kevin Cessarryano Thungedy

Student Number : 20140610147

Faculty : Social Sciences and Humanities

Study Program : S1

The Final Project has been approved to be examined as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Undergraduate Program.

Tangerang, 20th July 2020

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RECOMMENDATION FOR THE ELIGIBILITY OF FINAL PROJECT EXAMINATION

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Study Program : S1

Title of Final Project : An analysis of Lester Papadopoulos' characterization as a narcissist in "The Trials of Apollo - The Hidden Oracle", a novel by Rick Riordan

It has been eligible to take the final project examination.

Tangerang, 20th July 2020

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THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS

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Study Program : S1
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The thesis has been examined by the Board of the Examiners August, 5th 2020

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STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY

I declare that this research is my own writing, and it is true and correct that I do not dishonestly take any scholarly ideas or work from others. All the cited works are quoted in accordance with the ethical code of academic writing.

Tangerang, 20th July 2020



Kevin Cessaryano Thungedy
20140610147

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writer would like to thank God for the blessings while working on this thesis and it may not be this far without his people around, such as:

1. His parents and sibling, Kim Siong, Entjun and Ucup for their support, prayers, and endless love.
2. Dr. Sofian Sugioko, MM, CPMA, the Rector of Buddhi Dharma University.
3. Dr. Lilie Suratminto, M.A., the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities of Buddhi Dharma University.
4. Riris M. Paulina Simamora, S.Pd., M.Hum., the Head of English Department of Buddhi Dharma University.
5. His friends, Agung Kurniawan, Aviona Arshela and all relatives that can't be mentioned one by one.

Also, this thesis may contains imperfection. Hence, he welcomes positive feedback to improve this thesis that hopefully would be useful for whoever reads this as reference for their research.

Tangerang, 20th July 2020

The Writer,



(Kevin Cessarryano Thungedy)

ABSTRACT

This research is The Analysis of Lester Papadopoulos' Characterization as A narcissist in “The Trials of Apollo - The Hidden Oracle”. The novel is created by Rick Riordan and published in United States on May 3rd, 2016. It has 384 pages and published by Disney-Hyperion. The writer wanted to answer the research questions in this study about the narcissist characteristics found in Lester Papadopoulos as the main character. The data collection of this research was conducted through library study and used the qualitative method to answer the research questions. The writer used the Sigmund Freud's Theory. From the analysis the writer found that Lester Papadopoulos has the narcissist symptoms, a grandiose sense of self-importance, preoccupation with fantasies of unlimited success, power, brilliance, beauty, or ideal love, belief that one is special and can only be understood by or associate with special people or institutions, a need for excessive admiration, a sense of entitlement (to special treatment), exploitation of others, and arrogant, haughty behavior or attitudes.

Keyword: *character, characterization, narcissist, narcissistic, Apollo, demigod*

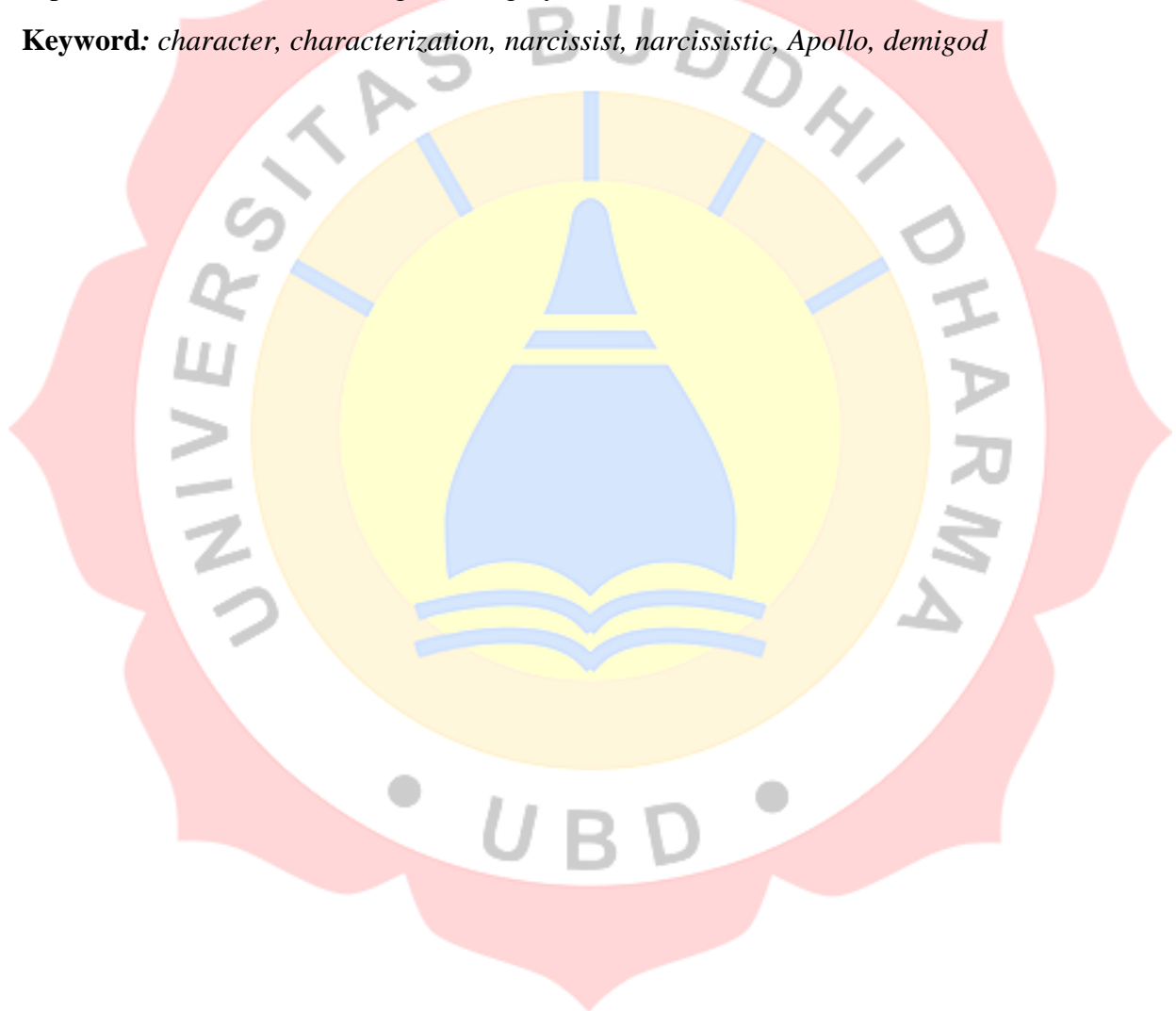
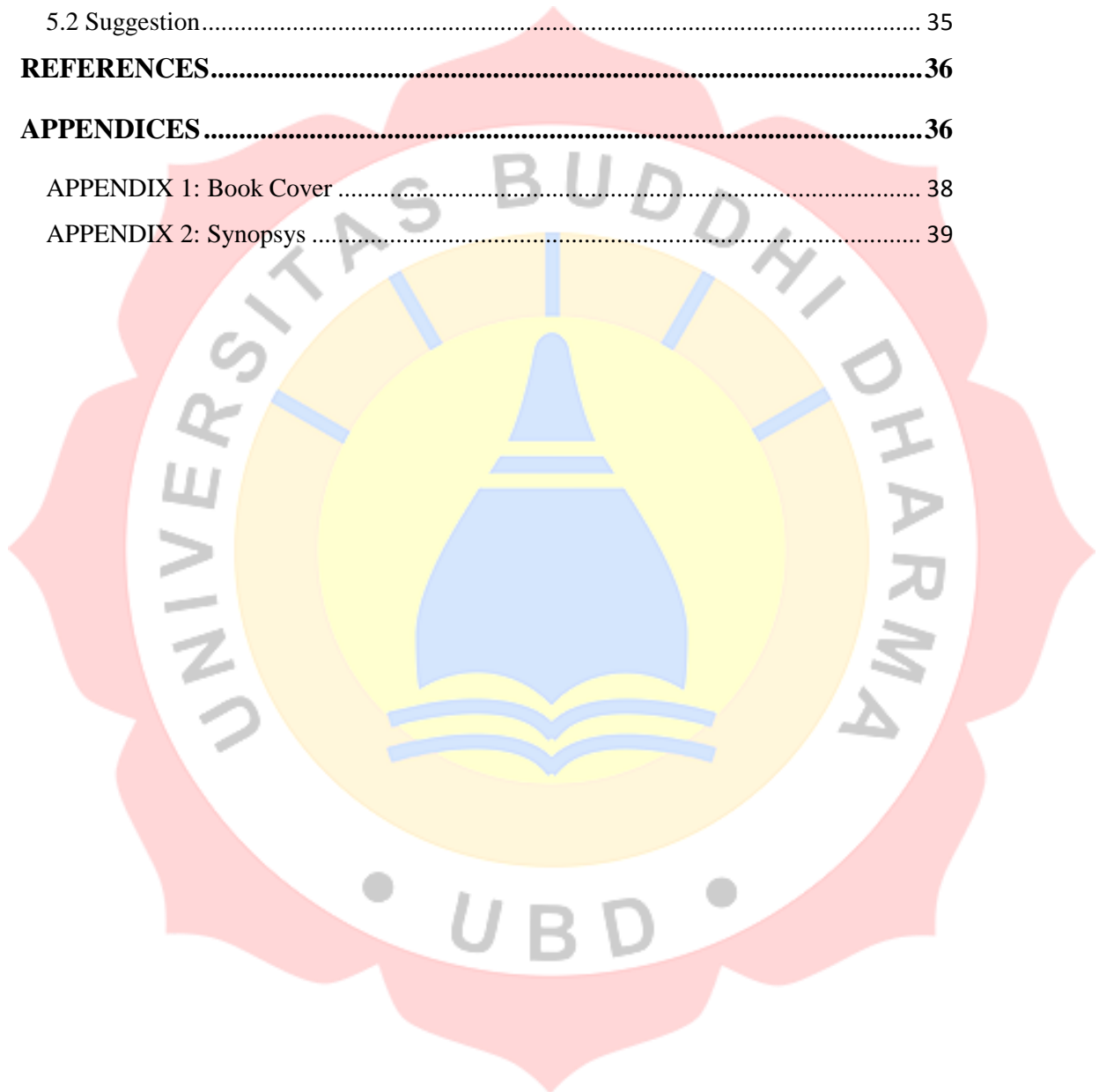


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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Research

According to Dictionary (2020) the definition of literature is writings in which expression and form, in connection with ideas of permanent and universal interest, are characteristic or essential features, as poetry, novels, history, biography, and essays. *Cambridge Dictionary* (2014) defines literature as the written artistic work, especially those with a high and lasting artistic value. And according to *Oxford Dictionary* (2014) literature is the written works, especially those considered of superior or lasting artistic merit.

Based on *Cambridge Dictionary* (2014) literature is the written artistic work, especially those with a high and lasting artistic value. Moreover *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (2014) defines literature as having excellence of form or expression and expressing ideas of permanent or universal interest.

Amanda Prahl (2020) in her website writes that a novel is a narrative work of prose fiction that tells a story about specific human experiences over a considerable length. Prose style and length, as well as fictional or semi-fictional subject matter, are the most clearly defining characteristics of a novel. Unlike works of epic poetry, it tells its story using prose rather than verse; unlike short stories, it tells a lengthy narrative rather than a brief selection. There are, however, other characteristic elements that set the novel apart as a particular literary form.

Sandra Cisneros (2020) says that the beauty of literature is you allow readers to see things through other people's eyes. All good books do this. That's why a lot of people like reading novel. As answered in <https://www.quora.com/Why-do-people-like-reading-novels> , Mohid Lokhande (2016) said that people read novels to learn and to be entertained. However, the relationship between reader and book is a little more complicated and interesting than that. When we read novels, we read about characters. As readers we have a perspective not found in real life that

In this research, the writer explained about the characterization of Lester Papadopoulos in "The Trials of Apollo - The Hidden Oracle". "The Trials of Apollo - The Hidden Oracle" (2016) is a novel created by Rick Riordan. It tells the story about one of the Twelve Olympian God, Apollo who is punished by his father, Zeus to become a human. As a God of archery, music and dance, truth and prophecy, healing and diseases, the sun and light, poetry, and more, Apollo is very powerful. But when he turned into an ordinary human who lost all his godly power, Apollo should face a lot of problems and walk through the dangerous path in the human world. And to gain his power back, he has to fulfill his duty as a human named Lester Papadopoulos, face a lot of challenges, and become a servant of a demigod named Meg McCaffrey.

Based on those reasons, the writer decided to do the research of Lester Papadopoulos' characteristics on the novel "The Trials of Apollo - The Hidden Oracle". This novel is interesting because it is funny, easily read and it can motivate and inspire the people who read this novel to not being too arrogant.

1.2 The Statement of The Problem

In the ancient time, people tend to pray to Gods. There are a lot of deities in ancient history. Each God resembles their own specialties. In the Greek myths, there were twelve major Olympian Gods, for example Aphrodite, the God of love, Ares, the God of war, Athena, the God of wisdom. Apollo himself is the God of light, the sun, prophecy, philosophy, archery, truth, inspiration, poetry, music, arts, manly beauty, medicine, healing, and plague. His symbols include the sun, bow and arrow, lyre, swan, and mouse.

At that time, deities are always worshipped. They are really powerful. They can do anything and they can be anywhere. For Apollo, life is about anything fun. Life is so beautiful. He lives his lives happily without any difficulties.

In the novel “The Trials of Apollo - The Hidden Oracle”, the ability of Apollo as a God suddenly lost as he became human. He is punished by Zeus, his father and has to overcome the difficulties as a human without any godly power. He has to survive and stay alive when so many monsters want to kill him. He longer could not fly, fight, curse, heal, and do many other things that common God could do. He also has to serve a demigod named Meg McCaffrey and has to obey whatever he asked to be done.

The writer found that in this novel, the character of Apollo/Lester Papadopoulos as a narcissist 16 year old boy was very interesting to be investigated. The way he talks as if he is still God was as arrogant and funny as the same time. Since he is a God of poetry, his way of expressing his difficulties in poetry was also interesting.

1.3 The Research Questions

The writer would like to discuss the research question in this research which is stated as follows; how does Lester Papadopoulos as the main character overcome the obstacles as a narcissist?

1.4 The Goals and Functions of the Research

The goals and function of the research are to answer the research questions and to fulfill the requirements of graduation for the writer. This research is also expected to help other people know more deeply about the characteristics shown by main character in the novel and help other people who are conducting similar research.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this research is the novel “The Trials of Apollo - The Hidden Oracle” starring Apollo/Lester Papadopoulos as the main character. The novel was created by Rick Riordan in 2016 and published by Disney – Hyperion in United States.

In this research, the writer limited his focus on the characteristics of the main character, Apollo/Lester Papadopoulos and how the main character overcome his obstacles as a human.

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Previous Study

The narcissism in this study can be found in Willy Wonka's Narcissistic Personality as the main character in the novel Roald Dahl's 'Charlie and The Chocolate Factory' that written by Bovis Narendra Pratama & G. Fajar Sasmita Adi (2017). The analysis is focus on identifying Wonka's characteristics, especially narcissism.

The second one is about narcissism and defending self-esteem; an exploratory study based on self-characterization by Guido Veronese, Rosella Procaccia, Giovanni M. Ruggiero, Sandra Sarasoli, and Marco Castiglioni in 2015.

The writer has not found any previous study about the novel "The Trials of Apollo - The Hidden Oracle" yet.

2.2 Theory of Character, Main Character, Characteristics and Characterization

According to Funk and Wagnalls (1984) in Standard Dictionary, character is the combination of qualities or traits that distinguishes an individual personality.

Www.merriam-webster.com (2020) defines character as one of the persons of a drama or novel, the way someone thinks, feels, and behaves: someone's personality.

According to www.dictionary.cambridge.org, character is the particular combination of qualities in a person or place that makes them different from others, qualities that are interesting and unusual, a person represented in a film, play or story.

In this research, the character that the writer analyzed is the narcissism found in Lester Papadopoulos in the novel “The Trials of Apollo – The Hidden Oracle.”

Meagansmith (2020) in www.urbandictionary.com defines main character as someone who you can make a movie about and have it is interesting; they are quirky and not basic.

August John (2020) in his website www.johnaugust.com defines main character as the character that the story is most about.

The novel “The Trials of Apollo – The Hidden Oracle” has Lester Papadopoulos as the main character of the story.

According to Thompson (2000), there are 4 main ways that writers of stories and books make their characters seem real and alive, called methods of characterization. These are the ways that readers learn about character;

1. Physical Appearance: The way a character looks and dresses tell you a lot about him/her. Physical appearance includes a character's size, age, skin color, hair color, eye color, clothing, and any other defining physical characteristics like scars or a unique hair style.
2. Speech and Actions (Personality): What a character says and does also tells you a lot about him/her. This could include quotations of things that the character has said, activities in which the character is engaged, quirky

traits of his/her personality, and descriptions of how that person interacts with others.

3. Others' Opinions of the Character: What other people think of the character is often a good indicator of what the character is like. If many people in a story are afraid of a character, you (as a reader) know that there must be something scary or intimidating about him/her. If a character is well-liked by everyone else in a story, then you know that s/he is likeable and easy to get along with.

4. The Character's Inner Thoughts and Feelings: If the writer of a story gives you a glimpse inside a character's mind (by telling what the character is thinking or showing a piece of the character's diary), you have a very good idea of what that character is really like, even if his/her outward appearance and personality is not clearly described

According to Funk and Wagnalls (1984) in "Standard Dictionary", characteristic indicating or constituting the distinctive quality, character, or disposition.

Www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com (2020) defines characteristics as very typical of something or of someone's character.

As cited in www.literaryterms.net (2016), Aristotle first defined characterization in the 15th century, speaking of the importance of plot over character in *Poetics*, "Tragedy is representation, not of men, but of action and life." What he means here is that "tragedy" (or drama, meaning a story) is not centered on the thoughts, and histories, and dreams of the characters.

The story is centered on what happens to them (the plot), so writers employ characterization to relay information about those thoughts, histories, and dreams, without drifting away from the action.

In this research, the story is centered on the thoughts, and histories, and dreams of Lester Papadopoulos as the main character. The history of Apollo as a God is well known in the novel as in Greek mythology. And when Apollo turns into a human named Lester Papadopoulos, his thoughts are just the same as when he was a God. But his dreams as a human were just to stay alive and finish his quest.

In this research, the characterization of Lester Papadopoulos as the main character described in those ways by the author, and the writer focused on the narcissist characterization.

2.3 Theory of Narcissist and Narcissism

In this novel, Lester Papadopoulos is previously Apollo, the God of light, the sun, prophecy, philosophy, archery, truth, inspiration, poetry, music, arts, manly beauty, medicine, healing, and plague. Since he was capable to do anything as a God, he shows his narcissistic freely.

Quoted from <http://www.yiannisgabriel.com/> (2012), narcissism is a term from Sigmund Freud (1914/1984) that has proven remarkably useful in discussions of individual and clinical psychology as well as in cultural and organizational studies. Narcissism involves a range of phenomena in which love is directed towards a person's own self or ego. This 'self-love' can assume many different

forms ranging from excessive preoccupation with self-image and beauty to burning ambition to a need to be constantly the center of attention.

Freud distinguished between primary narcissism which occurs in the earliest part of human life, when there is no boundary between a child's ego and the rest of the world, and secondary narcissism which occurs later when we adopt ourselves as an object of love, as though it were an external object. Narcissism is normal – everyone's sexuality is partly oriented towards themselves. A person with very low narcissism may suffer from low self-esteem. Equally, however, very high levels of narcissism can become pathological and lead both to individual neuroses and social and organizational pathologies. Excessively narcissistic individuals strive to be constantly the center of attention and find it difficult to establish meaningful long-term relations with others.

Another important distinction is between *achievement narcissism* (what Freud termed 'cerebral narcissism') when a person wants to distinguish herself through achievement in any sphere of social activity, including business, sport, the arts, politics or science, and *image narcissism* (what Freud called 'somatic' narcissism) when a person wants to be admired for who she is (or what she looks like) rather than for what she has achieved. Image narcissism is inevitably a central feature of the culture of celebrity whereas achievement narcissism is often seen as an important source of career motivation (Gabriel, 1999). In general, people who were only children and enjoyed the unalloyed love and admiration of their parents along with few disciplines and boundaries in early life are liable to develop strong narcissistic desires which influence their later lives.

Membership of different social groups, organizations and societies is a mixed blessing to our narcissism. On the one hand, we identify with the great heroes, achievements and ideals of our culture thus obtaining a measure of narcissistic satisfaction. Being a member of a prestigious organization or an alumnus of a famous college likewise boosts our narcissism. However, modernity and organizations inflict considerable damage to our narcissism too. Living in large cities, surrounded by millions of unfamiliar faces, people in the 20th century had to learn to live as unknowns in the midst of unknowns. Impersonality is a fundamental affront to our narcissism. From being unique members of a family, a clan or a group, organizations and urban life in general consign us to the status of cogs, dispensable and replaceable. In compensation, we seek to develop identities of our own, to distinguish ourselves from the crowd, to establish our own individuality and uniqueness. Freud proposed the term narcissism of minor differences (1921/1985) to describe the pride of groups or communities along with the intense dislike of their neighbors as they seek to differentiate themselves from their closest neighbors, such as the petty antagonism of football supporters towards supporters of a club from an adjacent territory.

Narcissism is particularly important in connection with leadership and organizational culture. Narcissistic leaders tend to be creative people who like to hog the limelight and be the center of attention. Like all strongly narcissistic people, they have many child-like qualities, including creativity, imagination, moodiness, charm and an inability to abide by most boundaries; they are generally good communicators and use their imagination to develop visions that are compelling for their followers. Many of their qualities make them ideal for leading organizations

in an era of spectacle, image and fantasy (Maccoby, 2000). It would be impossible to think of anyone leading an organization like Disneyland without strong narcissistic qualities. Unfortunately, narcissistic leaders can lapse into excessive pre-occupation with image at the expense of the organization's substance. They may neglect important details and become obsessed with countering every criticism of their organization. Their narcissism can infuse an organization's entire culture.

The tell-tale signs of a narcissistic culture include grandiose statements regarding the company's excellence, lavish functions, exhibitionism, a constant preoccupation with what others say about it, and a simultaneous disregard for the social, economic and technological processes that would ensure the organization's continuing success. The ensuing narcissistic decay is, according to Schwartz (1990) the commonest cause of corporate failure. Numerous such failures from the Challenger Disaster (Schwartz, 1988) to the collapse of Barings Bank (Stein, 2000) have been laid squarely at the door of leadership narcissism.

In the last thirty years narcissism has been seen as a wider cultural phenomenon that defines Western culture. In *The Culture of Narcissism* (Lasch, 1980), the American cultural historian and critic Christopher Lasch used narcissism to capture the spirit of an age obsessed with image, celebrity and consumption, an age which has become disillusioned with politics, religion and science as forces of social progress, preoccupied with intimacy and approval, yet fearful of emotional commitments and responsibilities. Unlike Narcissus, contemporary narcissists are not lost in self-love but depend on an admiring audience which they are unable to find. The result is a truly desperate, addictive and mostly vain attempt to enhance their image through consumption of various beautifying accouterments. Failing to

find permanent solace and satisfaction in the world of consumption, narcissists develop a self-hatred, which is the result of their own disturbing inability to love themselves, the way they believe they should be loved. To the narcissist, the world of objects, material and human, appears to hold the promise of delivery, yet they ultimately intensify his/her frustration and dissatisfaction. Other theorists (Bauman, 1992; McCracken, 1988; Nixon, 1992) do not share Lasch's highly pessimistic conclusions, but acknowledge that there are very pronounced narcissistic features in most cultures revolving around consumerism. A person or a culture may be described as 'narcissistic' in a rather loose way, for having a narcissistic *surplus* or, conversely, for having a narcissistic *deficit*. This can render the concept of narcissism virtually meaningless or just a term of abuse. When used accurately, however, narcissism can offer brilliant insights into a wide variety of organizational, social and individual phenomena.

As cited from www.britannica.com (2019), Rhodewalt (2018) wrote that narcissism, pathological self-absorption, first identified as a mental disorder by the British essayist and physician Havelock Ellis in 1898. Narcissism is characterized by an inflated self-image and addiction to fantasy, by an unusual coolness and composure shaken only when the narcissistic confidence is threatened, and by the tendency to take others for granted or to exploit them. The disorder is named for the mythological figure Narcissus, who fell in love with his own reflection. According to Sigmund Freud, narcissism is a normal stage in child development, but it is considered a disorder when it occurs after puberty.

As cited from www.behavenet.com (2020), individuals with narcissistic exhibit five or more symptoms of the following;

- A grandiose sense of self-importance
- Preoccupation with fantasies of unlimited success, power, brilliance, beauty, or ideal love
- Belief that one is special and can only be understood by or associate with special people or institutions
- A need for excessive admiration
- A sense of entitlement (to special treatment)
- Arrogant, haughty behavior or attitudes

Today, narcissistic personality disorder considered as one of several types of personality disorder. Those who live as a narcissist considered arrogant or have a delusion.

However, not everyone thoughts that narcissist is a bad thing. As we know, in this digital era, there are many youtuber, 'selebgram', or comedians use the narcissi as their content or their ways to be more confident. Even in the novel as in "The Trials of Apollo - The Hidden Oracle", the narcissism plays an important role in the characterization.

CHAPTER III METHODOLOGY

3.1 Subject Research

The subject in this research was Lester Papadopoulos. He is 16 years old, has curly brown hair, blue eyes and acne. The character is chosen because he has a unique characteristic in the novel “The Trials of Apollo - The Hidden Oracle”. He also inspires the writer with his confidence and his jokes.

3.2 Material Research (Corpus)

The writer used qualitative approach to do this research. According to Kothari (2004), qualitative approach is a type of research in which the writer concerned with subjective assessment of attitude, opinions and behavior (Kothari, 2004). It makes the writer to analyze the novel. The writer analyzed the conversation in the novel to obtain some information which is related to the research.

The writer used this qualitative approach because the subjectivity in the analysis is a distinctive feature found in it. The data collected were consisted of words and texts from the selected literally work to be analyzed in order to examine the characteristics of Lester Papadopoulos in “The Trials of Apollo - The Hidden Oracle”. The analysis is based on the researchers’ interpretation and supported by related literature.

3.3 Procedure

To complete the research, the writers took some steps to complete it.

First, the writer searched the literary work which was the writer's interest to be analyzed. After that, the writer read the novel "The Trials of Apollo - The Hidden Oracle" that selected by the writer. The writer chooses the topic to be researched.

Secondly, the writer searched references to support the analysis. The writer searched from the books and websites to get the theories as the basic for the research.

Third, the writer analyzed the research question using the references. It was done by identifying and analyzing the narcissist characteristics of Lester Papadopoulos in the novel "The Trials of Apollo - The Hidden Oracle" with the theories of narcissist characteristics.

At the end, the writer got the solution and suggestion about the research.

3.4 Data Collection

The writer agree with Fraenkel & Wallen (2003) that collecting data is an extremely crucial part of the research endeavors, for making conclusions of the study based on what the data.

As stated in John W. Creswell's *Educational Research: Planning, Conducting, and Evaluating Quantitative and Qualitative Research* (2005: 203), the data gathered were qualitative data with the features of data collection in qualitative research. At first, the researcher selected the works to be analyzed based

on the sources that they offered for conducting the study. It is the same with Creswell said in his book about qualitative research that the researcher identifies the subjects and sites of analysis based on places and people that can best help the researcher understand the central phenomenon (2005: 203). And then, the writer collected and cites the words or conversation segments, instead of numeric data as the base of the analysis. It is same with what Creswell has said in his book (2005: 47).

3.5 Data Analysis

The data analysis overall focused on the textual analysis. The writer used the texts in the novel such as words, phrases, and conversation that said by the character or others in the novel “The Trials of Apollo - The Hidden Oracle” to be used as the source for analyzing the data and do the research.

The writer analyzed the novel “The Trials of Apollo - The Hidden Oracle” by Rick Riordan to answer the research question. It was done by analyzing the narcissist characteristics in Lester Papadopoulos as the main character.