



**A FORMULAIC STRUCTURE ANALYSIS IN CASSANDRA CLARE'S
*THE MORTAL INSTRUMENTS: CITY OF BONES***

THESIS

Written by:

Linda Agustin

150110101080

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITAS JEMBER
2019**



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Submitted to English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Jember,
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree Sarjana Sastra in English
Studies

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my dearest mother, Sriwati for the endless love, faith, prayer, and support she has given in my whole life.



MOTTO

وَلَا تَهِنُوا وَلَا تَحْزِنُوا

“Don’t lose hope, nor be sad.”

(Qur’an 3:139)



DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis entitled “**A Formulaic Structure Analysis in Cassandra Clare’s *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones***” is an original writing. The analysis and research contained in this thesis have never been done for any degree or publication. I also validate that sources utilized and supports received in the process of writing this thesis all been acknowledged.

The Writer

Linda Agustin

NIM. 150110101080

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By

Linda Agustin

NIM. 150110101080

Advisors

Supervisor : Hat Pujiati, S.S., M.A.

Co-Supervisor : Drs. Imam Basuki, M.Hum

ADVISORY APPROVAL SHEET

This thesis entitled " A Formulaic Structure Analysis in Cassandra Clare's
The Mortal Instruments: City Of Bones has been approved on:

Day : Tuesday

Date : December 10 , 2019

Place : English Department, the Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Jember.

Supervisor,

Co-Supervisor,

Hat Pujiati, S.S., M.A.

NIP. 198009082005012001

Drs. Imam Basuki, M.Hum

NIP. 196309041989021001

APPROVAL SHEET

Approved and received by the examination committee of English Department, the Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Jember.

Name : Linda Agustin

Student Number : 150110101080

Title : A Formulaic Structure Analysis in Cassandra Clare's *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones*

Day, Date : Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Place : English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Jember

1st Examiner,

Dr. Eko Suwargono, M.Hum

NIP. 196511061993031001

Jember,

2nd Examiner,

Irana Astutiningsih, S.S.M.A

NIP. 197407052005012001

Approved by the Dean,

Prof. Dr. Akhmad Sofyan, M.Hum.

NIP. 196805161992011001

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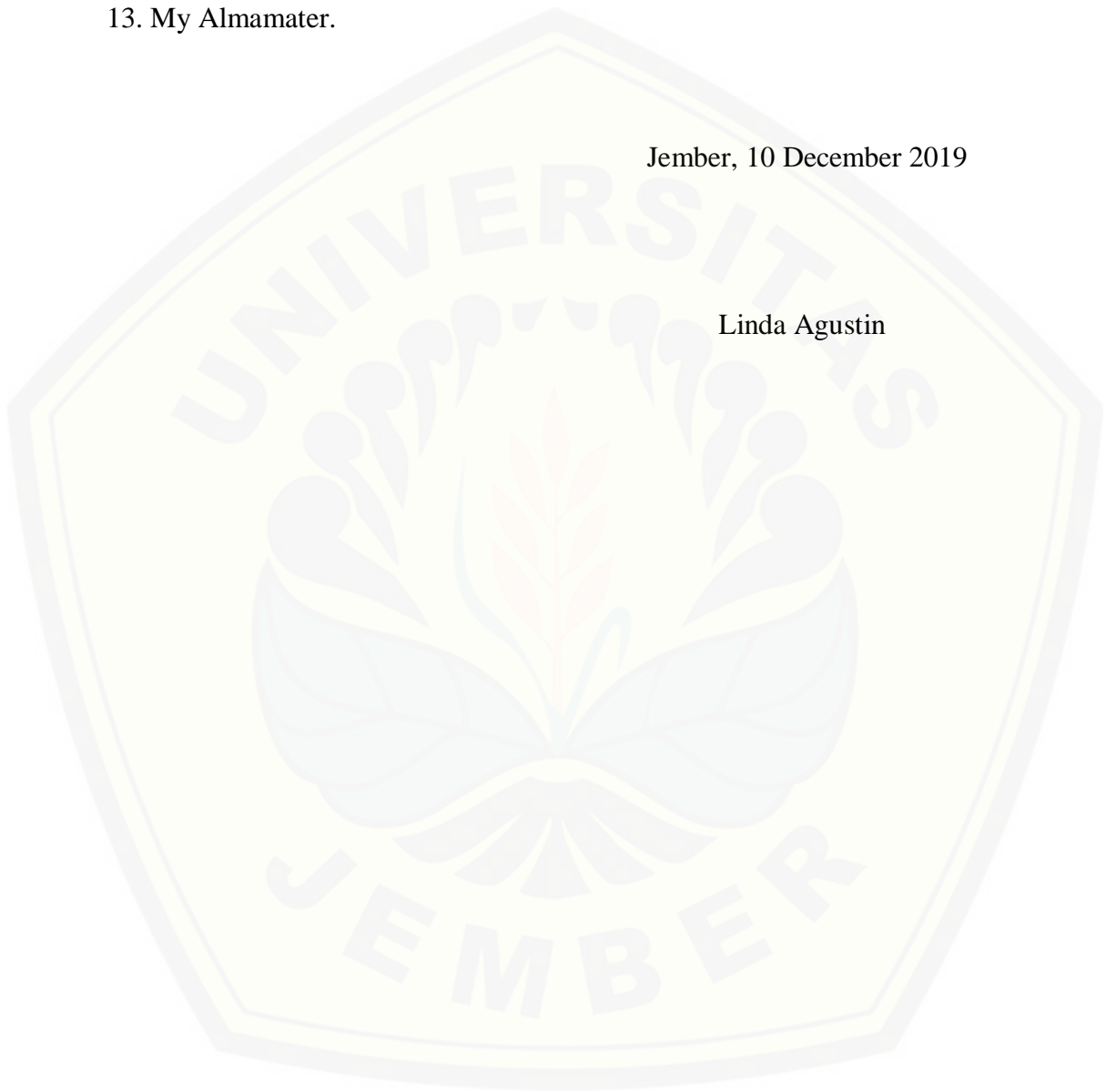
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Linda Agustin



SUMMARY

A FORMULAIC STRUCTURE ANALYSIS IN CASSANDRA CLARE'S *THE MORTAL INSTRUMENTS: CITY OF BONES*; Linda Agustin; 150110101080; 52 pages, English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Jember.

This research discusses the formula in *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones* by Cassandra Clare. The formula in this novel is done by elaborating the narrative structure in the novel including setting, character and characterization, and plot. Further, this thesis is required to break down the construction of religiosity concept which appears in the formula. The construction of religiosity concept in the formula relates to cultural background of American towards religiosity. Therefore, this research uses formula theory by John G. Cawelti (1976) to finish this thesis. The standardization is needed to find the narrative structure in the formula. It consists of three formulaic elements- setting, character and characterization, and plot. To show the relation between formula and culture, the discussion in this thesis explores the construction of religiosity concepts as the escapism of the novel. It aims to find American religious culture represented in the novel.

This thesis is qualitative research since the data are in the form of utterances or words. The data are divided into two types- primary and secondary data. The primary data are taken from *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones* focusing on three literary formulaic elements. The secondary data are taken from books, journals, articles, and website from internet which show the condition of American religious culture.

As a result, it can be concluded that *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones* uses the popular pattern adventure and mystery as the dominant pattern. The setting of the novel is constructed by gothic pattern which is functioned to build tension in adventure story. The unique hero is created from the adaptation of Nephilim or Shadowhunters. However, Shadowhunters has unique way to defeat

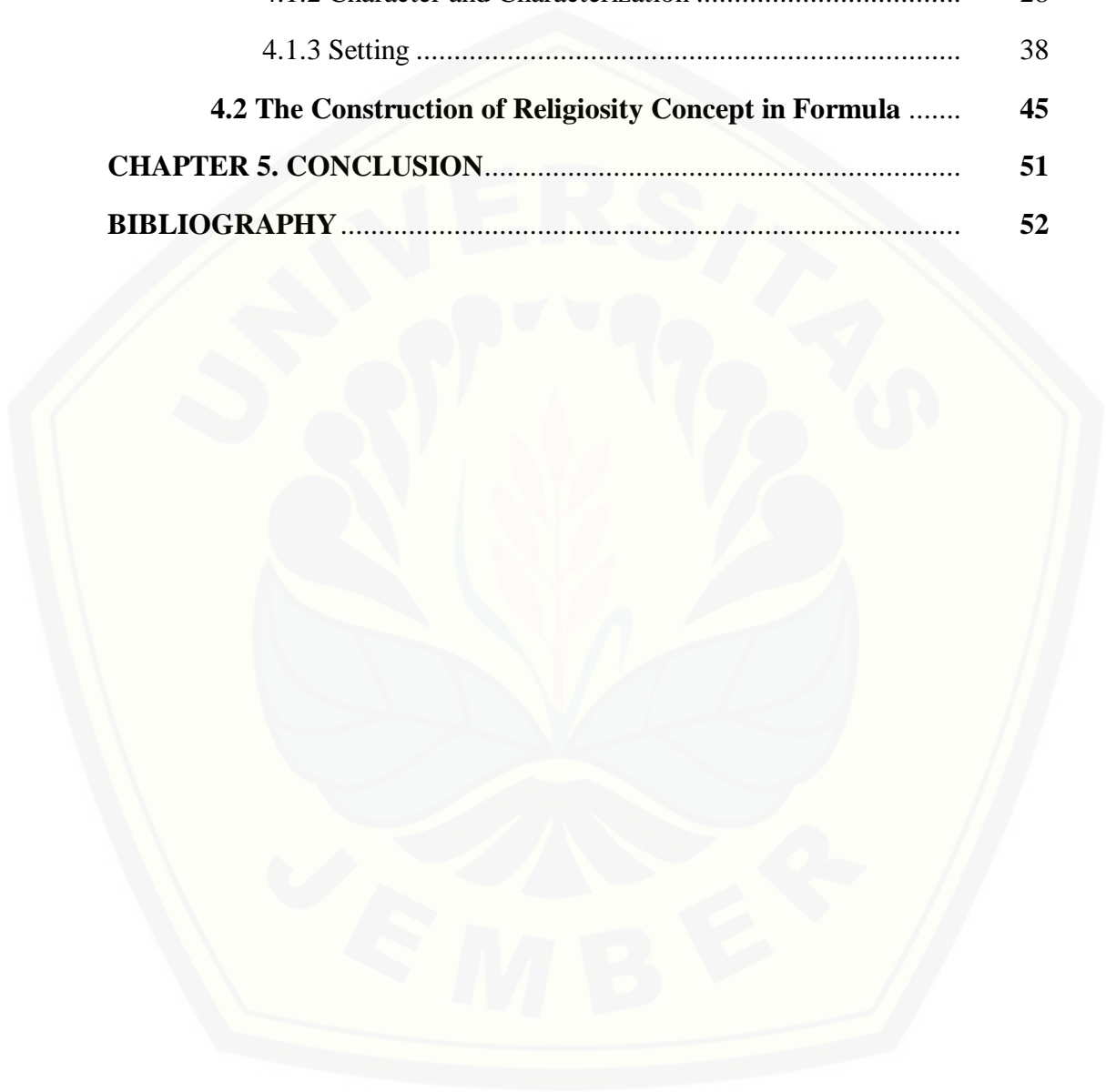
the villain in the story. The unique way is pictured by the use of religious supernatural weapon blessed by Angel Raziel (the god in the novel) and the use of thinking.

The existence of Nephilim as the hero relates to second discussion of the construction religiosity concept as the relation between formula and culture. The result shows *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones* mirrors American religious culture. As developed country, America is known more religious and still has strong religious belief than other wealthy nation. The American strong religious belief is represented in this novel. The first thing is found by representing Nephilim which places Angel Raziel as their God in the highest position. It pictures American culture that has strong belief in God, stated in United States' motto- "In God We Trust". Second, the rejection of LGBTQ represented by a Nephilim- Alec, represents a Christian belief which based on Bible, where Christian dominate United States. The rejection of LGBTQ which based on Bible, in which Genesis explains LGBTQ is prohibited, represents America strong religious belief based on the rule of religion.

TABLE OF CONTENT

DEDICATION	ii
MOTTO	iii
DECLARATION	iv
THESIS	v
ADVISORY APPROVAL SHEET	vi
APPROVAL SHEET	vii
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	viii
SUMMARY	xi
TABLE OF CONTEETNT	xii
CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of Study	1
1.2 Topic of Discussion	2
1.3 Research Question	2
1.4 The Goal of Study	3
CHAPTER 2. LITERATURE REVIEW	4
2.1 Previous Research	4
2.2. Theoretical Framework	6
2.2.1 Theory of Formula by John G. Cawelti	6
2.2.2 The Artistic Characteristic of Formula Literature	7
2.2.3 A Typology of Literary Formula	8
2.2.4 Formula and Culture	9
CHAPTER 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	11
3.1 Type of Research	11
3.2 Data Collection	11
3.3. Data Processing and Data Analysis	12

CHAPTER 4. DISCUSSION	13
4.1 The Construction of Formula in The Novel.....	13
4.1.1 Plot	14
4.1.2 Character and Characterization	28
4.1.3 Setting	38
4.2 The Construction of Religiosity Concept in Formula	45
CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSION.....	51
BIBLIOGRAPHY	52



CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the research as the basic explanation in how the research will be conducted. This chapter also contains the topic of discussion to know the topic is used in this study. Moreover, research question is presented to discuss as well as the goal of the study to point out of this research is understood well.

1.1 Background of Study

Based on the cover novel of *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones* (2007), Cassandra Clare's *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones* is a popular novel which becomes New York Time Bestseller book. This novel was published on March 27th, 2007 and it has been translated over 34 languages. Although it is written using teenage characters, this popular novel aims young adult. *City of Bones* is the first series novel of Clare's first trilogy- *City of Bones*, *City of Ashes*, and *City of Glasses*. Moreover, there is second trilogy of the series *The Mortal Instruments*- *City of Heavenly Fire*, *City of Lost Soul*, and *City of Fallen Angel*. In 2009, *City of Bones* novel was adapted into a movie which produced by Constantin Film and Unique Features and it was released in 2012. However, this movie does not continue into the next series, but it changes adapting the novel into series film known as *Shadowhunters* (<https://tmisource.com/the-mortal-instruments/city-of-bones/>).

In *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones*, Cassandra Clare introduces a hero called as *Shadowhunters* and it is also known as *Nephilim*. This term is taken from Bible. Furthermore, *Nephilim* can be defined as son of God which comes into the world to guide human in the right way. In the other myth, it is also described as a giant who possess super human strength. In the novel, the role of *Shadowhunters* is protecting human world from the demons which come from hell and could do forbidden thing such as killing human. As they born from angel blood, they consider their selves, have to protect human world. *Shadowhunters* also protect the peacefulness of the *Shadow World*. In this novel, group of

Shadowhunters met Clary whom her mother is kidnapped. Moreover, Clary is attacked by monster. Hence, group of Shadowhunters including Jace, Isabelle, and Alec accompany and protect Clary to find her mother. They move from one place to other places to find her mother. In addition, they always face a problem in every place such as confronting some monsters. This structure is suitable with the archetype of adventure story where the hero – individual or group – overcoming obstacles and dangers and accomplishing some important and moral mission (Cawelti, 1976:39).

In presenting the adventure story, *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones* has the similar pattern with the story of Hercules and Percy Jackson. Both Hercules and Percy Jackson adapted Greek mythology as the hero into American story. However, American culture is still represented in these previous stories. The formula in which American culture appears in the story of Hercules and Percy Jackson is also found in *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones*. The hero-Nephilim which is adapted into the novel also represents American culture. Regarding to this explanation, *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones*, as popular novel, is suitable to use formula theory by John G. Cawelti.

1.2 Topic of Discussion

This research focuses on formulaic structure in Cassandra Clare's *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones*. The formula in the novel leads to the second discussion of the concept of religiosity constructed in the novel which brings religious mythology- Nephilim taken from Bible. The construction of religiosity concept is analyzed based on the setting of the story where it takes in America in contemporary era.

1.3 Research Question

Based on the background of the story, this research uses two research questions:

1. How is the formulaic structure constructed in Cassandra Clare's *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones*?
2. How is the concept of religiosity constructed in the formula?

1.4 The Goal of Study

This research has some purpose. First, it aims to discuss the problem analysis by finding the formula in *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones*. The formulaic structure is analysed through its setting, character and characterization, and plot since these three literary elements include in formulaic literary devices. Second, it aims to analyse and show up the concept of religiosity construction in the novel and relate it to the cultural background of America, especially in 21st century.



CHAPTER 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter contains two subchapters. The first subchapter shows some previous researches which are done analysing the work of formula and support this research. These previous researches are used to help and support this study. The second subchapter explains the main theory which is used as the tool to do this research. The theory is formula by John G. Cawelti.

2.1 Previous Research

In this research, there are two previous theses which relate to the topic discussed. It also supports the analysis of this thesis. These theses are used to give the detail explanation of applying Cawelti's theory of formula. Furthermore, it is also used to give some potential advice for this research.

The first previous research is a thesis written by Adella entitled "A Study on Popular Formula of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*". In this research, Adella focuses on the elements of formulaic literature and discusses relationship between formula and the popular culture around 18th - 19th century. The concept of *Galvanism* applied in the novel. *Galvanism* is a term relates to the science in which it uses electricity as part of science to bring the dead body to be alive again. It was really popular during this century, but making the dead body to live again is something prohibited in religion. At that time, scientist could not make the dead body lives again. Hence, Mery Shelly in her work- *Frankenstein* creates a main character from the dead man body. It fulfills what people wanted at the time. The dream of the author and also scientist come true. Adella uses formula theory by John G. Cawelti to find the elements of formula in the novel and the culture in certain period around the creation of novel. Adella said, she could find interrelated hypothesis about the dialectic between formulaic literature and the culture (Adella, 2015). Formula is able to give a chance to the audience to escape from reality. If making the dead body lives again cannot be done and it is also part of forbidden thing to do, formula is offered something that reality cannot overtake the boundary of religion. Finally, she can prove that formula in literary work can

break down the existence of interest culture which presented according to certain period. Adella's work gives a contribution to my research to give an overview of formula which is applied to show up the relationship between formula related to cultural background in a certain period. The use of the concept of *galvanism* through the novel related to the formula also gives contribution to my research in which I focus on the concept of religiosity constructed in the novel. However, in my research, I will break down the formula using primary source of the novel-*The Mortal Instrument: City of Bones* and analyze the concept of religiosity in the novel then relate it to the cultural background of America which takes setting in 21st century.

The second thesis is Prameswary's "Bringing Greek Mythology into American Story: A Formulaic Analysis of Rick Riordan's *The Trials Of Apollo: The Hidden Oracle*". The novel stories the hero of god and goddess of Greek Mythology but the setting of the novel is America in 21st century or contemporary era. It becomes a background of this research. A mixture culture between Greek and America is analysed through the narrative of the novel using qualitative research. In addition, she applies theory of formula by John G. Cawelti to break down the formulaic structure in *The Trials of Apollo: The Hidden Oracle*. Firstly, she analyses the construction of formula using intrinsic elements of literature including setting, characterization, and plot in the novel. It aims to prove that the moral fantasy of novel can be considered as adventure story. As a result, it can be categorized as adventure novel which uses the element of fantasy. In analysing the narrative structure, she finds the main character constructed through the stereotypical trait. If gods usually presented as the strongest character in Greek mythology, Apollo as the main character of god is presented as a weak character which has similar appearance like ordinary human in 21st century. It becomes the uniqueness of this novel to present the complexity of the main character. Moreover, Apollo does not have any ability. In the novel, he uses Snapchat as American's social media to contact the other gods. This is a representation that America superiority presented in this novel. The use of American technology is chosen than Greek myth. Moreover, there is also an issue of LGBTQ which

presented by Apollo's children. Apollo is happy if he sees his children too romantic showing their relationship. Riordan wants to give a message in his novel to all LGBTQ not to worry being in that way, especially for children who ever wanted to suicide related to this case. This research has some gaps with the first previous research by using the different primary source. It also takes in different era to discuss the cultural background. This thesis gives a contribution for my thesis by analysing the intrinsic element especially analysing a relation between formula and American culture. This research has the similar setting with *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones* where it takes in contemporary era of America.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

2.2.1 Theory of Formula by John G. Cawelti

The research- A Formulaic Structure Analysis of Cassandra Clare's *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones* uses theory of formula proposed by John G. Cawelti. His book entitled *Adventure, Mystery, and Romance: Formula Stories as Art and Popular Culture* (1976) defines how the elements put together to construct a text and it becomes the pattern in certain literary work. Cawelti explains:

In general, a literary formula is a structure of narrative or dramatic conventions employed in a great number of individual works. There are two common usages of the term formula closely related to the conceptions to set forth. The first usage refers to patterns of convention which are usually quite specific to a particular culture and period and do not mean the same outside this specific context. The second common literary usage of the term formula refers to larger plot types- boy meets girl, boy and girl have misunderstanding, boy gets girl. These general plot patterns are not necessarily limited to a specific culture or period.

(Cawelti, 1976:5)

Based on the statement above, there are two different usages mentioned by Cawelti. These usages explains of popular story pattern are unlimited to a specific culture or period and archetype of story. Pattern of a story has similarity in creating the story with the specific period and culture. It is called as archetypal story in which the use of formula or narrative structure is repeatedly used. There

are some general patterns that have been formulated and it becomes patterns which may be followed by the writer. Then, the continuous usage of this pattern makes the archetype to be large plot. The similar pattern for type of story, for example, can be romance, mystery, and adventure which means the work of writing a story is not an original work. It can also refer to stereotype that spread out in certain community because stereotype is part of convention. However, the writer needs different story or pattern to make his or her work unique. Hence, it becomes widely spread out and the characteristic of large group or individual work from certain combinations of cultural materials and archetypal story patterns (Cawelti, 1976:6).

2.2.2 The Artistic Characteristic of Formula Literature

There are two central aspects of formulaic structure which are stated in this theory. It is characterized by formula's conventional standardization and escapism. Cawelti stated:

“Standardization is not highly valued in modern artistic ideologies, it is, in important ways, the essence of all literature. Standard convention establishes a common ground between writers and audience. Without at least some form of standardization, artistic communication would not be possible. But well – established conventional structures are particularly essential to the creation of formula literature and reflect the interest of audience, creators, and distributors.”

(Cawelti, 1976:8-9)

Standardization is familiar pattern which has been used in a story as conventional work. It appears in order to establish a common ground between writer and audience (Cawelti, 1976:8). In this case, the standardization deals with a standard structure which is needed to be followed in relation to kind of works. The reader will easily recognize of this kind of conventional work as their enjoyment to choose specific type of story and the writer needs the standardization as a deal in writing a story.

Escapism can be found according to standardization. Escapism is formed for creating a different story pattern in which every writer has his own

characteristic to write the story. Moreover, escapism is created in order to give relaxation or enjoyment to the reader to escape from reality (Cawelti, 1976:8). In creating the escapism, it does not mean a story totally leaves conventional pattern which has been used in almost every story. The common concept of a story should be varied and innovated as the reader's relaxation. The very essential element of the novel which creates the reader's emotion is the adventure and romance story.

2.2.3 A Typology of Literary Formula

Cawelti explains that one of the important problems connected with the study of literary formulas is to arrive at some understanding of the general story types that underlie the diversity of formulaic construction. It is called as form of moral fantasy (1976: 37). In this case, type of formulaic genre should be comprehended as well to know the popular genre in the story. There are five popular genres which are mentioned in Cawelti's concept, those are:

1. Adventure

The hero becomes a centre of this story in which the hero comes to the obstacles or dangers to complete some missions. Moreover, the focus of this type of genre is the hero and the obstacles of the story which should be solved. The hero sometimes gets a benefit such as a beautiful girl or lady. Cawelti mentioned that there are two ways to explain the superhero- first, a superhero with exceptional strength and ability or, second, as a common people, at the beginning of the story usually the hero is presented as an ordinary person and then becomes extra-ordinary with his power.

2. Romance

This type is actually appropriate with adventure story which has the main protagonist character. The focus is in love relationship; boy meets girl, boy and girl have misunderstanding, boy gets girl. An obstacle or danger can be found in type of romance in order to challenge and strengthen the love relationship.

3. Mystery

Cawelti stated that mystery type story has a dominant formulaic principle in its construction, with the single exception of one of the greatest and most

productive of all formulas (Cawelti, 1976:43). The investigation and discovery of hidden secrets are elements of mystery.

4. Melodrama

This type of story usually presents the complexity of all. It combines more than one of story type as Cawelti stated:

“melodrama is “the fantasy of a world that operates according to our heart’s desire in contrast to the other formula types that are fantasies of particular actions or states of being that counter some of our deepest fears and concentrate on particular wishes for victory or love or knowledge”

(Cawelti, 1976:47)

This type relates to heart’s desire which is categorized as the element of fantasy. Reader’s emotion usually appears as feeling of sorry and hate according to the melodrama story. It leads to the perspective people of making decision of right and wrong, good and evil.

5. Alien beings or state

Horror story is involved in this type of story. The highlight centre of this moral fantasy can be related to the some meaningful fashion such as monsters, such as zombie, werewolf, Dracula or vampire, alien, ghost, and so on.

2.2.4 Formula and Culture

Formulas are cultural products and in turn presumably have some sort of influence on culture because they become a conventional ways to represent and relate some certain images, symbols, themes, and myths (Cawelti, 1976). Formula creates the evolution time to time by developing, changing, and giving way to the other formula to survive through audience selection. What should be highlighted and distinguished in this case is the popularity of individual work and the popularity of formula. Cawelti explained, “determining why a particular novel or films becomes bestseller is problematic because it is difficult to be sure what elements or combination of elements the public is responding to” (Cawelti, 1976:21).

Cawelti stated that there are four interrelated hypotheses about the dialectic between formulaic literature and the culture that produces and enjoys it.

Those are:

1. Formula stories affirms existing interest and attitudes by presenting an imaginary world that is aligned with these interest and attitudes. By confirming existing definition of the world, literary formulas help to maintain culture's ongoing consensus about the nature of reality and morality.
2. Formula resolves tensions and ambiguities resulting from the conflicting interest of different groups within the culture or from ambiguous attitudes toward particular values.
3. Formula enables the audience to explore in fantasy the boundary between the permitted and the forbidden and to experience in a carefully controlled way the possibility of stepping across this boundary.
4. Literary formula assists in the process of assimilating changes in values to traditional imaginative constructs.

Based on four interrelated hypotheses above, this research will relate the formula in the novel to culture of America where New York City becomes the setting of *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones*.

CHAPTER 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter consists of three subchapters. First, Type of research explains what kind of research which is used. Second, data collection explains the process of data which are collected and needed for this research. Third, data processing and data analysis show how the data proceeded and analyzed from the data collection.

3.1 Type of Research

Qualitative method is used to complete the data of research. The focus data of qualitative method is in the form of words or sentence without any focus on numeric data. In this research, the data are taken from narrative structure in *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones*. Formula theory by John G. Cawelti is applied to analyse the structure of this novel. Moreover, it helps this research to find the escapism in the novel. Finally, theory of formula is widely used through this research in order to relate to cultural background in America in contemporary era.

3.2 Data Collection

The data in this research are collected into two kinds. The first data are primary data which are taken from a novel *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones* in the form of narration, statements, and dialogue. Meanwhile, the secondary data are for supporting data to complete this research. The secondary data are from library and internet. The data from library are taken from theses, journals, and books which discuss the elements of formula literature and the condition of American's culture related to the main topic of this research. In addition, the data taken from internet are the information of website and e-book relate to the condition of religiosity in America. Furthermore, I choose formula theory proposed by John G. Cawelti, with his book *Adventure, Mystery, and Romance; Formula Stories as Art and Popular Culture* to answer the research questions of this research.

3.3 Data Processing and Data Analysis

Data processing and data analysis are important after collecting the data. There are some steps in processing the data. First, doing close reading is needed to get the main problem from the novel *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones*. The main discussion is found by the pattern or archetype constructed in the novel. However, it must be done by reading the novel many times. Then, the result of this analysis related to the concept of religiosity in the novel and connected it to the cultural background in America taken in contemporary era as the setting of this novel.

The second step is selecting and classifying the data which support the analysis. The data of the novel as primary and journals, articles, books, and internet as secondary source need to be combined in this part. After selecting and classifying the data from the novel and other sources, all of the data will be analysed through John G. Cawelti's theory of formula. In analysing the data, the data are divided into two points. The first point which should be done is analysing intrinsic elements of literature as standardization aspect based on Cawelti's theory of formula. It helps to find the escapism which is to entertain reader and to escape from reality. The second point is finding the escapism as the second aspect which is used by the author. The escapism relates to the main problem in this research which discusses the concept of religiosity constructed in the novel. Also, the construction of religiosity concept will be related to the American religious culture.

CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSION

Through this novel, the story is constructed by the use of adventure and mystery pattern as the dominant archetype. The story brings Christian mythology as the hero which relates to American culture. In addition, the story is similar with the pattern of Hercules and *Percy Jackson and The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* which also bring Greek mythology which represent American people, culture, and society. In presenting the hero- Nephilim (Shadowhunter), the hero follows the same pattern with Hercules and Percy Jackson which the hero possess super power. However, the main hero- Clary creates different pattern by presenting her power in using her thinking to defeat the villain. Based on the setting in the novel, the story tends to use gothic pattern by representing dark places and supernatural creature like Brother Jerimiah, monsters, and vampires. However, the gothic pattern of the setting is created in order to build tension in adventure story.

Related to the second topic of this research, the formula in *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones* represents American culture toward religiosity. The first thing is found is about the strong belief in God. American is known and famous with their strong believe in God which can be proven in their dollar stated "In God We Trust". This statement also appears as the motto of United States. Using Angel Raziel as the representation of god in the novel, Shadowhunters always use his name to ask his willing to finish certain mission and depend on blessed weapons, rune, and stele which contain magic created by Angel Raziel. Then, Shadowhunters is categorized as religious creature which brings god in their daily life. The second thing brought up in the formula is a religious belief based on Christianity stated on Bible. LGBTQ is represented by Nephilim in the novel. It is known that Nephilim is originally from Bible. Based on the Bible, LGBTQ is rejected because Bible asked human to do heterosexual marriage to create a family.

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