Journal of Applied Foreign Languages pp.27-50 Volume 14, December 2010 Frodo and Odysseus: The Concept of Hero

佛羅多與奧德修斯: 英雄的概念

林顯全 輔英科技大學應用外語系

摘要

對《奧德賽》與《魔戒》中英雄概念的研究結論相當分歧,有時甚至互相矛盾。有些學者認為佛羅多是英雄,另外有些研究者則把他當作是身心破損的哈比人。同樣地,有些學者認為奧德修斯是史詩英雄而有些專家把他視為反英雄。這些研究所衍生令人好奇的問題是英雄概念真的如此多樣貌嗎?因此,本研究的目的在於探討這兩部作品中英雄概念從佛羅多與奧德修斯的英雄行徑和個性差異著手。除此之外,也使用坎伯對英雄概念的定義及英雄旅程的理論來檢視兩者。本研究的結果顯示儘管他們兩人在個性、對待敵人的態度、人際關係、體力心力、戰爭經驗、英雄本質各有不同,但在英雄行徑和經歷上雷同,也符合坎伯的英雄標準。因此,他們兩人是具有不同外貌的英雄。

關鍵詞:英雄概念、英雄之旅、返家、死亡/再生循環、超自然的助力、 考驗

Frodo and Odysseus: The Concept of Hero

Hsien-Chuan Lin

Department of Foreign Languages Fooyin University of Technology

Abstract

The findings of research studies on the concept of hero in both *The Odyssey* and *The Lord of the Rings* are quite diverse and sometimes even contradictive to each other. Some scholars view Frodo as a hero while others take him as a shattered hobbit. Similarly, certain savants regard Odysseus as an epic hero whereas others consider him an antihero. The problem arising from these studies is whether the opinions on the concept of hero can be as diversified as they look like. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to investigate the concept of hero in both works with some heroic code of behaviors on the one hand, and to examine the differences of character as shown in Frodo and Odysseus when they challenge forces beyond their mental and physical toughness on the other hand, so that it may shed some light on whether they both are heroes with different faces and not so different from each other as the previous studies have suggested.

This study also approaches the concept of hero by using the theory of the "Hero's Journey" (departure, initiation, and return) and the definition of hero proposed by Joseph Campbell. The result of this study shows that although Frodo and Odysseus differ from each other in terms of their characters, attitude toward enemies, interpersonal relationship, mental and physical strength, battlefield experiences, and heroic qualities, they share a certain heroic code of behaviors and survive ordeals, and their adventures are correspondent with the criteria of hero suggested by Joseph Campbell; therefore, they are heroes with different faces.

Keywords: concept of the hero; Hero's Journey; homecoming; death/rebirth cycle; supernatural aid; ordeals