

## OBSTACLE IN J. R. R TOLKIEN'S NOVEL *THE HOBBIT*

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### **Abstract**

This article is about the protagonist's obstacles and the solutions for the obstacles in John Ronald Reuel Tolkien's novel **The Hobbit** which is published in 1937. The Hobbit is about adventure in searching of dragon guarded gold. The protagonist's name is Bilbo Baggins. On his journey, he undergoes some obstacles such as being arrested by the trolls, being attacked and arrested by the goblins, falling down to the dark cave, being pursued by the wolves, and fighting with the spider. There are two solutions which are needed in solving the obstacle; ingenuity and physical endurance. This analysis uses the data taken from the novel applying Descriptive Qualitative Research. One of the dominant concepts of obstacle used in this study is proposed by Brian Kariger and Daniel Fierro (1998) who state that obstacle is something that obstructs or hinders progress. The conclusion from this analysis shows that the protagonist, Bilbo Baggins faces some obstacles and there are two solutions to solve the obstacles.

**Keywords:** protagonist, obstacle, solution, ingenuity and physical endurance

### **1. Introduction**

*The Hobbit* is one of the famous novels written by J.R.R Tolkien. It is the prelude to *The Lord of The Ring* published in September 21<sup>st</sup>, 1937, and has been sold many million of copies, establishing itself as one of the most beloved and infrantial books of the twentieth century.

John Ronald Reuel Tolkien (3 January 1892 – 2 September 1973) was an English writer, poet, philologist, and university professor. He was known as the author of the classic high fantasy works *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Ring*, and *Silmarillon*.

*The Hobbit* is the story of how a Baggins had an adventure, and found himself doing and saying things altogether unexpected. Bilbo Baggins is one of the protagonist character in this novel, where central role is understood by his appeal. He is not only the most important but also the most likeable and honorable character. He is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable unambitius life, rarely travelling further than the pantry of his hobbit hole in Bag End. But his contentment disturbed when the wizard, Gandalf, and a company of thirteen dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day, to whisk him away on a journey. They have a plot to raid the treasure hoard of Smaug; the magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon. Thus, they will face many obstacles in their journey, such as Bilbo and his friends run into the goblins, wicked and savage creatures, who pillage all who tend to be in their destructive range. They come upon a crowd of scrawnier individuals

(the dwarves and Bilbo), in great numbers. They steal the food as well as destroy all things that intervene with their plundering. Bilbo escapes from the goblins' terrible onslaught of rage and destruction through a big cave in the side of the mountain, only to get lost deep within the massive walls of the dark and dreary caverns. The next obstacle, that Bilbo has to overcome is his confrontation with Gollum, whom he meets after he escapes from the goblins. Way down deep in the caverns of misty mountain, Bilbo finds himself telling riddles in pitch darkness for his freedom.

Based on the statement above, the writer is interested in analyzing the novel *The Hobbit* which focusses on the protagonist's obstacles. It is so interesting to discuss the problem on it, that is why the writer wants to identify two things in his study as follows: the protagonist's obstacle and the solutions for the protagonist's obstacles.

Thus, the objective of this study is to analyze what become the research problem in this study. They are to reveal the protagonist's obstacles and to reveal the solutions for the protagonist's obstacles.

In writing this study, the writer makes a limitation about what is going to be analyzed. Therefore, this study focuses on the protagonist's obstacle in this novel, such as being arrested by the trolls, being attacked and arrested by the goblin, falling down to the dark cave, being run by the wolf, fighting with the spider and also the solutions for the obstacles above. The writer does not include the discussion about other problems, such as bravery, strength and skill, sacrifice, suffering, power, etc.

The significance of the study is to give more information about this novel. Theoretically, the writer hopes that after reading this novel the readers can take the moral lessons from this story because the writer himself feels many experiences that he gets many useful things such as the meaning of faithfulness and togetherness in facing the problem. *The Hobbit* is very recommended for the readers that like adventure story very much as he did. Practically, this novel can also become a new reference for those who have the same research with this study.

## 2. Literature Review

Protagonist is one of the objects of this study. The word *protagonist* was derived from the *proto* (main) and *agonist* (a character in a work of fiction). The "*Protagonist*" came from the Greek language and in a Greek drama which refers to the person who led the chorus. Over a period of time, the meaning of the term protagonist has changed. The word protagonist originated in ancient Greek drama and referred to the leader of a chorus. Then it was changed to represent the first actor on stage. Thus, it can be said that protagonist is the most important character in a literary work.

Protagonist is considered to be the first character or the leading figure in a novel, play, or a poem. It may also be referred to as the hero of a work. The definition is supported by some theories. According to Wiley (2010) "Protagonist is a person who plays a leading or active part". The definition is similar to Arthur Ganz (1990: 217), protagonist is first actor, who plays the leading part. Ginny Wiehardt (2005) explains that the protagonist is the main character in a story, novel, drama, or other literary work, the character that the reader or audience empathizes with. While, Hull (2013) says that "Protagonist is who the story is about". He also stated that protagonist pursues the goal of the story who, sometimes, is played by the main character. In other word, protagonist and main character are commonly played by the same actor, although they are different. Main character represents the audience's eyes into the story because he or she will effect the audience emotionally. It is in line with what is said by Fowler (1897: 32), "The

protagonist is the main character in a story, novel, drama, or other literary work, the character that the reader or audience empathizes with". Gagan Raj (1991: 134) said that protagonist refers to the first actor in a play; thence the principal actor or character. Other source tells, if protagonist in ancient drama is the first actor to engage in dialogue with the chorus, in later dramas playing the main character and some minor character as well (Harcourt, 2013).

According to Altenbernd and Lewis (1966: 59), protagonist character is a character that is admired by reader, and well-known as a hero. Protagonist shows a character that is appropriate with all reader's expectation. The readers would feel that the protagonist's problem is the readers' one. Moreover, Reaske (1966: 45) says that the main character of any drama is known as protagonist the tragic hero and protagonist are same in tragedy for about terms describe the central character. It could be seen in a novel of J. R. R Tolkien's *The Hobbit* in which the protagonist becomes the first actor that has important role in a story.

Based on the definition above, theory of Gagan Raj and Hull can be said as core of protagonist and easy to understood, it could be concluded that protagonist is the first actor in a literary work and he has a very important role to build a story. Hence, we can also say that a protagonist is the first actor in one literary work. Moreover, some people said that the protagonist should not always a man, a woman has the same opportunity to be a protagonist in one story. Eventually, a protagonist might be said to be the man actor in one literary work that is commonly a hero or an opponent of an antagonist. Furthermore, a protagonist is not always the role of a man but women as well.

An obstacle (also called a barrier, impediment or stumbling block) is an object, thing, action or situation that causes an obstruction. There are many kinds of obstacle or barrier in this world. They are different type and meaning, the sense of the obstacle or barrier is according to their own sector. Therefore, there are many types of obstacles, such as obstacle in sports, economic, biopsychosocial, cultural, political, technological or even military obstacle or barrier.

The definition about obstacle is supported by some theories. Mario Pei and Prof. Emeritus (1971) said, obstacle is anything that stands in the way of progress, an obstruction or impediment of any sort, a hindrance or obstruction in either a physical or a moral sense. From this definition he tells us that obstacle made for influence someone to give up to do something and make their unlucky or make us lose. The obstacle does not only occur outside but also inside, that means the obstacle also be barrier for our soul and mind, where its influence our emotion. This theory can covering the other theories and definitions about obstacle.

The similar definition, Webster's new International Dictionary (1963: 1982) stated that "Obstacle" is anything that hinders progress. It means that in getting success or something we must get an obstacle, even in our daily life, we usually have obstacles that can make our job or work stopped or disturbed, and it will cause the feeling of lazy and stress. Brian Kariger and Daniel Fierro (1998) explain that obstacle is something that obstructs or hinder progress. George Merriam (1831), obstacle is something that makes it difficult to do or an object that you have to go around or over something that blocks your path.

According to William E. Gortney (2007); Obstacle is any natural or man-made obstruction designed or employed to disrupt, fix, turn, or block the movement of an opposing force, and to impose additional losses impersonnel, time, and equipment on the opposing force. This ordinary used for strategy war, in the story the protagonist used the

strategy for face his or make his enemy be confused or trick to bear down the enemy. Obstacles can exist naturally (existing), be man-made (reinforcing), or be a combination of both. (C3, FM 3-34.2, Headquarters Department of the Army Washington, DC, 11 October 2002, *Combined-Arms Breaching Operations*). From this definition, he wants to say that the nature has already be obstacle and in military sector more difficult the obstacle more better the soldier can get. Obstacle is also made by man for practice, not just for making the body stronger but in mental and soul too. Hinkhoj (<http://dict.hinkhoj.com/words/meaning-of-OBSTACLE-in-hindi.html>) explains that obstacle is something immaterial that stands in the way and must be circumvented or surmounted; "lack of imagination is an obstacle to ones advancement"; "the poverty of a district is an obstacle to good education"; "the filibuster was a major obstruction to the success of their plan", or an obstruction that stands in the way (and must be removed or surmounted or circumvented).

Furthermore, it can be said also that "Obstacle is something in the way that either stops progress or makes it difficult" ( Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary ). The definition shows that obstacle is something which troubles someone to achieve his or her ambition. It might come from someone, or something, or certain condition. Obstacle often comes to someones when she or he is doing an effort or an activity to get her or his ambition. It will usually be found in life because it cannot be separated from our life.

### 3. Research Method

In carrying out this research, this written applies descriptive qualitative method in which the qualitative data collected would be analyzed and interpreted descriptively this method will help analyze the obstacle found in this novel. According to Nazir (2005: 54), descriptive method is done to make the description of facts, characteristic, and relationships between phenomena investigated systematically, factually, accurately. This definition is supported by an opinion of Nawawi (1955: 63) that defines descriptive method as a procedure of problem solving by describing the subject or the object of the study based on the visible facts. Meanwhile, qualitative research is a research dealing with description, not numbers and the data collected could be observed, not measured.

In this study, the writer gets the data from the novel itself and other related sources. In a scientific research, data collection is an important element to be considered. It shows how the writer collects the data that would be analyzed systematically. There must be some procedures done by the writer to gather the data wholly. The following are the procedures conducted in this research:

Reading the novel carefully several times, underlining and taking the principal points that are related to the protagonist's roles, making some important notes based on the points that have been found, collecting the theory and the data related to the analysis, classifying the quotation based on the subject matter used to be analyzed.

Furthermore, data analysis is needed in giving the answer for the research problem in this study. This research is concerned with the obstacle which are found in J.R.R Tolkien novel *The Hobbit*. The data analysis will be conducted by several steps as follows: finding the relevant quotation with the title, collecting the data, classifying the data into respective categories related to the research problem after they are collected, analyzing the data carefully, and making conclusion from the data analyzed.

### 4. Discussion

In this chapter, the writer will analyze the protagonist's obstacle that are found in the novel *The Hobbit*. The name of the protagonist is Bilbo Baggins. This analysis will describe his obstacles and the solutions for the obstacles. Thus this chapter will be divided into two sub chapters, they are the protagonist's obstacles which contains *being arrested by the trolls, being attacked and arrested by the goblin, falling down to the dark cave, being run by the wolf, fighting with the spider* and the solutions for the protagonist's obstacles which divided into *Ingenuity and Physical endurance*. With these two sub chapters, this study will reveal the protagonist's obstacles and the solutions for his obstacles.

## 4.1 Protagonist's Obstacles

### 4.1.1 Arrested by the Trolls

The protagonist, Bilbo Baggins, never imagines that he will undergo an adventure with the wizard, Gandalf and the thirteen dwarves. They plan to take the treasure of Smaug, a very large and dangerous dragon. However, they face many obstacle in their journey. One of the obstacles happens when he meets the trolls; Bert, Tom and William. The dwarves ask him to investigate the firelight which they see between the trees and they ask him to get some food and drink for them. The dwarves ask Bilbo because they know that he was a thief, that is why they call him as a thief. But he is unlucky because he is arrested by the trolls. It can be seen from the following quotation:

"It was! Trolls' purses are the mischief, and this was no exception. "Ere, 'oo are you?" it squeaked, as it left the pocket; and William turned round at once and grabbed Bilbo by the neck, before he could duck behind the tree." (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 43)

The quotation above shows that Bilbo is arrested by the troll because he tries to take William's purse, one of the trolls. Unfortunately William knows about it and immediately sees him and blocks Bilbo's neck before he can escape from the troll. After that the trolls ask him some questions but Bilbo is dishonest in answering their questions and it makes Bert gets angry and gets hold of Bilbo's hair. Look at the following quotation:

"What d'yer mean?" said Bert, holding him right way up, by the hair this time." (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 44)

Actually William agrees to release Bilbo but the others do not agree. They thought that he is not alone. There are many other creatures with him, but William said that he is the one that arrest Bilbo, so he has the right to let him go. It is because he is full and he takes a pity on Bilbo. The following is the quotation:

"poor little blighter," said William. He had already had as much supper as he could hold; also he had had lots of beer. "Poor little blighter! Let him go!"

... "I won't have it,"said William. "I caught him anyway." (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937:44)

The following quotation shows that Bilbo tries to persuade the trolls for not to cook him and saying that he can be the good chef for the trolls.

"What I say,"said Bilbo gasping."And please don't cook me, kind sirs! I am a good cook myself,and cook better than I ook,if you see what I mean. I'll cook beautifully for you, a perfectly beautiful breakfast for you, if only you won't have me for supper." (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 44)

From the quotation above, it shows that Bilbo persuades the troll not to cook him for their supper. He said that he can cook some meals for the trolls. He wants to be their chef if they stop their plan to make him as their supper.

#### 4.1.2 Attacked and Arrested by the Goblins

The protagonist also deals with another obstacles when they meet goblin. Goblin is an enormous and ugly creature. It happens in the cave when Bilbo and the thirteen dwarves walk through the lane. When he feels asleep, suddenly the wall behind the cave is opened become a wide lane. There are so many goblins jump from inside of the cave.

“Out jumped the goblins, big goblins, great ugly looking goblins, lots of goblins, before you could say *rocks and blocks*. There were six to each dwarf, at least, and two even for Bilbo; and they were all grabbed and carried through the crack, before you could say *tinder and flint*.”

(J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 71)

From the above quotation, it shows that Bilbo and the thirteen dwarves are being attacked by the goblin. Each dwarve should fight with the six goblins and even Bilbo should fight with the two goblins. But, it does not work. All of them are arrested. The goblins take them to meet their leader walk through the gap of the wall of the cave before doing anything.

The following quotation shows when they arrive at the room which is full of goblins, all of the goblins laugh, stamp their feet and clap their hands when all the prisoners get in the room. While the goblins that have already attacked and arrested them keep in cheering and whipping the back side of the prisoners.

“ They all laughed and stamped and clapped their hands, when the dwarves (with poor little Bilbo at the back and nearest to the whips) came running in, while the goblin-drivers whooped and cracked their whips behind.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 73)

#### 4.1.3 Falling Down to the Dark Cave

After being attacked and arrested by the goblins. The protagonist, Bilbo, comes at another obstacle. When they try to escape from the goblins, Bilbo and the dwarves run as fast as they can. Bilbo is carried by Dori, one of the dwarves at that time. When Dori carries Bilbo, he feels that someone holds his ankle from behind. Then he lets out a scream and fell down. Bilbo is thrown away from his back and rolls into the darkness. His head is crushed the hard rock and he cannot remember anything. It shows in the following quotation:

“Quite suddenly Dori, now at the back again carrying Bilbo, was grabbed from behind in the dark. He shouted and fell; and the hobbit rolled off his shoulders into the blackness, bumped his head on hard rock, and remembered nothing more.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 80)

Bilbo felt down to the dark cave. It is a very dark cave because there is no light in the cave. It is seen in the following quotation:

“When Bilbo opened his eyes, he wondered if he had; for it was just as dark as with them shut. No one was anywhere near him. Just imagine his fright! He could hear nothing, see nothing, and he could feel nothing except the stone of the floor.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 81)

The above quotation shows that when Bilbo opens his eyes, he feels doubt whether he has opened his eyes or not because it is very dark. No one is around him. It is only darkness around him. He feels afraid because he cannot see, cannot hear, and cannot feel anything except the floor which is made of the stone.

However, he does not give up because he has a knife in his pocket. The knife can give a light in the darkness although it is not so bright. He tries to find the way for getting out from the dark cave. He keeps to walk in the culminate tunnel. It seems that the tunnel follows the same direction, once there is the small turn, and there are so many crossroads. It can be known not only from Bilbo's hand that touch the wall of the cave but also from the light which comes from the sword. But Bilbo does not care about it. He keeps in walking as fast as he could because he is afraid that goblin or other creatures will appear from the dark cave. Still he cannot hear anything and he feels that he has already walked for days, the following day, the next following day and the day after it. It is shown in the quotation below:

"I should not have liked to have been in Mr. Baggins' place, all the same. The tunnel seemed to have no end. All he knew was that it was still going down pretty steadily and keeping in the same direction in spite of a twist and a turn or two. There were passages leading off to the side every now and then, as he knew by the glimmer of his sword, or could feel with his hand on the wall. Of these he took no notice, except to hurry past for fear of goblins or half-imagined dark things coming out of them. On and on he went, and down and down; and still he heard no sound of anything except the occasional whirr of a bat by his ears, which startled him at first, till it became too frequent to bother about. I do not know how long he kept on like this, hating to go on, not daring to stop, on, on, until he was tiredder than tired. It seemed like all the way to tomorrow and over it to the days beyond." (J.R.R. Tolkien, 1937: 83-84)

#### 4.1.4 Being Pursued by the Wolves

Another obstacle which is faced by the protagonist, Bilbo, when Bilbo and the thirteen dwarves arrive at esplanade. Esplanade is a field where there is no pine trees. At that moment, the moonbeam brightens the esplanade, and they feel that there is something wrong with that place. Look at the following quotation:

"All of a sudden they heard a howl away down hill, a long shuddering howl. It was answered by another away to the right and a good deal nearer to them; then by another not far away to the left. It was wolves howling at the moon, wolves gathering together!" (J.R.R. Tolkien, 1937: 115)

The quotation shows that suddenly they hear the howls of the wolves. It is long and awful. They feel afraid because the wolves' howl is shouted down from the other wolf at the right side and at the left side. They howl to the moon because there will be a meeting between the wolves.

All of a sudden, Bilbo and the dwarves got panic and cried about what is going to be done to keep away from the wolves. Bilbo said that after escaping from the goblin, and now being caught by the wolves. It has the same meaning with the proverb: *out of the frying pan into the fire*. It is shown in the quotation:

“What shall we do, what shall we do!” he cried. “Escaping goblin to be caught by wolves!” he said, and it became a proverb, though we now say “out of the frying pan into the fire” in the same sort of uncomfortable situations.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 115)

The following quotation shows that Bilbo and the dwarves try to avoid the wolves by climbing the tree. Still they are not safe, because all of the wolves walk around the tree. And Bilbo have to rescue one of the dwarves, Dori because Dori is in the lowest branch so they fell afraid that Dori will be caught by the wolves.

“He’ll be eaten if we don’t do something,”said Thorin, for there were howls all round them now, getting nearer and nearer. “Dori! “ he called, for Dori was lowest down in the easiest tree, “be quick, and give Mr.Baggins a hand up!” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 116-117)

#### **4.1.5 Fighting with the Spider**

The protagonist, Bilbo, does not stop facing other obstacles. At this time, he tries to defeat a spider that has caught him. The spider came when Bilbo and the dwarves are sleeping. It is a giant spider. It traps and tides Bilbo by wrapping a rope to his body. Luckily, he is awake, so he can release himself from the spider. However, the spider is still trying to bite Bilbo with his poisonuos mouth so that Bilbo in an unconcious condition. Then Bilbo remembers his sword, and he uses it to fight with the spider. It is seen in the following quotation.

“ Then the great spider, who had been busy trying him up while he dozed, came from behind him and came at him. He could only see the thing’s eyes, but he could feel its hairy legs as it struggled to wind its abominable threads round and round him. It was lucky that he had come to his senses in time. Soon he would not been able to move at all. As it was, he had a desperate fight before he got free. He beat the creature off with his hands—it was trying to poison him to keep him quiet, as small spiders do to flies—until he remembered his sword and drew it out. Then the spider jumped back, and he had time to cut his legs loose. After that it was his turn to attack.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 180-181)

From the quotation above, it shows that in fighting with the spider, Bilbo is accompanied by his sword.

### **4.2 The Solutions of the Protagonist’s Obstacles**

#### **4.2.1 Ingenuity**

Ingenuity is the ability to think creatively about a situation or to solve the problems in a clever way. In solving the protagonist’s obstacle, ingenuity is one of the important aspect in the novel, although it does not only come from the protagonist himself but also from other character in the novel. In this case, it comes from the wizard, Gandalf. He is the one who always helps Bilbo if Bilbo faces the obstacles on his journey. When Bilbo is arrested by the trolls, he helps Bilbo. He knows that the trolls will be the stone at dawn. One of the Gandalf’s ingenuity is in imitating other’s voice. So in extending the time, Gandalf imitates the William’s voice, one of the troll, and it makes them quarelling and Gandalf knows about it. It can be seen from the following quotation.

“Dawn take you all, and be stone to you!” said a voice that sounded like William’s. But it wasn’t. For just at the moment the light came over the hill, and there was a mighty twitter in the branches. William never



spoke for he stood turned to stone as he stopped; and Bert and Tom were stuck like rocks as they looked at him and there they stand to this day, all alone, unless the birds perch on them; for trolls, as you probably know, must be underground before dawn, or they go back to the stuff of the mountains they are made of, and never move again. That is what had happened to Bert, Tom and William.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 49-50)

From the above quotation, it shows that the trolls; Bert, Tom and William, change into stone at dawn. They quarells to each other because of the Gandalf’s voice which duplicate the William’s voice, and finally the three trolls become stone again. At first, Bilbo himself does not know that he is saved by Gandalf but at last he knows that because of Gandalf’s voice, the trolls quarell to each other until the light comes and change them into stone. Look at the following quotation.

“Excellent!” said Gandalf, as he stepped from behind a tree, and helped Bilbo to climb down out of a thorn-bush. Then Bilbo understood. It was the wizard’s voice that had kept the trolls bickering and quarelling, until the light came and made an end of them.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 50)

Besides that Gandalf’s ingenuity can also be seen in helping Bilbo to escape from the goblin. He has an idea to blow out all the lights in the cave, include the camp fire and change it into the blue smoke and spread the white sparks. The white sparks can burn and hollow out the goblin’s body. All the goblins start to bite, to kick and to fight each other because of the white sparks. They become crazy and finally fell down to the cave’s floor. Look at the following quotation.

“Just at the moment all the lights in the cavern went out, and the great fire went off poof! Into a tower of blue glowing smoke, right up to the roof, that scattered piercing white sparks all among the goblin.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 76)

Suddenly a sword which has the light comes out from the Bilbo’s pocket and kills the great goblin. The great goblin fells down and deads at once. It shows in the following quotation.

“Suddenly a sword flashed in its own light. Bilbo saw it go right through the Great Goblin as he stood dumbfounded in the middle of this rage. He fell dead, and the goblin soldiers fled before the sword shrieking into the darkness.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 76-77)

Bilbo hears a voice which guide him to go out from the cave. Of course, it is Gandalf’s voice. Gandalf helps Bilbo and the dwarves by flashing on his magic wand. It can be seen in the quotation below.

“Then Gandalf lit up his wand. Of course it was Gandalf; but just then they were too busy to ask how he got there.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 77)

When Bilbo and the dwarves is pursued by the wolf, Gandalf also shows his ingenuity by asking them to climb up the tree as high as they could so that the wolves cannot catch them as in the following quotation.

“Up the trees quick!” cried Gandalf, and they ran to the trees at the edge of the glade, hunting for those that had branches fairly low, or were slender enough to swarm up. They found them as quick as ever they could, you can guess; and up they went as high as ever they could trust the branches.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 116)

Moreover, in keeping away from the wolves and the goblin, Gandalf uses his magic wand to burn all the trees around them so the wolves and the goblin will be burned.

Gandalf thinks that all the wolves and the goblin will be destroyed by the flames. And Gandalf asks the eagles to help him, Bilbo and the dwarves just in time. It is because Gandalf ever rescue the eagles once. The eagles rescued them by flying them away from the flames. See the following quotation.

“Now far below the goblins and the wolves were scattering far and wide in the woods. A few eagles were still circling and sweeping above the battle ground. The flames about the trees sprang suddenly up in crackling fire. There was a sudden flurry of sparks and smoke. Bilbo had escaped only just in time.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 77)

The quotation shows that some eagles is still flying over and striking over the battle field. Bilbo can see it from above when he was rescued by the eagle just in time.

Moreover, it is not only Gandalf who has ingenuity to solve the obstacles in the novel but also the protagonist, Bilbo. It can be seen when he tries to find out the way to leave the dark cave. He has an idea to utilize the little sword (blade) that he has found in the throll’s cave. Actually he forgets about the blade. He wants to use matches at first but when he tries to get the matches from his pocket, he touches the blade and he has an idea to abuse the light from the blade as his guidance in the dark cave. The blade can send out a dim light so Bilbo fells amused. He can use the light which comes from the blade to discover the way out from the dark cave. Look at the following quotation.

“....Still at the moment he felt very crushed. But in slapping all his pockets and feeling all round himself for matches his hand came on the hilt of his little sword—the little dagger that he got from the trolls, and that he had quite forgotten; nor fortunately had the goblins noticed it, as wore it inside his breeches .”

“Now he drew it out. It shone pale and dim before his eyes. “So it is an elvish blade, too, “ he thought; “and the goblins are not very near, and yet not far enough.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 82)

From the quotation above, it shows that Bilbo has thought to use the light from the blade in finding the way out from the dark cave.

#### **4.2.2 Physical Endurance**

The second solution for the protagonist’s obstacle is physical endurance. Physical endurance is the ability to continue doing something physically difficult or continue dealing with an unpleasant situation for a long time. It deals with the endurance in the body.

The protagonist, Bilbo Baggins, shows his physical endurance in facing the scuffle with the trolls when his friends, the dwarves come to help him, and the incredible fighting happens.

“O! Are they?” said Thorin, and he jumped forward to the fire, before they could leap on him. He caught up a big branch all on fire at one end; and Bert got that end in his eye before he could step aside. That put him out of the battle for a bit. Bilbo did his best. He caught hold of Tom’s leg- as well as he could, it was thick as a young tree trunk, but he was sent spinning up into the top of some bushes, when Tom kicked the sparks up in Thorin’s face.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 46)

From the above quotation, it shows that the dwarves intends to help Bilbo and then they get involved in fighting the trolls, but some of the dwarves get caught and hurted by trolls. Bilbo also fights with the trolls but finally they are caught by the trolls.

Another physical endurance can be seen in the following quotation.

“The spider evidently was not used to things that carried such stings at their sides, or it would have hurried away quicker. Bilbo came at it before it could disappear and stuck it with his sword right in the eyes. Then it went mad and leaped and danced and flung out its legs in horrible jerks, until he killed it with another stroke; and then he fell down and remembered nothing more for a long while.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 181)

The above quotation shows that Bilbo fights with the spider by using his sword. He hurts the spider’s eyes with the sword. The spider becomes crazy and finally he kills the spider with once more beating. Then Bilbo collapses himself and does not remember anything for a long time. Thus it is obvious that Bilbo has a good physical endurance in fighting with the spider although at last he is in an unconscious condition.

After awaking from his fainted, Bilbo and his friends, the dwarves, continue again their journey. On his journey, his friends, the dwarves walk ahead and Bilbo walks behind. Then they meet another spider again but at this time, Bilbo has a plan to attack the spiders before they attack him. He asks the dwarves to straight ahead. He jumps here and there. He cuts all the ropes in the spider’s feet and also stabs the spider’s body that comes near him. It can be seen from the quotation below.

“Things were looking pretty bad again, when suddenly Bilbo reappeared, and charged into the astonished spiders unexpectedly from the side.”

“Go on! Go on!” he shouted. “I will do the stinging!”

And he did. He darted backwards and forwards, slashing at spider threads, hacking at their legs and stabbing at their fat bodies if they came to near.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 190-191)

## 5. Conclusion

Having analyzed the topic about an analysis of the protagonist’s obstacle in J.R.R Tolkien’s novel, the writer would like to draw some conclusions.

First, on his journey, Bilbo, the protagonist, undergoes some obstacles such as being arrested by the trolls, attacked and arrested by the trolls, falling down to the dark cave, being pursued by the wolves and fighting with the spider.

Second, there are two solutions in facing the obstacles they are; ingenuity and physical endurance. These are very important as the solutions for the obstacles. Based on the story, ingenuity which is used as the solutions for the protagonist’s obstacle is not only comes from the protagonist itself but also from the wizard, Gandalf. The protagonist’s ingenuity can be seen when Bilbo Baggins falls down to the dark cave. At that time, he has an idea to use the light as his guidance in the dark cave to find out the way out from it. Actually, most of the protagonist’s obstacle is solved by Gandalf’s ingenuity. Here are Gandalf’s ingenuity:

1. When Bilbo Baggins is arrested by the trolls, Gandalf imitates William’s voice, one of the trolls, and because of that the three trolls; Bert, Tom and William becomes quarrel to each other and it can extend the time until dawn and the trolls will be stone.
2. He has an idea to blow out all the lights in the cave, include the camp fire and change it into the blue smoke and spread the white sparks when Bilbo Baggins is attacked and arrested by the goblin. The white sparks can burn and hollow out the goblin’s body.

All the goblins start to bite, to kick and to fight each other because of the white sparks. They become crazy and finally fell down to the cave's floor.

3. When Bilbo Baggins and the dwarves are pursued by the wolves, he asked them to climb up the tree so that the wolves cannot attack them. And then he burns the bottom of the tree by using his magic wand and asked the Eagles to help them from the fire.

Besides ingenuity, another solutions for the protagonist's obstacle deals with physical endurance. Physical endurance is one important aspect in solving the protagonist's obstacle. It deals with the endurance of the body which is owned by the protagonist himself in fighting with the spider. Bilbo Baggins cannot defeat and kill the spider if he does not have the physical endurance. Although he fells down and fainted after that.

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