

The Major Characters in Gillian Flinn Novel “Sharp Objects” (A Psychoanalysis Freud)

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Abstract

This research is intended to find the psychological conflict faced by the major character in the Gillian Flinn novel. It is a content analysis study that belongs to qualitative research. The researcher read the novel several times to collect the data and also to analyze the data. It is done several times to get a deeper understanding of the information related to the psychological conflict in the novel. While reading the researcher give a code to the data for description the conflict. The analysis of this research is done using Freud's theory of psychology, a psychoanalysis Freud. The result shows that there are two kinds of psychological conflicts in 'Sharp Objects' novel. They are approach-avoidance conflict and avoidance-avoidance conflict that describing that all the characters have a conflict because of the id, ego, and superego are inconsistency condition.

Key Words: Analysis, Psychoanalysis, Psychological Conflict.

INTRODUCTION

Psychology and literature relate one another. According to Dastmard et.all (2012:4), psychology and literature have reciprocal relation; the psychology of the unconscious can be called literature and is a dune mining approach to its foreign opinion, very familiar to literature and literary critics. Moreover, the psychology of literature can be used to investigates and analyze some studies. It is similar with Razaei & Hasan (2013: 1908) state that psychological theories have contributions into different fields of studies. Literature study is not an exception.

Meanwhile, Eagleton (2005: 135) state that the relationship between literature and psychology is quite close, as both have the same source of the problem, human, as the material of the studies. Freud in Eagleton (2005: 135) states that human behavior influence unconscious mind contain encouragements to be fulfilled. Post-Modernists cited in Razaei & Hasan (2013:1909) assert that human being's emotions, feelings, and intuitions provide us with valid interpretations and guidelines for a piece of literature so to analyze the human mind the people can use psychoanalysis.

According to Wellek and Werren (1989), psychology in literature can be used to analyze some studies. For the first, the psychology of literature may be used to investigate the author as the human being. Secondly, the study of the creative process of the author in creating literature is also can be considered as a research of psychology of literature. Such as Kashiwara (2010: 464) research that explores the psychic-experience of a poet which is not directly written in the text. In this research, she uses dream analysis to interpret the poem in order to find a new interpretation of the poem. Besides, some theories of psychology can be used to analyze the characters in a literary work. And the last, the reader can be the subject of the study to conduct research about the impact of literary toward the reader.

In line with Wellek and Werren, Eagleton (2005: 140) states that psychoanalytical literary criticism can be broadly divided into four kinds depending on what it takes as its object of attention. The object can be the author of the work, the works' content, its formal construction and the reader of the work.

Freud (2009) state that in a human personality, there is three important system, they are Id, Ego, and Superego. There is three system become a harmonic structure the corporation between id, ego, and superego creates an individual who behaves balance with the environment.

The Id is not rationale, it imagines, dreams and invents things to get the person what he/she wants. Abrams (1999; 250) defines Id is a basic nerve system of human producing encouragement to fill the human needs, called passion. It is innate personality system. This division of mind includes the basic instinct, inborn disposition, and animalistic urges. It is totally unconscious that persons are unaware of its working. Freud said that the id operates according to the pleasure principles. It aims toward pleasurable things and away from painful things. In Germany language, Id is Triebe. It can be translated into English means libidinal and other desires. Id works by basing on pleasure principle trying to get pleasure and avoiding the pain. Pleasure principle has two processes of works; reflex actions and primary process.

The Ego, this personality structure begins developing in childhood and can be interpreted as the "self". Freud (2009) state that the ego is partly conscious and partly unconscious. The ego operates according to reality principle that attempts to help the id get what it wants by judging the difference between real and imaginary. Ego has the function to balance Id and Superego. It adapts someone's condition to the reality. Ego operates on reality principle in which it delays privilege and prevents new suspense. This reality principle works based on secondary process. It is a process of thinking logically by planning and testing whether the plan can be done to fulfill Id. While the process of testing is called reality testing; doing the plan after thinking logically as a decision of secondary process..

The Superego, it refers to above ego and includes the moral ideas that a person learns within the family and society. The superego gives person feeling of pride when they do something correct (the ego ideal) and feeling guilty when they do something they consider to be morally wrong. It is partly conscious and partly unconscious. Abrams (1999: 250) clarifies Superego as the internalization of standards of morality and property based on idealistic principle. The idealistic principle has two parts; conscience and ego-ideal. The implementation of conscience is that violations will be punished in accordance with the wrong doing. In the other hand, a child which does a good behavior will be gotten a price, this is called ego-ideal.

The Structure of Human Mind

In detail, Alwisol (2007:15) writes psychoanalysis is defined as the psychological condition which has three phases of consciousness; conscious, preconscious and unconscious. Those three phases conscious can be called the structure of a human mind.

Conscious

Conscious is condition experienced by a human in certain time. It is included perception, memory, and feeling. The content of conscious are the results of a process of sorting settled by cue-external.

Preconscious

The position of preconscious is between conscious and unconscious. It is called available memory in which is consist of experiences had left by awareness. These experiences can appear in a conscious condition. It also can turn up in the form of a dream, fantasy, misspoken and self-defense mechanism.

Unconscious

Unconscious is a deep psychological condition of human mind. It is very important in influencing human behavior consisted of impulse, drive, and traumatic experience. Freud convinces that unconscious mind is the controller of whole human behavior forever.

According to Hande (2015: 500) using psychoanalysis both the readers and critics are able to analyze the characters in the literature. Why the characters in the literature do something wrong or

unacceptable by the other. An inconsistency of human psyche, id, ego, and superego causes conflict and repression. Moreover, Hande (2015: 5001) states that psychoanalysis is directly based on the mental activity, the activities occurring in brain consist of the basis of psychoanalysis. While Freud's theories about psychoanalysis are concerned with the nature of the unconscious. Unconscious has the function of being a store for the past memories and traumatic childhood events that have an impact unconscious thought and behavior. Repressed feeling, memories, unacceptable desires are generally connected to childhood abuse and sexual harassment. Such problems are kept in the level of unconscious eventually it has a serious impact on a person's mental and psychical condition.

The above theory is applicable to the literary work. As Eagleton (1996) cited in Rohmah (2016:1) states that a literary work is a creative and imaginative work, which describes the society based on the experience, knowledge, and interpretation of the author about what happens in his or her surrounding in a certain time. It means that literary work represents the activity of human mind. Furthermore, he states the literature can be an artistic expression of life, expression of beautiful thought and ideas in beautiful language and ideas of human interest so it can be analyzed on the characters of the work in terms of psychology through the language used in the work. Similar to it, Heidarizadeh (2015: 788) asserts that literature has influenced in the life of human being. It has an empowered language to display the inner world of man. There is a space for memories, introspection, retrospection, foreshadow, flashback and awful remembrances that are colored by pain, wound, and trauma. Now is the time of producing the plot of anxiety in a modern world.

According to Lizbeth (1996) cited in Rohmah (2016:2) literature includes the form of writing which deliberately and creatively experiments with language in order to suggest images and ideas which engage the readers' imagination. For example the spacing of poetry on the page may suggest a shape of the rhyme and rhythm that may create a mood, the narrators and characters of prose fiction (short stories and novels) allow the readers to enter fictional worlds by identifying with other people, perspective and ideas and the dialogue and stage direction of dramatic texts represent a three-dimensional story, which readers can engage with and even perform. All this work involves imagination and interpretation.

As literature art, the novel becomes one of inspiring art to create a new idea in literature. The story in the novel makes the reader interest to create a new story and many people use a novel to analyze the content of it such as moral value, educational value, characterization, psychological conflict, an intrinsic and extrinsic element of a novel and so on.

In the novel, there are many aspects such as. intrinsic and extrinsic elements that help the reader to get the meaning and the storyline. Conflict is one of the intrinsic elements that a novel has. Conflict builds the story of the novel. Everyone meets problem in the learning process to deal with self and others. Everyone has conflict. Sometimes people make a disagreement with other and sometimes have to make decisions about how to act in a certain situation. The way they deal with their life depends on their self-characterization of their personality. Psychology, as we know is a study about a soul, and through this, we can learn about the personality of someone. To learn about some people personalities, we need to know and learn about their characterization deeply.

There are two kinds of conflict, they are internal and external conflict. Sayuti (2000:42-43) divided conflict into two kinds, the first is internal conflict or called by a psychological conflict which is showing how the actor's effort fights her/himself in order to solve and determine what will the actor do next. The second is external conflict or called by sociological conflict happened between the actor and the people in a society where she/he lives. This conflict appears because of actor's attitude to the social environment concerning the problems occurring in society.

This research focused on analyzing the psychological conflicts of novel "Sharp Objects". The major characters that the writer had analyzed have many problems in their psychological conflicts.

METHODOLOGY

This study is content analysis study that belongs to qualitative research. This method analyzes a printed document that focuses on the coding unit of the characters in the novel that includes the analysis of characters' behavior (Kothari, 2004: 110). The data in this study are taken from novel Gillian Flinn "The Sharp Objects" by coding the text for describing the characters that include chapter and page. The data are read several times in order to develop a deeper understanding of the information in the novel and also to conduct an analysis.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Major Characters' Psychological Conflicts Seen in Novel 'Sharp Objects'

In this novel, there are three major characters, they are Camille Preaker, Adora Crellin Preaker and Amity Adora Crellin (Amma).

Camille preaker

Camille Preaker is the first major character. From the beginning of the story, Camille faced the problem causing psychological conflict. Camille wanted to refuse Curry's job to went to her own city to got clear information about the young girl's murder. Camille didn't want to back to her own city. Almost 8 years she left it and she never wants to go but she must go and get the true information. After got long travel, camille arrives in her city, Wind Gap. Camille remembered all of her past experience. When Camille grew teenager up, she stretches and injures her body to create and write word use sharp things.

Adora Crellin Preaker

Adora Crellin Preaker is the second major character in the novel. She is Camille's mom. Adora faced her psychological conflict since Camille was born. She never likes Camille as her first daughter. Adora also had the second daughter, she is Marian, the cute and nice girl. Adora spent more times with Marian than Camille. Adora taught that Marian more obedient than Camille, but Adora made Marian ill until die. Nurse in the hospital who took care Marian wrote a letter and say that Marian was not ill, but when Marian with her mom, her condition was down.

Amity Adora Crellin

Amity Adora Crellin (Amma) is the third major character in this novel. Amma is Camille's stepsister and Adora's third daughter. She faced her psychological conflict when Camille knew if her friend killed by Amma and Amma also the murderer of two little girls Natalie and Ann. Amma is the famous little girls in Wind Gap, she always wanted everybody to focus their attention to her. Amma never wanted a person talked about the other girls and she would be killed the girls if they didn't listen to her words.

Psychological Conflict Happened Because of Camille's Preaker Returned to Her Own City.

In the novel 'Sharp Objects' Camille Preaker shown the psychological conflict since she returned to her own city, where in this town she grew up and has many conflicts. When she arrived in Win Gap she remembers many things from her childhood, her friends, and her experience in cutting her skin used sharp things.

Camille is adult woman, where all of her friends got married, but so don't she. She never wanted another else see her skin because when she grows teenager up she cut, sliced and injure her skin to stretch words. It began when Camille in three-teen years old where she lost her sister Marian because Marian passed.

I am a cutter, you see. Also a snipper, a slicer, a carver, a jabber. I am a very special case. I have a purpose. My skin, you see, screams. It's covered with words—cook, cupcake, kitty, curls—as if a knife-wielding first-grader learned to write on my flesh. I sometimes, but only sometimes, laugh. Getting out of the bath and seeing, out of the corner of my eye, down the side of a leg: baby-doll. Pulling on a sweater and, in a flash of my wrist: harmful. Why these words? Thousands of hours of

therapy have yielded a few ideas from the good doctors. They are often feminine, in a Dick and Jane, pink vs. puppy dog tails sort of way. Or they're flat-out negative. Number of synonyms for anxious carved in my skin: eleven. The one thing I know for sure is that at the time, it was crucial to see these letters on me, and not just see them, but feel them. Burning on my left hip: petticoat.

And near it, my first word, slashed on an anxious summer day at age thirteen: wicked. I woke up that morning, hot and bored, worried about the hours ahead. How do you keep safe when your whole day is as wide and empty as the sky? Anything could happen. I remember feeling that word, heavy and slightly sticky across my pubic bone. My mother's steak knife. Cutting like a child along red imaginary lines. Cleaning myself. Digging in deeper. Cleaning myself. Pouring bleach over the knife and sneaking through the kitchen to return it. Wicked. Relief. The rest of the day, I spent ministering to my wound. Dig into the curves of W with an alcohol-soaked Q-tip. Pet my cheek until the sting went away. Lotion. Bandage. Repeat. (chapter 4, page 82-83)

The quotation above show Camille's psychological conflict appear. Camille like did it, cutting and injure her skin. She felt safe by do it.

It was that summer, too, that I began the cutting, and was almost as devoted to it as to my newfound loveliness. I adored tending to myself, wiping a shallow red pool of my blood away with a damp washcloth to magically reveal, just above my naval: queasy. Applying alcohol with dabs of a cottonball, wispy shreds sticking to the bloody lines of: perky. I had a dirty streak my senior year, which I later rectified. A few quick cuts and cunt becomes can't, cock turns into back, clit transforms to a very unlikely cat, the I and i turned into a teetering capital A.

The last word I ever carved into myself, sixteen years after I started: vanish.

Sometimes I can hear the words squabbling at each other across my body. Up on my shoulder, panty calling down to cherry on the inside of my right ankle. On the underside of a big toe, sew uttering muffled threats to baby, just under my left breast. I can quiet them down by thinking of vanish, always hushed and regal, lording over the other words from the safety of the nape of my neck. (Chapter 4, page 85-86).

The quotation above indicated when Camille began to cut and injure her skin. It also indicated some words that Camille wrote in her skin and some place of her body which she used to cutting. Camille's id is strong. She had a strong passion in cutting her skin and it worked by basing on pleasure principle trying to get pleasure and avoiding the pain.

Camille also poured her ego in her cutting. She wrote words from her mind and it made her safe. Camille brought her id and her ego flow in her cutting.

For those who need a name, there's a gift basket of medical terms. All I know is that the cutting made me feel safe. It was proof. Thoughts and words, captured where I could see them and track them. The truth, stinging, on my skin, in a freakish shorthand. Tell me you're going to the doctor, and I'll want to cut worrisome on my arm. Say you've fallen in love and I buzz the outlines of tragic over my breast. I hadn't necessarily wanted to be cured. But I was out of places to write, slicing myself between my toes—bad, cry—like a junkie looking for one last vein. Vanish did it for me. I'd saved the neck, such a nice prime spot, for one final good cutting. Then I turned myself in. I stayed at the hospital twelve weeks. It's a special place for people who cut, almost all of them women, most under twentyfive. I went when I was thirty. Just six months out. Delicate times. (chapter 4, page 86-87)

In this quotation, Camille got the balance of her life when she could pour her id and her ego in cutting her skin. It made her better safe.

Psychological Conflict Happened Because of Adora Made Marian Sick and Until Die.

Adora Crellin preaker is Camille's mom, she faced her psychological conflict in novel 'Sharp Objects' by killed her second daughter Marian. In this case, Adora didn't use her superego but she just uses her id to get her wish.

I've decided today to stop caring for Camille and focus on Marian. Camille has never become a good patient—being sick only makes her angry and spiteful. She doesn't like me to touch her. I've never heard of such a thing. She has Joya's spite. I hate her. Marian is such a doll when she's ill, she dotes on me terribly and wants me with her all the time. I love wiping away her tears.

"Munchausen by Proxy. The caregiver, usually the mother, almost always the mother, makes her child ill to get attention for herself. You got Munchausen, you make yourself sick to get attention. You got MBP, you make your child sick to show what a kind, doting mommy you are. Brothers Grimm, see what I mean? Like something, a wicked fairy queen would do. I'm surprised you haven't heard of it." (chapter 15, page 300)

From quotation above Adora show that her id dominated her for caring Marian and stop caring for Camille. This is a difficult case to get understanding about Adora's wish. She wanted Marian to be a good patient although she knew if Marian didn't sick, we were fine. Adora got MBP (Munchausen by Proxy). People who have a disorder like this try to look suffer to get attention. In this novel, Adora makes her children sick. In order to get attention from everyone else. She wants to look like a really good mother in look after her children. This is like syndrome in medical science and nurse who took Marian care really confused with this case. Id and ego were not flowing in one way. Adora was to passion and got pleasure in caring Marian. She didn't try to prevent her desire to do it.

Psychological Conflict Happened Cause of Amma Killed Camille's Friend.

Amity Adora Crellin (Amma) is Camille's stepsister. She was a very cute girl in the town. She killed the girls because she never wanted people around her gave their attention to the other girls. Amma would do anything to disappear the girl whose stolen town's attention. Amma killed Lily Burke because Amma suspected Camille liked her better.

Amma killed Lily all by herself, hit her on the back of the head with a stone, then strangled her with bare hands, plucked the six teeth, and cut her hair. All down an alley, behind that Dumpster where she'd left the body. She'd brought the rock, pliers, and scissors to school in the hot pink backpack I'd bought for her. Lily Burke's chocolate-colored hair Amma braided into a rug for my room in her dollhouse. (chapter 17, page 325)

From quotation above, Amma show her id really dominated her. Her id produces encouragement to get her passion in a murderer. In three-teen years old, it made her on pleasure by killing them.

I think there is more. Ann and Natalie died because Adora paid attention to them. Amma could only view it as a raw deal. Amma, who had allowed my mother to sicken her for so long. Sometimes when you let people do things to you, you're really doing it to them. Amma controlled Adora by letting Adora sicken her. In return, she demanded uncontested love and loyalty. No other little girls allowed. For the same reasons she murdered Lily Burke. Because, Amma suspected, I liked her better.

In addition, Amma was not only killed Lily Burke, both Natalie, and Ann also murdered by Amma. She liked to do it. It can happen because the young girl like Amma more uses her ide than ego and superego. She didn't be able to balance her ego, she just wanted to do what she wants.

Based on the explanation about psychological conflicts above, the researchers related the psychological conflict to the title of the novel. After analyzing the data, the researchers conclude the reason why this novel has the title 'Sharp Objects'. It is caused that this novel consists of sharp things and sharp reality in the story. The word sharp object can be related to Camille Preaker as the main character who used sharp things in cutting and slicing in order to create words in her skin.

CONCLUSION

The characters whom the researcher analyzed are from one family that consists of a mother and the three daughters. The id, ego, and superego of the characters are not balanced so that conflicts emerge in their life.

Moreover, the researchers also conclude and related the result of analyzing the data with the title of the novel. It has a close correlation between the title with the content of the story. The novel describes the use of sharp thing to represent the psychological conflict that happened to all the characters in the novel.

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