

MAIN CHARACTERS' PERSONALITIES OF ANITA DESAI'S IN *THE VILLAGE BY THE SEA*

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Abstract

Literature is believed as societies' imitation that usually becomes a media to learn social life in the society. This study focuses on the extrinsic elements, especially psychological aspect. Farther more, this study concerns on personalities and processes of self-actualization of main characters, Lila and Hari, in the novel *The Village by the Sea* by Anita Desai. The objectives of this study are to describe how the personalities and processes of self-actualization of main characters in the novel. This study used descriptive qualitative library research. Moreover, the writer used documentary technique and content analysis technique. Using Freudian theory, this study indicated that each character had Id, Ego and Superego but only one of them which dominated on the character. Then, by using Maslow's theory each character showed they had five basic needs to be fulfilled but sometimes not all of them fulfilled successfully because some problems happened in life.

Keywords: Literature; Psychology; Main Character

Abstrak

Sastra dipercaya sebagai hasil tiruan masyarakat yang biasanya digunakan sebagai alat untuk mempelajari kehidupan sosial dalam masyarakat. Penelitian ini menekankan pada unsur ekstrinsik, khususnya aspek psikologi. Fokus dari penelitian ini adalah kepribadian dan proses aktualisasi diri tokoh utama, Lila dan Hari dalam novel *The Village by the Sea* by Anita Desai." Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mendeskripsikan bagaimana kepribadian dan proses aktualisasi diri tokoh utama dalam novel *The Village by the Sea*. Penelitian ini menggunakan deskriptif kualitatif kajian pustaka. Selain itu, peneliti menggunakan teknik dokumentasi dan teknik analisis konten. Menggunakan teori Freud, hasil penelitian ini menyatakan bahwa setiap tokoh memiliki Id, Ego dan Superego tetapi hanya satu yang mendominasi pada setiap tokoh. Kemudian, dengan menggunakan teori Maslow mengindikasikan bahwa setiap tokoh membutuhkan 5 kebutuhan dasar manusia tetapi ada kalanya tidak semua kebutuhan itu terpenuhi secara sempurna karena ada masalah yang terjadi dalam kehidupan tokoh tersebut.

Kata kunci: Sastra; Psikologi; Tokoh Utama

INTRODUCTION

Literature gives a picture of societies' life by serving social problem. It means that the literature cannot be separated of society. Even, literature represents the good teaching for its reader (Kasnadi and Arifin, 2015). The literature is a reflection of human's life journey. It is believed as societies' imitation. Wellek and Austin (1988:109) said that literature provides a life and almost of life consists of social reality; although literary work is also imitated realm and human subjective world. Social problem in the human being life is very complex. It is influenced by several factors like politics, culture, religion, romance, economic, and so on. The conflicts in literature shown by writer certainly have purposes for the readers. In addition to make story more interesting, it is also to educate and amuse readers. As said by Subhan (2006:20-21), literature has two main functions; to educate and amuse. A novel entitled *The Village by the Sea* by Anita Desai is interesting to study because this novel has both of the two functions.

Economic factor makes bad effects for societies like unemployment, criminality and poverty. Then, a poverty which knockdown societies gives an impact to human's life like makes some people become a drunkard, forbidding drugged, beggar, thief and robber. This novel is focused on poverty as its main problem. The poverty influences some problems in main characters' life like hunger, illness due to malnutrition, drinking, and dropped out. The main characters become a strong and autonomous person because they are able to solve their life problems. Their personalities are formed by inborn potential that is modified by their experiences, culture and environment. Hilgard, et al. in Minderop (2010:4) said that "Personality refers to the characteristic patterns of behavior and

ways of thinking that determine a person's adjustment to his environment. Personality is shaped by inborn potential as modified by experiences common to the culture and sub cultural group (such as sex roles) and the unique experiences that affect the person as an individual." character analysis from psychological perception. It is done so because only character who has the 'mind' that correlates with the field of psychology. The previous statement is supported by Holland (1990: 29-30) who suggested that the psychological critic of literature can be done through the study of character's mind alongside the author's mind and reader's mind. Similar statement also said by Wellek and Warren (1963: 81) who emphasized the four stages of psychological critic of literature; the psychology of the writer in the first place; and the psychology of the reader in the second, the laws of psychology, and the last is creative process. Therefore the characters within the psychological critic of the novel *The Village by the Sea* can give significant traits to characters' mind.

Among many psychological analysis theories, two prominent psychological analysis theories are generally performed in literary critics; Sigmund Freud's Theory and Abraham Maslow's Theory. Subhan (2010:68-70) stated that Freudian theory organized personality into three unified and interrelating systems. Endraswara (2013:101) stated that studies of psychoanalysis personality covered three elements: id, ego, and super ego. The systems of this personality are correlated to each other as well as made totalities, and human action as interaction product between them.

The most primitive of these systems is **the id** that part of the unconscious which contains psychic energy. Freud considered the **id** to be "the boiling cauldron" of personality; **the id** is present at birth and functions on the

pleasure principle. Id is a pleasure principle of a human. The human pleasure is only a wish, they only image what they want (Sigmund Freud in Boeree, 2006:05). While according to Ardhani (2014:09), id consists some of aspects including the instincts. Its purpose is to keep tension and unpleasantness in control, and it strives always to gratify immediately innate biological needs.

Then the second is **Ego**. Fodor and Gaynor (1950:62) explained that the **ego** is an organization; it is dependent on the free intercommunication of, and the possibility of reciprocal interplay between, all its constituent elements; its desexualized energy still gives evidence of its origin in its striving for union and unification, and this compulsion to synthesis increases in direct proportion to the strength which the ego attains. According to Freud, the ego is the second aspects of human personality structure. Some of the id becomes to the ego. If the id is only a wish, the ego is an act to satisfy the wishes. It is called as secondary process or problem solving activity (Freud in Boeree, 2006: 05).

The last system of personality is **superego**. It depends on the standard of the society or forces outside the individual. The **superego** is the voice of authority; it is "judgment from within" that we often call our conscience. The **superego** has a task to repress the impulses of the **id**, especially those that are sexual and aggressive. Control of behavior through the **superego** is carried out by environmental rewards and punishments. When the **superego** is too strong, one will feel guilty to have done small transgressions (Subhan, 2010:71). According to Freud in Rathus (2010:426), "the superego has a function as a moral principle. It acts based on conscience that monitor the ego and judge right or wrong". It means that the superego becomes the moral value and the moral standard of the people. The superego

decides whether something is right or wrong, so they can control their behavior.

Different to Freud, Maslow's theory (1970:35-47) is called psychology humanistic. This theory describes five basic needs of human that trigger their action. Firstly, the physiological needs, which often regarded as the starting point of motivation theory are called physiological driving forces. These physiological driving forces or needs are considered unusual, rather than typical, because they are separable and because they can be locally located on the body. In other words, they are relatively independent of each other, other motivations, and the entire organism. Secondly, in many cases, it is possible to show the localization of the drive and the underlying somatic basis. This is the primary need we must meet and is essential to human survival; food, water, air, sleep, etc. For most of us, physiological needs play the smallest role (Schultz and Schultz, 2009: 305).

Secondly is the safety needs which often defined as the physiological needs for satisfactory, then a series of new needs will appear, which we can roughly classify as safety needs (safety; stability; dependence; protection; freedom from fear, from anxiety and chaos; need for structure, order, law, limits; strength in the protector; and so on). It can be projected through our choice of the predictable over the unknown (Schultz, 1991:91).

Thirdly is the sense of belongingness and love needs. If the physical and safety needs are fully met, then there will be a need for love, affection, and a sense of belonging. These needs can be achieved through intimate relationships with friends, lovers or partners or through social relationships formed in a small group. Ones can achieve a sense of belonging by joining a club or Internet chat

room, registering for a course, or voluntarily joining a service organization (Schultz and Schultz, 2009: 305).

Fourthly is the esteem needs. There are two forms of self-esteem. All people in our society (with a few pathological exceptions) have a need or desire for a stable, firmly based, usually high evaluation of themselves, for self-respect, or self-esteem, and for the esteem of others. We require esteem and respect from ourselves, in the form of feelings of self-worth, and from other people, in the form of status, recognition, or social success. Satisfaction of the need for self-esteem allows us to feel confident of our strength, worth, and adequacy, which will help us become more competent and productive in all aspects of our life. The feels of inferiority, helplessness, and discouragement are the effects of the lack of satisfaction of the need for self-esteem (Schultz and Schultz, 2009: 305).

Lastly, is the need for self-actualization. After we satisfy all of basic needs, we are driven by the high-esteem; self-actualization need. Self-actualization is the highest development and using the whole of our talent, fulfilling the whole of the individual is for. The clear emergence of these needs usually rests upon some prior satisfaction of the physiological, safety, love and esteem needs. We have to base it on our potency. we will be disappointed, uncomfortable and unsatisfied if we failed to fulfill our self-actualization need. If something like that happens, we will be restless and we are not reaching the fullest personality development (Schultz, 1991: 93)

In this study, writer uses Sigmund Freud's Theory to analyze main characters' personalities and Abraham Maslow's theory to analyze self-actualizations process of main characters in the Anita Desai's novel entitled *The Village by the Sea*. Based on the previous explanations, the writer is interested

in analyzing personalities and processes of self-actualization of main characters, Lila and Hari, in the novel "*The Village by the Sea* by Anita Desai."

METHOD

Sugiyono (2011:13) quoted Bogdan and Biklen said that qualitative research is descriptive. The data collected is in the form of words, pictures rather than number. This quotation explains that qualitative descriptive method is a method that describes object of study using words. In this study, writer used descriptive qualitative library research. Moreover, the writer used documentary technique to collect the data and qualitative content analysis technique to analyze the data.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Lila's Personality

Lila was an oldest sister of one younger brother and two younger sisters. She did not live in a prosperous family because her mother was ill and her father was drunkard. She worked hard in childhood to preserve her life. Besides, to fulfill her daily need like food and her two young sister's necessary, she worked to take care of her mother. Even though she worked hard, it was not enough to buy delicious food and her family needs especially to buy medicine for her mother.

Lila's Id was the fulfillment to eat delicious meals. She complained and refused to eat same meals every day but her grumbling was no sense because a bad condition in her family. Finally, she forced herself to eat dry bread and dry rice to satisfy her stomach. It can be seen from her words. "*We hardly eat anything but this dry bread, or dry rice, every day. There's hardly ever any money to buy anything ... (p. 15).*" In this case, Lila's ego was developed.

Then, in controlling her ego, Lila thought maturely. She decided to stop her school voluntarily. Her decision was without demands from her mother or others. It was her awareness to take place her mother position, work as a house wife like cooking, sweeping, going to market etc. Here was shown Lila's Superego. It can be seen from her line. *"Then you must sweep and go to market and cook, Lila."* *"Yes, ma," said Lila, although she did not need to be told. She had given up going to school long ago, so that she could stay home and do the cooking and washing and look after the others. She got up to start (p. 7-8)."*

Lila's activities did not finish by nursing her mother, cooking, sweeping and also keeping a hut. In the morning, Lila ought to prepare some supply to her young sisters before going to school while Lila should pray to the beach. In this case, Lila's Id was fulfillment of her desire to pray soon. Here is her line. *"She could not face the dead ashes or the dirty cooking pots of the night before until she had been out on the beach and seen the sea and scattered flowers on the sacred rock."* Lila's Ego was her action went to the beach before boiling water to make some tea for her family. *"She knew she ought to do it before she went to the beach. ... But somehow, when she woke up in the morning, she felt she had to flee to the beach."* To control her ego, she was responsible for her duty. She showed her Superego by boiling water and made some tea after coming back of the beach. *"Now she had been there, she would collect firewood, light it and make tea for the family."*

Hari's Personality

Hari was one year younger than Lila. He was Lila's young brother who had same destiny with her. He also stopped of going to school because economic problem and decided to work in the field and at Mr. De Silva's house

to add his salary. Hari knew that he could not stay in the silent shadowy hut with his sisters. He had to act, since there was no one else in the family fit to act. By some judgments, especially a bad economic condition, Hari's decision to flee from Thul was really strong. He went to Bombay without permitting his sisters, mother and also father.

"Have you heard? All the men have set off for Bombay with a petition to the government. Someone told me Hari has gone, too."

"Hari? Hari gone to Bombay? Oh no, of course not - he must be here somewhere."

"Where? I have not seen him. You can ask Raju - he is the one who told me (p.129)."

Joining a procession of refusing fertilizer factory, there was no way Hari to back home even though he was still doubt about his destiny in Bombay. In Bombay, he would have to stay, work and earn a living.

"Of course there was no question of turning back. Having joined this 'procession', there was no way he could back out of it short of leaping into the sea and swimming home. Once in Bombay, he would have to stay, work and earn a living. Was he really ready for that? He felt unsure (p.113)."

This shows Hari's superego that he had to find out a work for his family. Hari's ego was his going away to Bombay without permitting his family.

In spite of joining the procession, actually Hari disagreed with the idea of farmers and fishermen to refuse fertilizer factory. He hoped the factory was built so he can get a job over there. He pressed his ego to work at the factory. He was demanded by his environment to agree to refuse fertilizer factory. He and his friend, Ramu, were ones who were waiting happily of coming up the factory to get a job but Hari was the only one of people in that crowded of procession because Ramu did not

joining the procession. From this case can be seen Hari's superego. He refused fertilizer factory's building in Thul forcedly.

"Hari stood watching the crowd fades away down the road. He felt deserted and friendless. None of his friends from the village had come – they were the ones who were sitting happily at home waiting for the fertilizer factory to come up and employ them. He had left them to join the march in order to get away from Thul and get to Bombay... (p.126-127)."

In Bombay Hari worked in Sri Khrisna Eating House. In the night, Hari could not sleep because it was so hot in the eating house room. He decided to sleep in the park but a few minute later a policeman came. He asked Hari to go. Hari refused to go. He said that he had not a place to go. Consequently, a policeman went away because an old gentleman came and made him shy when a policeman was snapping and threatening Hari.

'Get up, boy, go home. This is no place to sleep. Get up quick or I will take you off to the police station – you can sleep as long as you like there.'

...

'I have nowhere to go I live here.'

'Nowhere to go? I will show you where you can go!...

'Why bully a poor harmless boy, Mr. mighty moliceman?' he piped in a small, shrill voice like a child's. 'There are enough bad characters in this city – thugs, murderers, thieves, gamblers, drunkards – why not go after them instead? Why not start with those drunkards playing cards in that corner over there?'

'Hurmph,' he grunted.

'Hurmph! Who are these men? Where are they? I would better go and see,' he said and went off (p.168-169).

Here was shown Hari's Id. He wanted to fulfill his desire to get a comfort place without

thinking whether it was a place to sleep or not. *"I have nowhere to go. I live here (p. 168)."*

Humanistic Psychology of Lila and Hari

One of problems that were focused in the novel *The Village by The Sea* was a poor family in Thul. It happened because a mother suffered anemia and a father was not responsible as a father. He was an employment who liked drink. He spent all of his time for drinking. Main characters in the novel were Lila and Hari. They were children who had unlucky destiny but they were able to overstep all of obstacle in their life. Their struggle and patience made their father stopped of drinking and their mother got well of her ill. Self-actualization of Lila and Hari were reached through several difficult steps. Here are processes of main characters' self-actualization.

Physiological needs

Because Lila and Hari lived in poverty whose father was a drunkard and mother was ill, consequently, they were difficult to fulfill their physiological needs. They needed an enormous struggle to get some meal and daily necessary. Hari worked in the field and drug net on the sea.

"... All the time that he hoed and dug out stones and pulled up roots, preparing the single small field for a winter crop of vegetables. It was true he had done nothing with them but dig and sow and break coconuts from the trees and drag nets in the sea (p.13-14)."

Besides that Lila and Hari also worked at Mr. De Silva's family.

"Seeing the visitors staggering towards the house with their bags, Hari went to help. The next few days he was kept busy by them, buying their fish on the beach when the fishing fleet came in, and fetching

eggs and milk from the village market (p.50-51)."

Because worked at Mr. De Silva was not enough to fulfill their daily need so Hari fled to Bombay to get a job. He worked at Sri Krishna Eating House. *"The work was not easy in that fire lit kitchen of the Sri Krishna Eating House that seemed to grow hotter and hotter and never to cool down even a night (p.165)."*

Holiday was finished. Mr. De Silva would be back to Bombay. Lila's opportunity to work for them was over. Fortunately, before Mr. De Silva went out, a birdwatcher arrived in Thul. Then Lila worked at him. She got helped by her two siblings, Bela and Kamal, because Hari was not at home anymore.

The visitor who was stay at Mon Repos through the monsoon arrived in Thul the day before the de Silvas left and in the hubbub and confusion, Lila and her sisters did not become aware of his presence immediately. Lila was busy helping the cook clear the kitchen and pack their belongings, the sisters went to collect flowers for the memsahib before she left – allamanda and hibiscus and frangipani blossom, and garlands of jasmine for the children (p. 174-175).

The previous datum showed Hari and Lila's difficulties to fulfill their physiological need. A delicious meal was something so rarely they ate. *"We hardly eat anything but this dry bread, or dry rice, every day. There's hardly ever any money to buy anything with in the bazaar-only when we sell our coconuts to the Malabaris (p.15)."*

The safety needs

Lila and Hari who did not have a house, they stayed at an old, faded and dirty hut. *"... But when Lila came to the log that bridged the swampy creek and led to their hut on the other bank, she looked at the hut and knew that nothing was as it had been before, and nothing*

was well either. The hut should have been re-thatched years ago... (p.4-5)."

Hard life and bad environment made them learned more about life's struggle and made them more patient in facing the obstacle of life. They did not get their safety needs from their parents but they got it from other people. The first was Mr. De Silva and Mrs. De Silva. The second was Jagu and the last was Mr. Panwallah. Lila got her safety need from Mr. De Silva and Mrs. De Silva. Hari got his safety need from all of them but among Mr. De Silva, Mrs. De Silva, Jagu and Mr. Panwallah, he got more safety need from Jagu and Mr. Panwallah because he was closed longer with them than Mr. And Mrs. De Silva.

The belongingness and love needs

All of children need belongingness and love needs from their parents but Lila and Hari did not get belongingness from their parents. Same thing goes with their safety need, they got it from other people. Mr. de Silva who was kind had helped them. They offered Lila and Hari a job and brought their mother to a hospital for treatment.

'Sahib, can you take my mother to the hospital in Alibagh?

...

'I thought – I thought if you can take her there – and I will work for you – then the money you pay me – uh – that can pay for the doctor and the medicine.'

'Of course!' exploded Mr. De Silva. 'Of course we will pay for the medicine. Go and fetch your mother (p.154-155).'

Locked up day and night in the Sri Krishna Eating House, he began to feel like a prisoner condemned living in a prison cell. Jagu must have sensed this. One night, when he was locking up the kitchen, he stopped to look at Hari, who would not lie down but sat on the floor, hugging his knees and coughing into his

lap. Then, Jagu asked him to sleep at his house. *"You are ill," he said. "You had better come along with me. Come I will take you home (p.186)."*

Mr. Panwallah also did not forget giving some advices to Hari. It can be seen from his line. *"As long as you can use your hands...'... 'You can find work for them. And you have to be willing to learn – and to change – and to grow (p.208-209)."*

All of their kindness, Mr. and Mrs. De Silva, Jagu and also Mr. Panwallah made Lila and Hari feel so helpful. They were grateful to have great people liked who were.

The esteem needs

Lila and Hari had characterization patient, autonomous, and mature. They became a strong and autonomous person because they were able to solve their problem's life. Their personalities were formed by inborn potential that is modified by their experiences, culture and environment.

The need for self-actualization

The Hari's succeed in self-actualization was not a career, a job, money, appreciation, scholarship or others that are related to degree but he had an ability to repair watch of his diligence worked at Mr. Panwallah. Even though he had not become a familiar watch mender in Thul, at least he was able to repair a broken watch of bird mender. It can be seen from quotation below.

'Can you – d'you think you can mend my watch for me? I feel into the creek, you know,' he chuckled, and my watch has not worked since.

...

'It's safe with me, sir,' Hari said, patting his pocket, 'and I'll take it home and fix it so I can give it back to you by this evening. Will that be all right, sir?' (p.256, 258).

Further more, Lila had no self-actualization. It means that her need for self-actualization was not fulfilled. As long as she worked at Mr. and Mrs. De Silva, she did not get a skill like Hari. She only helped cooking, sweeping, cleaning, going to market and keeping the house

CONCLUSION

As known that literature is a picture of social life. It has two elements that are able to be analyzed. They are intrinsic and extrinsic element. This study focuses on extrinsic element, especially psychological aspect. The psychological aspect can be analyzed using some theories. The writer used Freudian Theory to analyze personalities of main characters and Abraham Maslow's Theory to analyze process of self-actualization of main characters. Freud divides mind become three divisions. The id is the influence of heredity, ego is most immediately controls thought and behavior, and superego is carried out by environmental rewards and punishments. Then, Maslow conceptualizes the following five basic needs, arranged in a ladder starting with lower need and moving on to higher needs: physiological needs, safety needs, belongingness and love needs, esteem needs and need for self-actualization.

Lila and Hari's personalities are dominated by superego. It can be named that they have enormous personality. They are able to control their Id and press their Ego successfully. It makes them be a strong and autonomous person. In their process of self-actualization, Lila and Hari find out so many obstacles but they are able to through human need steps perfectly from base need until the highest need except Lila who does not have self-actualization.

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