

AN ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER'S PERSONALITY DEPICTED IN THE NOVEL A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS BY KHALED HOSSEINI

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ABSTRACT

One of the most phenomenal personality theories is the one proposed by the famous psychologist Sigmund Freud, which has become a reference for millions of analyses for various literary works such as films, novels, and other literary works. Therefore, the reference to Sigmund Freud is inevitable and mandatory considering the importance and significance of Freud's contribution to this universe. Especially Freud's ideas on personality theory relating to the id, ego, and superego. In this analysis, Khaled Hosseini's novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* with the main character named Maryam will be the main object in discussing the application of Freud's personality theory. The analysis in this study has the main purpose of finding the results of a character's personality in the story or novel described and the various factors that affect the character's personality changes in the story.

Keywords: *Learning outcomes, listening skill, podcast, teaching listening.*

INTRODUCTION

Personality is one of the main components of human life. Personality is a major factor in the process of growth and development of a person. Humans can't seem to escape their own personalities and become more and more attached as time goes by. With billions of people in this world, the personalities of each human being also vary. Basically, every human being has a personality or can also be called a different character, and certainly cannot be equated between one person and another. Therefore, there are some people with personalities that are usually called good because of their attitudes and behaviors that consciously or unconsciously provide comfort and positive energy for anyone who is around them. Conversely, there are also some people who have personalities that can be said to be less warm, and give the impression of negative energy so that the people around them feel a little uncomfortable with their behavior and attitude.

To be able to know the personality itself one will not immediately be able to know it just by looking at other people and then judging it with his own eyes. Because personality is not something that can be measured, or certain. And to really know someone's character or personality, every human being must know and understand each other's characters first. So, with that, knowing someone's character and personality will be much easier. However, some of the world's scientists found theories about personality that can be known with the theories they found. Some of them are Sigmund Freud, Carl Gustav Jung, Alfred Adler, Erich Fromm and many others.

One of the most famous personality theories is the theory proposed by Sigmund Freud with his phenomenal ideas of id, ego, and super ego. This personality theory is certainly inseparable from Freud's intervention for his contribution in the world of psychology. In the

world of psychology, especially those that discuss psychoanalysis and personality theories, Sigmund Freud's name will certainly be one of the names that will always be discussed and referred to. It is because of his contribution with his phenomenal writings that arouse the excitement of the field of psychological theory that makes anyone interested in further exploring the theories put forward by Freud. Although many of his ideas are controversial and have attracted much debate and pros and cons since the idea of these theories was proposed, it seems that few doubt that Freud is a prominent figure in the history of human thought. His opinions in the field of psychology have completely revolutionized the conception of the human mind. And many of his ideas and terms have come into common use, such as ego, super ego, Oedipus complex, and the tendency to desire death.

One of them that attracts the author to decide to conduct further research on the theory put forward by Freud, which is none other than the author focusing more on the theory initiated by Freud regarding id, ego, and superego. Which the author will try to conduct research or personality analysis on one of the characters or main characters in a novel entitled *A Thousand Splendid Sun* by Khaled Hosseini. In analyzing a person's personality, the author needs an object to be used as research material with the application of the theory that the author has determined. Therefore, the author decided to choose a novel as the main media in this research or analysis and make the characters or characters in the novel as objects that are very likely to be analyzed for their personality or character.

A Thousand Splendid Suns itself became one of Khaled Hosseini's phenomenal works that made his book a New York Times Best Seller. Because of this, the author has a special interest in the novel to be analyzed further. The storyline is interesting and unusual and moves the hearts of its readers thanks to the representation of the main character named Maryam, which Hosseini succeeded in describing so extraordinary in her struggle and life path, successfully making readers, including the author, feel extraordinary emotions. The fortitude and strength of the main character portrayed and her struggle to get her rights in life, which often does not match reality, raises new conjectures about her personality when analyzed from a psychoanalytic perspective.

A Thousand Splendid Suns is the work of Afghan-American writer Khaled Hosseini. The novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* was first published on May 22, 2007. The novel was translated into Indonesian by Mizan Publishing in January 2013. The 504 pages novel tells the story of Mariam, a child rejected by her father. Later, after the death of her mother, Mariam is engaged to an evil man. Mariam is only 15 years old when she is sent to Kabul to marry Rashid, a troubled and bitter man 30 years her senior. Some 20 years later, as anxiety mounted, tragedy struck 15-year-old Laila. Laila is forced to leave home and join Mariam's unhappy family. Laila and Mariam must find solace in each other. Their friendship became as deep as the bond between sisters and as strong as the bond between mother and daughter. As time passes, the Taliban take over Afghanistan, the streets of Kabul are filled with gunfire and bombs, and the tenacity of the women becomes their worst imaginings in a life of desperate struggle against hunger, brutality, and fear has been tested beyond measure. But love can sometimes move people to take unexpected actions and overcome the greatest obstacles with surprising and heroic acts. In the end, love triumphs over death and destruction. *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is a portrait of a wounded nation, a story of family and friendship, relentless time, impossible bonds, and unbreakable love (Nandy, 2022).

Review of Literature

Personality theory is actually the spirit of psychology, because personality is what then becomes the core of psychology, which is the science that discusses human psychology or personality. Therefore, what triggers or drives the emergence of personality theory in

psychology is the question of who is the "I", namely me as a human being. Throughout the history of psychology, there are many figures who have contributed their thoughts in relation to this theory of personality, and the most important is Sigmund Freud (the father of modern psychology and also the inventor of psychoanalysis).

According to Freud's psychology, one of the most important parts of an organism is the nervous system, which is highly sensitive to what it needs. When humans are born, their nervous system is only slightly better than other animals, which is called the id. The nervous system, as the id, is in charge of translating the needs of an organism into motivational forces called in German as *Triebe*, which can be translated as instincts or passions.

Unlike the id, the ego functions based on the principles of reality. That is, the ego fulfills the needs of the organism based on appropriate objects that can be found in reality. The ego represents reality, and to some extent, also represents reason. While the ego tries to keep the id (or the organism) happy, it also experiences obstacles that exist in the real world. Often the ego encounters objects that prevent it from achieving its goals. The ego will record what gets in the way and at the same time remember what gets in the way of achieving the goal.

Meanwhile, the superego has two sides: the first is conscience, which is the internalization of punishments and warnings. The second is called the ego ideal. The ego ideal comes from praise and positive examples given to children. The conscience and ego ideal easily conflict with what comes from the id (passions and desires). The superego itself represents society, and society often demands nothing of an individual other than to deny its own needs.

Then, the focus of this research is on the personality of Mariam the main character described in the novel. After the many obstacles and various kinds of life difficulties faced, Mariam should have a personality difference or personality change in herself even though it is not too significant. However, of course, apart from these things, there are certainly factors that contribute and play a role in making changes in Mariam. Therefore, in this study the author tries to analyze these problems using the personality theory put forward by Sigmund Freud with his grand theory, namely id, ego, and superego.

METHOD

Research Design

This study is descriptive qualitative method research. Qualitative method or subjective investigate could be a handle of naturalistic request that looks for an in-depth understanding of social wonders inside their natural setting. It centers on the "why" instead of the "what" of social marvels and depends on the coordinate encounters of human creatures as meaning-making operators in each day lives. Instead of by consistent and measurable methods, subjective analysts utilize numerous frameworks of request for the consider of human wonders counting history, case ponder, authentic examination, talk investigation, ethnography, grounded hypothesis, and phenomenology (Curry, 2024).

In this study, the data is taken from the latest edition of Khaled Hosseini's novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* published by Mizan Group which has been translated into Indonesian. To get data which is then analyzed, the author reads the novel, then takes some appropriate notes or data to be categorized according to the predetermined theory. After finishing reading the novel, the author rereads it more than twice to ensure and provide a deeper understanding of the contents of the novel, so that later the author hopes that the analysis carried out will be easier to understand and certainly easier to do. After rereading the author begins to determine one character who will later become the main object in this study. Then the author identifies the points that are in accordance with the results of the author's

analysis of Freud's personality theory which is then classified one by one in detail (Istikomah, n.d.).

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

As discussed in the previous section, the main object of this study is the main character in the story named Maryam. Then the next step is about how the author tries to analyze Maryam's personality with Freud's perspective or theory of id, ego, and superego.

Id, Ego, and Superego Analysis on Mariam's Character

Id Analysis

According to Freud, the id is the most basic personality system, a system that comes from innate instincts, because it is an instinct, this Id works on the pleasure principle. The Id will try to make decisions or desires without thinking about rationality (Aritonang & Heriyati, 2022a). From this understanding, it can be concluded that id is something that appears suddenly in a person unconsciously or out of that person's control.

In this story Mariam is told that as a child she always lived with her mother named Nana even though her mother was often not warm. In fact, it was not uncommon for her mother to throw harsh words and scold her at will. Until one day Mariam wanted to live with her father named Jalil who lived in the city. Because Mariam thinks Jalil is a good father, because his attitude is always warm and gentle when he is with him, different from his mother Nana. For Mariam, it would be great to meet Jalil's family in the city. Meeting her other siblings from different mothers. But unfortunately, Jalil never even thought about inviting Mariam to live in the city with his family. Jalil prefers to continue visiting Mariam who lives with Nana, every week or when he has free time. But Mariam's desire continued to grow, so she kept asking Jalil to take her to the city. Even so, Jalil never happily accepted Mariam's wishes. So Mariam's sudden desire to follow her father to live in the city with his family can be called the id. Mariam's desire is part of the unconscious, which contains urges and impulses. The desire arises unconsciously in Mariam, and then her soul responds directly to these basic urges, needs and desires, which finally makes Mariam express her desire to Jalil to come to the city.

The id actually works in line with the principles of pleasure, which can be understood as the urge to always fulfill needs immediately. As depicted in the story, Mariam only expresses what she wants to live with her father in the city, and keeps repeating her desire many times when her father comes to visit her without thinking about how Jalil will respond or what the real situation will be if Mariam actually lives with Jalil and his family later. Mariam only knew that she wanted it and it had to be fulfilled at that very moment.

From the perspective Freud describes, Mariam's desire is a pure id. And in essence, id can also be said to be the lust that arises in humans. This includes Mariam's desire that keeps pushing her to live in the city.

Ego Analysis

The ego can also be referred to as the rational aspects of the personality that are responsible for controlling the id. For controlling the id, the ego functions as a mediator between the Id and the external world situation and facilitates the interaction between the two. The ego follows the reality principle which tries to restrain the Id's immediate demands until the right object is found to satisfy the need and lower the tension. Unlike the id, the ego functions based on the principles of reality which means that the ego fulfills the needs of the organism based on appropriate objects that can be found in reality. Because the ego represents reality,

and to some extent also represents reason. While the ego tries to keep the id or the organism happy, it also experiences obstacles that exist in the real world. Often, he (the ego) finds objects that prevent him from achieving his goals. So, the ego will record anything that hinders it and at the same time remember anything that smooths its way to achieve the goal (Zaviera, 2021).

Then back to the main discussion about the portrayal of Mariam's character. Continuing from Mariam's id about her desire that purely arises to come live with her father in the city. Which can then be found that Mariam's ego will track about what makes Mariam able to get something to realize her desire to become real. So, one day, an impulse arises in her that makes Mariam finally ventured to go to the city to follow her father and stepfamily there. The picture can be said to be a representation of Mariam's ego in realizing her desire or id earlier. Although Mariam could have thrown away her desires in other words not to follow her id, her ego prefers to make what she wants come true and be realized. Then with persistence and full confidence, Mariam still left for the city with an overwhelming feeling of happiness without the permission of Jalil her father, or her mother Nana. Mariam still left for the city secretly without telling anyone, including Jalil, who was her goal in coming to the city. In her mind, Mariam kept imagining how happy Jalil would be if he found himself following her there. Although in fact other possibilities could have happened beyond her expectations. This was a form or representation of Mariam's ego that brought her to the city to fulfill her desires.

Superego Analysis

The superego is the moral aspect of the personality acquired through parental education and social norms and values, and is based on morality and judgments of right and wrong. The superego and ego can make the same decision about something, but the superego's reasoning in making decisions is more likely to be based on moral values. Now the ego's decisions are based on what other people think (Fitria, 2020).

According to Freud, the superego is divided into two parts. The first part is the conscience, which is the internalization of punishments and warnings. While the second part is called the ego ideal. The ego ideal comes from praise and positive examples given to children. The conscience and ego ideal easily conflict with what arises from the id (passions & desires). In other words, the superego itself represents society. And society often demands nothing of an individual other than to deny its own needs (Zaviera, 2021).

In Mariam's story, superego is actually very important for Mariam's future actions. Before Mariam's ego takes over in realizing her desires or her id, that is actually where the role of the superego appears. It cannot be denied that Mariam had thought about what if Jalil was angry when she came to see her father in the city. Or how if she adds to Jalil's burden when she meets him and causes a commotion with her stepfamily there. Or even how if her stepfamily was the same as her mother's Nana who hated her from childhood because she was considered a jinxed little harami. That's what her mother called Mariam since she was a child. Or what if he leaves his mom home alone. While Mariam was all her mother had. Although Mariam often gets harsh treatment from her mother, scorned almost every day. But deep-down Mariam loved Nana very much. Although Nana was always not warm, calling her a little harami, acting as she pleased, but even so Nana never once had the thought of leaving Mariam since she gave birth to Mariam. However, sometimes Mariam also thought that if Mariam left Nana and moved in with Jalil her life might be much better because Jalil never treated Mariam the way Nana treated her. Jalil was always gentle like a father who loved his daughter, even though Jalil never once invited Mariam to live with him in the city but her father always brought something for Mariam when he came to visit her.

Now at that moment Mariam's superego was at work again. When Mariam was about to decide to leave for the city to leave Nana. Her mind was noisy again when she thought about how Nana would live her life without Mariam. In Mariam's life all she has is Nana and Jalil. When Mariam decided to leave Nana, she still had Jalil. As for Nana, all she had was Mariam. When Mariam left her, Nana had no one else. That's why Nana always hated it when Mariam expressed her desire to follow Jalil to the city and leave her alone. When she expressed her desire again, Nana would threaten Mariam again. Nana said that if Mariam dared to leave her and choose to meet Jalil in the city, Nana swore that Mariam would lose her. That's where Mariam's superego works again. Thoughts of what if Nana's words proved true that she would end her life when Mariam chose Jalil and left her alone. Those thoughts always plagued Mariam. At that moment her ego is faced with two tough choices between having to choose her id to realize her wishes, or choose her superego and stay at home with Nana because of the things that might happen that she doesn't want to happen.

These thoughts had actually come and haunted her since long ago before Mariam decided to go to the city to meet her father. That's when Mariam's superego works and that's the form of superego representation in Mariam's story. These thoughts had actually come and haunted her since long ago before Mariam decided to go to the city to meet her father. That's when Mariam's superego works and that's the form of superego representation in Mariam's story. If at that time Mariam's ego prefers her superego and then decides to stay with Nana and not go to the city to live with Jalil, then that is what is called the ideal ego. But on the other hand, if Mariam obeys her id and remains stubborn to go to the city to realize her wishes, then it means that it is a manifestation of the first part of the superego, namely conscience. From there, as mentioned earlier, conscience and the ego ideal easily conflict with what arises from the id (passions and desires).

Id, Ego, and Superego in The Process of Forming Mariam's Personality

From Freud's perspective, the Id personality structure is said to make a person try to get various basic needs of life such as eating, drinking, and sexual desire instantly, even acting impulsively. In this case, it can be seen how Mariam tries to fulfill her desires and even makes herself act impulsively. Meanwhile, Superego is a personality structure that makes a person have moral values or understanding of others. From here, it can also be seen that Mariam's superego works when Mariam begins to understand the situation of Nana's condition shortly before choosing to leave her to the city (Aritonang & Heriyati, 2022b).

Then how do id, ego, and superego work together in the process of forming one's personality. Or in this case, Mariam as the object. Id, Ego, and Superego work together in creating human behavior patterns. Id itself gives the demands of natural needs, while ego limits it to reality and superego adds moral values to every action taken. From there, a person's behavior pattern or personality will be formed. The same applies to Mariam's character. The interaction and conflict between the three elements will shape Mariam's personality. From the decision she has made by using her ego to choose between id and superego, it will later bring up new points in Mariam's life. Maybe it can be a valuable lesson in life that will make her grow stronger or even vice versa.

In addition, from the decisions Mariam makes, her attitude towards everything she faces later, which of course after a long process of involvement between the three elements, determines Mariam's own personality. Maybe later Mariam will become a person who is tough, strong, confident, patient, and others. Or on the contrary, Mariam can also become a person who leads to negative things, such as irritability, impatience, vindictiveness, weakness, and surrender. It all depends on the attitude Mariam takes.

If you look from Mariam's point of view, which is told in the novel. After Mariam decided to go to the city to follow her father and chose to leave Nana, she was disappointed. Mariam's arrival was not warmly welcomed by Jalil. Jalil, who Mariam thought would never hurt her, turned out to be the one who would give her the deepest wound in her life. Jalil didn't even want to find Mariam and left her out in the cold outside his house. Mariam was even disappointed by her own expectations. But that's where Mariam finally learned. That this is the path of her life, and it turns out that not everything that is good will end well too. Mariam also realized one thing, that the decision she finally made by sacrificing her superego was wrong. She realized that the choice to leave her mother was wrong, if she knew the end would be like this. From there, all that emerged from Mariam was disappointment with herself for having such high expectations of something that she thought would never happen.

Like an iceberg, the ego and some of the super ego are elements of the psychological structure that we are aware of like an iceberg that is only visible on the surface, while deep below the surface of the sea, there is an invisible iceberg, like the id, a natural human instinct that appears without us realizing it.

CONCLUSION

From this study the author can conclude several things. Which we know that id, ego, and superego have a very important role in the formation of a person's personality pattern. Especially the main object in this study is the main character, Mariam. According to Freud's ideas, Freud argued that the id is the primitive and instinctual part of the mind that contains sexual and aggressive urges and hidden memories. Meanwhile, the superego operates as the moral consciousness, and the ego is the realistic part that mediates between the desires of the id and the superego.

It can be simplified that the id is a natural human need, while the ego is the individual's way of dealing with reality, while the last is the superego which is the socially acceptable moral aspect of an individual. Therefore, it can be concluded that Ego is part of the personality structure that makes a person realize that in order to fulfill basic needs, one still needs to use safe and socially acceptable means. Ego also makes a person think realistically and realize that there are other people who also need to fulfill their needs or desires to survive. However, with this personality structure, one realizes that they do not always have to hold back their desires for the sake of others. Because that's how survival needs can be met. In addition, the conclusion that can be drawn from Mariam's story is that id, ego, and superego will later form a personality pattern in Mariam. Later from the choices Mariam makes in her life, which of course has involved the three elements, her character or personality pattern is formed and can be used as a valuable lesson or experience in life regardless of the good or bad choices she makes. Then the result of her decision is the result of a conflict or debate between id, ego, and superego that has occurred before.

Then last but not least, the author can conclude that Freud's theory of personality involving id, ego, and superego in the formation of a person's character or personality is very likely to be used despite the many pros and cons of Freud's phenomenal ideas. Although currently Freud's theories or ideas are mostly used only to analyze literary works such as movies, novels and others, but according to the author there is nothing wrong if this theory (id, ego, and superego) is used to analyze a person's personality in the real world.

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