

THE INFLUENCE OF PAST MEMORY ON THE MAIN CHARACTER'S
PERSONALITY IN FYODOR DOSTOYEVSKY'S

NOTES FROM UNDERGROUND

A Thesis

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Of the Research

Mind is a greatest gift given by God for human beings to control their life. By using their mind, they can create something new for better life and find the best of solution for any problems in their life. In other way, "By using their mind, human beings organize and coordinate all of their actions by means of their mental process. All of this mental process that occurs in human being mind cannot be observed physically but it can only be explained psychologically", (Guerin 1979:123).

Many factors can influence the psychology and personality of human being. It can be social environment, family or some events that change someone's mind and personality. As Sumadi Suryabrata's opinion in his book *Psikologi Kepribadian* that 'watak (kepribadian) adalah keseluruhan (totalitas) kemungkinan-kemungkinan bereaksi secara emosional dan volisional seseorang, yang terbentuk selama hidupnya oleh unsur-unsur dari dalam dirinya (endogen) dan unsur luar dirinya (endogen) (2003:21). It can be concluded that social conditions of the environment and events in daily life, good or bad, pleasure or pain have contribution for someone's personality.

Here the writer chooses a novel to be analyzed. Because a novel usually tells and shows about the life of human being. Through the novel we may recognize the life of human being with its complexity of things such as pain,

despair, madness or even show how they struggle although they will change their appearance and personality. It is commonly shown through characters that appear in the novel. The characters with their complexity and uniqueness make the novel more natural. In other words, through the novel we can explore human existence and human's behavior in order to understand the human acts and personality.

In this case, the writer analyzes Fyodor Dostoyevsky's novel which is entitled *Notes from Underground*. Dostoevsky is a Russian novelist. Beside *Notes from Underground* (1864), his other great works are *Memoirs from the House of the Dead* (1860-1861), *Crime and Punishment* (1866), *The Idiot* (1868) and *Demons* (1871-1872).

It is interesting to analyze *Notes from Underground* by using psychological approach because this novel portrays the life of a man who has had past memory or childhood experience. His bad past memory has contribution to change his personality and behaviors in present day and as the result, he chooses to live alienated as undergroundman. The story of *Notes from Underground* is so touching especially about the life of the undergroundman. This work reveals that a bad treatment in the past has contribution in changing undergroundman's personality. Traumatic experience, past memory and social condition of environment are assumed to give influence to the undergroundman.

Based on the explanation above the writer analyzes this novel by applying psychoanalytic approach and entitles his thesis **The Influence of Past Memory on the Main Character's Personality in Fyodor Dostoyevsky's *Notes from Underground***.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

After analyzing *Notes from Underground* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky, the writer finds that the novel reflects the psychological condition of a man who got unpleasant social treatment, being rejected by the society. This bad treatment has contribution in changing life and personality of Undergroundman.

In the novel, Undergroundman is represented as a man who has traumatic past memory that full of events which hurt him in his younger life. Beside an orphan, he is being ignored by people around him. This cruel things have haunted him and influenced his life later. Meanwhile Undergroundman's Id is presented as a spiteful person and full of self-deception. In the novel, his super-ego is represented through Liza's love and attention to him. Because he never has love or giving love, he scares with Liza's affection, so he rejects her love and humiliates her. This thing happens because of the domination of his Id toward his super-ego.

The undergroundman past memory, is the most influential thing in his life. Being ignored and loveless make him to choose living a life as an undergroundman, alienated from the society. In his undergroundman's life, he just keep thinking and imagining and does nothing. Although his life is alone, loveless, suffered and miserable, he sometimes gets pleasure from his pain.

By analyzing the novel *Notes from Underground* from psychological of a man, the writer finds out that bad past memory becomes one thing that most

influential thing in someone's life. It influences a whole life of someone as reflected in the character of undergroundman. Meanwhile, there should be no class distinction between poor and rich because all of human beings are created by God and equal each other. Fyodor Dostoyevsky shows that Undergroundman is the victim of bad treatment of the society.

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