

DEFENSE MECHANISMS IN THE MAIN CHARACTER OF
ERNEST HEMINGWAY'S THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA

A Thesis

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ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini membahas konflik yang terjadi dalam diri Santiago sebagai tokoh utama yang terdapat dalam novel karya Ernest Hemingway, The Old man and the Sea. Berbagai konflik batin yang dihadapi Santiago selama beberapa hari berlayar ditengah laut sendiri untuk mendapatkan hasil tangkapan besar mempengaruhi pola pikir serta perkembangan kepribadiannya.

Penelitian ini bersifat kualitatif dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif. Data yang digunakan merupakan gabungan dari buku-buku dan artikel yang berhubungan dengan masalah yang dikaji penulis, baik dari media cetak maupun dari media elektronik. Dalam menganalisa konflik tersebut, penulis menggunakan teori psikoanalisis yaitu teori "human psychic zone" (teori kepribadian manusia) yang terdiri dari Id, ego dan superego serta teori mekanisme pertahanan yang dikembangkan oleh Sigmund Freud. Mekanisme pertahanan digunakan untuk melindungi diri, menggunakan taktik mental secara tidak disadari untuk mengurangi dan menghilangkan ancaman, dorongan, dan konflik.

Dari penelitian ini penulis mendapatkan empat mekanisme pertahanan yang digunakan oleh tokoh utama, yaitu; *denial of reality* (menyangkal kenyataan), *rationalization* (rasionalisasi), *fantasy* (fantasi), dan *repression* (represi). Dari keempat pertahanan yang muncul, *rasionalisasi* lah yang paling banyak digunakan dan *repression* lah yang sangat berperan penting dalam pembentukan kepribadian tokoh utama pada akhir cerita secara positif dari orang yang putus asa karena ketidakberuntungannya menjadi orang yang memiliki kebanggaan terhadap kemampuan diri sendiri dan menjadi lebih optimis menjalani kehidupan selanjutnya.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1. 1 The Background of the Study

There have been many researches conducted in literary works and also applying many theories. By using a certain theory as the basic of the research, we will be able to identify problems that occurred in a literary work. The theory can be applied in a literary work if it is strong enough to be analyzed. The problem can be criticized if never been doing by other researchers or not finish yet.

To understand literary works, we have to know the works and source of unconscious desires, needs, anxieties and behavior of the writers. It can help us to answer the questions that come to our mind, to contemplate our unspoken desires and even to doubt the nature of reality itself, then explore that part of our minds over which we have seemingly little control, the unconscious. To help us understanding about it, psychological criticism is the suitable theory to be applied.

The writer interested in the literary writers she admired, Ernest Hemingway's works comes to her best attention. The writer likes most of his works and wants to understand more about it. The novel The Old Man and the Sea has been chosen for her literary research since it has never been criticized by using psychological criticism by student in English Department of Andalas University before. It represents psychological conflicts of the character, how he solves it and how the conflicts influence his thought.

The mental process can be one of the main factors in shaping human behavior. However, this research will focus on the psychology of the character by applying the psychological criticism. The writer assumes that many psychological conflicts which the character accepted in life could be solved by many ways as long as he is sure that he could face it all. Judging by how the character solve it and what happened then, both would guide us to know how the character fulfills his desires of something he wanted the most.

Furthermore, the writer wants to analyze the psychological conflicts of Santiago that influences his mind in solving the problem. Later on, he succeeds to change the society opinion that he runs a bad luck and seems hopeless and he feels so, into a person that still believes in his own power and gets pride from it. The way how he solves the problem also influences his thought about power and the faith of his own ability.

Based on the explanation above, the writer wants to analyze this novel by applying psychological criticism and entitles this thesis "**Defense Mechanisms in the Main Character of Ernest Hemingway's The Old Man and the Sea**".

1. 2 The Statement of the Problem

The novel entitled The Old Man and the Sea tells us about an epic struggle between an old fisherman and the greatest catch during his life. The character, *Santiago* faces his psychical condition as an old man, social concern about his

unfortunate, his spiritual conflict and his loneliness. It is all influence the drive of three Psyche Zone (Id, ego, and superego).

Santiago is motivated to follow his will to sail out further than the other fishermen were daring to go, to catch a big fish. He does it to show to the world that he is undefeated fisherman and the psychical condition as an old man is not a matter. Having reached what he wanted the most, will Santiago comes back to the land as a new person or fail to solve the spiritual conflicts that he faced during his voyage?

1.3 The Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is to analyze the spiritual conflict of Santiago and how his human psyche (Id, ego and superego) has been regulated along his adventure in the sea. Meanwhile, he uses defense mechanisms to face the conflicts that he has during his voyage. Conflicts arise in situations where needs, goal even desire causes someone to feel pulled simultaneously with an attending sense of discomfort. People will use some strategy when being threatened. The condition does not change, but people reduce their worries by changing their perception about something unconsciously. The writer believes that the defense mechanism is working.

1.4 The Limitation of the Problem

There are so many interesting things to discuss about. Since the writer hasn't enough time and the limitation of sources, the problem will be limited into three statements only, as follow:

1. The psychological conditions of Santiago, which influenced the performance of the Id, ego and the superego.
2. Type of defense mechanisms, used by Santiago in solving the spiritual conflicts.
3. Personality development of Santiago.

1.5 Method of the Research

1.5.1 Collecting the data

In collecting the data, the writer starts this research by doing library research in form of words and sentences. In this research, the data are taken from two sources, primary and secondary data. Primary data is The Old Man and the Sea novel by Ernest Hemingway and the secondary data are obtained from such materials such as books, articles, Internet and any other writings related to the subject of the study.

1.5.2 Analyzing the data

In analyzing the data, the writer firstly collects all relevant data. Then, the writer classifies the data to find the problem psychologically. Having classified the data into each group, the writer starts her analysis and the writer finds Id, ego and superego and some defense mechanisms by using Freud theory.

1.5.3 Presenting the Result of Analysis

In reporting the analysis, the writer applies several methods. They are method of writing and method of research. In the method of writing, the writer applies descriptive method. It can help to illustrate and scrutinize the exact problems, by

taking some quotations related to the subject of analysis. Paul. D Leedy (1974: 79) states: "Descriptive method is the method that simply looks with the intent accurately phenomena at the moment and then describes precisely what the investigator sees."

Then, in the method of the research, the writer applies qualitative methods. According to Bogdan (1982:28): "Qualitative research is descriptive; the data collected is in the form of words or pictures rather than numbers. The written result of the research contains quotation from the data to illustrate and substantiate the presentation."

By using these methods, then the analyses of psychological conflict of the character will be achieved.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

The Old Man and the Sea written by Ernest Hemingway is the novel that gives us such rich experiences through somebody's life psychologically. He shows us how the main character *Santiago* faces and solves his spiritual conflicts considering his psychological condition as the old man. Having passed the conflict, Santiago transforms his personality positively during the story. It influenced by the situation that he faces in the sea and makes him think how to face it all. Here, the writer explains them all by using psychological criticism proposed by Sigmund Freud.

The writer finds that Santiago has some spiritual conflict that come from society and also himself that makes him almost surrender of his unlucky. Social concerns about being old man with all his unfortunate makes him decide to sail out further than other fishermen were daring to go. He let his Id to do it and at the beginning he makes it as an ambition to catch a very big fish. He is going to show to the villager that he is still undefeated fisherman. He follows his pleasure principle to fulfill some psychological need to get appreciation from the other. His ego takes control. Influencing by his condition as an old man which are more patient and a faith comes to his mind. Ego treats this experience not as an ambition anymore but as an event to be curious about and avoid becoming emotionally involved. His ego succeeds to balance Id.

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