

**O. Henry's Psychological Conflicts as Reflected in the Main
Character of His Four Short Stories**

A Thesis

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ABSTRAK

Dalam skripsi ini penulis menganalisa konflik psikologis O.Henri yang tergambar melalui tokoh utama dalam karya sastranya. Dalam penelitian ini, penulis menganalisa empat cerita pendek karya O.Henry dimana tokoh utamanya menggambarkan cerminan konflik psikologis yang pernah dihadapi oleh O.Henry dalam kehidupan nyata, yaitu: Jim dalam The Gift of the Magi, Bob dalam After Twenty Years, Johnsy dalam The Last Leaf dan The Old Gentleman dalam Two Thanksgiving Day Gentlemen. Dalam skripsi ini juga dipaparkan bagaimana O.Henry menggambarkan konflik psikologis serta beberapa situasi dan kondisi yang pernah dihadapinya sehingga pada akhirnya dituangkan melalui tokoh utama dalm karyanya.

Dalam menganalisa karya ini penulis menggunakan teori ekspresif sebagai payung besarnya karena penulis membandingkan secara langsung antara pengarang dan tokoh dalam karyanya. Selanjutnya, penulis menggunakan pendekatan psikologi sastra yang dikembangkan lagi dengan menggunakan teori psikologi dari Sigmund Freud untuk mengetahui sisi psikologisnya berdasarkan tiga zona psikologi Freud: id, ego dan superego. Dalam metode pengumpulan data, penulis melakukan penelitian pustaka dan browsing internet. Data tersebut diolah dengan menggunakan metode kualitatif dan hasil laporan yang bersifat deskriptif.

Dari hasil analisis ini, penulis dapat menyimpulkan bahwa konflik psikologis yang dialami oleh Jim, Bob, Johnsy dan The Old Gentleman adalah cerminan dari konflik psikologis yang pernah dialami oleh O. Henry itu sendiri. Hal ini bisa diartikan bahwa O. Henry menuangkan sebagian dari pengalaman hidupnya ke dalam karya sastranya.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Literature is a reflection of human being's life which uses language as medium. To differentiate them with the other creature, human is given mind and soul. Those two things make them capable to feel, think and behave. Absolutely, the things that relate to these are known as psychology. Generally, psychology deals with behavior and mental processes, which are found in every human. Like Davidov states in her book Introduction to Psychology: "Psychology (derived from the Greek words meaning "study of the mind or soul") is usually defined today as the science that studies behavior and mental processes" (1981: 2). Besides, literature also has a close relationship with the author itself.

Generally, from many books that I have read, the author uses two ways to express his/her feeling to create some literary works. The first one is by using his/her real experiences. In arranging a good work, he/she uses his/her experiences of life as the main source. It makes the author has an important role in literature. The second one is the author only uses his/her imagination to create the works.

In this thesis, the writer chooses four O. Henry's short stories; The Gift of the Magi, After Twenty Years, The Last Leaf, and Two Thanksgiving Day Gentlemen to be analyzed because the writer wants to prove that whether there is

any relationship between O. Henry's psychological conflicts (id, ego, and superego) and his works or not. They are very interesting to be read. Most of them tell us much about the true meaning of life. It can be seen in The Gift of the Magi which concerns about a young couple who sincerely sacrifice their most precious thing in order to make his/her lover happy. After Twenty Years tells about the truly friendship, two young boys that keep their promise until twenty years later. It becomes more interesting, when they meet again; one of the men is facing to the complicated choice whether he should let his friend go while he is a criminal or catch him. The Last Leaf tells about how we should appreciate the wonderful gift from God that has given to us, that is a soul. Therefore, we may not make it useless. Two Thanksgiving Day Gentlemen has a contrary thing that a man almost dies because of starvation meanwhile he pays a "Big Dinner" for another man only to maintain his life tradition.

O. Henry (1862-1910) is a productive American short-story writer. Although he starts his career with miserable condition, because of his poor financial condition, Henry proves to the world that he is proper include being one of the reckoned writer in literary world and gives some influences in it.

William Sidney Porter who is famous by his pen-name, O. Henry, is well-known as a master of surprise endings, who writes about the life of ordinary people in New York City. The twist of plot, which turns on an ironic or accidental situation, is the typical of O. Henry's stories. The first collection of his stories appears in 1904 in "Cabbages and Kings" which is immediately popular. The

following are: "The Gift of the Magi", "The Furnished Room", and "The Four Million" (1906), etc.

Because of his "genius" way to create the story, many people falling in love in it. Thus, they decide to transform some of Henry's short stories become "The Movie". They are: "The Gift of the Magi", "The Ransom of Red Chief", "The Last Leaf", "The Cop and The Anthem", and "The Clarion Call".

Based on the previous explanation, the writer tries to analyze whether O. Henry's psychological conflicts: id, ego and superego are reflected in his short stories or not.

1.2 The Identification of the Problem

The writer focuses her analysis on the main character of four O. Henry's short stories since she wants to find the relationship between the author and his works. By comparing the biography of the author with his stories, the writer finds some similarities between the author and some characters in his stories.

Moreover, the author has some great influences in his/her work. In creating his/her works, the author is influenced by the unconscious mind because based on Freud's ideology, the bigger part of human mental life is the unconsciousness while the consciousness only takes a small part of it. This unconsciousness will affect the author in creating a good work. Further, the author would dream as if it really happens in reality in order to feel what the character feel. Finally, the author produce a work.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

In writing this thesis, the writer's aim is to analyze the reflection of O. Henry's Psychological Conflict in some characters in his stories. In his short stories, Henry's consciously and unconsciously had been included "his existency" in his stories through the characters in some of his short stories, which in this analysis the characters that reflects Henry are Jim in The Gift of the Magi, Bob in After Twenty Years, Johnsy in The Last Leaf and The Old Gentleman in Two Thanksgiving Day Gentlemen.

The writer does not have a free assumption or could not prove the fact. The writer analyzes each character that seems to be like Henry in his reality life. There are some conditions that Henry had been faced. The most important thing is there are some similarities of psychological conflict within Henry and the characters in his story.

The analysis in this thesis also proves the similarity between Henry and four main characters in his four short stories. There are some situation and condition in these stories which reflects Henry's life. We can see Henry's reflection through Jim in The Gift of The Magi. He already married in his twentieth, has a financial problem but he has a wonderful wife that never

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complain about their life and always motivates him. He decides to follow his id's domination toward his superego, marrying his wife while he is in financial condition, but his wife never complains about their poverty. Henry also faces it. Henry and character Bob in After Twenty Years, both was in jail because of doing a criminal since they are bored living in poverty. Both of them also follow their id's domination toward their superego. Henry also reflects himself through Johnsy in The Last Leaf. He thinks about suicide. Fortunately, they both realize that they still have someone they love and love them. Finally, they get their spirit and decides to alive. Last, in Two Thanksgiving Day Giving Day Gentlemen, Henry's reflection can be seen through The Old Gentleman. They both have a principle that they ungrudgingly suffer as long as they could make another people happy.

Therefore, after analyzing it based on the data that the writer has, she concludes that there is a reflection of O. Henry's Psychological Conflicts in the main characters in his four short stories; The Gift of the Magi, After Twenty Years, The Last Leaf and Two Thanksgiving Day Gentlemen.

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