

Self Defense Mechanism in the Main Character as Seen in Daniel Defoe's

Moll Flanders

A THESIS

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ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini membahas tentang bentuk – bentuk mekanisme pertahanan ego yang di gunakan oleh Moll Flanders, tokoh utama dalam novel yang berjudul Moll Flanders karya Daniel Defoe. Berdasarkan data yang di temukan dalam novel ini, terdapat beberapa bentuk jenis metode pertahanan ego dalam tokoh utama sebagai akibat dari ancaman-ancaman rasa takut dan latar belakang kehidupan yang menyakitkan. Tujuan dari penulisan skripsi ini adalah untuk memaparkan sejumlah metode pertahanan ego yang di gunakan oleh tokoh utama sebagai akibat dari rasa takut dan kecemasan yang di alaminya. Kecemasan - kecemasan ini lah yang akan mendorong tokoh utama ini untuk menggunakan sejumlah metode pertahanan ego.

Penulis menganalisa novel ini dengan menggunakan pendekatan objektif oleh MH. Abrams dan teori psikoanalisis yang di kemukakan oleh Sigmund Freud. Teori psikoanalisis yang dalam hal ini adalah mekanisme pertahan ego, membantu penulis mengungkap latar belakang tokoh utama dalam hal menggunakan beberapa mekanisme pertahanan ego dan kemudian menganalisa metode pertahan ego yang di gunakan oleh tokoh utama tersebut. Untuk menganalisa novel ini penulis menggunakan novel Moll Flanders sebagai sumber data utama dan sumber data lainnya yang berasal dari buku, internet, artikel dan sumber lain yang dapat menunjang penelitian ini.

Setelah menganalisa novel ini, penulis dapat menyimpulkan bahwa mekanisme pertahanan ego yang digunakan oleh tokoh utama adalah reaksi formasi, represi, dan denial. Mekanisme pertahanan ego yang di gunakan oleh tokoh utama ini bertujuan untuk meredam kecemasan akan situasi sulit yang di alaminya dan untuk menghindari rasa sakit terhadap pengalaman masa lalu. Dapat disimpulkan bahwa mekanisme pertahanan ego ini muncul dengan sendirinya ketika Moll Flanders berada pada situasi menyakitkan.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Research

God has endowed enormous gift to human beings that differentiates them from other creatures. The writer argues that the special gift is the mind or soul which is known as psyche. Freud states in the book of Guerin, "...by using their mind consciously or unconsciously, human beings organize and coordinate all of their actions by means of their mental process."(1979: 123). Human can feel, memorize and think by using their mind and it can be studied in a specific discipline which is called psychology which generally deals with personality. According to Allport, "personality is the individual characteristics reaction to social stimuli and Quality of his adaptation to the social features of his environment." (1924: 15). It means that in each person, there are so many different personalities which can make their life very complicated and influence their personality development. Therefore, the writer assumes that the process of personality development can be the main causes in making or shaping human's behaviors or attitudes.

Wellek and Warren state that psychology of literature has four aspects, they are: psychology of the writer as type and individual, psychology of the reader, the study of psychological types and laws presented within literary works, and the last is the study of literature as a creative process. (1995: 109). Based on the explanation above, the writer tries to analyze the novel Moll Flanders as the study

of psychological types and laws presented in literary works, in which it will be guided by the theory of psychology.

Moll Flanders is one of the famous English novels that have been written by Daniel Defoe in 1722. Daniel Defoe is a famous English novelist, pamphleteer, and journalist who was born in North London in 1660. He is also considered as the founder of the English novel.

Moll Flanders is the story of a woman named Moll Flanders and it told through the first person point of view. She had a psychological conflict since she was eight years old. When her birth in Newgate Prison, she was essentially alone in the world and must make her way by her wits and her beauty. She knows that she does not intend to become a maid and then she wants to do anything and any way in order to be a gentlewoman.

In this case, the writer is interested in analyzing this novel because the writer wants to elaborate the life background of the main character in the novel which will guide the writer to find the self defense mechanism that she uses along her life. Self defense mechanism is the way of ego to safe herself from the force of primitive motivation. Furthermore, when somebody's ego is threatened he will try to save the ego through self defense mechanism process.

Based on the statement of Wellek and Warren, the study of psychological types and laws presented within literary work, the writer finds some self defense mechanism of the main character in Moll Flanders and since psychology is a study of human behavior, it can be applied to analyze a character in a literary work. The writer is interested in analyzing the novel entitled Moll Flanders since the writer

finds so many psychological problems of the main character. The writer is interested in analyzing this novel by using psychoanalysis theory because this novel has a main character that experiences a complex psychological problem, and the main character uses her self defense mechanism in order to recover her life background, whereas the background of her life makes her use self defense mechanism to safe her self from primitive motivation.

Because of the reason above, the writer considers that the psychoanalysis is very suitable to be applied in this novel, especially by using Sigmund Freud theory that focuses on id, ego, and superego and self defense mechanism (Reaction formation, repression, and denial).

Based on the description above, the writer decides to conduct the research entitled "Self Defense Mechanism in the Main Character as Seen in Daniel Defoe's Moll Flanders".

1.2 The Identification of the Problem

As the main character, Moll Flanders is assumed to have psychological problems after she feels lonely in the world and faces crises of identity. So, she decides to be a gentlewoman and being independent in life. Therefore, she uses the self defense mechanism to reduce anxiety, guilt and to avoid the painful of her life background.

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the Psychological condition of the main character in Moll Flanders, the writer can get full description about kinds of self defense mechanism that are presented by Daniel Defoe in his novel Moll Flanders. In Moll Flanders's life, she faces some conflicts when she was a child such as loneliness, crisis of identity and lack of financial. Those three factors make Moll Flanders undergoes psychological conflict when she was growing to be adult. This conflict affects three zones of psyche of Moll Flanders. This problem makes a tremendous anxiety. Therefore, Moll Flanders uses self defense mechanism to overcome and reduce her anxiety when she faces the conflicts in her adulthood. She applies reaction formation, repression and denial to keep away from anxiety that potentially threatens her life in reaching the dream to be a gentle woman.

Moll Flanders used reaction formation as a self defense mechanism in order to avoid the social punishment and to save her from anxiety. Moll really wants to go away from the house of her nurse because she feels living in poverty there. However, she tries to make the nurse happy by telling that she will keep staying with the nurse even though Moll has to work hardly as a maid. This way is done just as the form of gratitude and it can be defined as a social punishment for her because the nurse has raised and look after her in the house.

Moll also uses Repression when she faces bad experience and when she is left by her true love and is asked to marry another man. He strives to repress the sense of love to the elder brother by creating such love or affection to Robin.

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