

THE INFLUENCE OF RACE, CULTURE AND ECONOMY ON THE MAIN
CHARACTER'S PERSONALITY IN JOSEPH CONRAD'S
ALMAYER'S FOLLY

A THESIS

*Submitted in partial fulfillment to the Requirement for the degree of
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ABSTRAK

Dalam skripsi ini penulis membahas pengaruh ras, budaya dan ekonomi terhadap kepribadian tokoh utama yang bernama Kaspar Almayer dalam novel Almayer's Folly yang ditulis oleh Joseph Conrad.

Dalam penulisan skripsi ini, penulis menggunakan teori psikoanalisis yang dikemukakan oleh Sigmund Freud. Teori yang digunakan yaitu teori "Human Psychic Zone" (teori kepribadian manusia) yang terdiri dari id, ego dan super ego. Dalam proses pengumpulan data dan referensi, baik itu merupakan data primer maupun data sekunder, penulis menggunakan metode kepustakaan. Selanjutnya penulis menganalisa data tersebut dengan menggunakan metode kualitatif. Hasil akhir dari kedua metode diatas dijabarkan dengan metode deskriptif.

Dari hasil analisa, penulis menemukan bahwa ras, budaya dan ekonomi secara langsung maupun tidak langsung mempengaruhi kepribadian tokoh utama, Kaspar Almayer. Ketiga faktor diatas memberikan efek negatif terhadap kepribadian Almayer. Pengaruh ras menyebabkan Almayer menjadi rasis, pengaruh budaya menyebabkan Almayer menjadi mudah putus asa dan pengaruh ekonomi menyebabkan Almayer menjadi seorang yang ambisius dan iri terhadap orang lain. Hal ini diakibatkan oleh kegagalan Almayer dalam berinteraksi dengan ketiga faktor diatas. Aspek-aspek kepribadian yang terdiri dari id (keinginan naluriah), super ego(norma sosial) dan ego(interaksi dengan dunia luar) ikut berperan dalam pembentukan kepribadian Almayer. Almayer mengalami ketidakseimbangan antara id, ego dan superego. Id lebih banyak mendominasi kepribadiannya. Pada akhirnya id berhasil mendominasi kepribadian Almayer sehingga dia memilih untuk mengakhiri hidupnya dengan cara mengkonsumsi opium.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of The Study

Mind is the greatest gift from God to human beings. The greatest gift differentiates human beings from other creature. The mind is comprised of belief, desires, emotions, perceptions and intentions. According to Freud (1979:123) In Guerrin's A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature states that by using their mind consciously or unconsciously human beings organize and coordinate all of their action by means of their mental process. All of this mental process that occurs in human being mind can not be observed physically, but it can only be explained psychologically.

The mental process can be the main factor in developing human personality and behaviors. The personality of human being can be influenced by many factors, such as race, culture and economy. These influences can lead human being into good personality or otherwise having bad personality. It depends on the ability of human being to control their unconscious mind.

Sigmund Freud, the father of psychoanalysis, was an Austrian neurologist and the founder of the psychoanalytic school of psychology. Freud is best known for his theories of the unconscious mind. According to Freud, the unconscious mind is storehouse of instinctual desires, needs, and psychic actions. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/psychoanalysis>)

The novel *Almayer's Folly* by Joseph Conrad is one of an interesting novel which concerns in shaping of human being's personality. **Joseph Conrad** was born in polish on 3rd December 1857. He was an English novelist. He is regarded as one of the greatest English novelists, which is even more notable because he did not learn to speak English well until he was in his 20s. *Almayer's Folly* is the first a trilogy of works including *An Outcast of the Islands* and *The Rescue*, in which Conrad turned to his own sea-going experiences aboard the trading vessel *Vidar* throughout the Malay Archipelago and to the tales he had heard while at sea. In 1897, Conrad's first major work, *The Nigger of the "Narcissus"* was published. *Heart of Darkness* and *Lord Jim* (1900) are the author's greatest works. "Heart of Darkness" is a fictionalized account of Conrad's own trip to the Congo in 1890. Joseph Conrad does not only focus on the social condition but also the psychological conflict of the characters in his novels. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Conrad)

The writer is interested to discuss this novel for some reasons. The first reason is this novel is not just a master piece of literary work but the author itself; Joseph Conrad was a living witness of what he wrote in his novel. The second reason is some characters in this novel are the real characters that live at the time such as, Kaspar Almayer (the main character), Mrs. Almayer, and Captain Lingard. The third reason is, after reading the novel, the writer finds out that this novel had never been analyzed psychologically.

Furthermore, the writer wants to analyze the influence of race, culture and economy, toward Almayer's personality. Kaspar Almayer is a Dutch trader. He is

stranded in Sambir, the lush jungle of Borneo, thirty miles up a virtually unknown equatorial river. He lives among new cultures, his wife is Malay, behind his house lives his Arab rivals, across the river is the Malay's Rajah campong, and inland are the primitive Dyak headhunters.

Based on the explanation above, the writer wants to analyze this novel by applying psychoanalytic criticism and entitles her thesis "**The Influence of Race, Culture and Economy on the Main Character's Personality in Joseph Conrad's *Almayer's Folly*.**"

1.2 The Statement of the Problem

In this research the writer wants to analyze the influence of race, culture and economy toward the personality of Kaspar Almayer. Kaspar Almayer is the main Character in the novel *Almayer's Folly* by Joseph Conrad. He is a Dutch trader who is stranded in Sambir, a remote of Borneo. In this place, he lives among new culture, his wife is a Malayan, and his neighbors are Arab, Chinese, Malay and primitive Dyak. Living in new culture and having interaction with other races have changed the personality of Almayer. He fails to have interaction and adaptation with other races around him. He feels superior to other races in this land. This situation makes him being racist and discriminative in his interaction with others. Borneo at the time is surrounded by mountain, rain forest and rivers; it makes him to feels isolated. He feels lonely. It is one of the reasons that lead him to be a desperate man.

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CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the novel Almayer's Folly by Joseph Conrad, the writer concludes that, Almayer as the main characters has passed some phases in his life that influence his personality. The race, culture, and economy give the influence toward Almayer's personality. As a result of these influences, Almayer become a different person. His personality has changed to have bad personality.

Almayer's personality gets influence when he is stranded in Sambir, a remote of Borneo. The changing of personality is influenced by race, culture and economy. First is the influence of race toward Almayer's personality. He becomes racist and discriminative person. Living among other races, such as Arab, Malay, Chinese and Dyak have influenced his personality. He feels superior to other races. In this case, Almayer's id dominated his personality. His ego as a reality control can't control the aggression of his id. His superego doesn't exist.

Second is the influence of economy toward Almayer's personality. He becomes ambitious and jealous with other, He has ambition to be a rich man and get a lot of money. He dreams to live as respected and wealthy man in Europe. He often feels jealous with his neighbor Jim-eng and Arab traders. He regards them as a rival. In this case his id takes a control in his personality. The ego has failed to block the impulse of his id. His super ego is absent since there is no people who remind him.

Third is the influence of culture on Almayer's personality. Almayer grows up in European culture since his parents are Dutch. So, he absorbs the European culture. When he has to live in a new culture, Almayer fails to interact and adapt with his new culture. So, he feels desperate and begins to consume opium. In his desperation, he has chooses the wrong way by being an opium's addict. It proves that Almayer's id dominated his ego and superego.

In Almayer case, his ego has failed to block the aggression of his id. The id as a pleasure principle has dominated in Almayer's personality. His desire and dream has destroyed his life. The ego as the reality principle that has functions to balance id and superego has failed to control of id. Almayer has neglected the norm and regulation that states in society. In society, consuming opium and other drugs is forbidden and taboo. There is law and regulation that regulate this. In Almayer's case, his super ego has failed to give influence in his id. The domination of id has made someone being a devil. For Almayer, his id plays an important role in his personality. A good personality that has by Almayer has changed into bad personality as influence of race, culture and economy.

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