

THE IMPACTS OF ID AND SUPEREGO CONFLICTS IN DANNY'S  
PERSONALITY IN JOHN STEINBECK'S TORTILLA FLAT

THESIS

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## ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini membahas tentang perjalanan seorang karakter utama (Danny) dalam novel *Tortilla flat* karya Jonh Steinbeck, untuk mendapatkan kebebasan sesuai dengan keinginannya. Konflik-konflik yang terjadi pada karakter utama dalam mencapai tujuannya bisa dianalisa secara psikologis karena semua tindakan yang dilakukan dalam mencapai keinginannya didasari oleh faktor psikologis.

Penelitian terhadap masalah ini dilakukan dengan menggunakan pendekatan psikologis terhadap karakter utama dan mengaplikasikan teori psikoanalisis Sigmund Freud tentang id, ego dan super ego. Data-data di dapat dari penelitian pustaka. Data-data yang diperoleh di analisa secara kualitatif dimana data-data yang dikumpulkan berupa kata-kata, bukan angka. Sumber data primer diperoleh dari novel yang di analisa, sedangkan sumber data sekunder diperoleh dari buku-buku dan situs-situs internet, terutama yang berkaitan dengan psikologi.

Dari hasil analisa ditemukan bahwa Danny tidak berhasil melalui proses psikologis dalam mendapatkan kebebasanya karena diakhir cerita ia meninggal dengan sia-sia. Hal ini disebabkan karena tidak terpenuhinya id, serta tidak berfungsinya mekanisme pertahanan diri dalam meyeimbangkan antara id dan superego dan tercermin pada ego Danny dalam memformulasikan tindakannya.

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

In general, literature is human expression that consists of state of mind, personality, feeling and desire. Usually, the idea above is reflected in literary works like plays, short stories, novels and poems. Therefore, we know that literature is a way for communication between author and readers. So, it can be said that literary works are Medias used by an author to share everything that he or she thinks, feels, and wants to describe, in order to send a message, to the readers.

One of the most popular literary works is novel. Basically, a novel is a kind of prose fiction written by the author not only to entertain the readers but also to give moral values that can be understood by the readers through the process of interpretation. There is one way to get the interpretation; it is by conducting the analysis.

Literary works are sometimes closely related to psychology since they both have the same object, which is called as human psyche. What makes them different is that psychology analyzes the real human psyche, whereas literature analyzes the imaginary psyche. Wellek and Warren stated, "Literary work is also one of the social institution.....It represents life and life is in large measure, a social reality...." (109). It means that literary works are the portraits of true life;



therefore, the imaginary psyche of characters in literary works can be used as an object in literary researches.

In relation to the statement above, the writer wants to analyze a novel written by John Steinbeck entitled Tortilla Flat. The story of this novel tells about Danny and Danny's friends and Danny's house. This story takes setting in Monterrey, an old city in the coast of California. Actually this story is full of funny adventure that is interesting to read. The writer sees many conflicts in Danny's character as the main character. Danny is a character who faces many psychological problems in this novel.

Danny was a paisano, and grew up in Tortilla Flat and everyone liked him, but he did not stand out particularly from the screeching children of Tortilla Flat. He was related to nearly everyone in the flat by blood or romance. His grandfather was an important man who owned two small houses in Tortilla Flat and was respected for his wealth. In his growth, Danny preferred to sleep in the forest, to work on ranches and to wrest for his food and wine from an unwilling world, it was not because he did not have influential relatives, but he wanted by himself. Danny was small and dark and intent.

Furthermore, the writer wants to conduct the research on this novel by using psychological point of view because there are various psychological aspects occur in the main character; Danny, which is interesting to be investigated. Wellek and Austin Warren say, "By psychology of literature, we may mean psychological study of the writer, as type and individual, or the study of creative

process, or the study of psychological types and laws presents within works of literature..." (81)

In many previous criticisms that had ever been written by students, mostly those students analyzed the main characters in novels that have successfully get through their personality crisis. But in this analysis, the writer tries to analyze the main character in this novel, who in the end of the story, failed to overcome the psyche conflict.

### **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The problem that the writer wants to analyze here is about Danny's character. The writer wants to see the contradictions and overlapping between Danny's 'Id' and his 'Superego' and explains about "id" and super ego conflicts in Danny's personality. To analyze this character, the writer uses psychoanalysis approach and the theory of psychology by Sigmund Freud. Based upon the description above, the writer decides to conduct the research entitled **THE IMPACTS OF ID AND SUPEREGO CONFLICTS IN DANNY'S PERSONALITY IN JOHN STEINBECK'S TORTILLA FLAT**.

Then, the writer investigates the process of Danny's self defense mechanism in his internal conflict, and its impacts toward the change of his personality.

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

This research is aimed at analyzing the impacts of id, ego, and superego in Danny's personality conflicts and is investigating the progress of the change of

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION

Tortilla flat is one of interesting novels to be analyzed psychologically since it tries to reveal human natural actions in getting his freedom. This novel tells about Danny as the main character and his friends. In the beginning Danny misses his freedom after get two houses that inherited by his grandfather. Then He tries to use the houses until feels his life become monotone. The responsibilities of ownership disturb him. Danny feels bored and under pressure of his properties. He reflects with making trouble in Tortilla Flat.

After analyzing this novel, the writer finds that Danny did not pass his psychological conflicts successfully. As the result, Danny ends his life at the end of the story. The writer divides his analyzes into three parts; Firstly "id" versus super ego and self defense mechanism in Danny's personality. Danny's "id" is stronger than his super ego and makes his ego only run by his "id". It is also a role of self defense mechanism. Secondly, "id" versus super ego in Danny's personality of which in this part his super ego starts to influence. Danny becomes responsible and cares for his property and people around him especially his friends, it also role of self defense mechanism. Thirdly, His "id" re- conquered super ego again and it worse, His self defense mechanism does not work and pushes him to end his life.



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