

**THE SYMPTOMS AND IMPACTS OF ELECTRA COMPLEX
OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN VERA AND BILL CLEAVER'S
*WHERE THE LILIES BLOOM***

A THESIS

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ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini membahas gejala-gejala dan dampak Elektra complex yang terdapat dalam diri tokoh utama novel *Where the Lilies Bloom* karya Vera dan Bill Cleaver. Marry Call, sang tokoh utama menunjukkan adanya kecenderungan penyimpangan rasa sayang seorang anak perempuan terhadap ayahnya. Marry terlalu memuja ayahnya dan menganggap ayahnya adalah sosok yang paling ideal yang pernah dikenalnya. Setelah kematian sang ayah ia tertarik kepada seorang pria yang memiliki karakter seperti ayahnya, dan memproyeksikan objek cintanya kepada pria tersebut.

Dalam penelitian ini, penulis mengumpulkan data dengan metode kajian kepustakaan. Data dianalisis dengan metode kualitatif dengan perangkat teori psikoanalisis Sigmund Freud tentang krisis oedipal dalam diri seorang anak. Hasil penelitian disampaikan secara deskriptif.

Setelah menganalisis novel *Where the Lilies Bloom*, penulis menyimpulkan bahwa karakter utama dalam novel ini mengalami gejala Elektra complex yang berdampak pada kehidupan dan keputusan-keputusan penting dalam hidupnya serta interaksinya dengan orang lain, yang ditunjukkan oleh rasa bangga yang berlebihan terhadap nama keluarga dan prinsip-prinsip hidup yang berasal dari kesetiaan absolut terhadap ayahnya, sehingga membuat karakter utama bertindak seperti prinsip-prinsip sang ayah. Sebagai bentuk resolusi Elektra complex, karakter utama mengidentifikasi sosok ibu yang terdapat pada diri kakak perempuannya Devola. Namun identifikasi ini tidak membuatnya berhasil mendapatkan Kiser, proyeksi dari karakter sang ayah, yang ternyata mencintai Devola sebagai proyeksi karakter ibunya. Sehingga pada tahap akhir resolusi, Marry mengidentifikasi figur lain, yaitu seorang guru di sekolahnya, sebagai pengganti sosok ibu.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Research

Literature is known as an imaginative writing, that are valued as works of art, especially novels, plays and poems, as Terry Eagleton said in *Literary Theory*, "You can define it, for example, as 'imaginative' writing in the sense of fiction - writing which is not literally true (1). Although, there is an argument about the distinction between "fact" and "fiction" in its relation to literature, but the point of literature as an imaginative writing is absolutely defined and agreed.

As a product of imaginative writing, literature then, can not be separated from psychology as a course which study human's imaginative and creative thinking. Specifically, the relationship between psychoanalysis and literature can be seen in John Lye's essay *Psychoanalysis and Literature*, as he states "Psychoanalysis deals with motives, especially hidden or disguised motives; as such it helps clarify literature on two levels, the level of the writing itself, and the level of character action within the text" (<http://www.freudpage.info>). Based on the quotation, the use of psychoanalysis to clarify the literature on the level of character action within the text is applied in this thesis.

The psychological approach also one of the most common approaches used to analyse the literary works but sometimes many readers inappreciate it. It is interesting because this approach is also controversial as Guerin in *A Handbook of A Critical Approaches to Literature* states,

"Of all the critical approaches to literature, this has been one of the most controversial, the most abused, and – for many readers – the least appreciated. Yet, for all the difficulties involved in its proper application to interpretive analysis, the psychological approach can be fascinating and rewarding" (125).

Based on the quotation, psychological approach related to its interpretive analysis is a course that can be rewarding, because of its role in human being's life is entirely influencing.

Where the Lilies Bloom written by Vera and Bill Cleaver is a novel talks about the life of a small family in Appalachian Mountain. The main character Mary Call Luther is still fourteen, and she has to keep her family together with her sisters Devola, Ima Dean and one brother Romey after the death of their father. The relationship between the main character and her father seems to grow an abnormal feeling that is psychologically called Electra complex, and this makes the writer needs to analyze the main character by using psychoanalysis.

Related to the issue in the novel, the writer decides to apply the Electra complex theory to the main character. The writer feels interested to analyze this novel with the title *The Symptoms and Impacts of Electra Complex of the Main Character in Vera and Bill Cleaver's Where the Lilies Bloom*, because the writer sees the symptoms of electra complex through the relationship between main character and her father and her feeling to the man in her neighborhood, as well as her interaction with others. These symptoms lead the main character to show some impacts of electra complex, as the result of several symptoms that she has

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

Psychological approach is one of approaches used to analyze the literary works. The development of the psychology approach itself is largely influenced by the ideas of many experts, one of them is Sigmund Freud. The application of psychological approach can also be found in the novel *Where the Lilies Bloom*, this novel talks about life of a girl with one brother and two sisters after the death of her father. The main character has special feeling to her father more than her brother and sisters, called oedipal feeling. This feeling is analyzed by using psychological approach specifically Electra complex. As the writer noted previously, Electra complex is a psychological problem which is suffered by a girl. Freud calls it "the girl oedipus complex" and he proposes his theory about penis envy. The oedipal feeling happens both to the boys and girls, in a phallic stage. For girls, the Electra complex indicates some symptoms such as the tendency to love a man who is much older than the girl and also the absolute loyalty to a father.

Basically, those symptoms derive from the absolute role of father in main character's life. This role produces a blind loyalty when main character feels an absolute loyalty to her father. As noted in the novel, Roy Luther is dead and Marry with her brother and sisters must keep this as a secret. Although, her father is already dead, Marry keeps believing her father's words and be proud of him, also for their family. Marry also idolizes her father and has an oedipal feeling. This oedipal feeling is one symptom of Electra complex. It has two major impacts

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