

**PEDOPHILIA: HUMBERT'S PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEM IN  
VLADIMIR NABOKOV'S LOLITA**

**A Thesis**

*Submitted in Partial Fulfillment to the Requirement for the  
Degree of Sarjana Sastra*

**FANNY MASRIZAL**

**06 985 008**



**ENGLISH DEPARTEMENT - FACULTY OF LETTERS**

**ANDALAS UNIVERSITY**

**PADANG**

**2010**

## ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini menjelaskan tentang analisis masalah psikologis salah satu karakter dalam novel *Lolita* oleh Vladimir Nabokov. Analisis dalam skripsi ini meliputi analisis pikiran dan tindakan tokoh utama, Humbert Humbert, yang memiliki obsesi yang sangat besar terhadap anak kecil, yang disebut dengan istilah pedophilia, dan bagaimana cara tokoh utama tersebut dalam memenuhi keinginannya untuk mendapatkan cinta seorang anak kecil.

Data diperoleh langsung dari novel *Lolita*. Dengan arti bahwa teks yang terdapat pada novel tersebut dijadikan sumber dalam melakukan analisis ini. Analisis kepribadian Humbert Humbert dilakukan dengan menggunakan salah satu teori psikologi sastra, yaitu teori psikologi Sigmund Freud. Dalam teori Sigmund Freud dikemukakan bahwa ada tiga zona psikis manusia yang bekerja sama dalam membentuk tingkah laku manusia yang kompleks, yaitu Id, Superego, dan Ego. Konsep analisis berkaitan dengan ketidaksadaran dan tiga elemen kepribadian tersebut. Analisis ini dibagi ke dalam dua tahapan, yaitu pengalaman cinta tokoh utama selama masa kecil sebagai penyebab terjadinya pedophilia dan pengalaman cinta tokoh utama selama masa dewasanya sebagai realisasi dan konsekuensi dari pedophilia. Agar hasil analisis diperoleh dengan layak dan terarah, penulis menggunakan pendekatan objektif, yaitu dengan melihat sebuah karya sastra, dalam hal ini yaitu novel, tanpa menggunakan hal-hal diluar teks. Sementara metode yang digunakan dalam menjabarkan proses analisis adalah kualitatif dengan metode deskriptif. Dalam pengumpulan data digunakan metode kepustakaan.

Hasil analisis yang didapatkan adalah bahwa pengalaman cinta Humbert Humbert selama masa kecil ternyata secara tidak sadar berpengaruh terhadap pengalaman cintanya di masa yang akan datang. Oleh karena pengalaman cinta Humbert Humbert yang gagal berlanjut dimasa kecilnya, dikarenakan meninggalnya tokoh Annabel, dan beberapa faktor lain, Humbert Humbert menjadi memiliki hasrat yang besar kepada sosok anak kecil dimasa dewasanya.

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 The Background of the Research

A literary work is a creation of its author and a way where the authors could communicate their emotional feeling or thought. The literary work could be in the form of poetry, play, novel, biography, etc. Novels usually tell and show about the life of human being with their complexity such as passion, hate, pain, or even show how they struggle toward something that they believe. Such aspects are usually depicted through the characters in the novel.

Vladimir Vladimirovich Nabokov was a multilingual Russian-American novelist and short story writer. Nabokov was born in St. Petersburg, Russia. The most popular among his works is Lolita, the novel that the writer chooses to be analyzed. Lolita has become the very famous literary work by Nabokov and also famous with the controversial subject. It tells about middle aged man, Humbert Humbert, becomes obsessed and sexually involved with a twelve-year-old girl named Dolores Haze. After its publication, Nabokov's Lolita attained a classic status, become one of the best-known and most controversial examples of 20th century literature. Lolita is also listed in the *TIME* 100 Best English-language Novels from 1923 to 2005 and the novel was adapted to film in 1962 and again in 1997. The writer also thinks that the case of pedophilia is an interesting topic to be analyzed and nowadays we often hear about the case of pedophilia in our daily life.

Because Lolita tells about the man who has the obsession with the young girl, so the writer thinks that psychological approach can help us to see the psychological problem of the character in this novel. Psychological approach is one of the theories that can be used to analyze a literary work. Generally, psychology deals with behavior and mental processes which are found in every human. In the book *Critical Theory Today*, Tyson states that if psychoanalysis can help us better understanding about human behavior, and then it must certainly be able to help us understand literary texts, which are about human behavior (2006:11). Psychological approach established by Sigmund Freud (1856-1939). The object of psychoanalysis actually can be the psychoanalysis of the author or a particular interesting character. In this research, the writer analyzes one of the characters in the novel Lolita, namely Humbert Humbert. Because after reading this novel, the writer assumes that his psychological problems is plays an important role. The writer wants to see the psychological aspects that cause the character in this novel have the obsession like that. The writer also finds that this novel has never been analyzed by the former student of English Department.

Based on the explanation above, the writer analyzes the novel by using the psychological approach by Sigmund Freud and explains about the unconsciousness and the mechanism of the id, ego, and superego that working in the character of Humbert Humbert. The writer also wants to explain about the term of pedophilia that happen in Humbert Humbert's life because of the imbalance between Humbert's id,

## CHAPTER 4

### CONCLUSION

To sum up, the writer concludes that in the novel Lolita by Vladimir Nabokov the unconsciousness and the conflict between id, ego, and superego make the character Humbert Humbert has a psychological problem in himself. The first finding in this research is the cause that makes the character Humbert Humbert has a psychological problem. Humbert's failure to consume his love with Annabel, and then Annabel's death because of typhus has traumatized Humbert. Humbert's id toward little girls develops and Humbert's traumatic experience really had an effect in his behavior. It makes his personality pent up in his childhood. Humbert becomes a pedophile; a kind of psychosexual disorder or mental disorder where an adult has sexual fantasies about or engages in sexual acts with a prepubescent child of the same or the opposite sex. He likes to have affair with a nymphet prostitute in order to realize his id, but it is not long relationship because this nymphet grows up and makes Humbert lost his desire.

The second finding is the negotiation between Humbert's id and superego in realizing his desire. Humbert decides to marry instead of to cure his illicit desire. But unconsciously, he marries Valeria because of her childlike nature. Humbert's id win against superego, he wants to marry but unconsciously he tries to find someone that still has a childlike nature. He tries to repress his id, but then he feels disappointed because Valeria is having affair with Russian taxi driver.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Abrams, M.H. A Glossary of Literary Terms. 7<sup>th</sup>. Ed. New York: Cornell University Press, 1999
- Adinda, Tiara. The Psychoanalysis on the Main Character of Robert Louis Stevenson's the Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Padang: Andalas University. 2009 (unpublished)
- Davison, Gerald C, et al. Psikologi Abnormal edisi ke-9. Jakarta: pt Raja Grafindo Persada. 2006
- Diah, Theresiah Retno Pratiwi. Nilai dan Konflik Antarnilai, Kajian Nilai Polinomik. Depok: Universitas Indonesia. 2008 (unpublished)
- Endraswara, Suwardi. Metodologi Penelitian Sastra. Yogyakarta: FBS Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta. 2003
- Fitria, Novi. Psychological Analysis on Tom Wingfield's Attempt to Escape in Tennessee Williams' Play the Glass Menagerie. Padang: Andalas University. 2004 (unpublished)
- Guerin, Wilfred L, et al. A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature. 4<sup>th</sup>. Ed. New York: Oxford University, 1999
- Info links. Encyclopedia Britannica. 10 Jan 2010. <<http://www.britannica.com/EBChecked/topic/448575/pedophilia>>
- Kendra Van Wagner. About.com guide. 10 Jan 2010. <<http://psychology.about.com/Theoriesofpersonality/personality.htm>>