

**REPRESSION OF EDGAR ALLAN POE'S REAL DESIRES IN
HIS THREE SHORT STORIES: PSYCHOANALYSIS OF
THE AUTHOR**

A Thesis

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini berisi identifikasi intensi bawah sadar seorang pengarang zaman romantis Amerika Edgar Allan Poe yang tergambarkan dalam tiga cerita pendeknya The Cask of Amontillado, The Fall of The House of Usher dan The Mask of The Red Death. Melalui asumsi karya sastra sebagai bentuk distorsi ekspresi pengarangnya, penulis menjelaskan bahwa ketiga cerita pendek merupakan perwujudan tak sadar Edgar Allan Poe tentang keinginannya yang terepresi.

Melalui metode penelitian kualitatif, penulis mengaplikasikan teori psikoanalisis yang dikembangkan oleh Sigmund Freud dalam menganalisa data primer. Dalam hubungannya dengan tiga zona psikis *id* (prinsip kesenangan), *ego* (prinsip realitas) dan *super ego* (prinsip moralitas), karya-karya tersebut merupakan hasil represi konflik psikis pengarang yang kembali dalam bentuk samaran untuk melewati sensor ego sebagai pengambil keputusan. Penulis menggunakan psikoanalisis dalam kerangka ekspresif dengan menghubungkan biografi pengarang yang meliputi kehidupan keluarga, karir kepenulisan dan kehidupan sekitar pengarang dengan motif-motif yang termanifestasi dalam teks. Manifestasi pengarang dalam ketiga cerita pendek menjadi panduan bagi penulis untuk menentukan aksi-aksi penyamaran yang didefinisikan Freud dalam teori mimpinya seperti kondensasi, pemindahan dan wujud representasi melalui transformasi pikiran kedalam gambaran visual serta simbolisasi.

Dari empat mekanisme yang ditemukan, terdapat dua transformasi pikiran kedalam gambaran visual tentang kebiasaan menenggak minuman keras (dalam The Cask of Amontillado), pengalihan dan kondensasi dari kondisi sosial Amerika (The Fall of the House of Usher) serta kebencian pada bapak angkat, trauma *tuberculosis* dan kodrat kematian (dalam The Mask of the Red Death). Simbolisasi rumah sebagai latar belakang tempat menegaskan represi mendalam serta kecendrungan regresi pengarang terhadap kerinduan akan ibunya yang termanifestasi sekaligus dalam ketiga cerita pendek.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Background of the Research

There must be reasons behind every behavior that human beings conduct in life. Psychology plays a role in this study of what determines people's mind to behave in some ways. One of the most controversial studies on psychology is psychoanalysis developed by Sigmund Freud (1856–1939). It emphasizes the unconscious aspects that structure the human psyche (Guerin et al. 127). Through this therapy, Freud examines every form of psychological forces that afflict the human mind such as anxiety, depression, and phobias which could drive people through hard diseases. Since its inception, its influence has extended far beyond clinical practice and has informed thinking in culture, philosophy, society and art. Dealing with arts, Freud states that literary products are the representation of its artist's feeling. The relationship between author and text is analogous to dreamers and their text (Selden and Widdowson 136). It implies that we may identify what the author's presence in his mind as it is reflected in his works.

The study of psychology to literature has a connection with one of the periods of literature, Romanticism. Abrams states in his Glossary of Literary Terms (1999):

During the Romantic Period, we find widely practiced all three variants of the critical procedures (still current today) that are based on the assumption that a work of literature is correlated with its author's distinctive mental and emotional traits: (1) reference to the author's

personality in order to explain and interpret a literary work; (2) reference to literary works in order to establish, biographically, the personality of the author; and (3) the mode of reading a literary work specifically in order to experience the distinctive subjectivity, or consciousness, of its author (248).

Therefore in that period, it can be assumed that psychological criticism deal with a work of literature primarily as a fictional form of expression that states the mind and the structure of personality of the individual author. This approach views literature and art as a mode of the artist's fantasy that opens the way back to reality.

Edgar Allan Poe in this case, is included as one of American foremost author with literary career that was acclaimed during the romantic period in America around 1800-1860. Influenced by the European movement that asserted the power of the individual and the pursuit of reality on subjective experience, the romantic period builds its special category through literature (Carter and McRae 181). Literary works during that time were characterized by being full of expression, feeling and intuition that often created mental emotion. Moreover, it may give some clues for guiding us to the real feeling of its author.

From that viewpoint, the writer infers that Poe's works might provide several evidences through his personal issues. His short stories for instance, are actually the shape of his own impressions and feelings on everythings he experianced. In The Cask of Amontillado, the reader may lead to one case of the author's behavior as a drunkard. His guilty feeling that is repressed as he still consumes alcohol is manifested in the conflict of the two characters of this short

story. In The Fall of the House of Usher, there is a relation to Poe's real desire on facing the American condition in the early 19th century. In that story, the author's restlessness toward urban development in America is reflected as the character's sickness toward surrounding of the house. While The Mask of the Red Death portrays Poe's expression for the many death events he experiences. The story that describes the fatal epidemic of "Red death", which no one could escape from its death impact refers to Poe's feeling of sadness as he seems to deliver the message that everything would face death, whenever and wherever you are.

Those stories contain some problems that lead us to the author's real experience in his life as he does not want to admit it. The writer perceives that Edgar Allan Poe conducts what Freud theorized as Repression to oppress the annoyance or unpleasant feeling he is concerned about into his unconscious part of mind. The repression will then finally be expressed unconsciously in his works such as in those three short stories. From those theoretical and historical reasons, the writer is interested to propose the study about psychological view of Edgar Allan Poe as represented in three of his short stories The Cask of Amontillado, The Fall of the House of Usher and The Mask of The Red Death in a research entitled "Repression of Edgar Allan Poe's Real Desires in His Three Short Stories: Psychoanalysis of the Author"

1.2. The Identification of the Problem

Edgar Allan Poe became a popular American author as he made the genre of short story better. His works often draws such horror and obscure fantasy that are popular now. The atmosphere of grief, darkness and death that are often built

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Edgar Allan Poe is identified to be involved in some processes as provided by the dream-work such as displacement, condensation and consideration of representability through transformation into visual image and symbolization to deceive the ego-censor which has repressed his actual thoughts before. Those mechanisms are for sure will reveal the real desires that are disguised in the form of three of Edgar Allan Poe's short stories.

The writer finds two transformation of thought into visual images in The Cask of Amontillado. It could be seen as author's impression toward his drinking habit. The conflict of his psychological drives of id and super ego transforms into the confrontation of two characters in this short story. While the author's repression to ignore his social evaluation toward his wrong behavior, is finally released by his conscience to vanish the habit of drinking at the end of the story.

Then in The Fall of The House of Usher, the author is unconsciously conducting the work of displacement through his personal feelings of restlessness about the American urban context in the third and fourth decade of the nineteenth century. It is employed by the reversing of the improvement brought by the industrialization with the landscape of sickness surrounding the house of Usher. The characterization built by Lady Madeline compresses several latent thoughts of Edgar Allan Poe as the author. The character reflects Poe's views of the nature of working people in America as he and some family members have suffered as the generation of slaves in the nineteenth century. The other thought is related to the

theme of twin as author's primitive desire in returning to his primary narcissism as he gets in his childhood. At last, the return of the death at the end of the story is assumed to manifest Edgar Allan Poe's fear of death through the hard life and high competition experienced in the nineteenth century.

Meanwhile, The Mask of the Red Death may evaluate as the author's repression toward his hatred upon his foster father. It displaces by the pestilence of "Red Death" which causes the death of Lord Prospero that is the transformation of his foster father John Allan in this short story. Condensation in the other way is manifesting Poe's feeling of many death events that he experiences as the result of tuberculosis that is illustrated in the characteristics of "Red Death". There is also Poe's conscience through the nature of death that is compressed in the single way to become the epidemic of "Red Death" that cannot be avoided in the story.

At last, Poe's manifestation of "house" in the three short stories is seen as the symbol of his adoration to get the affection toward his mother and other object of love from his opposite sex. That symbolization also indicates the author's tendency of regression since he finds a way to retrogress through the most pleasant condition of his life- the affection of his mother. Finally, as being said in the writer's objective of the research, the readers may see these Edgar Allan Poe's short stories with insight through the application of Freud Psychoanalytic theory of Repression. Those stories are not only perceived as a fantasy of horror as the genre directed to Edgar Allan Poe's works but more to the author's wish fulfillment that is depicted within it.

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