

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Research

Athol Fugard was born in Middelburg, South Africa, in 1932. His mother originated from Africa and his father was an English descendent. He grew up in the Port Elizabeth, and started his lecture at University of Cape Town before he stopped his studies in 1953. He came back to South Africa and then worked as a journalist, a clerk of law court, and stage manager. His work at the law court introduced him to the decay of the apartheid system. And then he had the idea for his novel Tsotsi.

Fugard has many works, he wrote many drama manuscripts, and then wrote a novel. The most popular among his works is Tsotsi, a novel which Fugard saved for twenty years. The novel tells about an adult man, named Tsotsi. Tsotsi becomes a murderer, a robber, a violent and loses something important in his life. Killing people is something important in his life because it makes him feel alive and happy. Then Fugard submitted to publish his novel in 1979. His book was published and after one year Fugard got praise in South Africa. Twenty years later Fugard's novel Tsotsi is adapted to a movie with Gavin Hood. Hood starts making the scenario of Tsotsi, and Hood decides to do his film in South Africa in 2004 and 2005. Like that Fugard's work Tsotsi became a famous novel and movie. This film won a Michael Powell Award and a Standard Life Audience Award in Edinburgh Film Festival 2005, People's Choice Award in Festival Toronto Film, and Audience Award in Festival AFI Film Los Angeles.

Fugard thinks that the case of the apartheid system makes someone or community identity crisis and explains psychology problems via Tsotsi in his novel. He also seems to want the Apartheid system destroyed in South Africa and wants those who read his novel or see his film to take a lesson from it.

Tsotsi, the main character in this fiction, is a representation of a normal human being, who also do all of human behaviours like loving, being greedy, being envy, and so on. Tsotsi tells about a man whose obsession is to kill people. In this thesis, the writer chose to analyze the psychological problems of Tsotsi. The psychological approach is one of the methods that can be used to analyze a literary work. With a psychological approach the writer can see the psychological problems that occur in the character of Tsotsi. In the book *Critical Theory Today*, Tyson states that “if psychoanalysis can help us better understand about human behaviour, and then it must certainly be able to help us understand literary texts, which are about human behaviour” (2006:11). Psychological approach was established by Sigmund Freud (1856-1939). In this thesis, the writer analyzes the main character in the novel Tsotsi. The writer of this thesis demonstrates that Tsotsi’s psychological problems play a major role in his criminal attitudes.

According to Sigmund Freud, there are three psyche zone of human being. They are id, ego and superego. Because the three psyche zones of Tsotsi; id, ego, and superego, are not balanced, and therefore there emerge psychology problems in Tsotsi’s self and another side Tsotsi has an identity crisis that weights heavy on

his mind. Therefore, the research title of this thesis is **Identity Crisis As Tsotsi's Psychological Problems In Athol Fugard's Tsotsi.**

1.2 The Identification of the Problem

The crisis of identity because of psychological problem has been showed in the personality of Tsotsi, the main character in the novel Tsotsi written by Athol Fugard. The writer sees that adult man, Tsotsi being a criminal who obsession is to kill people and who lost something important in his life; he does not know his name, who his parents are, he does not know when he was born and he does not know how to feel pity for someone else, he does not know how to feel fear when he faces death, and he does not know sin and God; he is brutal. The writer is convinced that Tsotsi is a criminal and obsessed by killing people because of his childhood experience. As the writer said above, psychological problems have been showed in the personality of Tsotsi. This can be explained by the Psychological Approach using the Freudian theory.

1.3 The Scope of the Research

In this research, the writer focuses on the character of Tsotsi, concentrating on Tsotsi's childhood life experience as the cause of his psychological problem and his current criminal behaviour in adulthood as the realization and consequences of his psychological problems. These two issues are supposed to have causal relationship, therefore a psychoanalysis is needed here.

1.4 The Objective of the Research

The aim of this research is to explain how childhood experiences play a part in Tsotsi's illogical criminal actions. By using Freud's theory about Id, ego, and superego the writer wants to prove that the repressed traumatic experience in childhood gives contribution in the character of adult Tsotsi as a criminal.

1.5 The Review of Previous Research

The writer finds some articles on the internet about Tsotsi which has provide information for the writer to conduct this research. In this website http://scholar.sun.ac.za/bitstream/handle/10019.1/85265/momberg_cosmological_2013.pdf? the article explains about that they put cosmological perspective onto the characters in a film. In the article explains the concepts of cosmological perspective such as wisdom, the maintenance of harmonious social relationships and the measuring of the quality of experience through texture that are linked to the female principle are also typical symbolic expressions of a coherent traditional African cosmology. That article explores the role of Miriam as Tsotsi's mother in the novel Tsotsi within such framework to conclude that her character overcomes gender stereotypes.

Besides the writer find article also about Tsotsi in http://www.vibrant.org.br/downloads/v5n2_borges.pdf it explains that in apartheid system black identity is described as either uncivilized, in the form of white domination in African country. The author want describe the social desolation caused by apartheid. In his article the author also explain about post apartheid-period apartheid and tell about racism and HIV.

Another the writer also find article about Tsotsi in this website <http://ccs.ukzn.ac.za/files/Bond%20Johannesburg.pdf> the article explains about Johannesburg. Johannesburg is name of place, the place where the setting of the whole story that happen in the novel. The article describes about Johannesburg condition. It describes the persons in the city materialism, its own impatient people, its own self-indulgent, narcissistic arrogance and full of capitalism.

1.6 The Theoretical Framework

1.6.1 Psychoanalysis, Psychology of Character

The writer finds meaning of psychoanalytic literary theory as its attempt to pursue literary unconscious for interpreting a work (Selden and Widdowson 136). Because analysis in this reseach is mostly concern with psychology, the writer wants to explain the relationship between psychology and literary work. As we know the psychological approach can be applied to analyze the literary work.

Endraswara from the book Metodologi Penelitian Sastra states that:

“Berarti ada benarnya bila Jatman (165) berpendapat bahwa karya sastra dan psikologi memang memiliki pertautan yang erat, secara tak langsung dan fungsional. Pertautan tak langsung, karena baik sastra maupun psikologi memiliki objek yang sama yaitu kehidupan manusia. Psikologi dan sastra memiliki hubungan fungsional karena sama-sama mempelajari keadaan kejiwaan orang lain, bedanya dalam psikologi gejala tersebut riil, sedangkan dalam sastra bersifat imajinatif.” (97)

The statement above explains that psychoanalysis can help us understand human behaviour, certainly be able to help us understand literary texts, which are explained about human behaviour. It means that the psychological approach can be used to analyze the behaviour of the character in the literary work. Because of that the writer interest to use the psychological approach in her analysis on the psychological problems of the main character in the novel Tsotsi.

1.6.2 Human's Psychic zones

- Id

Id is irrational, unconscious psychic. That works to desire and pleasant. Id is the source of our instinctual psychological desires. Wilfred Guerin state in his book, A Handbook of Critical Approach to Literature “the id is the reservoir of libido, the primary source of all psychic energy. It functions to fulfill the primordial life principle, which Freud considers to be the pleasure principle.” (129) The id is present from birth and a component of our personality. Id is the instinctive and primitive behaviour from our personality. According to Freud he explains Id is the personality component made up of unconscious psychic energy that works to satisfy basic urges, needs and desires.

- Superego

Superego is about norms and morals of society. As Wilfred Guerin state in A Handbook of Critical Approach to Literature he said “the other regulating agent that which primarily functions to protect society is superego. Largely unconscious the superego is the moral censoring agency

the repository of conscience and pride.” (131) From the quotation, it can be inferred that superego is parental standards. When we were children, our parents teach us about moral and norms and our society also teach us about it. Like that we get a sense of right and wrong. According to Freud, the component of personality composed of our internalized ideals that we have acquired from our parents and from society. The superego works to suppress the urges of the id and tries to make the ego behave morally rather than realistically.

- Ego

Ego is conscious, rational and logically. As Wilfred Guerin state in A Handbook of Critical Approach to Literature, “ the first of these regulating agencies, that which protects the individual is ego. This is the rational governing agent of the psyche. Though the ego lack the strong vitality of the id. It regulates the instinctual drives of id so that they may be released in nondestructive behavioral patterns.” (130)

It can be conclude that ego mediates the demands of the id and superego. Before to take steps, the ego consider with id and superego and then take step. According to Freud, the ego is the part of personality that mediates the demands of the id, the superego and reality. The ego prevents us from acting on our basic urges (created by the id), but also works to achieve a balance with our moral and idealistic standards (created by the superego).

1.6.3 Self-Defense Mechanism

Self Defense Mechanism is a mechanism which is located in everyone's subconscious. Which is used to protect themselves from external threats or impulses which arise from their internal anxitas.

The character in the novel that the writer analysis needs self-defense mechanism to overcome anxieties, impulses, fears, and all sorts of things that are in the character of Tsotsi. The self defense mechanism was developed by Freud himself that J. Feist states in his book "Theories of Personalities" (2002), as writer said above self- defense mechanism is a mechanism which is located in everyone's subconscious. It is used to protect themselves from external threats or impulses which arise from their internal anxitas.

a. Repression

Repression is a defense mechanism which serves to push out of the id impulses from consciousness that threaten the ego. Then, repress to the subconscious. By repressing the id impulses into the unconscious, the person can avoid their feeling of anxiety. With repression someone can not realize the reasons for their anxiety and therefore can effect a person to forget or do not remember at all their bad traumatic experiences happened in their past.

b. Denial

Denial wants not accepting external reality. Because the external reality makes one feel threatened, or excessive worrying. By denying the external reality, emotional conflict within oneself or one's subconscious one resolves and perceives anxiety.

c. Displacement

When someone has a bad feeling against someone, but does not want the people who he hates to know his feelings or does not dare to release his anger to people who he does not like or does not know how to discharge his anger to someone who made him angry or unhappy. Then he would switch or displace his anger to another person or object.

1.7 Method of the Research

In this subchapter, the writer focused on the steps to finish this research. There are three steps to finish this research, collecting the data, analyzing the data, and presenting the analysis results.

In conducting this research, first the writer uses library research method to collect data. The writer divides the data in two kinds: the primary data and secondary data. For the primary data, the writer uses the novel Tsotsi written by Athol Fugard. Whereas for secondary data, the informations which are taken from some books connect to the theory. The writer consults and searches the books, which are related to the novel and the objective of the writer's research as well. Therefore, the library of faculty of humanities, University Andalas, internet, and private collection are fully consulted.

Doing the analysis the writer applies qualitative method by Nyoman Khuta Ratna in her book Teori, Metode, dan Teknik Penelitian Sastra states that, "...Secara keseluruhan memanfaatkan cara-cara penafsiran dengan menyajikannya

dalam bentuk deskripsi”(46) that the writer will explain her thesis by describes it and by describes it the reader can understand what the writer want to the reader know about her thesis. “Dalam ilmu sosial sumber datanya adalah masyarakat, data penelitiannya adalah tindakan-tindakan, sedangkan dalam Ilmu Sastra sumber datanya adalah karya, naskah, dan penelitiannya, sebagai data formal adalah kata-kata, kalimat, dan wacana” (47) in this thesis the writer’s resource is the novel as her data for her research.

The writer also started analyzing the primary data, this work helped the writer understand the novel well. And then, the writer analyzed the psyche zones; id, superego, and ego of the main character, Tsotsi. Finally, the writer tries to find the form of psychological problem that is done by the main character in Tsotsi. The result of the analysis is presented descriptively.

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