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**Psychological Analysis of Jay Gatsby As Seen in Fitzgerald's
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PSYCHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF JAY GATSBY AS SEEN IN FITZGERALD'S "THE GREAT GATSBY"

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini dilakukan untuk menemukan dan menentukan konflik psikologis yang terjadi pada tokoh utama Jay Gatsby dalam mengejar mimpinya pada novel *The Great Gatsby* oleh F. Scott Fitzgerald. Analisis pada penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif, karena metode ini dapat digunakan untuk meningkatkan pemahaman dan pengetahuan tentang perilaku dan proses berpikir seseorang. Data primer diambil dari novel *The Great Gatsby* dan akan didukung oleh data sekunder yang diambil dari berbagai sumber lain yang berkaitan dengan data primer. Setelah melakukan penelitian, ditemukan beberapa konflik yang mempengaruhi psikologi Gatsby yaitu rasa malu dan cinta. Malu karna kehidupan kelas bawah dan cintanya kepada Daisy, hal ini menjadi sangat penting bagi Gatsby. Dilihat dari teori Sigmund Freud Id, Ego, and Superego, Gatsby berada pada tingkat Id. Id Gatsby atau keinginannya itu sangat besar dan dikendalikan oleh hasratnya tersebut. Ia mencoba menyembunyikan kehidupan kelas bawahnya dan melakukan apa saja untuk menjadi kaya dan untuk mendapatkan cinta Daisy kembali. Ketika Gatsby dikendalikan oleh hasratnya dia akan melakukan apa saja utuk memenuhi kebutuhannya itu. Karakter seperti ini juga akan mempengaruhi kondisi psikologis Gatsby. Dalam mengejar cintanya, Gatsby membantah segala sesuatu yang menghalangi keinginan ini bahkan dengan waktu dan takut ditinggalkan oleh mimpinya. Gatsby ingin mengulang masa lalu dan mengendalikan waktu, yang tentu saja terus berjalan dan yang pasti tidak mungkin bias dia lakukan.

Kata Kunci: *psikologi, konflik*

ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to find and determine psychological conflict that occur on the main character Jay Gatsby in pursuit of his dream in the novel *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. The analysis on this research is using descriptive method, because it can be used to increase understanding and knowledge about behavior and thought processes of people. The primary data are taken from novel *The Great Gatsby* and it would be supported by secondary data which were taken from various source which related to the primary data. After conducting this research, it was found some major conflict that affects psychology of Gatsby which was shame and love. Shame because of his lower class and love for Daisy, Become the most important thing for Gatsby. Seen from Sigmund Freud Theory Id, ego, and superego, Gatsby was on the Id level. Id Gatsby or his desire was exceedingly big and Gatsby was controlled by his desire. His tried to hide his lower class by done anything to get rich and to get Daisy's love back. Obviously, when Gatsby controlled by his desire he did anything to fulfill his need. This kind of character Also Affect the psychological state of Gatsby. In the pursuit of his love, Gatsby denied everything that hinders these desires even with time and his fear of abandonment toward his dream. Gatsby wanted to repeat the past and controlling time, which of course continue passing anyway and that would certainly not be able to do.

Key words: *Psychology, conflict*

A. INTRODUCTION

Since many centuries, literature as the language of art has become the media of the people to express their mind. This shows us that literary work has strong correlation with the reflection of people's life or social life. Esten (1978) stated literature exposes artistic and imaginative facts representing human life and society through language which has a positive effect on human life. The statement proves that literature is not just a work of art or reading, but also portrays an event that actually happens in real life and has benefits for human lives. From literature people learn better ways to behave and solve problems. Characteristics of the characters in the story provide lessons to the reader what they should do and should not do.

Furthermore, literature had been one of those imaginative writings which being is studied in academic domain. Literature can help students to improve their skills, one of them is to improve reading skill. We improve by reading and analysing what we read; new words are tools for grasping new ideas, each new idea is a building block upon which we may acquire more knowledge and it will help to expand our vocabulary (Roe and Ross, 2010). Literature is more important

than just a historical or cultural artefact, because it represents a language, a person, culture and tradition as well as introduced us to many art experiences.

Novel as one of literary genres is an example of literary work which portrays person or social reality. Novel, an intended prose narrative of considerable length and a certain complexity that deals imaginatively with human experience, usually through a connected sequence of event involving a group people in a specific setting. Frequently, novel is written as an expression of the writer, which is based on his/her experiences or what he/she sees in life. Thus experiences can refer to the life struggles that people face in real life. In life, one has to make an effort to survive and accomplish his desire.

Conflict in real life also portrays in many novels. Through characters author clearly describes the conflict face by the characters. In dealing with problems and achieving his desire or dream, one must pay attention to his behaviour. According to Freud, a person's behaviour is influenced by three factors; id, ego and superego. Id is unconcoius, it is human desire to accomplish their basic needs, such as source of sexual drives, instinct and irrational impulse. Ego is between conscious and unconscious

The Ego makes rational decision which brings the pleasure to an individual within the boundaries of reality. Whereas superego in personality adheres to personality, it is also called conscience. what is needed is that all three aspects should be balance and one must be able to manage them, so that person behaves and makes decision appropriately. The point and the purpose of human being is to attain the perfection of humanity. Therefore, it is necessary man should go through struggle in life to achieve the dream and reach a better life.

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald is one of the novel which presents good story with great representation. This novel tells us about a man named Jay Gatsby who want to accomplish his dream. During his lifetime it could be said that Jay Gatsby was considered to have mysterious and unique personality. His mysterious personality, because only a few knew about Gatsby, and luxurious life made him famous and people started to think about who really Gatsby is. Gatsby did not want people know a lot about him, as the result most people knew Gatsby only by the name and even never seen what Gatsby looks like. This kind of personality and his dream caused various conflict in his life with the society, environment, and even more

with himself, how he was thinking and doing to make Daisy back to him is one of the primary reason for his conflict.

The character might be influenced by the physical and mental conflict that draw the characters personality. The writer more concerns on psychological analysis in the main character of the story. To analyze one's behavior we can use method called psychoanalysis. Psychoanalysis is discipline which began around the 1900s by Sigmund Freud. Psychoanalytic theory concerning to mental functioning and development in a man (Minderop, 2011). Through the analysis, therefore, it will reveal the characters' behavior and mental process. This is aimed at defining the conflict faced by the main character through the psychological analysis. The conflict that involves the main character may take place between man against man (social conflict), some external force around the character (physical conflict), as well as his own nature (psychological conflict). Consequently, the conflict may affect the characters feeling, thought, and motives that he experienced.

In addition, several problems which happen in Gatsby's life, can be found in real world. Struggling in life sometimes can make people change in the way they think or the way they

undergo their life. Happiness is not always at the end after struggling, but the important thing is how we understand all the struggle that we have done. Furthermore, Gatsby's struggle to overcome the problems that he faced represent humans effort to solve of his own problem in order to achieve and accomplish his dream and desire in his life.

The Objective of this study is to explore the kind of conflicts that happened in the story which affect psychology and characterization of Gatsby. also, describe the psychological state of Gatsby in relation to his id, ego, and superego.

Review of Related literature

1. Nature of Novel

According to Collins (2006), Prose is an ordinary written language, in contrast to poetry. In general, prose includes all fiction works e.g. short story, novel and novelette, while non-fiction works can be journal, reports and history of science may also be categorized to non-fiction works. Furthermore, to Abrams (1999) fiction primarily refers to narrative prose such as novel and short story, it is also considered synonymous with novel. Moreover, Zaidan et al (1996) define novel as a kind of prose which comprises some elements such as character, plot, fictitious setting about

human's life based on the author's point of view, comprises some values, and narrated based on the conventional writing rules.

2. Elements of Novel

The occurrence of intrinsic and extrinsic elements in a fiction make the story more interesting toward the development of character, which enrich the story. In developing a story in a novel, generally there are five elements included in it; they are setting, theme, plot, character and conflict.

The first element which include in a story is setting. Setting is simply the time and place where the story happened. Sometime setting is not as important as the other elements if the story only focused in one character.

Theme is the central insight in a fiction which convert the main idea that the writer expresses. It is what the author trying to convey. Theme can also be defined as the underlying meaning of the story. In addition, theme also to incorporate and make persuasive to the reader (Abrams, 1999).

Plot is the structure of action or the development of the story in which every event in the story reveals and be arranged in order to develop

the basic idea. It helps to explain what happens and what the event imply in the story.

Characters are the person or any being personified in a dramatic or narrative work with moral and personality expressed in what they do in the action and what they say in the dialogue. Hallett (2010), proposes that character distinguishes one entity from another through mental, emotional, and social qualities. Character differentiates people from animals, pieces of furniture, and other animated objects. Characterization can also be defined by observing the action, speech, environment and external appearance (Rimmon and Kennan, 2005) Moreover, Hooker (2002) says that, characterization is a revenue which writer do both present and reveal characters by a direct description, by showing the character in action, or by the presentation of other characters that help to define each other.

Conflict is a part of plot structure that relates to the elements of instability a clash action, ideas and desires or wills. Moreover, it can be physical, emotional or ethical, but it always creates some sort of tension or problem that the character must solve (Perrine, 1959).

3. Psychology in Literature

Psychology and literature are related functionally. Literary work means the work produced from author's activity related to psychological aspect such as obsession, contemplation, sublimation and neurosis. While Psychology is the scientific study of mental process, which describe the thought, feelings and motives that each of us experience privately, and behavior through the action that can be directly observed (Santrock, 1991:7). Therefore, Literary psychology is intended to perceive the psychological aspects which occur in literary work toward the characterization of character in the story.

Sigmund Freud, pioneer in the recognition of mental activity, illustrated human mind as an iceberg which mostly hidden in the unconscious area. He stated that personality reveals as the outcome of the continual conflict for dominance among the Id, the Ego and Superego. Additionally, he classified mental activity into three levels: the Id, the Ego and Superego.

Id has an unconscious quality and contains everything that represent the biological basis of personality, which motivates the organism to seek pleasure. Ridgway (2006) stated that the Id realizes the pleasure principle: 'I see it, I like it, I want it, I am going to get it' which is intended to fulfill

the outside's desires and it must act something to protect itself from itself by negotiating with the outside's dictates. The Id develops in order to interchange its demand with the external world.

Ego goes in line with the principle of reality and it is dealt with the demands of the environment. It has become aware of and responsible for controlling the demands of the id, while instinct are sensitive to stimuli between the id and the society. The Ego makes rational decision which brings the pleasure to an individual within the boundaries of reality.

Superego is a characteristic of the personality which is similar to the Id that deals with something unrealistic. The superego which is managed by the demands of the id, is responsible to limit the satisfaction and is manipulated by others. It represents the rights and the wrongs of the society and the values of an individuals' personality.

The key of a healthy personality is a balance among these three factors. Therefore id, ego and superego are work together in creating behaviour. This theory will help this research to answer the research questions by determining Gatsby's psychological state on conflict between id, ego and superego level.

4. Psychoanalysis

Sigmund Freud was the founder of psychoanalysis. Also, he is the first person who says the correlation of psychology and literature. Psychoanalysis is used to describe a treatment for psychological problems and difficulties in living successful life (Minderop, 2011).

Psychoanalysis refers both to a theory of how the mind works and a treatment of modality. It is a comprehensive theory about human nature, motivation, behavior, development and experience. This theory is uses to analyze one or more of the characters in literature; psychological theory becomes a tool that explain the characters' behavior and motivation. The more closely the theory seems to apply to the characters, the more realistic the work appears.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

The analysis on this research uses descriptive method. Descriptive method are used when researcher wants to describe specific behavior as it occurs in the environment. This method is used to describe the object, events and phenomenon to create Gatsby's character. Descriptive research can be used to increase understanding and knowledge about

behavior and thought processes of people. Those elements occurred in the story will describe the conflict and characterization appeared in the story.

The primary data are taken from the novel *The Great Gatsby* written by F. Scott Fitzgerald. The secondary data are taken from documents, books, magazine, newspaper, internet and searching data in form of notes. Data collection method is by reading through the novel and find some references relating to the theme of this thesis by finding expressions, phrases and statements in the novel. The data would be supported by other sources which were taken from various internet sites, dictionaries, and books that related to the primary data.

C. DISCUSSION

Gatsby's psychological conflict

After conducting this research, it was found that there are two basic internal conflict which affected Gatsby throughout the story, it was shame and love.

1. Shame

In some point in the middle of the novel, in chapter 6, we learn that his shame of his class. His parents were only a farm workers and they were not very successful. This is the first indication of shame conflict.

"I suppose he'd had the name ready for a long time, even then. His parents were shiftless and unsuccessful farm people—his imagination had never really accepted them as his parents at all. The truth was that Jay Gatsby, of West Egg, Long Island, sprang from his Platonic conception of himself So he invented just the sort of Jay Gatsby that a seventeen-year-old boy would be likely to invent, and to this conception he was faithful to the end." (Fitzgerald, ch: 6, p. 105)

That part tell us that Gatsby is already had a dream when he was a child and did not accept of being poor. He thought that this kind of life is blocking his dream., later on in the story, when the first time he met Daisy, this shame was become more influencing in his life.

"...he was in Daisy's house by a colossal accident. However glorious might be his future as Jay Gatsby, he was at present a penniless young man without a past..." (ch: 8, p 159).

Gatsby was fell in love for the first time he met Daisy, but he knew that he could not be with Daisy because of his lower class and being poor and that shame grow become one of the conflict which affect Gatsby.

Gatsby is shame about his life so he tried to change it that's why Gatsby is described as self-made man,

because he change all of his identity. He changed his name, he leave his house and join the army to find new world, and create a personality of Jay Gatsby itself. This is the result of move that he made against the shame.

2. Love

This conflict is may become the major internal conflict that really affect Gatsby throughout the story. The introduction of Gatsby's character in the novel serves as an indication of his this conflict. Nick catches sight of Gatsby standing alone in his yard one summer night,

"....He stretched out his arms toward the dark water in a curious way, and far as I was from him I could have sworn he was trembling." (ch: 1, p. 24)

Nick's eyes drift across the water in the direction of Gatsby's arms and he is able to see a single green light. Later, Nick discovers that the green light is from the end of Daisy's dock. Thus, there must be something between Gatsby and Daisy

Looking across the water to the light, Gatsby's dreams appear so attainable, just beyond his grasp. After Jordan informs Nick that Gatsby bought his house specifically so that Daisy would be across the water. Therefore, this made it more clear

there is something between Gatsby and Daisy, and later on we knew that Gatsby fell in love with Daisy.

3. Gatsby id, ego, and superego

Throughout the novel, Gatsby's desire driven by his id was simple, he wants to regain the love of his former lover Daisy Buchanan, who was now married. Gatsby's id, in order to help achieve his goal, insisted, quote from Nick the narrator,

"Gatsby bought that house so that Daisy would be just across the bay" (ch: 4, p 85)

Gatsby's house location was not simply a coincidence, it was very well thought out. By being just across the bay from Daisy's house,

".....half expected her to wander into one of his parties, some night..." (ch: 4, p 85)

Gatsby throws big party every week, he hope that Daisy would come, so that they would be able to reunite. The placement of the house was perfect and demonstrates Gatsby's id going to try and attain the ultimate goal, the love of Daisy.

Gatsby's id, driven by his inner desires, wants Daisy and will do anything in order to achieve so. This is a quality he always possessed as his father tells Nick,

“Jimmy was bound to get ahead. He always has some resolves like this or something.” (ch: 9 p.185)

This describes how throughout his whole life Gatsby has goals and continuously works hard to achieve them.

Ego is the part of the personality that deals with reality and is developed with an id, has impulsive decisions based on situations faced, Gatsby's ego was very similar to his id. The result of an orderless ego may have given rise to Gatsby's death drive. Without the voice of reasoning, Gatsby almost destroyed Tom and Daisy's marriage and when he failed to win back Daisy, Gatsby himself faced death. Gatsby also shows such for example, when he is in a big argument with Tom. His Id for Daisy is very strong, once Tom starts pressuring him his ego starts to make an impulsive reaction and announce out how Daisy does not love Tom.

When Gatsby was younger, he fell in love with Daisy but because of the class difference between the two, Gatsby felt that he was not fit enough to marry a wealthy like Daisy. As a result, he felt that

“...he was in Daisy's house by a colossal accident. However glorious might be his future as Jay Gatsby, he was at present a penniless young man

without a past...” (ch: 8, p 159).

Gatsby had always wanted to be with Daisy but because of his origins from lower class, it was already decided by society that he would never be able to marry a wealthy like Daisy. Gatsby, however, wanted to disprove his eventual fate. In a sense, Gatsby went through a denial mental stage and set out to prove that society was wrong and that his dreams could be achieved. He left home and took up criminal activities to achieve wealth. Gatsby even created a facade for himself to hide the fact that he came from a poverty stricken family. However, in the end, Gatsby even admits that

“he took Daisy...because he had no real right to touch her hand” (ch: 8, p 159).

He finally realize what is really happened. He took Daisy because he knew that he did not had right to get Daisy back.

Gatsby superego seem still below his ego and id as his judgments of the situation never comes to a realization that his efforts are failing. He knew what he did was wrong but he still wanted to get Daisy back. For instance, Nick who represented the super ego for readers. Nick used his moral compass to try and guide to fix the reader in the socially acceptable route of things, continuously giving

judgments and warnings to Gatsby. As a result Gatsby had little sense of morality, he even went farther when he tried to steal Daisy from Tom in his attempts of achieving his goal. When his superego tried to give him the right and wrong, it always lost to his ego. As his ego is similar to his id and his id is always controlling Gatsby.

Here, the id was important and is the key factor in determining Gatsby's behavior, all of his desires, motivations and conflicts were below the level of consciousness, and his biological instincts were surfaced. His choice to live a criminal life was driven by his hatred of his original life of poverty and the fact that his first love, Daisy Buchanan, left him because he was poor. The thought driven by his id, brought Gatsby to the life he chose to pursue. Later on also will be discussed how this kind of conflict could affect psychological state of Gatsby.

Gatsby's Psychological state

Gatsby is mostly considered to be a character who focuses on his Id or his demand. His character based on the conflicts that he faced, contribute to his psychological state because he wants to achieve his dream. As a result of psychological

conflict he felt, Gatsby faces some experiences affecting his psychological state, which are denial and fear of abandonment towards his dream, especially his love for Daisy.

1. Denial

Gatsby had selective memory and denial as he hides about his past, Nick commented that Gatsby,

"talked a lot about the past, and gathered that he wanted to recover something, some idea of himself perhaps, that had gone into loving Daisy" (ch: 6, p 118).

These defence mechanisms seem to be working also in his explanation to Nick in which he implies about his relationship he had with Daisy some five years back. Gatsby is really trying to reclaim that lost era.

"Cant repeat the past?" He cried incredulously. "why of course you can" (ch: 6, p 118)

"I'm going to fix everything just the way it was before," (ch: 6, p 118)

Gatsby spent his time focusing on a phase of his life that has already passed, wanted nothing more than to re-create that time. This also prove how Gatsby deny everything that block his dream, even

with time. He tried to recapture something that already lost.

Gatsby did not just want to marry Daisy, he needed her to say that she never love Tom at all, Because for Gatsby it was not enough to get Daisy back, he also need the feeling he first had when they felt in love with Daisy, he had to reclaim his past. Nick quickly realized that Gatsby

"wanted nothing less of Daisy than that she should go to Tom and say: 'I never loved you'" (ch: 6, p 118).

In the ideal future Gatsby envisions, Tom never existed. Everything was exactly the way it was five years earlier, before Gatsby left Daisy to go off to war. Blinded by his complete attachment to the idea of Daisy, Gatsby convinces himself that Daisy never fell out of love with him, but the fact is not like that. This is the result because of Gatsby controlled by his id.

2. Fear of abandonemnt

Gatsby was so worry if he remained lonely. He feared he would feel the abandonment of him by Daisy which he knew he couldn't bear now.

"Gatsby bought that house so that Daisy would be just across the bay" (ch: 4, p 85)

This implies that he has had some fear of abandonment. Gatsby confidently told Tom that Daisy had married him only because the former was poor then and argues that Daisy had never loved Tom but him since her marriage. Gatsby is totally confused while he discovers that

"[Daisy] did love [Tom] once—but [she] loved [Gatsby] too" (ch: 7, p 142).

This made Gatsby confused because he did not want Daisy to love Tom at all even just once. This confusion later develops into his fear of Daisy's abandonment but before it grows into some kind of anxiety, Gatsby meets his tragic death.

In the novel climax, Daisy allowed Gatsby to take the fault for something that she did. Gatsby's decision to take the blame for Daisy demonstrates the deep love he still felt for her. Gatsby sacrifices himself for Daisy. It was Gatsby's dream that he and daisy,

"...they were to go back to Louisville and be married from her house—just as if it were five years ago." (ch 6. p 118)

All the money he has acquired, and the parties he throws, are about one thing only, winning back Daisy Buchanan.

With this kind of reaction, Gatsby was stuck, he could not move forward in his life. He obsessed and become depressed because he tried to recapture something that was lost but he was never going to get it again. The more he tried to get back to that time the more he can't recaptured it, he could not rebuild the life once was and so he stuck not being able to go back to the past and recreate that life, but stuck for not being able to move forward either, and that's when the great tragedy comes in.

D. CONCLUSION & SUGESSTION

Conclusion

Based on the discussion above, Gastby was controlled by his Id or his desire which wanted to take back Daisy's love and hides his lower class life. He will do anything to

achieve his dream. With this kind of character and conflict that he faced affect the story in many ways, especially the way he think and his psychological state. He used his defence mechanism, which in this case is denial, tried to reclaim his past with daisy which basically his internal motivation or his Id which leads to his desire in achieving his dream.

Suggestion

Fitzgerald does an excellent job showing how interactions amongst new members of a group and how that can affect the social classes in this story. I would recommend the book for people to read and analyze so that they may make their own conclusion. Lastly, I hope that this thesis could give some contributions to the readers for one who interest in this kind of research.

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