

PSYCHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN PAULO COELHO'S *THE ALCHEMIST*

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ABSTRACT

This topic was chosen to get more understanding about the main psychology character of Santiago in the novel and the conflicts faced by the main character. The main character in the novel interacts with the character in the story and plays an important role. The data was taken from the novel *The Alchemist*. The data was collected through the documentation by using note-taking and reading. The first step of collecting data was to read the novel frequently and intensively. Then, the second step was to identify and classify the data to find out the relevant statement in the novel that can be related to intrinsic and extrinsic elements. There are two different theories used in analyzing the study, and those are the psychology theory and the conflict theory. The psychology theory that is used in this study is the theory proposed by Bernhardt (1953), who analyzed the psychology of the main character. The conflict theory that is used is the theory proposed by Kenney (1966). This study is conducted on how the psychological aspect influence the main character and what conflicts affect his personality. The conclusions of this study are as follows: Santiago, as the main character in the story, is faced with many internal conflicts that shaped his psychological motivation, appetite, and emotions. It shows that psychology and conflict had a great impact on each other in the development of character.

Keywords: main character, psychological analysis, literature.

ABSTRAK

Topik ini dipilih untuk lebih memahami psikologi tokoh utama Santiago dalam novel dan konflik yang dihadapi tokoh utama. Karakter utama dalam novel berinteraksi dengan karakter dalam cerita dan memainkan peran penting dalam cerita itu sendiri. Data diambil dari novel The Alchemist. Pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui dokumentasi dengan cara mencatat dan membaca. Langkah awal pengumpulan data adalah sering membaca novel secara intensif. Kemudian, langkah kedua adalah mengidentifikasi dan mengklasifikasikan data untuk mengetahui pernyataan relevan dalam novel yang dapat dikaitkan ke dalam unsur intrinsik dan ekstrinsik. Ada dua teori berbeda yang digunakan dalam menganalisis penelitian ini, yaitu: teori psikologi dan teori konflik. Teori psikologi yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah teori yang dikemukakan oleh Bernhardt (1953) yang menganalisis psikologi tokoh utama. Teori konflik yang digunakan adalah teori yang dikemukakan oleh Kenney (1966). Penelitian ini dilakukan tentang bagaimana aspek psikologis mempengaruhi karakter utama dan konflik apa yang mempengaruhi kepribadiannya. Kesimpulan dari penelitian ini adalah sebagai berikut: Santiago sebagai tokoh utama dalam cerita dihadapkan pada banyak konflik internal yang membentuk motivasi psikologis, nafsu makan, dan emosinya, ini menunjukkan bahwa psikologi dan konflik memiliki dampak besar satu sama lain dalam perkembangan karakter.

Keywords: karakter utama, analisis psikologis, sastra.

I. INTRODUCTION

This study is about psychology in *The Alchemist* novel by Paulo Coelho. It was written in 1988. This novel describes the steps to find a treasure. Many issues are raised in this novel. One of the issues is the motivation issue. However, not many researchers analyze the motivation issue contained in the novel.

Literature is a form of art created from the imagination of the writer. There are two main sections in the literature; fiction and non-fiction. Fiction is a description of characters and imaginary events rather than the real ones, whereas non-fiction tells about facts, people, events, books, articles, or texts. A good literary work can educate and entertain the reader at the same time. People can improve their knowledge while enjoying the story that the author brings to us.

A literary work can be a means to convey several messages to those who are interested. Besides, there is a close relationship between psychology and literature. Psychology with research into human behaviour patterns and literature shows how human beings behave in dealing with their problems and the environment. The purpose of psychological literature is to understand the mental aspects contained in literary works such as novels, poetry, drama, and film. By reading a novel, we would imagine being one of the characters in the story, and we will feel physically moving along with the storyline.

According to Al-Ma'ruf (2010: 17) novel is a literary work created by an author as a whole, forming a functional unit that is interrelated. Through the novel, the author offers various human problems and life, after living these problems with full sincerity, which he restated through fictional means following imaginative narrative prose, but is reasonable and contains the truth that dramatizes relations between humans.

The novel is a work of fiction that contains the imagination of an author in describing various problems and events in human life and forming the integrity of the story, which is one of the literature related to writing. Also, literature is related to intrinsic elements such as plot, character, setting, and theme of the story. Character is one of the important elements in a novel because there would be no novels if there were no characters. The meaning of characters is 1). Psychological, moral, or character characteristics that distinguish them from others. 2). The character can also mean "letter".

Characters are figures that participate in the progress of the stories, and characters are human representations that are determined through thoughts, speech, and behaviour. Characters can be divided into two: the main character and supporting characters. According to Nurgiyantoro (2002: 176-177), the main character is the most presented in a story. He/she is the most telling character. Nurgiyantoro described minor characters as characters that appear less frequently than the main characters. Minor characters are important characters in the story after the main character. Without minor characters, the role of the main characters will not be perfect.

This study analyzes a novel called *The Alchemist*. It is an adventure novel written by Paulo Coelho and published in 1994 and translated into 67 languages. This novel is about the journey of a young man who is looking for an identity. *The Alchemist* novel is a best seller novel in various countries, including in Indonesia, and adapted in various languages in the world.

According to Wellek and Warren (1970: 81), psychology can be applied in the study of literature. There are four points: the study of the type of psychological character of the writer, the study of the process of creating a work, the study of the types of

theories of psychology that appear in a work, and the last is the effect of a work on the audience. Character is one of the important aspects of literary works because it carries the author's message that can bring education, human life values, and moral values to the story.

This research focuses on the main characters from the novel *The Alchemist* written by Paulo Coelho. The reason to analyze the main characters in the novel is that the story is very enjoyable when we follow the adventures of the main character named Santiago to pursue his dreams and conflicts that almost make him give up his dreams. This research focuses on the psychological aspects of the main character and the conflicts he faces in his journey.

II. METHODS

According to Bernhardt (1953:3-9), psychology is a science that scientific studies actual events. Psychology is interested in all human activity, and psychology can be defined as a scientific study of all activities of individuals. Psychological is seeking to discover what articular condition produces a given type of activity so that eventually, the psychologist will be able to control and direct human activity by controlling this condition. For example, if we are the cause of the motions of fear, we could prevent fear by manipulating the conditions in such a way that the adequate causes of fear would be absent. The psychological can classify the period of his work and his mental illness. It remains the "psychology" in a work itself. Psychology generally has to do with habitual responses. Like and dislike arises from conflicting desires. It is going to investigate the nature of a human being, such as temperament, abilities, motivation, learning, emotion, attitudes, and so forth. Psychology has a tight relationship with literature because they touch the same things in their relationship. It is different in terms of the way

only. These things are human beings and the problems which they express. Bernhardt states that psychology is part of a scientific attempt to understand the world. Through the psychology approach, we can analyze the psychology of character that includes human motivation, feeling, and emotion. This writing focuses the psychological approach on the theory of human motivation, feeling and emotion, and social relationships.

III. DISCUSSION

Psychological Analysis Aspect of the Main Character in the Novel *The Alchemist*

The psychological aspect can be analyzed through the natural tendency of human beings, such as their appetites, emotion, feeling and attitudes, social motives, and other motives. The detailed analysis is presented below.

Appetites of Santiago

According to Bernhardt (1953:46), appetites are motives or direct influences that initiate and sustain activity until the activity finally ends in satisfaction with the felt need. In the novel, Santiago had an appetite in which he wants to travel to know more about the world which eventually makes him give up his seminary, which he attended until sixteen, where his parents want him to be a priest and be the pride of his family. He braves himself to tell his father that he will not want to be a priest. He wants to travel to see the world, which his father advises him to be a shepherd and give his son money to buy his flock of sheep. That can be proven by the quotation below

"But I'd like to see the castles in the towns where they live," the boy explained.

"Those people, when they see our land, say that they would like to live here forever," his father continued.

"Well, I'd like to see their land, and see how they live," said his son.

"The people who come here have a lot of money to spend, so they can afford to travel," his father said.

"Amongst us, the only ones who travel are the shepherds."

"Well, then I'll be a shepherd!"

His father said No more. The next day, he gave his son a pouch that held three ancient Spanish gold coins.

The quotation above proved that Santiago did not want to become a priest. He prefers to travel to see the world. Two years later, Santiago already become an experienced shepherd, and he experienced a unique dream twice then he decided to consult his dream to the Gipsy, this can be proven in the data below:

"I have had the same dream twice," he said "I dreamed that I was in the field with my sheep when a child appeared and began to play with the animals. I don't like people to do that, because the sheep are afraid of strangers. But children always seem to be able to play with them without frightening them. I don't know why. I don't know how animals know the age of human beings."

"Tell me more about your dream," said the woman. "I have to get back to my cooking, and, since you don't have much money, I can't give you a lot of time."

"The child went on playing with my sheep for quite a while," continued the boy, a bit upset. "And suddenly, the child took me by both hands and transported me to the Egyptian pyramids."

He paused for a moment to see if the woman knew what the Egyptian pyramids were. But she said nothing.

"Then, at the Egyptian pyramids,"—he said the last three words slowly so that the old woman would understand—"the child said to

me, If you come here, you will find a hidden treasure.' And, just as she was about to show me the exact location, I woke up. Both times."(Coelho,2006:13)

The quotation above proves that Santiago has a unique dream and is interested in discovering more about his dream because he believes it can bring more excitement to his life.

Along his journey, he found a girl named Fatima, whom he loved at first sight of her. It can be proven by the data below:

"I came to tell you just one thing," the boy said. "I want you to be my wife. I love you." The girl dropped the container, and the water spilled.

"I'm going to wait here for you every day. I have crossed the desert in search of a treasure that is somewhere near the Pyramids, and for me, the war seemed a curse. But now it's a blessing, because it brought me to you."

"The war is going to end someday," the girl said.

The boy looked around him at the date palms. He reminded himself that he had been a shepherd and that he could be a shepherd again. Fatima was more important than his treasure.

"The tribesmen are always in search of treasure," the girl said as if she had guessed what he was thinking. "And the women of the desert are proud of their tribes men."

The quotation above proves that he meets a girl named Fatima and love her at first sight of her. It also proved that Santiago has an appetite to love someone.

Emotion

Emotion can influence the activity of the main character. In the novel, Santiago felt fear when he meets the gipsy. It can be proven in the quotation below:

“... It sounded like a Gypsy prayer, the boy had already had experience on the road with Gypsies; they also traveled, but they had no flocks of sheep. People said that Gypsies spent their lives tricking others. It was also said that they had a pact with the devil and that they kidnapped children and, taking them away to their mysterious camps, made them their slaves. As a child, the boy has always been frightened to death that he would be captured by Gypsies, and this childhood fear returned when the old woman took his hands in her.

But she has the Sacred Heart of Jesus there, he thought, trying to reassure himself. He didn't want his hand to begin trembling, showing the old woman that he was fearful. He recited an Our Father silently.”

The data above prove that he felt fear when he meets the Gypsy and reacts to his fear by hiding his fear so that no unwanted reaction that he imagined will happen to him.

In the continent of Africa, at the bar, Santiago feels ashamed and sad when he met with a young man that can speak Spanish offer him a guide to the pyramid while the truth is, this young man is a thief who wants to take his money, it can be proven by the quotation below :

“..He was so ashamed that he wanted to cry. He had never even wept in front of his own sheep. But the marketplace was empty, and he was far from home, so he wept. He wept because God was unfair, and because this was the way God repaid those who believed in their dreams.” (Coelho,2006:39)

The quotation proves that Santiago feels ashamed and sad because all of the money that he got by selling his sheep is gone, and he was far from home. Also, from this data, we can prove that Santiago is a naïve young man and still inexperienced because he fully trusts a person he just meets.

In his journey to search for his, treasure Santiago meets a girl named Fatima in the oasis with whom he immediately fell in love. It can be proved with the quotation below:

[..“I came to tell you just one thing,” the boy said. “I want you to be my wife. I love you.” The girl dropped the container, and the water spilled.

“I'm going to wait here for you every day. I have crossed the desert in search of a treasure that is somewhere near the Pyramids, and for me, the war seemed a curse. But now it's a blessing, because it brought me to you.”..] (Coelho,2006:95)

The quotation above proved that Santiago fell in love at first sight and immediately propose to her to be his wife. The quotation above also proves that Santiago is a decisive person regarding love by proposing their first meeting.

Feeling and attitudes

According to Bernhardt every activity and experience of the individual has a colouring of feeling. Santiago most prominent activity and experience is his dream and his adventure to achieve it, all of it can be shown in the quotation below :

“...It's the possibility of having a dream come true that makes life interesting, he thought, as he looked again at the position of the sun, and hurried his pace. He had suddenly remembered that, in Tarifa, there was an old woman who interpreted dreams.”

From the quotation above, Santiago feels that having his dream come true will make his life interesting. From there, he starts his adventure to make his dream comes true.

In his journey, Santiago encounters an old man who owns a crystal shop who helps him by offering a job as a clerk after he got robbed by a thief. There Santiago tries to save up money for his trip to go home and buy some sheep. Because of this reason, Santiago

comes up with ideas to make him earn more money. It can be proven by the quotation below:

[.. "I'd like to build a display case for the crystal," the boy said to the merchant. "We could place it outside, and attract those people who pass at the bottom of the hill."] (Coelho, 2006:52)

The quotation above proved that Santiago came up with a way to earn more money because he wants to buy some sheep aside from the money required to go back home.

After Santiago leaves the oasis to continue his journey to the pyramid, he was accompanied by the alchemist. Along his journey, the alchemist told Santiago to try to listen to his own heart and try to trust and befriend his heart. It can be proven by the quotation below :

["With every day that passed, the boy's heart became more and more silent. It no longer wanted to know about things of the past or future; it was content simply to contemplate the desert, and to drink with the boy from the Soul of the World. The boy and his heart had become friends, and neither was capable now of betraying the other."]

The quotation above proved that Santiago has an inner struggle against his heart which he eventually makes friends. After Santiago completely befriend his heart, he continues his journey to the pyramid. After Santiago parts ways with the alchemist near the pyramid, he continues his journey to the pyramid there

Social Motives

Bernhardt (1953:54-55) stated that the socially well-adjusted individual is the one who at times is assertive and at another time is submissive. Santiago tried to assert his ideas which are wanting to travel to see the world. It can be proven with the quotation below :

"...But I'd like to see the castles in the towns where they live," the boy explained.

"Those people, when they see our land, say that they would like to live here forever," said his son.

"Well, I'd like to see their land, and see how they live," said his son.

"The people who come her have a lot of money to spend, so they can afford to travel," his father said.

"Amongst us, the only ones who travel are the shepherds."

"Well, then I'll be a shepherd!"

The quotation above proved that Santiago asserts the ideas that resulted in his father offering him an alternative to being a shepherd, which can make him able to earn money and travel the world simultaneously.

IV. CONCLUSION

Psychological analysis and conflict have a close relation to shaping a fictional character. The main idea is to bring a character that can relate to the reader and immerse themselves in the story. A good character in literary work presents a psychological development through conflicts that are relatable to reality.

It can be concluded from the previous chapter that the main character experiences a psychological development through conflicts that can be analyzed from several aspects. The psychological aspect of the main character is appetite to travel around the world. Along the way, it was shown that his emotion that includes despair, sadness, love, fear, and enlightenment that the character reveals himself in the face of conflicts. The main character feeling and his attitude in the face of conflicts vary according to his emotions, and when faced with despair, he acted like someone that lost everything, with sadness he tried to not shown his emotions, with loved he acted passionately to the person he loved, with fear he tried to act brave and

not show his fear, with enlightenment his view broadened and acted wisely in the face of adversity. Along his journey, the main character faced some social motives, which forces him to act more submissive and less assertive.

The conflict that the main character experienced is more internal than external. The internal conflict the main character experienced is when he decided to go travel and become a shepherd and quit his seminary, decide whether or not he goes to the pyramid,

leaves his loved one and continues his journey, and lastly, the conflict with his own heart. The external conflict that the main character experienced to start with leaving his flock of sheep behind and journey to the pyramid, the thieves that stole his money, the invading troops to the oasis, and lastly, the bandit close to the pyramid.

This study shows that the psychological aspect and the conflict have a close relationship that has a great impact on each other.

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