Analysis of the Main Character’s Personality Structure in the Short Story Tart di Bulan Hujan by Bakdi Soemanto

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Abstract

Literary psychology is a type of literary theory that is related to the human psyche. Through literary psychology we can understand the psychology or personality of the characters in a story. This research is aimed to analyse the personality structure of the main character, Sum, in the short story Tart di Bulan Hujan by Bakdi Soemanto using Sigmund Freud’s psychoanalytic theory. This research uses qualitative descriptive method and literary psychology approach. Sigmund Freud’s psychoanalysis, to analyse the personality structure of the Id, Ego, and Superego of the main character, Sum, in the short story Tart di Bulan Hujan. The results of this study indicates that the main character, Sum, in her personality shows the three personality structures of Id, Ego, and Superego. Sum’s Id is clearly visible from her strong desire to buy a tart in the rainy month. Then the Ego personality helps the Id to get all its desires in a way that is acceptable in the real world, namely by collecting money by saving and working hard to buy the tart. Meanwhile, Sum’s Superego makes her put aside the Ego and Id. These three-personality structure control the behaviour and actions of Sum in making decisions.

Keywords: literature, psychoanalysis, short Story, Sigmund Freud

1 INTRODUCTION

A short story is a short, simple, fictional essay containing a single problem, which is usually finished in one reading time (Nurhadi, 2017, p. 308). It is a work of fiction that expresses a problem written briefly and concisely with story elements in the form of plot, setting, theme, point of view, language style, message, and don’t forget another important element, characterization.

Characterization or what is usually called character or characteristic is one of the important intrinsic elements in a short story. Characters in short stories are usually described with the characteristics of humans in general in the real world. The characters in a short story generally contain psychological phenomena like humans in general (Septriani & Mulyasih, 2022, p. 2). In literary studies, the psychology of the characters depicted in a short story can be analysed using a literary psychology approach.

Literary psychology is a type of literary theory that is related to the human psyche and in this case the psychology of the characters in a short story. Through literary psychology, we can understand the psychological aspects of the characters in a literary work. A literary work, in this case a short story, is the result of a psychological process obtained from the author’s thoughts (Septriani & Mulyasih, 2022, p. 2). Through literary psychology we can understand the psychology or personality of the characters in a story.

Sigmund Freud proposed three personality structures in literary psychoanalysis, namely Id, Ego, Superego. The Id is a personality structure that always tries to achieve satisfaction of all desires and needs as quickly as possible because it is driven by the pleasure factor. Furthermore, the Ego is a personality component that has the responsibility to relate to the real world. The main role of the Ego is decision making. This makes the Ego the supreme leader of the personality. The last personality structure, Superego, is a trait that is related to the concept of good and bad or idealistic values or morality. In this research, the writer is interested in analysing the personality structure of the main character, Sum, in the short story Tart di Bulan Hujan using Sigmund Freud’s psychoanalytic theory.

There are several relevant previous studies that also examine psychoanalysis in literary works; First, research conducted by Siti and Choeriah (2023), where this research aims to describe the main character in the animated film Turning Red based on Sigmund Freud’s literary psychology approach. The research results showed that Mei Lee has all three personality structures; Id, Ego, and Superego, and the Id aspect dominates Mei Lee in living her life to carry out every action and decide things. The second one is from Suprapto (2018), where this research aims to describe and explain the personalities of the characters in the novel Jalan Tak Ada Ujung using a literary psychology approach and the theory of Sigmund Freud. The results of this research show that there is a description of the Id, Ego and
Superego which are influenced by the consciousness and unconsciousness of the characters in the novel *Jalan Tak Ada Ujung* by Muchtar Lubis.

In this research, the researcher chose a short story as the object of the literary work to be studied. The short story is entitled *Tart di Bulan Hujan* by Bakdi Soemanto. The reason for choosing this short story is because it has a main character, Sum, who has an interesting personality to discuss. Sum’s personality is described as strange through characterization which tends to use dramatic methods. Apart from that, this short story tends to be strong in the characters in the story. The characters presented have complicated inner conflicts regarding themselves and their environment, especially Sum as the main character in the short story *Tart di Bulan Hujan*. Based on the explanation above, this research aims to analyse the personality structure of the main character, Sum, in the short story *Tart di Bulan Hujan*.

**II MATERIALS AND METHOD**

**2.1 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

Literary psychoanalysis is a literary study that views work as a psychological activity. The author will use creativity, taste, and work in his/her work. Likewise, readers in responding to literary works will not be separated from their respective psyches. Even literary psychoanalysis recognizes literary works as reflections of the soul. The author will capture mental symptoms and then process them into text and complete them with his/her psychology. The author’s experiences and life experiences around the author will be projected imaginary into the literary text. The systematics used by Freud in describing personality are divided into three main points, namely personality dynamics, personality development, and personality structure. In literary analysis based on Sigmund Freud’s psychoanalytic theory, personality structure can be reflected through the characters and psychological conflicts faced in the story. According to Sigmund Freud, the personality structure is divided into three systems, namely the Id, Ego, and Superego.

**2.1.1 Id**

The Id personality structure is a personality system that is innate from birth which is the initial foundation of human personality/psychology, such as instincts and impulses. It is a personality structure that focuses only on fulfilling satisfaction or pleasure and tends to avoid pain. Characters in stories who represent the id personality system may exhibit unconscious desires and basic instincts. They tend to act impulsively and follow personal desires without considering the consequences. This most basic and unconscious part of the mind is like “free lust” which only wants to fulfill desires without thinking about the consequences.

**2.1.2 Ego**

Ego is a personality structure that develops from the Id. This is in touch with reality. The Ego is part of the personality structure that is between the conscious and unconscious. Ego is a personality structure that is responsible for making decisions about whether to carry out the Id or not. The Ego is tasked with making decisions to fulfil the Id by making decisions about which ones should be prioritized first by considering conditions, situations and rationality. That’s why this personality structure is closely related to reality.

Characters who reflect the Ego personality structure will try to balance the Id’s desires with external reality. They may consider the consequences of their actions and try to fulfill their desires within the boundaries accepted by society. This is the part that thinks about and decides between the Id’s desires and external reality. The Ego tries to find a way to satisfy the Id’s desires in a way that is acceptable to society.

**2.1.3 Superego**

The Superego is a personality structure that is related to good and bad, right and wrong of an action. This personality is regulated by morals and ethics taught by parents to children in the form of prohibitions and commands regarding the good and bad of something. Therefore, whether the Superego personality is successful or not can be determined from the morals taught by parents and the environment. The Superego personality works by preventing the Id and Ego from acting in a certain way based on morals.

Characters that represent the Superego personality structure will demonstrate internalization of moral rules and values. They tend to struggle with moral conflicts and may experience feelings of guilt.
when carrying out actions that conflict with prevailing values or morals. This is the part of the mind that teaches the rules and morals of society and parents. The Superego tries to direct behaviour in the right and ethical direction.

In a short story, the characters in it can reflect various aspects of this personality structure. Some may act without thought (Id), while others consider the consequences of their actions (Ego), or even struggle with moral considerations and values (Superego). By understanding how this personality structure influences character behaviour, we can explore the motivations and conflicts that guide stories in literary works.

2.2 METHOD

This research is a qualitative descriptive study using a literary psychology approach, Sigmund Freud’s psychoanalysis, to analyse the personality structure of the Id, Ego, and Superego of the main character, Sum, in the short story *Tart di Bulan Hujan* by Bakdi Soemanto. The qualitative descriptive method is a research method that contains data quotations to provide an overview of the presentation of the report (Moleong, 2012).

The data source of this research is the text of the short story *Tart di Bulan Hujan* by Bakdi Soemanto, which was first published in 2011, and part of the Kompas Short Story Collection book series (2014) which can be accessed at the link https://cerpenkompas.wordpress.com/2011/12/18/tart-di-bulan-hujan/. The *Tart di Bulan Hujan* short story tells the story of Sum, a woman who insists on buying a tart for a “boy” on his birthday in the rainy month. The boy in question is a statue of the Child Jesus, while the birthday in the rainy month is the celebration of Christmas (the day Jesus was born) in December.

The data in this research are quotations from sentences, dialogues, monologues, or narratives that indicate the personality structure, Id, Ego, and Superego, of the main character Sum. Data collection techniques in this research are documentation and literature study. Data is obtained by highlighting quotations from sentences, dialogues, monologues, or narratives that indicate the personality structure of Id, Ego, and Superego in the main character, Sum, then describing it first, followed by data analysis. The data analysis technique is carried out using a content analysis model which includes data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions.

III FINDING AND DISCUSSION

From the analysis, there are several quotes that indicated the personality structure of the main character, Sum, in the short story *Tart di Bulan Hujan*, namely the Id, Ego, and Superego personality structure according to Sigmund Freud’s psychoanalytic theory.

3.1 Id

The Id personality structure is a personality system that is innate from birth which is the initial foundation of human personality/psychology, such as instincts and impulses. The Id is a personality structure that only focuses on fulfilling satisfaction or pleasure and avoiding pain. In the short story *Tart di Bulan Hujan*, there is some data that indicates Sum’s Id. The following are the data and explanation:

Data 1:

“Aku harus beli tart itu, buat si bocah, saat ulang tahunnya di bulan hujan nanti, gumamnya.” (p. 3)

“I have to buy that tart, for the boy, for his birthday in the rainy month, she muttered.”

“Tapi aku harus beli tart itu, gumamnya. Buat si bocah. Di ulang tahunnya di bulan hujan. Ia bakal senang....” (p. 3)

“But I have to buy that tart, she muttered. For the boy. On his birthday in the rainy month. He will be happy...”

“Aku harus membeli tart itu, apa pun yang terjadi,” gumam Sum. “Apa pun komentar orang aku tidak peduli. Aku hanya ingin si bocah bahagia pada hari ulang tahunnnya....” (p. 4)

“I have to buy that tart, no matter what,” Sum muttered. “Whatever people say, I don’t care. I just want the boy to be happy on his birthday....”

The quote above is evidence of the Sum’s Id personality structure. How she wanted to buy a tart. Sum is determined with a strong desire to be able to buy a tart whatever the conditions. The Id appears, where her passion flares up to satisfy her desire to buy a tart for “the boy”. We can see in the quote “Aku harus membeli tart itu, apa pun yang terjadi...” / “I have to buy that tart, no matter what…”, from this
sentence, it is clear that Sum’s Id is very urgent, forceful and unconscious, this is the nature of the Id personality structure. We can see more in the quote below:

Data 2:


“Anyway, this year’s rainy month I have to buy a tart for the boy. I really want to feel happy when that boy is happy. If I can buy a tart for that boy, I’ll be really happy. I’m willing to die. If what I do is considered wrong by the ‘angelic court’ and I have to go to hell... that’s okay. I’ll still be happy in hell. Yes, I’ll die very happy because I was able to offer a tart in a rainy month, in a rainy week, on a rainy night,” she muttered.

For further proof regarding the Sum’s Id personality structure, we can look at the quote above. In the quote above, we can see very clearly how hard Sum is to fulfil her desire to buy a tart for “the boy”, even if it is the last happiness in her life before she dies, she is willing, as long as her wish to offer tarts in the rainy month can be fulfilled. The quote above shows the Id of the main character, Sum, namely Sum’s desire to buy a tart.

Data 3:


“Sum just kept quiet. Didn’t listen to her husband’s tirade. Her thoughts were only on the tart with roses, with Happy Birthday written on it. How happy the boy would be to be given that gift. Even Sum has never received a gift like that, ....”

From the quote above, we can see Sum’s Id from her desire to buy a tart, she even imagined how happy she would be if her wish came true, we can see this in the quote “Bayangan di depan matanya sangat jelas: tart dengan bunga-bunga mawar, dengan tulisan Happy Birthday” / “Her thoughts were only on the tart with roses, with Happy Birthday written on it”. This quote strengthens the evidence that one of the Sum’s Id emerged, namely her desire to buy a tart.

Data 4:

“Kedua tangannya dilekatkan pada dada dan membentuk sembah, menunduk. Tuhan, bisik Sum, perkenankan saya membeli tart untuk ulang tahun si anak miskin itu. Ia lalu menutup wajahnya dengan kedua tangannya. Saking keinginannya beli tart, seakan ia hendak menangis. Matanya terasa basah.” (p. 2)

“Her hands were placed to her chest and formed a prayer, bowing. Lord, Sum whispered, let me buy a tart for the poor boy’s birthday. Then she covered her face with her hands. She wanted to buy a tart so badly, she felt as if she was going to cry. Her eyes felt wet.”

Lastly, there is Sum’s actions in the story that show her Id personality. We can see in the quote above, she prayed to God to allow her to buy a tart for “the boy’s” birthday, she even cried during her prayer. We can see this in the quote “Tuhan, bisik Sum, perkenankan saya membeli tart untuk ulang tahun si anak miskin itu” / “Lord, Sum whispered, let me buy a tart for the poor boy’s birthday”. This shows Sum’s Id personality who really wants to buy a tart which she will give to the boy on his birthday in the rainy month. From the explanation above, we can conclude that Sum’s Id personality structure in the short story entitled Tart di Bulan Hujan can be seen from the quotes in the short story which explain Sum’s determination and desire to buy a tart.

3.2 Ego

Ego is a personality structure that develops from the Id. This is in touch with reality. The Ego is part of the personality structure that is between the conscious and unconscious. The Ego personality structure is the personality that is responsible for making decisions about whether to carry out the Id or not. In the short story Tart di Bulan Hujan, there is some data that indicates Sum’s Ego personality structure. The following are the data and explanation:

Data 5:

“... Sum decided to save money.... Finally, Sum decided to save money at home. She planned to set aside fifteen thousand every month. If she succeeded in reducing her needs, one year would be one hundred and eighty thousand. Two years, three hundred and sixty thousand. “Hooray! In two years, I can buy a tart for the boy. And there’s still ten thousand left.” Her heart cheers....”

The quote above is evidence of one of the Ego personalities of the main character. As previously explained, the Ego personality structure is related to decision making whether to carry out the Id or not. We can see from the quote above, Sum took action to save so she could buy a tart. Her decision to save is a way she does so she can fulfill her Id. This decision was made based on rational considerations. She realized that she did not have enough money to buy a tart which were very expensive for her, therefore, in order to fulfill her wish, she saved by setting aside money every month so she could buy the tart. Here, Sum’s Ego appears by delaying her desires by collecting money first before buying expensive tart.

Data 6:

“Masih ada waktu”, gumamnya. “Aku akan buruh nyuci di kos-kosannya Pak Nur Jentera. Pokoknya, bulan hujan tahun ini aku harus beli tart untuk si kecil.” (p. 5)

“There’s still time”, she muttered. “I’ll do the laundry at Mr. Nur Jentera’s boarding house. Anyway, in the rainy month this year I have to buy a tart for the boy.”

Another way that Sum took to fulfill her desires and realize her Id is to work extra by taking additional work as a laundry worker, “Aku akan buruh nyuci di kos-kosannya Pak Nur Jentera” / “I’ll do the laundry at Mr. Nur Jentera’s boarding house”, so that she could collect money from her work to buy a tart for “the boy”. This decision she made is one of the ways she did so she could fulfill her Id.

Data 7:

“Di toko roti, pelayan-pelayannya memandang dengan sebelah mata. Mereka tak percaya Sum punya uang untuk beli tart hampir empat ratus ribu.” (p. 7)

“In the bakery, the waiters looked down on Sum. They couldn’t believe that Sum had the money to buy a tart that cost almost four hundred thousand.”

“Tidak masuk akal,” kata Tanpoting, pemilik toko roti itu. Ketika Sum akhirnya mengeluarkan uang lebih dari harga tart, baru mereka percaya.” (p. 7)

“It doesn’t make sense,” said Tanpoting, the bakery owner. When Sum finally paid more than the price of the tart, they believed it.”

The quote above shows a situation where Sum buys a tart that she really wants to buy. We can see more clearly in the quote “Sum akhirnya mengeluarkan uang lebih dari harga tart, baru mereka percaya” / “Sum finally paid more than the price of the tart, they believed it”. Sum’s Ego appears here. This shows that Sum’s Ego succeeded in realizing her Id to buy the tart she wanted which can be accepted rationally because she has collected money to realize her Id.

3.3 SUPEREGO

Superego is a personality structure that is related to good and bad, right and wrong of an action. This personality is regulated by morals and ethics taught by parents to children in the form of prohibitions and commands regarding the good and bad of something. Therefore, whether the superego personality is successful or not can be determined from the morals taught by parents and the environment. The Superego personality works by preventing the Id and Ego, then acting in a certain way based on morals. In the short story Tart di Bulan Hujan, there is some data that indicates Sum’s Superego personality structure. The following are the data and explanation:

Data 8:

“Astaga! Gaji Sum kerja di home stay hanya dua ratus lima puluh ribu sebulan. Kalau ada tamu, ia memang sering mendapat tip, tetapi cuma cukup buat beli soto Pak Gareng tiga ribuan. Ia masih harus memikirkan seragam anaknya. Siatinya, yang sopir bus, tak selalu bisa bawa uang cukup....” (p. 3)

“Oh my! Sum’s salary at the home stay is only two hundred and fifty thousand a month. If there were guests, she would often get a tip, but it was only enough to buy Mr. Gareng’s soto for three thousand. She
still had to think about her son’s uniform. Her husband, a bus driver, can’t always bring enough money.”

“Tiba di rumah, ia langsung mengambil uang tabungannya yang disembunyikan di dalam lemari, di bawah pakaian. Kurang empat puluh lima ribu, gumamnya sambil menghitung uang receh. Ia ingat, ia harus membeli nasi buat anaknya, si Domble.” (p. 5)

“When arrived home, she immediately took out her savings that she had hidden in the closet, under her clothes. Forty-five thousand less, she muttered as she counted the change. She remembered that she had to buy rice for her son, Domble.”

“... Apalagi ia membawa uang berlebih untuk beli seragam si Domble. Juga uang buat rokok....” (p. 7)

“... Moreover, she brought excess money to buy Domble’s uniform. Also, money for cigarettes....”

Based on the quote above, it shows that Sum did what was her responsibility. Even though she had a strong desire to buy a tart to give to “the boy”, but with limited funds, she still thought about her son and husband, she did not immediately carry out her Id. She thought about the pros and cons if she only cared about her Id. We can see that Sum’s Superego appears. She thought the bad consequences if she carried out her Id. As a wife and mother, Sum should prioritize her husband and son before her other desires. In this condition, in several quotes above, Sum’s Superego limits the desires of the Id and encourages it to act in accordance with the moral rules that it should act. Then, Sum’s Superego is also visible when she obeyed her husband’s words, who asked Sum to go home first after buy the tart, we can see this in the quote below:

Data 9:

“Selepas dari toko, pulang dulu,” kata lakinya…. Suaminya berubah tiba-tiba…. Pukul setengah empat sore Sum tiba di rumah.” (p. 7)

“After you leave the shop, go home first,” said her husband… Her husband changed his mind suddenly…. At half past four in the afternoon Sum arrived home.”

The quote above show that Sum’s Superego appears and was governed by morals and ethics where her responsibility as a wife and mother is to put her family first. Even though she has an Id that is strongly triggered by lust and a strong desire to fulfil her satisfaction, buying a tart, Sum still acts morally and ideastically, where before she fulfils her Id, she must first fulfil the needs of her family.

Data 10:


“Is it okay for Mrs. Sum to bring a tart into the church, is it okay to put the tart in front of the statue of the Child Jesus in the cave? Mr. Koster must be afraid that the church will be dirty. The parish priest will ask, celebrating Christmas with tarts in front of the statue of the Child Jesus according to which verse of Scripture, what theology is....”

The quote above indicates Sum’s Superego in the short story Tart di Bulan Hujan. Before she acts, Sum still thinks about whether her action will have a good or bad impact, whether her action is right or wrong. Sum’s Superego arises by acting in accordance with the morals and values that apply in society.

Data 11:

“Selama bertahun-tahun aku menyaksikan perayaan ulang tahun si kecil, belum pernah ada yang membawa tart. Padahal, kalau mau, mereka bisa beli.” (p. 4)

“In all the years I’ve watched the boy’s birthday celebrations, no one has ever brought a tart. In fact, if they want, they can buy it.”

Sum felt sympathy for “the boy” who had never been given a tart on his birthday. She felt sorry for “the boy”. The sympathy shown by Sum in the story shows Sum’s Superego personality, who morally feels sad and sorry for what “the boy” experienced. Apart from the Superego in the form of the sadness she feels, Sum also shows her Superego personality through being happy because what she does makes many children happy, we can see this from the quote below:

Data 12;

“...Tapi, Sum dan Uncok tertawa terbuka-bahak sambil berpelukan. Si Domble pun ikut menari-nari sambil sesekali nyuri mencolek tart yang dibalut gula-mentega-cokelat yang lezat luar biasa. Patung

“...But, Sum and Uncok burst out laughing while hugging. Domble also danced along while occasionally secretly poking at the tart wrapped in sugar-butter-chocolate that was delicious. The Child Jesus statue looked at them with a smile. By nine o’clock in the evening, the children had invaded Sum and Uncok’s home after mass at the church. They danced in front of the Child Jesus statue and the tart. Other cakes were also prepared....”

“Diam-diam Sum menatap pandangan mata anak-anak yang datang. Seperti bersinar, seperti bersinar... Sum berjongkok dan memeluk mereka satu demi satu. Sum terseduh karena haru dan bahagia....” (p. 8)

The quote above is a situation where Sum finally achieved what she wanted to celebrate “the boy’s” birthday with tart. She was happy to see that what she did made everyone happy, her husband, her son, the children who were invited to her house, it was even said that “Patung Kanak-Kanak Yesus menatap mereka dengan senyum” / “The Child Jesus statue looked at them with a smile”. The feeling of happiness shown by Sum in the story shows Sum’s Superego personality which morally feels happy to see other people happy.

IV CONCLUSION

Based on the results of analysis using Sigmund Freud’s psychoanalytic theory on the main character, Sum, in the short story Tart di Bulan Hujan, it can be concluded that Sum in her personality shows the three personality structures of Id, Ego, and Superego. The Id personality of the main character Sum is very clearly visible from her very strong desire to be able to buy a tart in the rainy month. Then the Ego personality helps the Id to get all its desires in a way that is acceptable in the real world, namely by collecting money by saving and working hard to buy the tart. Meanwhile, Sum’s Superego makes her put aside the Ego and Id, the Superego pressures her to stay on the right track and do everything that is considered good in accordance with the moral standards obtained based on the teachings of her parents and the positive values that apply in society, which in this case, Sum still remembers and puts the interests of her husband and her son first. These three-personality structure control the behaviour and actions of Sum in making decisions.

REFERENCES


