

A STUDY ON THE MAIN CHARACTER'S PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT IN F.H. BURNET'S *LITTLE LORD FAUNTLEROY*

Mega Miliawati; Dra. Hj. Meilia Adiana, M.Pd ;Imam Basuki, M.Hum;
English Department, Faculty of Letters, Jember University (UNEJ)
Jln. Kalimantan 37, Jember 68121
E-mail: imabas88@gmail.com

Abstrak

Penelitian ini mengkaji the Earl sebagai tokoh utama yang mengalami perkembangan kepribadian dalam hidupnya dalam novel Little Lord Fauntleroy. Hal ini dipengaruhi oleh cinta dan kebaikan hati cucunya. Tujuan kajian ini ialah untuk memperoleh penjelasan tentang kepribadian itu dan untuk menunjukkan perubahan kepribadian the Earl sebelum dan sesudah ia mendapat kesempatan untuk menjadi orang baik. Penelitian ini dilakukan dengan mengumpulkan data secara kualitatif. Penelitian ini berupa studi pustaka. Metode induktif digunakan untuk menganalisa data, dimulai dari data khusus kemudian ke data umum. Pengamatan yang digunakan untuk memecahkan masalah diskusi ini ialah dengan pendekatan psikologi dan menggunakan teorinya Sigmund Frued. Kajian berfokus pada karakter the Earl yang berubah menjadi lebih baik sesudah dia bertemu dengan cucunya. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa dia mengalami perkembangan kepribadian. Pengalaman hidup mampu mengubah kepribadian seseorang dari buruk menjadi seseorang yang lebih baik.

Kata kunci: perkembangan kepribadian, Little Lord Fauntleroy, sifat dan Psychological Frued

Abstract

The research studies the Earl as the main character who has experienced personality development in his life in the novel *Little Lord Fauntleroy*. The personality development is guided by his grandchild's love and kind-heartedness. The goals of the study are to get explanation about what personality is and to show the changing of the Earl's personality before and after having the chance to become a good person. The research is done by collecting the data qualitatively. The research is a library research. It uses inductive method to analyze the data, beginning from specific data to general one. Psychological approach is used to solve the problem in this discussion and it takes the theory of Sigmud Frued. The analysis focuses on the Earl's character which changes to be better after he meets his grandchild. The result of this research shows that, he experiences personality development. Life experience is able to change someone's personality from bad into the good one.

Key words: Personality development, Little Lord Fauntleroy, character, and Sigmund Frued's psychological

Introduction

Personality is a part of human being that could be good or bad. Hart (in Fairchild, 1962:218) states that "personality is dynamic organization of ideas, attitudes and habits which is built upon the foundation of biologically inherited, psycho-physical mechanism of single organism and of socially transmitted culture patterns, and which embodies all the adjustment of this individual's motives desire and purpose to the requirement and potentialities of his social and sub-social environment". It means that personality is human nature how to behave in society. Personality is built upon the place where he/she lives, especially in a family. A good family is usually able to teach children how to behave well in society. On the contrary, a

broken home family seldom teaches children how to behave appropriately in society.

Human personality has a close relationship with the family because it has suspended with rules of the family. The human's personality development will be seen when a man lives in the new environment, like the personality of John Arthur Molyneux Errol in the novel *Little Lord Fauntleroy*. He experiences the change of his personality when he meets his grandchild. His grandchild influences his attitude and habit. Both the family and friends in the environment have significant role in his personality development. Watson (in Fairchild, 1962:218) explains that "personality development is a gradual and balanced growth of all the many aspects of human personality including the physical, mental,emotinal and social.

Little Lord Fauntleroy is written by an Englishman F.H. Burnet. It tells about John Arthur Molyneux Errol, an Earl of Dorincourt who lives in Erleboro, London. He has three sons. The three of his sons died. But, one of his sons ever married with an American girl when he was an army in America. They have a child "Cedric". He only lives with his mother in the nursery after his father died. The Earl invites him to come to London. The Earl hates his daughter-in-law because she is an American and she is not a royal blood, but he cannot hate his descendant. The Earl wants Cedric to get good education and he can continue the Earl's wealth. Moreover, they live together except Cedric's mother. Every day the Earl becomes happy because Cedric loves him very much. Cedric thinks that the Earl is the sweetest and the most kind man, he has meet. Mrs. Errol is Cedric's mother. Eventhough the Earl dislikes her, she still behaves kindly to the Earl. In this case, her behavior makes him wise. So, it brings happiness toward other people like the Earl's sister, the laborer, and the society. The Earl becomes a good person. Firstly his character is stubborn, strict to the rule, a hard worker and egoist, but the kindness and love have defeated the Earl's ill nature. The writer analyzes about the main character's personality. How his personality changes before and after meeting his grandchild.

Research Method

In writing this research, there are many ways of thinking about, and categorizing. The wide variety of methods is available for designing and carrying out the results of the research.

The method to analyze this thesis is inductive method. In this case, to apply this method, this research begins with the specific data that concerns with the personality of the Earl, while the general description is the development of the main character's personality.

The psychological approach is used to analyze the problems of this research. It is used to observe the characters in the novel. Scott stated in his book, *Five Approaches of Literary Criticism* that there are three applications of psychological approach. The first, it provides a more precise language with which to discuss the creative process, second it is to explain the study of the lives of authors as a means of understanding their art, the third is psychology can be used to explain the fictitious character (1962:71-72).

Freud in Boeree (2006:43) defines an ego defense mechanism as a strategy used by the individual to defend against open expression of id impulses and to oppose superego pressures. It means that ego defense mechanism has four functions, protecting individual from dangerous situation; dealing with inner hurt, pain, anger, anxiety, and self-devaluation; removing anxiety and hurt, and playing an important role in normal adjustment mechanism.

There are many types of ego defense mechanism. The writer will explain five of them in the sub chapter below because they are the main concern of this research. The first is repression. It is said to occur when an object-choice that arouses undue alarm is forced out of consciousness by an anticathexes (Calvin, 1960:48). The second is displacement.

It is a defense mechanism whereby feelings or behaviors are transferred, usually unconsciously, from one object to another that is less threatening, and any shift of psychic energy to a substitute object-cathexis (Freud in Ewen 1980:26). The thirth is projection. It hides dangerous impulses by unconsciously attributing them to other people or things. (Ewen, 1980 : 27). The fourth is isolation. It is unconsciously separating threatening emotions from the associated thoughts or events and reacting on only an intellectual level, or separating contradictory and dangerous thoughts from each other (Ewen, 1980:26). The fifth is sublimation. According to Freud, it is unconsciously diverting illicit instinctual impulses to socially acceptable outlets. Sublimation is form of displacement, but represents ideal normal behavior.

Result

After analyzing John Arthur Molyneux Errol's personality development in F.H. Burnet's novel, *Little Lord Fauntleroy*, there are some causes that change the Earl's personality into his new personality. Firstly, the Earl's personality is formed by himself. The Earl is a man who is egoistic, strict to the rule, a hard worker and strove. He never thinks negatively for his actions. He never pays attention to everything around him. Secondly, he spends the process to increase his wealth. The Earl is always busy and there is not time for his three sons. In this case, he becomes an important and a rich people as a nobleman. The Earl works to fulfill his needs. He behaves stubbornly to get his ambition, in order to be happy. The conditions make his personality change, further he becomes a wise man and he can socialize very well in society after he has found a good nature of his grandchild. These conditions bring him happiness. Afterward, the Earl understands that not all of lower class has sorrow and sickness in their life experience. Finally, he loves his daughter-in-law and every day he is getting more pleased with his son's wife.

Discussion

Sigmund Frued's psychological theory is used to analyze the problems and to observe the characters in the novel, especially Ego Defense Mechanism. The brief analysis is classified into three key points. The first point is the Earl's personality before having grandchild. The second point analyzes the Earl's personality after having grandchild. The last point is the development of the main character's personality.

A. The Earl's Personality before Having Grandchild

The Earl John Arthur Molyneux Errol is the main character as an egoistic person. He has three sons and he neglects them. The Earl's egoistic can be analyzed through projection. The following quotation proves the Earl's egoistic.

"...The Earl received that letter, he was furiously angry. Bad as his temper was, he had never given

way to it in his life as he gave way to it when he read the Captain's letter. His valet who was in the room when it came, though his lordship would have a fit of apoplexy, he was so wild with anger. For an hour he raged like a tiger, and then he sat down and wrote to his son, and ordered him never to come near his old home, nor to write to his father or brothers again".... (Burnet, 1900:4)

The quotation above shows that the Earl is a bad-tempered man. It is showed by his attitude. He is very angry when he receives a letter from his son, Captain Errol telling about his marriage with an American girl. His attitude shows his projection, when he writes a letter to his son, asking him not to send him a letter. The Earl does not pay attention and care for other people in his surroundings. In fact, he cannot live alone as a human being and he has many servants. All of people know his attitude to his family. He disagrees captain Errol's marriage. His words rude to his son; Captain Errol who is the big, gay, sweet-smiling young man. The Earl is strict to the rule that his descendant can not marry a common person and an American.

"When they were boys at Eton, they were not popular, when they were at college, they cared nothing for study, and wasted both time and money, and made few real friends. Humiliated by them; his heir was no honour to his noble name, and did not promise to end in being anything but a selfish, wasteful, insignificant man, with no manly or noble qualities. It was very bitter, the old Earl thought, that the son who was only third, and would have only a very small fortune, should be the one who had all the gifts, and all the charms, and the strength and beauty"....(Burnet, 1900:3-4)

The Earl's son is a lazy student. He never joins the class to study. He only plays with his friends. It makes the Earl angry because he cannot fulfill the Earl's ambition. He wants his descendant to get good education. So, he behaves stubbornly to his two sons. The Earl thinks that the noblemen must be clever, and he must be the best person/man in his surrounding better than common people. The Earl is disappointed with his sons but he loves them very much. Furthermore, he hopes to the youngest son who has a beautiful face and a fine, strong, graceful figure. He has a bright smile and sweet, gay voice. He is brave, generous and the kind-hearted man. Most of people love him but he has small fortune because the Earl sent him to travel in America for a while. The type of his ego defense mechanism is repression. The Earl is a clever man and he becomes an important man. In London, he has much property. He gets all of them because he is a hard worker. He only thinks a job every day. The statements shows that, "...The change from his old life I England was very great, but he was young and happy and he hoped that hard work would do great things for him in the future...." (Burnet, 1900:5). He feels happy, because he can work hard every day. A man will not get the maximum result without working hard. In this case, he only thinks how he gets much money and he hopes to have good experience for his future.

"...He had never cared for children ; he had been so occupied with his own pleasure that he had never

had time to care for them. His own sons had not interested him when they were very young – though sometimes he remembered having thought Cedric's father a handsome and strong little fellow."

(Burnet, 1900:82).

Furthermore, when he was young, he never cared for his son's attitude and behavior. He had a son who is handsome and strong like Cedric's father. He became a very busy man and he only liked his own job. Besides that, he is a man who never has the feeling, like angry, hate, love to his sons or other people because he does not socialize with his surroundings. It is repression

B. The Earl's Personality after having a Grandchild

In Erleboro, London, all of people know that the Earl's bad character changes when his grandchild lives with him. The Earl becomes a wise man. Therefore, being wise man is the problem to analyze in this discussion. To analyze a wise man needs some types of ego to solve the problem in his experience of life. The Earl's wisdom can be analyzed through displacement, sublimation and isolation.

Since Fauntleroy arrived in his castle, the Earl becomes a man who is easy to talk with the people because Fauntleroy is a friendly boy. In this case, his grandchild's behavior does not only interest his heart, but this feeling makes him pay attention to Mrs. Errol's situation. First, he does not give a carriage immediately because he hates her. Therefore, this happening results displacement to defense his ego. He gives a carriage to his grandchild first. He thinks that Fauntleroy will give it to his mother. On the other hand, the statements show, he also feels pity on her, when he looks at her walking around the country.

"Do you miss your mother very much?" asked the earl

When he had finished reading this.

"Yes", said Fauntleroy, "I miss her all the time." He went and stood before the Earl and put his hand on His knee looking up at him.

"You don't miss her, do you?" he said.

"I don't know her," answered his lordship rather crustily.

(Burnet, 1900:147)

He also pays attention to Fauntleroy's feeling. He asks as much as his missing to his mother. His grandchild answers that he misses her all the time. So, Fauntleroy's words makes his behavior less friendly. He still dislikes his daughter-in-law. He asks his grandchild in order he seems happy with his mother. It shows repression.

Firstly, the Earl meets Cedric in the dining room. They see each other, and then Lord Fauntleroy greets to the Earl. Little Lord Fauntleroy watches his foot, there is hurt on his foot. Little Lord Fauntleroy feels pity on the Earl's foot. He gives the medicine to cure his grandfather. Even though, the Earl is not a very polite man, he has different feeling to his grandchild. The Earl gives the opportunity to take care of his foot to Little Lord Fauntleroy. It is called sublimation.

The Earl loves Little Lord Fauntleroy very much. They have an intimate relation but he still hates his daughter-in-law. However, the Earl does not want to see her, but he can look at her picture because Little Lord Fauntleroy shows her

picture when they talk together. It is one of ego defense mechanism which is called isolation.

The Development of the Main Character's Personality

According to Abrams, characters are the persons, in a dramatic or narrative work, endowed with moral and dispositional qualities that are expressed in what they say-the dialogue –and what they do- the action (1971:21). From the statement, characters can be explained as the persons in a play or novel who have moral and dispositional qualities expressed in their dialogues and actions.

The main character discussed is the Earl who experiences many problems which give strong influence in his personality and life. It means that he experiences development. His personality becomes good personality because he has grown into an adult. The type of ego defense mechanism is sublimation.

The Earl lives among people in society, but he never joins them. After the coming of Lord Fauntleroy, the Earl's personality changes. He becomes a good and generous person. The change of the personality can be seen in the following quotation:

“...I am sorry to be the bearer of so unpleasant communication, but he is very fixed in his determination not to see you. His plan is that Lord Fauntleroy shall be educated under his own supervision; that he shall live with him. The Earl is attached to Dorincourt castle, and spends a great deal of time there. He is a victim to inflammatory gout, and is not fond of London. Lord Fauntleroy will, therefore, be likely to live chiefly at Dorincourt. The Earl offers to you as a home, Court lodge, which is situated pleasantly, and is not very far from the castle...”(Burnet, 1900:25)

The Earl asks his lawyer that his daughter-in-law lives in Court Lodge which is not far from the castle because he does not want to see her, instead Fauntleroy will live with the Earl. And then, he shall be taught under the Earl's own supervision. These statements show that he feels worried about Fauntleroy if he is far from his mother. As an old man, he realizes that he needs a descendant as an heir of his wealth. Therefore, he invites Fauntleroy and Mrs. Errol to come in London. At last, the Earl understands that the poor people do not always have bad attitude. Thus, the Earl becomes a wise man and he realizes that his son's wife is a kind-hearted woman. Some months later, they live together in the castle. His personality can be as good as his grandchild. He tries hard for the sake of family happiness. Every day he is more pleased with his son's wife. The changing of his personality development is good; besides he becomes a generous man in his family and society.

Conclusion

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that life experiences have influenced personality development. In addition, how someone can take the good or bad influence from his/her experience, it depends on that person how he takes Ego defense mechanism. This thesis also learns that thinking wisely or carefully before deciding to

do something is the best way. Because of thinking wisely, someone will know the good or bad result of his/her decision. On the contrary, when someone can not think wisely in making a decision, it will come the bad result to his/her life. For example, when the Earl disagrees with the marriage of his son, he forbids his son to come near the old home. He cannot control his emotion because he cannot think wisely. And then, he lives alone at the castle when he is an old man. He feels lonely without having descendant. Finally, he decides to fetch his grandson in America and let him come to London. His decision leads him into the personality development. Life experience is able to change someone's personality from bad into the good one.

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Criticism and Suggestion

Nothing is perfect under the sky. So is this research. That's why. A more comprehensive research on this novel is definitely needed in the future to fill the silence in literary research.

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