

MISS EMILY'S UNFULFILLMENT OF LOVE IN WILLIAM FAULKNER'S *A ROSE FOR EMILY*

(Keidakterpenuhan Cinta Miss Emily dalam Cerita Pendek *A Rose for Emily* Karya William Faulkner)

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Abstrak

Artikel ini membahas tentang ketidakterpenuhan cinta yang dialami tokoh utama dalam cerita pendek *A Rose for Emily* karya William Faulkner. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui arti cinta menurut persepsi tokoh utama, efek dari tidak terpenuhinya cinta yg dialami tokoh utama dan hubungan antara kehidupan pengarang sebagai pembuat karya sastra dengan karya sastranya yang berjudul *A Rose for Emily*. Kajian ini menggunakan teori Abraham H. Maslow tentang motivasi dan kepribadian bahwa seseorang akan terus berusaha dengan berbagai cara untuk memenuhi kebutuhan dan hasratnya. Didukung dengan teori Sigmund Freud dengan Eros dan Thanatosnya bahwa dalam diri setiap manusia memiliki insting untuk hidup dan insting untuk mati. Hasil dari kajian ini menunjukkan bahwa karakter Miss Emily menggambarkan seorang wanita yang menjadi stres setelah ayahnya meninggal dan menjadi semakin depresi setelah seorang bernama Baron yang begitu dicintainya ternyata adalah seorang laki-laki yang tidak berkomitmen pada sebuah pernikahan. Miss Emily menjadi berani setelah ayahnya meninggal, menunjukkan betapa tangguhny dia menjadi wanita mandiri hingga memiliki keberanian menjadi seorang pembunuh demi memenuhi keinginannya. Kepribadian mandiri yang kuat yang dimiliki oleh Miss Emily memiliki beberapa kesamaan dengan karakter dari ibu sang pengarang.

Kata kunci: eros, pengarang, motivasi dan kepribadian, tokoh utama, thanatos.

Abstract

This article discusses the unfulfillment of love experienced by the main character in the short story *A Rose for Emily* by William Faulkner. The purpose of this study is to know the meaning of love by the main character, the effect of unfulfillment of love that experienced by the main character and the relationship between the author's life as a creator literary works with his work *A Rose for Emily*. This study uses the theory by Abraham H. Maslow that is Motivation and Personality that someone will keep trying in various ways to fulfill his needs. Supported theory by Sigmund Freud with Eros and Thanatos that every human being has life instinct and death instinct. The results of this study shows that the character of Miss Emily depicts a woman who became stressed after his father died and became increasingly depressed after a man named Baron whom she loves is a man who does not commit on a marriage. The independent of Miss Emily after his father died, shows how woman have a courage to become a murderer in order to fulfill her desire. A strong character owned by Miss Emily has some similarities with the character of the author's mother.

Keywords: eros, the authors, motivation and personality, main character, thanatos.

Introduction

William Faulkner's short story entitled *A Rose for Emily* is included in the Southern Gothic genre. The Editors of *Encyclopedia Britannica* (2014) states that Southern Gothic is a style of writing practiced by many writers of the American South whose stories set in that region is

characterized by grotesque, or fantastic incidents. The Southern Gothic movement in literature brings the atmosphere and sensibilities of the Gothic, genre originating in late 18th century England, to the American South. Southern Gothic literature is built on the traditions of the larger Gothic genre, typically including supernatural elements, and mental illness.

One of his short stories *A Rose for Emily* published on April 30, 1930 is categorized as Southern Gothic genre. The

story takes place in Faulkner's fictional city that is Lafayette County, Jefferson, Mississippi. The short story is a source for film and song, including actress Anjelica Huston in the same title *A Rose for Emily*, first released in October 1983.

This short story tells about the unfulfillment of love of Miss Emily. This unfulfillment of love makes her doing abnormal behavior. It happens after her father's death. Miss Emily as a figure of traditional old South has to maintain the tradition. But on the other side she is just a woman who needs love and beloved. Therefore, she does the abnormal behavior by killing Baron and keeping his corpse in her room. She sleeps with the corpse until she died. In her life, Miss Emily does not feel a sense of belonging and owned by his father. She was isolated from the community by her father. This happens because her father is a former of fighters. Therefore his father made an order that Miss Emily was not allowed to interact with people.

The Theory of Personality and Motivation by Abraham Harold Maslow is needed for the analysis. Then this analysis is also supported by the theory of Eros and Thanatos by Sigmund Freud. According to Maslow (1970), there are five stages in Hierarchy Theory of Needs. The first is Physiological Needs. In the second phase, called the Safety Needs. The next stage is Belongingness and Love Needs. The fourth stage is Esteem Needs, and the last stage is Self-actualization Needs.

This discussion is interesting because the short story describes the unfulfillment of love of Miss Emily as the main character. Since her love is not fulfilled, Miss Emily does the abnormal behavior. There are three factors the love of Miss Emily is not fulfilled and make her do the abnormal behavior. They are family condition, Miss Emily's personality, and the social condition. The unfulfillment of love of Miss Emily is interesting because the main character in the short story is a woman who is commonly considered weak. In opposite, Miss Emily is brave to do uncommon action; she kills a person named Baron. Miss Emily kills Baron because he is a man that does not want to commit marriage. This situation portrays the woman who has the courage to break the rules of woman that is weak, tender, and full of love. Besides, the topic the unfulfillment of love is also interesting because when the love of human is not fulfilled they will do anything to fill it although the last way is by killing her or his lover.

This research has three problem, they are love for Emily, the effect of unfulfillment of love, and the relation between the authors and his work. The purposes of this research are to find the meaning of love by the main character, the effect of unfulfillment of love, and the relation between the life of the authors as the creator of literary work and his work.

Methodology

The type of research is qualitative research. Descombe (2007: 248) states that qualitative research tends to be associated with words or images as the unit of analysis.

Qualitative research is used to explain and explore the information and the facts. The required data in this qualitative research are the narrations and statements form. This research method is used to analyze the process Miss Emily becomes an abnormal person because of her personality as the impact of her father's death and Baron rejects on marriage in the short story *A Rose for Emily* by William Faulkner.

Every research always has a way to collect the data that is used in the process of analyzing. Blaxter, *et al*, (2006: 154) stated that documentary method is a method in collecting data by using written materials as a basis for the research. It can be very useful techniques for collecting data in which the records of the previous research and the material are considered as the source of particular topic.

There are two data that are used in this research. The first is primary data about Miss Emily's abnormal behavior taken in the narration and statement from short story *A Rose for Emily* by William Faulkner. And the secondary data are all information about theory of motivation and personality by Abraham H. Maslow, and the theory Eros and Thanatos by Sigmund Freud, the biography of William Faulkner, and the previous researches that are taken from thesis, books, journals, and websites. The data from *A Rose for Emily* will be sorted by close reading and taking some notes for important information and something related to the topic. The data of *A Rose for Emily* will be connected with the theory of personality and motivation by Abraham H. Maslow and Eros and Thanatos by Sigmund Freud. Then the data from *A Rose for Emily* will be classified by choosing the statements and dialogue related to the unfulfillment of love of Miss Emily. The data are also taken from books, websites, journal, thesis as the source of the material that related to the topic.

Shaw (1972: 107) inductive method a process of general thinking that sets out from particular data to general related to the story. In this thesis, the research begins with the analysis of *A Rose for Emily's* short story. Firstly, the analysis particularly starts from analyzing love experienced by Miss Emily as the main character through personal description, and dialogue. The second is to analyze the effect of the unfulfilled of love in Miss Emily's life because of the personality of Miss Emily, family's condition or childhood, and social factors that is the town's people and Homer Barron. The third step in analyzing goes to the particular problems of William Faulkner as the author related to the problem of the main character in the short story. Once again, the primary data will be analyzed by using the theory of Personality and Motivation by Abraham H. Maslow and Eros and Thanatos by Sigmund Freud. Then the conclusion is drawn as the general reasoning of this thesis.

Result

The discussion resulted several information which prove psychology of literature is the study of the literary works related to the author. As the evidence, *A Rose for Emily* by William Faulkner has similarity with the part of Faulkner's life. The short story tells about Miss Emily as the main character who kills a person whom she loves as the solution to her problem. She kills Baron and keeps the corpse with her until she was 70 years old. Miss Emily does this because she wants Baron becomes hers even though Baron does not love her.

Discussion

In her life Miss Emily has a fairly wealth and be treated like a goddess. But love in her life is never fulfilled from his father and also from the person she loves. Although his father loves her very much, Miss Emily feels that her father does not love her and it hurts her. The behavior of his father, who forbids her to socialize with any person, Miss Emily considers this is not as a form of love of a father, but the form of restraint.

Actually, Miss Emily's father forbids her to socialize just because she is a woman who is in the middle social status. Miss Emily's father, the former of the post-world war II fighter has particularly social status above the common society. So for him, not all men can interact with his daughter. This is done by her father because he wants to keep her out of bad things that will hurt her. Indeed, Miss Emily just feels that his decision makes her uncomfortable and she thinks his father does not love her. In the beginning it is known that Miss Emily has obsessed with the friendly attitude of Baron. It is known when the people comment that Miss Emily will marry him and she will persuade him. The people do not say that Baron will marry her, but she will marry him. Besides, people believe Baron has the feeling with man. This fact breaks Miss Emily's hope. She has prepared everything for marriage but then she cannot fulfill her needs of love and the marriage is failed.

Then we noticed that in the second pillow was the indentation of a head. One of us lifted something from it, and leaning forward, that faint and invisible dust dry and acrid in the nostrils, we saw a long strand of iron gray hair (Faulkner, 1930: 5)

It can be guessed that the person who slept beside him is Miss Emily. The fact is that there is iron gray hair in the bed. This iron gray hair is the hair of Miss Emily when she became old. Finally, all secrets in Miss Emily's house are opened. The fact is that about 30 years Miss Emily slept with Baron's corpse. Another is Miss Emily bought the arsenic not to kill her after her love is rejected by Baron, but to kill Baron.

When we next saw Miss Emily, she had grown fat and her hair was turning gray. During the next few years it grew grayer and grayer until it attained an even pepper-and-salt iron-gray, when it ceased turning. Up to the day of her death at seventy-four it was still that vigorous iron-gray, like the hair of an active man (Faulkner, 1930: 4)

These statements above as the proof that Miss Emily used her arsenic to kill Homer Baron and she keeps his corpse with her about 30 years. Freud said this condition in human being is Thanatos instinct. According Freud, Thanatos instinct is the death instinct. This instinct tends to destruct her or others and make the condition better than before for the actor of thanatos instinct itself (1990). According to Freud Thanatos instinct is preferred when people has big problem in their life. People tend to solve their problem by killing their enemy or kill themselves by suicide. People who are frustrated and depressed always think that death is the good way to solve the problem.

Faulkner and his father never had a very good relationship. He and his mother, though, were very close. Maud as a painters and photographers gave him his love of art and literature. She influenced Faulkner more than anyone else with her strong independence (Zane : 3-4)

Other characters are the same as those in Faulkner's life was his grandfather William Clark Falkner, also known as the Old Colonel who was the inspiration for the character of Colonel Sartoris who have great influence in the short story *A Rose for Emily*. Faulkner also added that some character named Emily as his cousin Mary Louise Nelson, who had married a Yankee street paver named Jack Barron (Gale,1997). (Blythe : 193) believes that Emily is humiliated when she discovers that Baron has simply used her to keep the community from discovering his true homosexual nature. He also stated that once again Faulkner has used sexual deviation to indicate the decay of old South Tradition. (Fatterley : 195) state that within her patriarchal society, Emily suffers the most injury from being forced into the position of "lady". Emily, however, uses this stereotype to gain power over those who place her in this role. It is believes that Faulkner used his mother's strong and independent attitude as the basis for Emily Grierson.

Aside from the reasons Faulkner write the story *A Rose for Emily* with various characters inspired by the people around him, he also experienced this level of the pyramid needs as experienced a fictional character Miss Emily. Maslow (1970) stated that physiological needs is the basic needs exist in human being. Such us food, drink, love. After the basic Needs is fulfilled the next needs are Safety Needs, Belongingness and Love Needs, Self-Esteem Needs, and the last Self-Actualization Needs (Maslow, 1970 : 37). At physiological needs, Faulkner entire basic needs are fulfilled by his mother who loved him very much. So the second level of the pyramid of hierarchy of need by Abraham Harold Maslow is a safety need that is fulfilled by his mother and his friends in the school. Faulkner is a smart child so he has many friends. But because he already likes the world of poetry and literature, he began to forget the

lessons and just focus on making a poem, so that its value fell and did not graduate high school.

After finally released a few years later he decided to work in a wood shop belonging to his grandfather as a clerk. There he falls in love with a woman who also worked there named Estelle Oldham and finally they decided to start dating. In the third phase, Belongingness and Love Needs, Faulkner tried to propose Estelle Oldham as his wife, but in fact Estelle Oldham betrays him. Estelle dates other men named Franklin while he and Faulkner were dating. And it turns out Estelle has been proposed by Franklin who is the son of a friend of his parents. His parents more blessed Estelle with Franklin because he graduates and his family status is same. At this stage Faulkner failed to fulfill his needs, so the Self-Esteem and Self-Actualization Needs are not fulfilled as same as Miss Emily.

But unlike Miss Emily who fulfill her desire by killing a loved one to save his corpse, Faulkner wreck his unfulfillment of love by stop working and start to continue make literary works. He has good skills in writing because since childhood he has been introduced in the literature by his mother, and heard stories about war and politics from his grandfather. The short story *A Rose for Emily* is included as one picture of himself and a few people around, as well as criticism the old south tradition at that time (<http://www.biography.com/people/william-faulkner-9292252>).

Conclusion

The analysis of the unfulfillment from the main character's love has shown the relation between William Faulkner's life and his work. Unfulfillment of love in this short story is shown by Miss Emily, the main character, who always gets what she needs as a human being by her father. But the bad situation is that she does not get love from her father by the meaning of love according her. Her father shows his love by protecting her. But the fact Miss Emily feels this is not love as what she wants.

The fact is that all people need love and to be loved by another people. When they cannot get what they want, all the way to get this are accepted. Even they must kill a person. Nowadays kills person is very common to do whether a man or woman. Sometimes love is just a way to kill someone to fulfill his obsession. Miss Emily gets her love in unusual way but she thinks that it is the only love she can give to others.

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