

**THE MAIN CHARACTER'S PERSONALITY CHANGE AS REFLECTED
IN DEFOE'S *ROBINSON CRUSOE***

**PERUBAHAN KEPERIBADIAN TOKOH UTAMA YANG TERCERMIN
DALAM *ROBINSON CRUSOE* KARYA DEFOE**

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Abstract

*Robinson Crusoe is a novel written by Daniel Defoe telling about a story of Robinson Crusoe's life experiences in the three places such as in York, at sea and in the islands. This article discusses about these places, particularly the last place, and the events experienced by Crusoe that can influence his personality change. Therefore, the qualitative research is done to know whether the setting and the events undergone by him, as the main character, can change his personality or not, by applying Murray's theory of personality describing how personality is formed. This theory employs three sets of determinants: group membership, situational and constitutional. It is also applied the psychological approach to analyze the main character's personality and to find out the setting and the events influencing his personality change.. The result of the research proves that there has been close relation between setting and personality in which setting and the events experienced by Crusoe during his life adventure in the three places can influence the change of his personality.***Keywords:** setting, life experiences, personality change

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Abstrak

Robinson Crusoe adalah novel Inggris, ditulis oleh Daniel Defoe, yang menceritakan tentang kisah pengalaman hidup tokoh utama, Robinson Crusoe, di tiga tempat yakni di York, Laut, dan Pulau tak berpenghuni. Artikel ini mengkaji tentang peristiwa-peristiwa yang dialami oleh Crusoe selama pengembaraannya di tempat-tempat tersebut. Olehkarenanya, penelitian ini dilakukan untuk mengetahui apakah latar tempat (setting) dan peristiwa kehidupan yang dialaminya selama di tempat-tempat tersebut bisa mengubah kepribadiannya atau tidak, dengan menerapkan teori Murry yang mengupas tentang bagaimana kepribadian itu terbentuk. Tiori ini terdiri atas tiga unsur penentu yakni: group membership, situational and constitutional. Dalam penelitian ini diterapkan pula pendekatan Psikologi untuk menelaah kepribadian tokoh utama, Setting dan peristiwa-peristiwa yang mempengaruhi perubahan kepribadiannya. Hasil dari penelitian ini membuktikan bahwa ada korelasi antara Setting dan kepribadian yaitu Setting dan Peristiwa- Peristiwa yang dialami oleh tokoh utama selama pengembaraan hidupnya di tempat-tempat tersebut ternyata dapat mengubah kepribadiannya.

Keywords: Latar tempat (setting), Pengalaman hidup , Perubahan kepribadia

Introduction

Every man in the world certainly tends to develop from a state of dependence to a state of relative independence. They also tend to develop from a lack of self-awareness to an awareness of control over oneself. Everybody undergoes a change or a development in his personality since a man is a social creature. As a social creature, of course, a man will communicate with other people in his life. In this condition a man depends upon others so that he cannot live alone, so does Robinson Crusoe. Such a situation, of course, will have a certain influence to the change of his personality though there are also many factors that will build up the change of his personality.

Each man in the world has different personality. No two persons are completely alike. Each person has got his own basic personality and develops even changes his own personality by the influence of his environments as well as his life experiences. The change or the development of personality in a man's life has been shaped and built since he was a child. At first, his personality is built in his family. Therefore, a good family is a good place for children to grow up. School is a second place where a child grows up. It is environment and also the events experienced by someone in his life that can influence the growth of his personality.

The novel, *Robinson Crusoe*, tells about the main character that undergoes the change or development of his personality in his life. Several events he has undergone in his life (his life experiences) and the setting (environment) as well as the interaction with other characters have influenced much the change or the development of his personality.

Method of Research

The research is done by deskwork that is a research process which does not require going into the field. It means that data are taken from printed books, journal, articles and essay (Blaxter, 2006:65).It is also conducted through qualitative method in which the format of data is textual data and not numerical ones. Qualitative Research is used to explain and explore the informations , the

data and the fact. The data will be written in the research as question, it can be direct or indirect quotation.

The data collected are taken from: first. the novel, *Robinson Crusoe* ; second, some references dealing with the topic discussed in the research such as the biography of the writer, journals or articles about personality and also those from internet.

After collecting the data it is started analyzing them by applying Henry Murray's theory of personality especially the second and the third elements of his theory that is situational and constitutional determinants. The steps of analysis can be explained as follows: 1. Identifying the events or life experiences that Crusoe has experienced; 2. Identifying Crusoe's personality before and after doing his life adventure in the three places especially in the Island ; 3. To what extend do the places and his life experiences give influence to his personality change.

Dicussion

1. The Events Causing the Change of Robinson Crusoe's personality

The change as well as the development of someone's personality is not only influenced by his environment, but also the events he has ever experienced in his life . In this novel, Robinson Crusoe undergoes many events in his life, such as his failure to sail and ashore in the remote island.

The event of failure in sailing does not affect Robinson Crusoe to go to sea for adventure. He begins his first voyage at Hull by ship. The ship begins to leave Hull and he is ready to sail going to Landon. The ship is no sooner gotten out of the Humber, but the wind begins to blow and the waves are very high in a terrifying manner. His experience in the first sea voyage has made him fearfully sick in body, but he is not easily disappointed.

“The ship was no sooner gotten out of the Humber but the wind began to blown and the sea to rise in almost frightful manner; and as I had never been at sea before, I was most inexpressibly sink in body and terrified in mind.”

(Defoe, 1994: 12)

By the time, after fourteen more days at sea Crusoe and his crew really have a terrible storm. The wind is blowing hard, they work hard at the pumps, but the water still rises. They shoot a gun and hope someone will hear them. Then, another ship hears them and sends a boat to help. They all get boats soon they have seen their ship sinks. The following quotation can prove it.

“By this time it blew a terrible storm indeed, and now I began to see terror and amazement in the faces even of the seamen themselves. The master, though vigilant in the business of preserving the ship, yet as he went in and out of his cabin by me, I could hear him softly to himself say several times, ”Lord, be merciful to us, we shall be all lost, we shall be all undone; and the like.”

(Defoe, 1994: 15)

This condition does not make Crusoe become afraid, he remains continuing his voyage even though a few days later a terrible hurricane comes to him.

“For being in the latitude of twelve degrees eighteen minutes, a second storm came upon us, Which carried us away with the same impetuosity westward and drove us so out of the very way of all human commerce, that had all our lives been saved as to the sea, we were rather in danger of being devoured by savages than ever returning to our own country.”

(Defoe, 1994: 46)

The quotation above proves that Crusoe and his crew get a trouble on their voyage again, and even the third accident is very dangerous.

One morning, when the wind is still blowing hard, one of their seamen calls out, because the ship hits a sandbank. Soon, they have got in the boat before the ship sinks gradually.

“In this distress, the wind still blowing very hard one of our men early in the morning cried out, “Land”; and we had no sooner run out of the cabin to look out in the hopes seeing whereabouts in the word we were but the ship stuck upon a sand, and in a moment, her motion being so stooped, the sea broke over her in such a manner that we expected we should all have perished immediately; and we were immediately driven into our close quarter to shelter us from the very foam and spray of the sea.”

(Defoe, 1994: 46)

As soon as, they have got in the boat, the wild waves throw them in all directions. They row by hand and try to get to land, but a big wave overturns the

boat. The sea takes them in a moment. The waves carry Crusoe toward the shore and leave him there. He is filled with water and half dead, but the wild sea comes after him. The wave carries him out to sea again but then, it throws him back to land. The wave carries him to the land. The following quotation is as a proof:

“I was now landed and safe on shore, and began to look u and thank God that my life was saved in a case wherein there was some minutes before scarce any room to hope.”

“I cast my eyes to the stranded vessel, when, the breach and froth of the sea being so big, I could hardly see it, it lay so far off, considered, Lord! How was it possible I could get on shore!”

(Defoe, 1994: 50)

When Crusoe has been on the shore, he begins to think about what kind of a place he is in, and what is next to be done. The following quotation describes how Crusoe must struggle the nature to save himself from death.

“All the remedy that offered to my thoughts at that time was to get up into a thick bushy three like a fir, but thorny, which grew near me, and where I resolved to sit all night, and consider the next day what death I should die, for as yet I saw no prospect of life; I walked about a furlong from the shore, to see if I could find any fresh water to drink, which I did, to my great joy; and having drunk, and put a little tobacco in my mouth to prevent hunger, I went to the tree, and getting up into it, endeavoured to place my self so as that if I should sleep I might no fall; and having cut me a short stick, like a truncheon, tor my defence, I took up my lodging, and having been excessively fatigued, I fell fast asleep, and slept as comfortably as, I believe, few could have done in my condition, and found my self the most refreshed with it that I think I ever was on such an occasion.”

(Defoe, 1994: 51)

Besides that, Crusoe still gets another trouble when he lives in the island. One day, when Crusoe is standing by his cave, some rocks almost kill him because an earthquake comes in the island. The ground is shaking violently; the sky grows cloudy, the wind rises and in less that half an hour, a terrible storm blows up. The sea is mountain high, and trees are torn up by their roots, this lasts about three hours. After the two hours, all are peaceful, and it begins to rain very hard soon. The quotation below points on Crusoe’s condition in struggling against the wild nature during his life.

“While I sat thus, I found the air overcast, and grow cloudy, as if it would rain; soon after that the wind rose by little and little, so that in less

that half an hour it blew a most dreadful hurricane. The sea was all on a sudden covered over with foam and forth, the shore was covered with the breach of the water, the trees were torn up by the roots, and a terrible storm it was; and this held about, and the began to abate, and in two hours more it was stark calm, and began to rain very hard.”

(Defoe, 1994: 83)

When Crusoe lives in the island , he must seek something else to be eaten. He tries to plant the grain, because the earth is good, so the grain grows well. Sometimes he kills the animal to be eaten. His suffering from hunger dominates him; so it makes him hard to walk around and look for something that can fulfill his stomach.

After he is in the island for a long time, he thinks about escaping from this island. The following quotation is as a proof:

“All the while these were doing, you my be sure my thoughts ran many times upon the prospect of land which I had see from the other side of the island, and I was not without secret wishes that I were on shore there, fancying that seeing the mainland, and an inhabited country, I might find some way our other to convey myself farther, and perhaps at last find some means of escape.”

(Defoe, 1994: 124)

Then he decides to make a boat from a big tree. For about five months, he has finished the boat and he begins a voyage, but he fails to carry out his dreams. One day, he was going along the shore and he saw a foot print in the sand. He was very afraid and he ran very fast. That night, he stayed awake. He thought that the foot print was the devil. For three days and nights he does not leave his house. When he gets to the shore he sees that the footprint is much bigger than his own foot.

“Secondly, when I came to measure the mark with my own foot, I found my foot not so large by a great deal.”

(Defoe, 1994: 157)

When Crusoe sees the cannibals will kill one of their own members to be eaten, he has the desire to save him because he will get a companion and helper for himself. His desire can be proved with the quotation below:

“It came now very warmly upon my thoughts, and indeed irresistible, that now was my time to get me a servant, and perhaps a companion, or assistant; and that I was called plainly by providence to save this poor creature’s life.”

(Defoe, 1994: 199)

From the statement above, Crusoe has the desire to save Friday. when he lives alone in the island, he feels lonely. After he has saved Friday, Crusoe has a new friend and he is not alone again in the island. All of the events above have affected his personality.

2. The Changes of Robinson Crusoe’s Personality

Everyone has different personality. The change of place, time and situation can influence the change of someone’s personality. It is showed that environment as well as his life experiences can change his personality.

Robinson Crusoe grows in a good welfare family. As his two elder brothers went to the battle, which one of them died and another is not known about his fate. So Crusoe becomes the one who is well looked after by his parents. They hope Crusoe to be the next family generation, who brings the honor of the family. That is why his father gives him good education and hopes him to be a lawyer. His father always emphasizes him to obey his willing. In fact, Crusoe does not want to become a lawyer, he wants to go abroad. The pressure of his father makes him rebel against him. This proves that a family does not always form good character to their children as long as they keep emphasizing their own desire. The good advice of his father is rejected by Crusoe. One of his advices is that going abroad will not bring goodness for Crusoe. Moreover, his father tells him that it is the life of a man who has desperate fortunes. It arouses his desire to go to sea. Knowing his son is still eager to go abroad, he becomes angry and curses Crusoe. The following quotation proves it:

“That boy might be happy if he would stay at home, but if he goes abroad, he will be the most miserable wretch the was ever born; I can give no consent to it.”

(Defoe, 1994: 12)

His father's advice and pressure have made Crusoe run away from home and go abroad to sea with his friend. He is an egoist and disobedient to his father.

It is true to say that Robinson Crusoe is a strong man who always struggles for his life and he never feels hopeless. He is sometimes ready to face the possibility of defeat at every moment in his long struggle. His actions, his decision and his personality mostly rely in what will be the consequence of the struggle.

When Crusoe goes to sea for his adventure, Suddenly the ship faces the storm and the shipwrecked off the coast. Crusoe has saved from shipwreck and he has been at ashore in the island where no one else lives there. These events, of course, has influenced his personality. He is sad, lonely and frightened but Crusoe thinks that he must struggle to survive. This can be seen in the quotation below:

“I walked about on the shore, lifting up my hands, and my whole being, as I my say, wrapped up in the contemplation of my deliverance, making a thousand gesture and motions which I cannot describe, reflecting upon all my comrades that were drowned and that there should not be one soul saved but my self; for, as for them, I never saw them afterwards, or any signs of them, except their hats, one cap, and two shoes that were not fellows.”

(Defoe, 1994: 50)

From the quotation above, it can be seen that Crusoe lives alone in the island. He feels sad and alone. Such an event has made him to struggle for his life. Crusoe has no food to eat, clothes and others. Fortunately, he finds the tools left on the board. He tries to get anything that is useful for him, for example, foods, clothes, carpenter tools, weapons. This can be seen in the following quotation:

“...I found that all the ship's provisions were dry and untouched by the water, and being very well disposed to eat, I went to the bread-room and filled my pockets with biscuit, and ate it as I went about other things, for I had no time to lose; I also found some rum in the great cabin, of which I took a large dram, and which I had indeed need enough of to spirit me for what was before me. Now I wanted nothing but a boat to furnish my self with many things which I foresaw would be very necessary to me.”

(Defoe, 1994: 53)

Another quotation also shows:

“My next care was some ammunition and arms; there were two very good fowling pieces in the cabin, and two pistols; these I secured first, with some powder horns, and small bag of shot, and two old rusty swords; I know there were three barrels of powder in the ship, but know not where our had stowed them, but with much search I found them, two of them dry and good, the third had taken water; those two I got to my raft with the arms. And now I thought pretty well freighted, and begin to think how I get to shore with them, having neither sail, oar, or rudder and the least capful of wind would have upset all my navigation”

(Defoe, 1994: 54)

The quotations above prove that Crusoe succeeds to find them all and he also uses the tools very well. He does not think longer but how to protect himself from wild animal, weather, savage or something else. However, he needs a good place for his shelter. He builds two tents, small and the bigger one, as a place to rely on and to put his stuffs. He calls his settlement “fortress” because it looks like a fortress than a house.

“Into this fence or fortress, with infinite labour, I carried all my riches, all my provisions, ammunition, and stores, of which you have the account above; and I made me a large tent, which, to preserve me from the rains that in one part of the year are very violent there, I made double viz. , one smaller tent within, and one larger tent above it, and covered the uppermost with a large tarpaulin which I had saved among the sails. “

(Defoe, 1994: 63)

After Crusoe builds his fortress, he tries to hunt animals as his food and he gets to survive in the island. Robinson Crusoe thinks that he has to thank to God because his life is saved by Him. When he is ashore in the island he feels lonely and he prays to God. First of all, he is not paying so much attention to his religion, but after getting some great incidents, he is aware of and conscious about God. The following quotation proves it:

“So void was I of everything that was good, or of the least sense of what I was to be, that in the greatest deliverances I enjoyed, such as my escape from Sallee, my being taken up by Portuguese master of the ship, my being planted so well in Brazil, my receiving the cargo from England, and the like, I never had once the word, “Thank God,” so much as on my mind, or in my mouth; nor in the greatest distress had I so much as a thought to pray to Him; or so much as to say, “Lord, have mercy upon me”; no, nor to mention the name of God, unless it was to swear by and blaspheme it.”

(Defoe, 1994: 131)

Crusoe begins to realize and believe that God is the One who always helps him through his experiences at sea and shore as well as in the island in which no one lives there except him. He considers that only God who can save and protect him in the island. He always reads Bible, because he believes it will strengthen himself that God always be with him and helps him. For example, one day he accidentally saw the growth of barley near his house in the time or climate which was not proper to the growth of corn. He believed that it was because of God. The following quotation gives a proof:

“It is impossible to express the astonishment and confusion of my thought on this occasion; I had hitherto acted upon no religious foundation at all; indeed I had very few notions of religion in my head, no had entertained any sense of anything that had befallen me, otherwise than as a chance, or, as we lightly say, what pleases God; without so much as inquiring into the end of Providence in these things, or His order in governing events in the world. But after I saw burl grow there, in a climate which I know was not proper for corn, and especially that I knew how it came there, it startled me strangely, and I began to suggest that God had miraculously caused this grain to grow without any help of seed sown, and that it was so directed purely for any sustenance on that miserable place.”

(Defoe, 1994: 80)

Crusoe begins to feel boring in the island, because he has spent his time with his activities, such as hunting, planting and building a tent. When he gets ill, he is frightened and sad, he prays to God. His belief in God is strong and God has had great value in Crusoe's mind.

“June 21. Very ill frightened almost to death with apprehension of my sad condition, to be sick and no help. Prayed to God for he first time since the storm off of Hull, but scarce know what I said, or why; my thoughts being confused”

(Defoe, 1994: 88)

Crusoe brings himself closer to God when he is ill. He prays and prays. He believes that God will help him to pass his suffering. He believes that God's hand will make everything good. It is proved when he finds a chest full of tobacco, which is in the first time he does not know what it is used for , as seen in this quotation:

“I went, directed by Heaven, no doubt, for in this chest I found a cure both for soul and body. I opened the chest, and found what I looked

for, viz., the tobacco; and as the few books I have saved lay there too, I took out one of the Bibles which I mentioned before, and which to this time I had not found leisure, or so much as inclination, to look into; I say, I took it out, and brought both that and the tobacco with me to the table.”

“What use to make of the tobacco I knew not, as to my distemper, or whether it was good for it or no; but I tried several experiments with it, as if I was resolved it should hit one way or other. I first took a piece of a leaf, and chewed it in my mouth, which indeed at first almost stupefied my brain, the tobacco being green and strong and that I had not been much used to it; then I took some and steeped it an hour or two in some rum, and resolved to take a dose of it when I lay down; and lastly, I burn some upon a pan of coals, and held my nose close over the smoke of it as long as I could bear it, as well for the best as almost for suffocation.”

(Defoe, 1994: 95)

Then, Crusoe consumes it with rum. Patiently, he takes a rest, prays, and takes his medicine that is tobacco. However, that medicine will not cure his illness if he does not add it by praying to God. He convinces that praying to God will make the medicine more efficacious. Without God’s help, the herbs will be useless and become just ordinary plants. This proves that Robinson Crusoe has been a religious person because he believes in God at all. Then finally he recovers from his illness. The proof is as follows:

“I was, as it were, made to ask myself such question as these, viz.: Have I not been delivered, and wonderfully, too, from sickness? From the most distressed condition that could be, and that was so frightful to me? And what notice had I taken of it? Had I done my part? God had delivered me, but I had not glorified Him; that is to say, I had not owned and been thankful for that as deliverance, and how could I expect greater deliverance?”

“This touched my heart very much and immediately I kneeled down and gave God thanks aloud for my recovery for my sickness.”

(Defoe, 1994: 97)

The quotation above informs that Crusoe believes in God because God has helped him much in difficult condition. God is everything for him and God had saved his life. After having some survival - adventure events, Robinson Crusoe has become a religious man.

CONCLUSION

Robinson Crusoe is one of Daniel Defoe's best novels telling about a story of Robinson Crusoe's life experiences in the three places such as in York, at sea and in the island. From those places, he gets some life experiences that give influence to his personality.

The change as well as the development of the main character's personality is largely influenced by his interaction with his environment, the society and the natural surrounding. The first setting is Crusoe's living in York; it shows that he becomes an egoist person when his parents ask him to become a lawyer, but he rejects it. Instead of it, he decides to go to sea for adventure because he thinks that it is one of more wonderful things in his life than becomes a lawyer. This event has really influenced and changed his personality.

The second setting is at sea in which during his voyage at sea, he is afraid of the great waves and the wind blowing terribly; however, such a life experience has built up his personality to be strong person.

The last setting is in the island. It is the most dominant setting established in the novel which has a great role in changing and developing the personality of Robinson Crusoe because his personality change and development is formed by situational determinant. Situational determinant is made up by his day-to-day experiences. In the island Crusoe must survive from zero until he finds a way to come back home. Some experiences that he has undergone in the island have taught him about many things such as : giving him good lesson to be survival of the fittest, believing in greatness of God and many other substantial meaning of life.

Finally after analyzing the setting, consisting of the three places, and the events undergone by Crusoe as the main character of the novel, it can be concluded that the setting and the events he has experienced during his life adventure have given the influence on the change as well as the development of his personality.

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