

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Perhaps it is logical to assume that all men's life story began firstly on adolescence, in that time the superiority of one person is determined Eastwood Atwates (1983 :107). Adolescence, according to Eastwood Atwates, is the time which encompasses a large emotion. Tension and spirit become an important part for their existences to point out one thick personality even though it inevitably has appeared and rebuilt new problem.

Literature is also used to express of what we feel and understand about something, and it may has some significances to express total meaning. Another assumption, literature is defined as the expression of beautiful thought and idea in beautiful form. In this case the work refers to imaginative and touching words and draws only a certain capacity of human beings. However it is still hard to say why some people have always displayed something they know to a shape of creation which is sometimes believed as an imaginative work. Perhaps it began to find the way to overcome unanswerable question of humanity and all aspects in it or perhaps it began as the only way to surpass boredom. Whatever the reasons, the attraction has lasted over a long period of time, and it goes on till today.

People usually enjoy the stories either merely for pleasure or as the source of knowledge and understanding. The tradition of telling and hearing stories has existed since the ancient period. Yet, after the age of written language, literature

and its work occurs to fulfill people needs not only of factual information, but also of distinctive amusement or satisfaction (Barnett, Berman, Burto, 1989:8).

Literature sometimes presents one's attitude that all people dislike or otherwise, it shows an action which would like to do. Whatever displays showed in literature, the most important thing, literature is used to influencing people, therefore they will have great concern toward situation exposed. One of literary work is the novel, which can be a true story or an imaginary one. Before the story becomes a novel, there are a number of incidents, experiments, and ideas in the mind of the novelist. Among many options of literary works, novel has its own power and magnet to attract a great number of readers throughout the world. Among they are romantic, detective, mystery, and autobiographical novels.

Nathaniel Hawthorne was born in Salem, Massachusetts on Independence Day 1804. His family descended from Puritan immigrants, who become the earliest settlers of Massachusetts Bay colony. After college, he wrote the bulk of his masterful tales of American colonial history, many of which were collected in his *Twice-old-Tales*. (1837). He met Sophia Peabody in the fall of 1838, and was engaged within a few months.

Nathaniel Hawthorne is a novelist who often picks human condition as the theme of his novel. Among those are *The Blithedale Romance*, *The House of the Seven Gables*, and *The Scarlet Letter*. They are all great literary works. These character, who love each other and have performed and adultery, are forced to hide their feeling and some truths about their life by the strict rules and tradition of Puritan's society.

By the statements above, the writer wants to examine those behavior that lead to the revelation of the true personality. Through a deep analysis on the character's personality, the writer tries to comprehend the human psychological condition which will result in better understanding of such literary works.

The Scarlet Letter was published as a novel in the spring of 1850 by Ticknor & Fields. *The Scarlet Letter* opens with a preamble about how the book come to be written. The narrator was the surveyor of Custom House in Salem, Massachussets. There, he discovered a manuscript bundled with a scarlet, gold-embroidered patch of cloth in the shape of an "A". The manuscript detailed events at some two hundred years before the narrator's time. When the narrator lost his custom's post, he wrote a fiction of those events.

The story begins with Hester Prynne, who has just given birth to an illegimate daughter, leaving to the prison to serve her sentence of standing in the town scaffolds with her three month old baby. She has been required to wear a scarlet letter in the shape of "A", which it is stand for Adulteress on her chest. Hester has embroidered the A with beautiful gold thread and amazing artistry. While she is standing on the scaffold, Roger Chillingworth appears out of the woods and recognizes her. Hester is asked to name the man with whom she sins but she refuses.

The years pass and Hester's daughter, Pearl grows into an impetuous little girl. Hester has moved with Pearl into a small cottage on the outskirts of town and makes her living by embroidering and sewing clothing for the townspeople. Roger Chillingworth, who turns out to be Hester's long presumed-dead husband from

Europe, befriend's Hester minister, Arthur Dimmesdale, and the two eventually move in together. Chillingworth has billed himself as a physician, and therefore is able to care for Dimmesdale, who is in very poor health. One afternoon, while the minister sleeps, Chillingworth discovers a mark on the man's breast (the details of which are kept from the reader), which convinces him that his suspicions are correct.

Dimmesdale's health continues to decline, and Chillingworth's character changes noticeably. He becomes a demon like presence in Dimmesdale's life. Hester notices this change in Chillingworth and confronts him. It is suddenly clear that Chillingworth has determined that Dimmesdale is Pearl's father, and that Chillingworth intends to make Dimmesdale's life a living hell. Dimmesdale's psychological anguish deepens, and he invents new tortures for himself. In the meantime, Hester's charitable deeds and quiet humility have earned her a reprieve from the scorn of the community.

One night, when Pearl is about seven years old, she and her mother are returning home from a visit to a deathbed when they encounter Dimmesdale was a top the town scaffold, trying to punish himself for his sins. Hester and Pearls join him, and the three link hands. Dimmesdale refuses Pearl request that he acknowledge her publicly the next day, and a meteor marks a dull red "A" in the night sky.

After his dramatic admission and Dimmesdale's death, chillingworth no longer has anything to live for. He dies shortly thereafter. Hester and Pearl go to Europe for many years, and Hester eventually returns without her daughter. No

one knows where Pearl is, although Hester is seen sewing extravagant baby clothing that no one in the colony would ever use. In addition, Hester continues to receive letters from a man of great means throughout the rest of her life. She lives a long life, and serves as counselor to many troubled women, as well as a giver of charity. When she dies, Hester is buried next to Dimmesdale's sunken grave under a tombstone that says "On a Field, sable, the Letter A, Gules".

The Scarlet Letter can attract the writer, there are some reasons that can make this novel as a great work. First, *The Scarlet Letter* has a fine portrait for human soul, which has under great pressure. The main character of Arthur Dimmesdale as a young priest describes the repressed feeling or mind that can result several unique of behavior. As a priest who has religiousity and high devotion to God, he must show his kindness behavior through wise decision which creates peace in the society of environment.

Second, *The Scarlet Letter* is also the story about the struggle of couple of lovers who must endure their disgrace before the public accusation. The couple who love each other but have performed an adultery, are forced them to hide their feeling and also pulled them to hide some truths about their life's secret.

The third is social environment element which reflected in *The Scarlet Letter* novel. Puritan's society has strict rules and tradition. Living in severe community makes Arthur Dimmesdale added more burdens, especially in a priest's life.

The last reason is *The Scarlet Letter* leads the public opinion about the symbol in letter "A". Some people state that "A" is Adultery, it means person who

performed the sin in having sex illegimately. But the other people convey that “A” is Ability, both his and her ability in delivering speech to society,

The major of the problem in this research is how the psychoanalytic elements can build the impact of repressed emotion in Arthur’s personality. So the writer stated the title **UNFAVORABLE EFFECT OF MENTAL STRESS IN ARTHUR DIMMESDALE’S ROLE AS A PRIEST IN NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE’S NOVEL *THE SCARLET LETTER* (1986) ; A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH.**

B. Literature Review

The primary analysis in *The Scarlet Letter* by Fitri Sri Ariyanti, Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta in 2001, entitled “ Anxiety of Arthur Dimmesdale *The Scarlet Letter*. She uses psychoanalytic to find the data. The main study is to anlysis the anxiety of Arthur Dimmesdale and she builds the psychoanalytic for her research. The writer concern to convey the internal personality of Arthur Dimmesdale as a priest who must be sure having goodness in his personal life and why he decided to have sins with a woman unmarried with him

The second analysis in *The Scarlet Letter* by Hermina Napitulu, Sumatera Utara University of Medan in 2007, she uses a psychoanalytic approach entitled “An analysis in Main Character’s conflicts in *The Scarlet Letter* novel. She concentrates to the conflict in the main character of Arthur Dimmesdale’s

personality. The writer points out the main character which have influences to lead the story into the problems. It consist of softy, kindness, loving, unfaithfully, and also the crime. Each character has deep meaning in their society.

The differences between the both of previous writer are the analysis of the main character Arthur Dimmesdale's personality, the two previous are the same to synchronize the internal personality of Arthur Dimmesdale. But the writer uses the psychoanalytic approach to analyze the deep impact in repressed emotion as a priest in living a severe community.

C. Problem Statement

The problem that would like to be scrutinized in this research is "How is Unfavorable effect of mental stress in Arthur Dimmesdale's Role As a Priest which reflected totality as stated in Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel *The Scarlet Letter* " ?

D. Limitation of the Study

Limitation of the study is an important section to focus a study into some certain problem. By this study, a discussion of an object will not wander away from the major problem. The writer will center the analysis on the intrinsic elements of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*. After knowing the basic aspects of the novel, then the writing must be limited on the analysis of human psychological condition by using Freud's personality theories.

E. Objectives of the Study

Based on the background of the study above, the objectives of the study can be concluded as follow :

1. To apply personality theory in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*
2. To reveal the reflection of repressed thought and feeling towards human behavior through the analysis of character in the novel.
3. To develop the writer's ability in interpreting and appreciating a literary work by the support from the available theories.

F. The Benefits of the Study

This research is expected to have some benefits as follows :

1. Theoretical benefit

The research may be able to give contribution to literary development for English students in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

2. Practical Benefit

The result of the study is expected to have any use to encourage the progress in literary study. Particularly on the students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta..

G. Theoretical Approach

The step to reveal the main character's personalities is definitely the psychoanalytical theories from the father of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud. In the beginning, psychoanalysis was a method of psychotherapy which was used by

Freud to analyze and cure his great number of patients who suffer the personality and mental disorders.

1. Freud's Psychoanalytic Theories

Now, the method used not only as psychological therapy, but also as one literary criticism perspective. It is because psychology, especially of that developed by Freud, is closely related to the study of character in the literary work. Among Freud's principles, the writer takes some necessary theories in this study. They are as follow :

a. Unconsciousness

Freud suggest a structural model of mind which is divided into three areas. They are consciousness, pre-conciousness, and unconciousness. However Freud did not tell much about conciousness because it is clear part of human personality. While pre-conciousness contains memories that are not currently recognized, but it can be easily brought into consciousness. Freud concern was focused on the next part of human mind that is the unconsciousness. It is a place of desires, motives, or memories which are repressed into the unconscious mind. The repression is needed because those emotion can be dangerous, threatening, or too painful if they are allowed to stay in the conscious mind.

Freud connected the explanation of unconciousness with his most original study, the interpretation of dreams. The dreams was believed by Freud as an effort on the section of human mind to fulfill desires, usually of sexuality or aggressiveness, which can not be fulfilled in the reality.

b. *Id, ego, and superego*

Freud proposed a further explanation about the three areas of mind above that is the other three elements of personality consisting of *id, ego* and *superego*. All of them have totally different function and characteristic that lead to a conflict in human mind. According to Lahey (1986 :428), the explanation of these parts are as follow :

1) *Id*

Id is the intuitive section of the unconscious mind which applies the major process to satisfy its desires. It works based on the pleasure principle. Sometimes it is called selfish beast because of its great and self centered biological needs.

2) *Ego*

The ego appears into existence because the needs of id must be satisfied in a realistic and save ways. It works based on the reality principle that aims to give satisfaction to the id by using certain mechanism to avoid conflict with the superego.

3) *Superego*

The superego is the section of the mind, which stands against the need of the id by using moral principles. The purpose of superego is gain the ideal and ethical situation that can be accepted by society. It is also usually called as the conscience (sense of right or wrong) and ego ideal (what the person would like to be)

c. Anxiety

Freud thought anxiety result from a person's internal conflicts. According to his theory, people feels anxious when they feel torn between moral restrictions and desires or urges toward certain actions (Zaviera, 2000 : 97). As an individual tends to posses certain desires which oppose the ideal value of the society, repression has to be done.

d. Defense mechanisms

These mecha nisms are the method by which the ego can temporarily solve the conflicts between the *Id* and *Superego*. It may also be explained that these are the way of which the mind can bring its repressed feeling out through a more accepted behavior. The use of defense mecahanisms may overcome the conflict between the *Id* and *Superego*, but their overuse or reuse rather than confrontation can result in psychological disorders.

2. Structural Elements of the Novel

The most common to analyze any literary work is of course by examining its structure through the narrative theory. There are four kinds of narrative theory used in this research :

a. Theme

“ Theme of story is whatever general idea or insight the entire story reveals” (Kennedy and Gioia, 1993 : 175). This statement is also strengthened by Holaman (1980 : 443), who says that in literary fiction, theme is the abstract conception that is made actual by its demonstration in a person, action and image. However, the existence of a theme in

fiction is often shadowy. That is why the reader must observe the summary of the main idea. Beside, a theme is also often blurred with the presence of its object.

b. Plot

Based on Mayer (1990 :38), plot is the way that is used by the author to arrange the order of events in a story. It is undeniable that there are a lot of incidents occurring in a fiction, especially in short story or novel. That is why the author of fiction has to organize many kinds of happening in a good and particular order. There are some common and important divisions in a story. According to Kenney (1966: 14-19), those divisions are :

1) The Beginning

In this section, the author provides a number of information to introduce the character. This kind of introduce is usually called exposition.

2) The Middle

Here the conflict occurs and develop into a climax situation. To reach the climax, the author increases the complication of the problem to its highest intensity.

3) The End

In the end, the story finds its solution or outcome for the problem and leaves the climax situation.

c. Character

Generally people are familiar with human personality as the character of the story. “ A character is presumably an imagined person who inhabit story, although that simple definition may admit to a few exceptions “ (Kennedy and Gioia, 1993:60)

d. Setting

Actually, setting as the description of physical environment includes more elements than just time and places. Sometimes, it includes nature or weather condition, public tradition. It is used not only to provide the background of the story, but also to give some influences to the some characters’ personality. To make the discussion easier, there must be divisions of the element.

H. Theoretical Application

The writer applies two kinds of approach in this writing. The first one is structural approach that focuses on the type and description of theme, plot, character and setting. It should be done because later it will make the writer easier in taking further analysis, Kennedy and Gioia (1999: 1879).

The second approach is surely the psychoanalytic approach. It is used since the literary work has a strong connection with human life. In this thesis the writer use Freud’s psychoanalytic theories to reveal the character’s psychological condition.

I. Research Method

In arranging the study, the main subject is derived from the novel *The Scarlet Letter* written by Nathaniel Hawthorne, and this research is classified within' descriptive qualitative study. The data of the study are texts, either words, phrase, or sentences that are gained from the novel.

The writer used the library research to gain the accurate data in creating a valid and accountable thesis. The application of this method is by scrutinizing library materials which have strong relation with the problem examined in this writing. Through this method of the research, the writer can build a focused discussion and organized the existing research that connected with her research.

The data are divided into two types, which are :

1. Main Data : It consists of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*
2. Supporting Data : These are collected from the books and internet sources that deal with the theories used in the analysis. The description of the sources can be seen in bibliography section.

J. Research Paper Organization

Chapter I, this chapter consists of Introduction, it covers the background of study, Literature Review, Problem Statements, Limitation of the Study, Objectives of the Study, Benefits of the Study, Research Method, and Paper Organization.

Chapter I is Introduction of the research which includes the background of study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, theoretical approach, research method, and paper organization.

Chapter II is Author's Biography and its historical background and the society.

Chapter III is Underlying Theory, It consists of Psychoanalytic of Literature and the elements of its.

Chapter IV is Discussion about the character's Appearances, Character's Personality, The social environment.

Chapter V is Conclusion and Suggestion.