

**COPING BEHAVIOR OF LUTHER KRANK
IN JOHN GRISHAM'S *SKIPPING CHRISTMAS*:
AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**



Research Paper

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Every people in the world surely has had too much of something in face of their own life problems. There are a lot of life problems that can disturb and make people bored. Sometimes they have tired to see all day long rutinity. Beside that, Economic, social, culture, even thought national condition problem may also cause one of life problems. The saturation generated causes when we face of hubbub in a big event in life.

When some body facing the problem big event in his life, it makes him on the point of saturation, he has his own ways to solve it. Everybody has differentiated with others to find out the solution of the problem, with his own characteristic. Their characteristics also influence someone's way of thinking to develop him self to face the life. When people face the problem, they will try to solve the problem by using the method which they have learnt from environment as the affection of social interaction. As the result there is no two people seem to be exactly alike, its depend from their own character.

Meanwhile, in the literary work the author always depicts the human life in the character of the story. Literary work and life have the relationship because the literary work displaces the real daily life characters, situation and problem. The literature gives us knowledge to understanding of the reality of life in order to be

realistic.

According to the above explanatory, there is a relationship between literary work and psychology. The problem which is usually in the literary is the characterization which indicates frustration, excessive of inferiority feeling his withdrawal from social interaction and his creativity in coping and solving the problems that are caused from situation around him. That is why there are a lot of authors displace the realism of life into the literary. One author who involves the situations of human life in his literary work is John Grisham in his novel *Skipping Christmas*.

John Grisham was born on February 8, 1955 in Jonesboro, Arkansas. His father, a cotton farmer and itinerant construction worker moved the family frequently, from town to another town throughout the Deep South, settling in Southaven, Mississippi in 1967. After graduating from the University of Mississippi law school, he established a small private legal practice in Southaven Mississippi. He was elected to Mississippi House of Representatives in 1983. By his second term he held the vice chairmanship of the Apportionment and Elections Committee, as well as memberships on the Insurance, Judiciary A, and Military Affairs Committee.

In Mississippi, attorneys in private practice are sometimes called upon to appear as public defenders for indigent clients. In this way, Grisham received invaluable experience of the criminal justice system. Inspired by a case he observed in a Mississippi courthouse, Grisham decided to write a novel. He closed his law practice and moved his family to Oxford, Mississippi, determined to concentrate on

his writing. At age 36, his career as a novelist bloomed when movie rights to *The Firm* were sold for a hefty price, even before the book had found a publisher. Within a few years, *The Firm*, *The Pelican Brief*, and his subsequent effort, *The Client*, (1993) had all been made into successful films. His other novels include *The Chamber* (1994), *The Rainmaker* (1995), *The Runaway Jury* (1996), and *The Partner* (1997). *Skipping Christmas* is non legal fiction novel, and another non legal fiction novel are : *A Painted house* (2001), *The Bleachers* (2003), and *Playing for Pizza* (2007).

The Novel *Skipping Christmas* has been published in 2001 by Bantam Dell, in 227 pages. This novel tells us about Luther Krank idea to find out of his problem in hubbub of Christmas with Imagine a year without Christmas. With their daughter graduating from college and leaving to spend a year in Peru with the peace Corp, Luther and his wife, Nora decide not to celebrate Christmas this year. Instead, they decide to take the money that they would normally spend on all the trimmings and take Caribbean Cruise. That means no crowded shops, no corny office parties, no fruitcakes, no unwanted presents, no decoration, no donations and no annual party. That's just what Luther and Nora Krank have in mind when they decide that, just this once, they'll skip the holiday altogether. The Kranks will be the only house on the street without a rooftop Frosty the snowman; they won't be hosting their annual Christmas Eve bash; they aren't even going to have a tree. They won't need one, because come December 25 they're setting sail on a Caribbean cruise. But, as this

weary couple is about to discover, skipping Christmas brings enormous consequences-and isn't half as easy as they'd imagined.

Word quickly spreads throughout this small town that the Kranks are not celebrating Christmas and will not be participating in the neighborhood or town festivities. Instead their time is spent in tanning booths in preparation for the hot Caribbean sun. The neighbors harass them every chance they get and picket signs even appear on their front lawn. The neighborhood blames them for not winning the annual "best decorated street contest", as there is the only house not decorated.

On Christmas Eve, the Kranks get a surprise call from their daughter that she will indeed be coming home for Christmas and will be there in six hours with her new fiancée! And the problem begins from there. The daughter unknown anything was amiss or different from any other year. Still in a state of shock as his careful plan falls apart, Luther must scramble to make up for weeks of inaction. As same for the course in these types of stories, hilarity ensues. Luther can't find a tree this late; all of the decorations are in boxes in the attic; their friends have already made commitments and won't be able to attend the Kranks annual Christmas Eve party that has been hastily resurrected. Nora can't find any decent food to prepare either and the crowds are horrendous. In the end, despite their efforts, it looks as if Christmas will be disaster. Instead, the very same neighbors who were putting so much pressure on the Kranks about skipping Christmas come to rescue once they learn on Blair's impending return. Everyone swings into action and does their part to make this

Christmas perfect. A classic tale for modern times, *Skipping Christmas* offers a hilarious look at the chaos and frenzy that has become part of our holiday tradition.

From illustration above there is a psychological reason in them. This makes the researcher interested in studying this novel deeply. In this research, the researcher analyzes John Grisham's Novel using an individual psychological approach

B. Literary Review

Umar faruk has ever conducted the study about John Grisham's *Skipping Christmas* in his thesis entitled "Anxiety in John Grisham's *Skipping Christmas* using Psychoanalytic approach"

Meanwhile, In this research, the researcher focused the study on the switched identities of major Character in John Grisham's *Skipping Christmas* by Alfred's theory of individual Psychological perspective to analyze David Luther Krank as the major Character in coping his problem of life that influences his personality.

C. Problem Statement

The major problem of the research is how Luther Krank as the main character of John Grisham's *Skipping Christmas* copes his problem to skip Christmas?

D. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze the novel *Skipping Christmas* based on its structural elements by finding characters and characterizations, setting, point, of view, plot, and theme.

2. To analyze the novel based on the Psychological Approach

E. Benefit of the Study

The study is expected to be able to provide the following benefits:

1. Theoretically

The result of the study is expected to be able to give theoretical contributions in literature study, particularly the application of individual psychological analysis in literary study.

2. Practically

Hopefully this study can help the other researchers to give additional knowledge about psychological theory in a literary work, or as the reference to the other researchers in analyzing the novel into different perspective.

F. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

This research uses descriptive qualitative method because it does not need a statistic analysis to explore the fact. It is only focused on the analysis of technical data.

2. Type of the Data and the Data Source

The sources of data are divided into primary and secondary data source. The primary data source is the novel *Skipping Christmas* by John Grisham. While the secondary data are taken from some books and also other matters which support this analysis.

3. Technique of the Data Collection

The method used for collecting data is library research by collecting and selecting

both primary and secondary data. The researcher involves some required steps:

- a. reading some related references to observe the theory, data, and information
- b. taking notes of important part in both primary and secondary data sources
- c. taking some articles, which deal with the novel and also internet websites that support the analysis.

4. Technique of the Data Analysis

The researcher uses two kinds of technique in analyzing the novel. The first is descriptive by which that the researcher interprets the text and content relating to individual psychological condition. Secondly the researcher tries to describe the structural elements of the novel; the researcher reads some information within both primary and secondary data.

G. Research Organization

This research paper is divided into five chapters. Chapter I is introduction, which consists of background of the study, literary review, problem statement, objective of the study, research method and research organization. Chapter II is underlying theory involving the theory of individual psychology that is used to analyze the data. Chapter III is structural analysis. In this chapter, the writer explains the structural elements of the novel. Chapter IV is psychological analysis. Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion.