THE CHARACTERISTICS AND CAUSES OF JOSHPINE’S DEVIANT BEHAVIORS REFLECTED IN AGATHA CHRISTIE’S CROOKED HOUSE NOVEL (1949): PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH

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ABSTRACT


The research investigates how the major character occurs to get causes of Josephine’s deviant behaviors in Agatha Christie’s Crooked House Novel. The study analyzes the novel in terms of its structural elements and based on the psychoanalytic approach. The object of the study is the personality of the major character of Josephine. The data sources are literary data. Those are divided in two categories, primary data sources and secondary data some to are books and other sources which support the researcher in analyzing this research. The method of data collection of the study is library research. The technique of data analysis is descriptive analysis. Based on the analysis, the researcher draws two conclusions: first, based on the structural analysis of the novel, it has an important role to build up the story so each element. Second, the study shows that the cause deviant behaviors can change the personality. It is reflected in the major character’s personality when she wants to kill her grandfather and Nannie.

Keywords: Deviant Behaviors, Psychoanalytic Approach

I. Introduction

Background of the Study: One branch of literature work is novel. Nowadays, novel is very popular. The story of a novel about love and adventure has attracted readers. The language used in novels is usually simple and denotative. It contains a little complexity and ambiguity. Therefore, the novel is easier to read than poetry or play (Kennedy, 1979: 231).

A deviant behavior is a study investigating deviant behavior in normal families. It examines non problem children and their families in their homes. It provides information on rates of deviant behavior for children without identified behavioral difficulties and the interaction patterns of family members who deal with these children. It analyzes: (1) rate
of deviant child behavior, (2) agents who affect it, and (3) relationship between rate of deviant child behavior and patterns of family interaction (Johnson, Stephen:1972).

Setting of this novel is in the house, the location is England. Three generations of Leonides live together in a large, somewhat crooked looking house called “Crooked House”. Aristide Leonides, the owner of this house is extremely wealthy; he is murdered by a member of his family. The investigator and narrator are Charles Hayward, an officer of World War I and Sophia Leonides, who works as an administrator of the war. They fall in love with each other and continue their relationship until they come back to their hometown in London.

There are several reasons why this topic is chosen. First, the topic of the study represents the recent phenomena, in which a child as seen in the story is able to do crime acts such as killing someone or committing suicide. Therefore, this topic needs to be explored. Second, this topic could help to reveal the deviant behaviors of children as described in this novel, so that the writer can find out the motive behind the criminal actions done by Josephine, one of the characters who lives in the “Crooked House” and also the contribution of the characters in the main character’s emotional development.

Based on the background above the writer is interested in analyzing the major character using psychoanalytic approach by Sigmund Freud.

**Problem Statement** is “What the characteristics and causes of Josephine deviant behaviors are in Agatha Christie’s *Crooked House* novel (1949): a psychoanalytic approach.”

**Limitation of the Study** is the writer focuses this research in analyzing characteristic and causes of Josephine’s deviant behaviors in the *Crooked House* novel based on psychoanalytic approach.

**Objective of the Study** is to analyze characteristics and causes of Joshepine’s deviant behaviors reflected in Agatha Christie’s *Crooked House* novel (1949) based on its structural elements, to analyze charactericitis and causes of Joshepine’s deviant behaviors reflected in Agatha Christie’s *Crooked House* novel (1949) based on psychoanalytic approach.

**Literature Review**: First, Ellyas consulted *The Relevation of Miss Havisham Characteristic in the Charles Dicken’s Great Expectation* (2011), which gives some information about psychology and psychoanalysis approach. Second, Harum Zaedasih consulted *A psychoanalysis of the Concept of Dream Alexie’s Reservation Blues* (1997), which gives some information about character in novel. It is an interesting neighborhood,
for its on a clearly demarcated boundary: on one side, the intercity struggle for survival-economic and otherwise and on the other the affluence mansions lining lake Washington.

II. Research Method

In this research, the researcher uses the descriptive qualitative method. The data sources are library and literary data. The step to conduct the research are determining of the study, determining the object of the study, determining data and data source, determining technique of collecting data and determining of data analysis. Object of the study is a novel entitled “Crooked House”.

In doing this study, the writer uses two sources of data namely primary and secondary data sources. (1) Primary data source is the novel Crooked House, in the form of sentences and dialogue. (2) Secondary data from which supporting data are taken. It involves the theory of novel, psychology of children, emotional disturbance and psychoanalytic approach. Technique of collecting data are reading of the novel, taking notes of important parts both primary and secondary data, analysis means the writer analyses the data based on the theory of related literature.

III. Research Finding

In this research finding, the writer analysis some points in order to analyze Crooked House novel.

1. Analysis the structural element of Crooked House novel
   a. Characteristic element
      1) In this novel there are major character and minor character. The major character is Josephine.
         a. Major character is Josephine

         Josephine is a children character of this novel. Josephine is Sophia sister. She is eleven or twelve years of age (Christie, 1949:107)

         Physically, Josephine has a round face, prominent eyebrows and small black eyes (Christie,1949:107)

         Socially, Josephine is a ghoulish, tacky, and arrogant child.
         Her actions is horrible.


         Mentally, Josephine is a not polite. She is immodestly when speaking to Charles.

         “But you came down here with Chief-Inspector Traverner. Why did you come with Chief-Inspector Traverner?”
         What sort of things?
The things I know. I know a lot of things. I like knowing things” (Cristie,1949:108)

Morally, she has a bad morals, because she reverses the facts. In the story, she dislikes with roger, she always looks for others fault to cover up her mistakes.

“I think I do. It was something to do with Uncle Roger's office in London. I rather think-but I'm not sure- that he'd emblazed something. What makes you think that?”(Cristie ,1949:112)

b. Minor characters

1) Sophia

Sophia is Leonidies’s grandchildren. She is child of Philip and Magda.

Physically Sophia has a dark crisp hair, vivid blue eyes, small square fighting chin, and the straight nose(Christie,1949:8)

Charles loves all of Sophia’s physic.

“I liked the well-cut light-grey tailor-made, and the crisp white shirt. She looked refreshingly English and that appealed to me strongly after three years without seeing my native land”(Cristie, 1949:8)

Socially, she has a clear mind and a dry sense of humour. She is very delightful.

“She was person a person whom it was extraordinarily easy to talk to and we enjoyed our dinner and occasional dances very much”(Cristie,1949:7)

Mentally, Sophia is a good woman, she is very concerned with the problem of her grandfather's death and other problem.

“It’s just his death-you see, I think, Charles, that he didn’t just-die I think he may have been killed”(Cristie, 1949: 17)

Morally, she has a good idea, her idea can be interesting to other people.

2) Charles

Charles is boyfriend of Sophia. He is a good person and faithful.

Physically, Charles is faithful man.

Socially, Charles is a faithful person and good person. He is loyal to Sophia.

“I wrote to Sophia and heard from her fairly frequently. Her letters, like mine, were not love letters” (Cristie,1949:13)
When Charles heard the news about Leonides’s murder, immediately he sent two telegrams to Sophia.

“Just seen news of your grandfather’s death. Very sorry. Let me know when I can see you. Charles” (Cristie, 1949:14)

Mentally, he is a brave man, responsible with other people’s problem.

Charles helps the case of his father about problem of Sophia.

“Now what makes you say that, Charles?’
May information,’ I said, ‘came from the stable itself’ (Cristie, 1949:22).

Morally, he is a good person.

b. Setting

1. Setting of place

The story begins when Charles was acquainted to Shopia Leonides in Egypt when the war ended. Charles knew her first in an official capacity, and he soon appreciated the efficiency that had brought her to the position she held, in spite of her youth (she was at that time just twenty-two).

“We may not meet again for a couple of years,’ I said.
I don’t know when I shall get back to England. But as soon as I do get back, the first thing I shall do will be to come and see you and ask you to marry me” (Cristie, 1949:9)

2. Setting of time

Charles had arrived to England since September. He was sitting and reading a newspaper today. The newspaper on the 29th of September contain of the death of Aristide Leonides. In 1937 Philip and his family lived in the Leonides’s house because at the time there was of a bomb the first war. Aristide Leonides had been living since 1943. He has renewed the testament since 1946. The testament was made at the last 29th November. Joshepine’s head hit a marble, and Nannie had been seeing Josephine for five minutes previously. Joshepine and Eustace was studying until 12.30 p.m and they were break at 10.30 a.m. At 06.30 the door was opened. Josephine’s notebook showed that this note about her crime in her family.

c. Plot

1. Exposition

The exposition begins with the story break up between Charles and Sophia. Grandfather of Sophia sudden dead, the killer is Josephine. She is grandchild of Leonides.
2. Complication

Complications of the novel begin when Joshepine was speaking to Traverner that there is a second murder. When accident of Josephine, her head hit a marble stone and she was taken to the hospital “Market Basing”. According to Sophia, Josephine was suspending and swinging, because it is her favorite. Sophia saw Eustace and Josephine learning and breaking time.

3. Climax

Climax is the highest point where the chains of conflict reach the highest concentrating effort. The climax of Crooked House when Sophia was telling about Nannie. They had played as children with Nannie and tales that the old woman used to tell them about Roger and their father and the other brothers and sister. Sophia shivered a little.

4. Resolution

The resolution of this novel. When Sophia realized that the truth had stuck out. Josephine and Josephine fitted in with all the necessary qualifications. Sophia had never considered her because she was a child.

2. Psychoanalytic Theory

a. Id

According to the definition of instincts and related to Josephine’s deviant behavior, it is obvious that the death instinct of Josephine is stronger than her life one. It can be seen from her notes on her book that most of them are about making plans to kill other people.

“Eustace and I know a lot of things-but I know more than Eustace does.”
I’m going to write down everything in a notebook and then, when the police are completely baffled, I shall come forward and say, “I can tell you who did it”(Christie,1949:113).

Charles Hayward analyses the attitudes of Josephine all along, that she behaves over confidently, which actually indicates the fact that she is the perpetrator of the murder cases in her house. He adds her note with the conclusion as follows:

“The truth had stuck out so clearly all along. Josephine and only Josephine fitted in with all necessary qualifications. Her vanity, her persistent selfimportance, her delight in talking, her reiteration on how clever she was, and how stupid the police were” (Christie, 1949: 295).

b. Ego
The first *ego* is repression, Josephine cannot control her anxiety by repressing the bad impulses or motivation. It can be seen from her bad motivations that cause her to kill her grandfather and Nannie.

“I should say it’s about time for next murder, wouldn’t you? Well, in books there’s always a second murder about now. Someone who knows something is bumped off before they can tell what they know” (Christie, 1949:202)

The second *ego* is sublimation, it is about how to avoid anxiety by changing and adjusting primitive impulses into acceptable action. For example, she realizes her willing to know something by snooping, and listening at the doors.

“Josephine, I said, hasn’t anybody ever told you that it’s not nice to listen at doors?” I was stupid enough to let the inference escape me” (Christie, 1949:113)

c. Superego

The first *superego*, when Charles stood, hesitating, he heard a slight sound behind me. He turned his head sharply. Josephine, her face partially obscured by a very large looking at him. When Charles turned his head, Josephine turned away.

“Oh, I see, I said. I am sorry, Josephine. I’am really very sorry. You mean because he’s going bsnkrup’?
An usual Josephine was well informed” (Christie, 1949:154)

The second *superego*, when Charles asks to Josephine, she did not answer, but disappeared behind the hedge. She was seated on the uncomfortable rustic bench by the goldfish pond swinging her legs to and fro and biting into her apple.

“I’ve come down again, Josephine,’ I said.
is that a good apple?’ I asked”
It was a feeble opening, but I found Josephine’s silence and her ublinking gaze rather unnerving. (Cristie, 1949:153)

3. Theory of Deviant Behaviors

a. Deviant Behaviors

1. Disruption

Disruption is (causing noice, problem, impulsiveness, inappropriate behavior of feelings under normal circumstances). Josephine often acts
abnormally unlike her peers. It can be seen from the way she speaks and behaves, as follows:

“Sometimes, I think that child isn’t right in her head. She has horrible sneaky ways, and she looks queer….She gives me the shivers sometimes” (Christie, 1949: 99).

2. Aggression/ Self-Injurious Behavior

The topic of aggression is suitable with the bad attitude of Josephine since she has proved to be able to do some criminal actions for only simple reasons as the readers can see on the following dialogue between Charles Hayward and Josephine:

“Are you sorry your grandfather dead?” I asked.
“Not particularly. I didn’t like him much. He stopped me learning to be a ballet dancer”
Did you want to learn ballet dancing?
Yes, and mother was willing for me to learn, and father didn’t mind, but grandfather said I’d be no good.(Christie, 1949: 111).

3. Socially Maladjustment

From the story, the readers can find out that Josephine does not have any friends to share with because she does not go to school. She learns together with her brother, Eustace at home by hiring a private teacher, Lawrence Brown.

“She ought to have gone to school, had children of her own age to play with” (Christie, 1949: 160).

4. Immaturity

Immaturity is poor developed self, temper tantrums, poor coping skills. Josephine shows her anger by making plan to kill the person who makes her angry. It indicates that Josephine has temper tantrum and cannot solve her problem in a better way.

“Grandfather wouldn’t let me do bally dancing so I made my mind I would kill him” (Christie, 1949:299).

“I don’t want go to Switzerland. If mother makes me, I will kill her too-only I can’t get any poison. Perhaps I could make it with youberries. They are poisonous, the book says so” (Christie, 1949: 299).

b. Psychology of Children

1) Being Less Affection

In this case, emotional disturbance of Josephine may be caused by receiving less affection that she accepts from her surrounding that is her
family and friends. The readers will find that even her own brother does not care about her and he wants Josephine to live far away from him.

“Anyway,” he added, “girls can’t be detectives. I told her so. I think mother’s quite right and the sooner Jo’s packed off to Switzerland the better.”

“Wouldn’t you miss her?”

“Miss a kid of that age?” said Eustace haughtily. “Of course, not!” (Christie, 1949: 196).

Mother always down to London and bullying tame dramatist to rewrite plays for her, and making frightful fussess about nothing at all. And father shut up with his books.

“I don’t see why I should have to be burdened with such peculiar parents. There’s Uncle Roger—always so hearty that it makes you shudder. Aunt Clemency’s all right, she doesn’t brother you, but I sometimes think she’s a bit batty” (Christie, 1949: 196).

2) Being Overconfidence

Furthermore, they will always want to show-off their ability and underestimate other people. As well as Josephine, she has a very big confidence to tell Charles Hayward about her ability in knowing things and she also underestimates her brother, Eustace.

“Eustace and I know a lot of things—but I know more than Eustace does.”

“I’m going to write down everything in a notebook and then, when the police are completely baffled, I shall come forward and say, “I can tell you who did it” (Christie, 1949: 113).

Charles Hayward analyses the attitudes of Josephine all along, that she behaves over confidently, which actually indicates the facts that she is the perpetrator of the murder cases in her house. He adds her note with the conclusion as follows:

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3) Being Boredom

The following sentence indicates her boredom and satisfaction. She wants to kill Nannie because it can make her satisfied.

“If there is another murder, then the police will come back and it will be exciting again. Nannie’s dead. I am glad. I haven’t decided yet where I’ll hide the bottle with the little pill things.” (Christie, 1949: 300).

4) Being Discomfort and Unsafe
It is proved by the attitude of Josephine that she has written on her notebook, in which she is able to hurt other people because they have made her uncomfortable, as follows:

“Today I killed grandfather. Grandfather wouldn’t let me do bally dancing so I made up my mind I would kill him” (Christie, 1949: 299).

“I don’t want to go to Switzerland-I won’t go. If mother makes me I will kill her too” (Christie, 1949: 299).

IV. Conclusion

After analyzing psychoanalytic analysis of Crooked House novel, the researcher draws conclusion in the following.

Firstly, based on structural analysis, Crooked House novel has a good quality in all part of the novel that tell about deviant behaviors which is by child, that child who commit murder and all the family tried to uncover the truth, who is doing the killed. The characters, setting, plot, point of view, theme and style influence each other. The major character of Crooked House is Josephine, she is a ghoulish child and bright child.

Secondly, based on psychoanalytic analysis of this novel, cause of deviant behavior. According to the psychoanalysis approach, abnormal behavior and the anxiety, depressions, and phobias that go with them are called psychoneurotic symptoms. The id of Josephine is supported by the real condition of her emotion and the situations surround her including her family. Therefore, the ego that works based on the reality principle fails to repress the death instinct of id and let it to be the winner. She often misbehaves ulfill all her wishes. And then the superego, describes that Josephine does not do any interaction with social life, such as friends and environment. That is why her superego does not operate properly because there is not enough moral value that she can consider.

Thirdly, the Crooked House novel gives description about causes deviant behaviors. Deviant behaviors most important concept of psychoanalytic theory. The first identifying the behaviors of Josephine that indicate her deviant behaviors. In the story, which is presented by listing actions and behavior of Josephine that indicates her deviant behaviors is disruption, Josephine often acts abnormally unlike her peers. Aggression, Josephine implements all her ideas to hurt herself and other people that she thinks they deserve being hurt. The second, identifying the causal factors of Josephine's misbehavior, such as psychology and psychology of children, family relationship. Psychology and psychology of children, there are being less affection. In this case, emotional disturbance of Josephine may be caused by receiving less affection that she
accepts from her surrounding that is her family and friends. The readers will find that even her own brother does not care about her and he wants Josephine to live far away from him. Being overconfidence, Josephine has a very big confidence to tell Charles Hayward about her ability in knowing things and she also underestimates her brother, Eustace. Being boredom, Josephine wants to kill Nannie because it can make her satisfied. The third family relationship, it is also obvious that family relationship, including family conflict has tight relation in performing the attitude of children.
REFERENCES


