

**COURAGE AND LOSS REFLECTED IN PAULO CHOELO**

***THE ZAHIR:***

**A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**

**PUBLICATION ARTICLES**



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**MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

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**APPROVAL**

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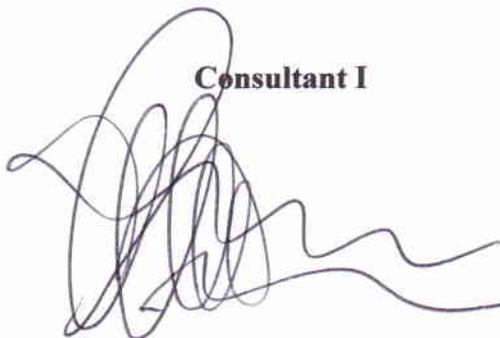
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**A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH.**

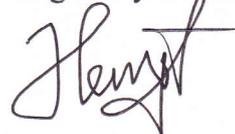
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**COURAGE AND LOSS REFLECTED IN PAULO CHOELO  
*THE ZAHIR*:**

**A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH.**

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**ABSTARACT**

HENI PURNANINGSIH. A 320 090 141. **COURAGE AND LOSS REFLECTED IN PAULO CHOELO *THE ZAHIR*: A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH.** RESEARCH PAPER. SURAKARTA: SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA. 2013.

*The object of this study is *The Zahir* novel is directed by Paulo Choelo. This study is how the courage and loss are reflected in *The Zahir* using Psychoanalytic Approach. The researcher proposes to analyze id, ego, and superego in the novel with title *The Zahir* using Psychoanalytic Approach.*

*There are two objectives of the study. Firstly, it is to analyze the structural elements of *The Zahir* and secondly is to analyze how the courage and loss based on the psychoanalytic approach. The researcher employs the descriptive qualitative as a type of the research. The data source in this research is divided into two types that are primary data and secondary data. Primary data source is *The Zahir* novel and secondary data source is any information related to the novel. The writer also gathers information of Pulo Coelho background and his works from many books. The method of collecting data is documentation. The technique of analyzing data in this research paper is descriptive.*

*The result of the study comes to two following conclusions. First, based on structural element in *The Zahir*, it describes that character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, style and theme. Second, based on theory courage and loss, It describes loss is problem that causes courage be important in the problems. So, The courage changes new life in the future.*

***Keywords: Courage, Loss, *The Zahir*, Psychoanalytic Approach.***

## **A. INTRODUCTION**

### **1. Background of the Study**

Courage is the ability to confront fear, pain, danger, uncertainty, or intimidation. Courage is most important in human life. Moral courage is the ability to act rightly in the face of popular opposition, shame, scandal, or discouragement. Generally, the feel of courage is the effort of people after they are loss, failure, despair, etc. People want to get something that make their rise from this.

Loss is the disappearance of something cherished, such as a person, possession or property. That is something special and it is very important to human life. When they are loss in the life, they feel sad and lost of motivation. The feeling of loss is basic experience to change the people life. Courage can help feeling of loss from something special. That is courage to try, to seek, and to get something that loss. Courage and loss have relation to feeling and act to get popularity and success.

*The Zahir* is a 2005 novel by the Brazilian writer Paulo Coelho. The book touches on themes of love, loss and obsession. *The Zahir* was written in Coelho's native language, Portuguese, and it has been translated into 44 languages. The book was first published in Iran, in Persian translation, by Caravan publishing.

There are four reasons why the researcher chooses this novel. The first is because main character a successful writer. The second is because *The Zahir* comes from the Islamic tradition. The third reason is the courage of husband. And the last reason is because the love story in this novel.

### **2. Literature Review**

This study is first ever conducted at least in UMS.

### **3. Problem Statement**

The problem of the study is how the courage and loss are reflected in *The Zahir* using psychoanalytic approach.

#### **4. Limitation of the Study**

The researcher will analyze the courage and loss of the major character's personality *The Zahir* by Paulo Coelho using a psychoanalytic approach.

#### **5. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- a. to analyze the structural elements of *The Zahir*.
- b. to analyze how the courage and loss based on the Psychoanalytic Approach.

#### **6. Benefits of the Study**

Benefits of the study are as follows:

- a. Theoretical benefit, this study will be beneficial for contributing to the large body of knowledge, particularly literary study on *The Zahir* by Paulo Coelho.
- b. Practical benefit, in this study, the researcher will get more understanding about Psychoanalytic and how to see character's personality using a Psychoanalytic Approach.

#### **7. Underlying Theory**

Psychoanalysis is a branch of psychological study. It was founded by Sigmund Freud, a physician from Austria in 1900. Psychoanalysis has the basic concept that human's mental lives are divided into two levels, the unconscious and conscious (Feist). Further, Freud (Feist, 1985:21) defines unconscious has two levels, the unconscious proper and preconscious.

Courage is the ability to confront fear, pain, danger, uncertainty or intimidation. According Elmes (2012) "Courage, by keeping the senses quiet and the understanding clear, puts us in a condition to receive true intelligence, to make computations upon danger, and pronounce rightly upon that which threatens us". Loss is disappearance of something cherished, such as a person, possession or property. According Kirsti (2006) "Loss is a common experience that can be encountered many times

during a lifetime; it does not discriminate for age, sex, education, economic status, religion, culture or nationality”.

## **B. RESEARCH METHOD**

### **1. Object of the Study**

The object of the study is novel *The Zahir* by Paulo Coelho.

### **2. Type of the Study**

The steps of conducting this qualitative study are:

- a. determining the object of the study
- b. determining the source of the data
- c. determining the method of data collection
- d. determining the technique of data analysis.

### **3. Type of the Data and the Data Source**

- a. Primary data, are taken from novel *The Zahir* by Paulo Coelho.
- b. Secondary data, are taken from any information related to the novel.

### **4. Technique of the Data Collection**

The researcher uses the techniques of documentation in collecting the data:

- a. reading the novel repeatedly.
- b. taking notes of important part from primary and secondary data available.
- c. selecting the data by rejecting the irrelevant information which does not support the topic of the study.

### **5. Techniques of the Data Analysis**

The steps of technique of the data analysis are arranged as follows:

- a. analyze the structural elements of the work.
- b. try to decide the psychoanalytic analysis of the literary work.
- c. make discussion of the finding.
- d. make conclusion and discussion.

## C. RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In this research finding, the researcher takes some points to analyze *The Zahir*.

### 1. Structural Analysis of *The Zahir*

The researcher reveals the structural elements of *The Zahir* novel by Paulo Coelho. The structural elements are as follows:

#### a. Character and Characterization

Character is an imagined person who inhabits a story. Therefore they cannot be expected to have all attribute of real human beings (Kennedy, 1983:45). Character can be derived into two types, major character and minor character.

#### 1) Major Character

Major character is the most important part in a story. A major character needs support characters called minor character (Koesnosoebroto, 1988:67).

#### a) Esther

Physically, She is thirty years old and beautiful woman.

She is thirty years old,..... (TZ, 2005:7).

She's pretty, intelligent, quiet (TZ, 2005:15).

Mentally, She is smart. She is also calm but she is woman that has courage to do something.

She's pretty, intelligent, quiet (TZ, 2005:15).

I look across at the woman who has just made some coffee and is now reading the newspaper, whose eyes look tired and desperate, who is her usual silent self,....(TZ, 2005:19).

“...but always courageous in her actions, who could love someone without humbling herself...”  
(TZ, 2005:20).

Socially, She has been married but she has no child with her husband.

she is thirty years old, married, without children....”  
(TZ, 2005:7).

## **b) Esther's Husband**

He is Esther's husband. Mentally, he has hobby to feast. In his life, he is free to get woman he wants because he has a lot of money.

And why am I a free man? Because nowadays, everyone knows everything about everyone; you just have to ask and the information is there: where you've used your credit card, where you spend your time, whom you've slept with. In my case, it was even easier: a woman, another journalist, a friend of my wife, and divorced—which is why she doesn't mind revealing that she slept with me—came forward as a witness in my favor when she heard that I had been detained. She provided concrete proof that I was with her on the day and the night of Esther's disappearance (TZ, 2005:7).

He is playboy. He is falling in love with many womans. He wants find love who had been put in the world. The love who finds to him. It makes Esther's husband was married with three woman before he married with Esther.

I fought for the love of my first, second, and third wives. I fought to find the courage to leave my first, second, and third wives, because the love I felt for them hadn't lasted, and I needed to move on, until I found the person who had been put in this world to find me—and she was none of those three (TZ, 2005:10).

Socially, He was married and he is an artist.

“Perhaps artists have more freedom,” he remarks. I say that I'm familiar with his world, but have no wish to enter into a comparison between our different views of society and people. I remain silent, awaiting his next move (TZ, 2005:

Morally, He is struggle to get special thing in his life. Especially, he fight to meet Esther again because Esther makes the special thing in his think.

For a while, I'll think obsessively about her, I'll become embittered, I'll bore my friends because all I ever talk about is my wife leaving me. I'll try to justify what happened, spend days and nights reviewing every moment spent by her side, I'll conclude that she was too hard on me, even though I always tried to do my best. I'll find other women. When I walk down the street, I'll keep seeing women who could be her. I'll suffer day and night, night and day. This could take weeks, months, possibly a year or more (TZ, 2005:14).

## 2) Minor Characters

Minor character is character of less important than the major ones characters (Koesnosobroto, 1988:67). Protagonist is a chief character of a story, while antagonist is an opponent who provides opposition and is titled "*The Zahir*" against the protagonist.

### a) Mikhail

Physically, He is twenty-five years old and he has dark skin man. The skin is Mongolian features.

He is an unidentified male, between twenty-three and twenty-five years old, with dark, Mongolian features (TZ, 2005:7).

Socially, He is translator. He as translator to Esther.

If I had really been interested in Esther's world, I should at least have asked what had happened to her translator and his "magical" sensibility. I should have been suspicious of that silence, that lack of information. I should have asked to go with her on one of those "research trips" to visit beggars (TZ, 2005:30).

### b) Marie

She is an artist from French. She is thirty-five years old woman. She is Esther's husband's affair. They are falling in love after Esther was lost.

I encountered three or four women I felt drawn to, but then I met Marie, a thirty-five-year-old French actress.

She was the only one who did not spout such nonsense as: “I like you as a man, not as the celebrity everyone wants to meet” or “I wish you weren’t quite so famous,” or worse still: “I’m not interested in money.” She was the only one who was genuinely pleased at my success, because she too was famous and knew that celebrity counts. Celebrity is an aphrodisiac. It was good for a woman’s ego to be with a man and know that he had chosen her even though he had had the pick of many others.

We were often seen together at parties and receptions; there was speculation about our relationship, but neither she nor I confirmed or denied anything, and the matter was left hanging,....”.

We were friends, companions, we enjoyed the same things; I would even go so far as to say that there was between us a kind of love, but different from the love I felt for Esther or that Marie felt for her neighbor (TZ, 2005:33).

**c) Alma**

Alma is Mikhail’s friend. She is playing cymbal in the meeting.

Alma was the woman playing the cymbal. She spoke with the accent of someone who has lived in the East (TZ, 2005:55).

**d) Roberto**

Roberto owns of the pizza restaurant. He meets Mikhail and Esther’s husband.

The conversation was interrupted by Roberto, who wanted to know if we were ready to order. Mikhail asked for a Napolitana and I told Roberto to choose for me—this was hardly the moment to be worrying about what I should eat. The only thing we needed urgently was a bottle of red wine, as quickly as possible. When Roberto asked me what sort of wine and I muttered an inaudible reply, he understood that he should simply leave us alone and not ask me anything else during lunch, but take all the necessary decisions himself, thus leaving me free to concentrate on my conversation with the young man before me (TZ, 2005: 61).

**e) Lucrecia**

She is Mikhail's girlfriend. She is Italian girl. Mikhail tells about Lucrecia with Esther's husband because he isn't Esther's affair.

I found in Esther the partner I was looking for, the person who helped me set out on the mission I was entrusted with, the angel who opened the doors, the roads, the paths that will allow us—if our Lady is willing—to restore the energy of love to the earth. We share the same mission. And just to put your mind at rest: I have a girlfriend, the blonde girl who was on stage with me last night. Her name's Lucrecia; she's Italian" (TZ, 2005: 63).

**f) Dr. Louit**

Dr. Louit is a doctor of Esther's husband. Dr. Louit has examine the condition Esther's husband.

When I woke up, I wanted to know exactly what had happened; I wanted to know if the woman passing me on the pavement had escaped injury and what had happened to her baby. Marie said that I needed to rest, but, by then, Dr. Louit, my doctor and friend, had arrived and felt that there was no reason not to tell me. I had been knocked down by a motorbike. The body I had seen lying on the ground beside me had been the young male driver. He had been taken to the same hospital and, like me, had escaped with only minor abrasions. The police investigation carried out immediately after the accident made it clear that I had been standing in the middle of the road at the time of the accident, thus putting the motorcyclist's life at risk (TZ, 2005:93).

**g) Anastasia**

Anastasia is Mikhail's friend at the restaurant on Thursdays meeting. She has skill that similar Mikhail's skill. So, she leaders in the meeting when Mikhail go to Kazakhstan.

"You keep calling it a performance. I've told you before, it's a meeting, a way of reviving what we have lost, the tradition of conversation. But don't worry. Anastásia here," and he pointed to a girl

wearing a nose stud, “is already developing her gift. She can take care of everything while I’m away” (TZ, 2005:140).

**h) Dos**

Dos is Mikhail’s friend at the Kazakhstan steppes. He can give direction to meet Esther.

The following day, Mikhail turned up with his friend, Dos, who would accompany us. Dos had a car, knew my wife, and knew the steppes, and he, too, wanted to be there when I reached the village where Esther was living (TZ, 2005:172).

**i) Jan**

Jan is the man from Holland. He meets Esther’s husband at the Kazakhstan.

“I’m in Kazakhstan!” I said to the deserted city, and a voice replied:

“Of course you are.”

I jumped. A man was sitting close by, on a bench in a square at dead of night, with his backpack by his side. He got up and introduced himself as Jan, from Holland, adding:

“And I know why you’re here”(TZ, 2005:170).

**j) Nina**

She is a Kazakhstan girl. She is beautiful and many man want to get her. She meets with Mikhail and Esther’s husband in the road.

“It looks very odd to me—a woman being pursued by a man.”

“It is odd, but it’s also part of our lives.”

The woman rode past us, wielding a long whip, and, by way of a greeting, gave a shout and a smile directed at Dos, then started galloping around and around the place where we were setting up camp. The smiling, sweating man pursuing her gave us a brief greeting too, all the while trying to keep up with the woman.

“Nina shouldn’t be so cruel,” said Mikhail. “There’s no need for all this.”

“It’s precisely because there’s no need for it that she can afford to be cruel,” replied Dos.

“She just has to be beautiful and have a good horse”(TZ, 2005:175).

**b. Setting**

Setting is also the important thing of a story because of happening or the setting of a story always colors the happening and sometimes the setting that shapes it (Koesnosobroto, 1988:80).

**1) Setting of Place**

Parts of the novel were written in Paris and St-Martin in France, in Madrid and Barcelona in Spain, in Amsterdam, on a road in Belgium, in Almaty and on the Kazakhstan steppes.

**2) Setting of Time**

Paulo Coelho describes the story of this novel happens around two years before a Holy Year in Spain.

**c. Plot**

Plot or the structure of story is the arrangement of what happens in the story, which has causal and thematic connection (Kennedy, 1983:27).

**1) Exposition**

The exposition of this story begins when Esther want to be a war correspondent.

**2) Complication**

The complication of this story when Esther is loss. She is last seen to meet Mikhail in cafe.

**3) Climax**

The climax begins when Esther’s husband think about possible of Esther was lost. Esther’s husband wants to know the mistake since married with Esther.

#### **4) Resolution**

This story of *The Zahir* ends by a resolution. In this story, the resolution occurs when Esther's husband meets Esther in the Kazakhstan.

#### **d. Point of View**

The researcher considers that Paulo employs the non-participant point of view or the third person narrator. Paulo Coelho chooses the selective omniscient point of view, because he only knows certain character, particularly the major character. In this character Coelho seems to know everything about the characters thought, feeling and action from the beginning to the end of the story.

#### **e. Style**

Style can be classified into four types: 1) diction, 2) grammatical structure, 3) sentence construction and 4) figurative language. In this novel, Paulo Coelho uses several figurative language such as: simile, metaphor, hyperbole and personification. Besides it, Paulo Coelho uses imagery and symbol to describe beautiful of the content in this novel.

#### **f. Theme**

This story is about couragenesses in the life. It describes of the major character's life. Esther's husband as the major character in this story. He is loss his wife and he cannot meet his wife during two years. He gets inspiration of the life with Esther. The theme in this novel is "The past events give the courage to be bright future".

### **2. Psychoanalytic Analysis**

The analysis of the major character's personality elements, the courage and the loss of Esther's husband mental condition above describes the each classification of them give the important part in building the major character's mental condition. Esther's husband wants to change his life. He has the courage since teenager. The courage when he decides to get love that true to him in the world. He leaves his first wife, second wife and

third wife. The name of his wife before Esther not mentioned in this story. Therefore, he loss his Esther, it changes his life. He cannot to forget the moment with Esther. The feels loss of Esther's husband because he always remember the all of moments with Esther in his life. So, this is change Esther's husband's life and he has big courage to bright future.

The relation of *id*, *superego* and *ego* describe in the life of Esther's husband. It happens when Esther was lost from her husband. Esther's husband is *id* when he was out from prison he is a free man. His *superego* warns that he hasn't schedule to work again. Esther's husband *ego* decides he has to go to anywhere by himself. Based on his *id* he decides he will not find out his wife. And his *superego* warns if he must respect his wife with her decision. The fourth *ego* follow to his *id*. He decides to go anywhere and to do positive activity.

#### **D. Conclusion**

In *The Zahir*, Paulo Coelho's novel wants to illustrate the problem in human life has to be faced and to be overcome. It describes the marriage's Esther and his husband. Paulo Coelho's novel wants to say that following the sadness is not good. It describes when Esther's husband loss his wife. Paulo Coelho's novel wants to describe the courage is important in the fall of the problems. The courage changes new life in the future.

In *The Zahir*, Paulo seems to give description that life is full of problems. Human is reponsible to encounter and overcome it before the other problems come and add the preceding problems. Human must look for the other ways to get the way to solve of problems. Human courage to change their life. It gives the bright future in life.

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