POWER OF FORGIVENESS IN DAVE PELZER’S A
MAN NAMED DAVE (1999):
A PSYCHOANALYTIC CRITICISM

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DEWI PUSPITA SARI
A. Introduction

1. Background of the Study

Forgiveness is a virtue that comes from all the goodness and aims to goodness, goodness will end well. Forgive does not mean you're weak, but because you are strong and mature enough to understand that everyone can make a mistake. Forgive the person who hurt you is the supreme compassion to yourself. Forgiveness is one way to get peace of mind. Forgiving nature triggers the creation of a good state of mind as hope, patience and self-confidence by reducing anger, suffering, weak morale and stress.

There are some reasons why the writer conducted this research. First, *A Man Named Dave* is a true story of the novel. When the student study this novel, they will known what happening with the writer. That is the story that happen to Dave with her personality. The character of Dave has the reserved personality. Secondly, is the theme of the novel. After reading this novel, we can conclude that *A Man Named Dave* has an interesting theme. The main message that the writer wants to deliver to the audience is that sadism may be hidden behind innocent appearance. Many dialog in this novel presenting many shocking secret from the side of mother’s Dave personality. Thirdly, In the future time the writer will be an English teacher. As a teacher the writer should be a good and smart teacher. As a professional teacher the writer wants to teach the student to be a good person in the future. The last, the writer takes this study due to supply the theoretical framework in the research of literature in English Department as a fulfillment to graduate from Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. Hopefully, this research supports the other student in depth literature research especially for *A Man Named Dave* novel.
2. **Previous Study**

As long as the writer knows there is no study on *A Man Named Dave* novel that has conducted before due to relatively new publication. Based on researcher’s observation, at least in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, researcher found that no one has conducted a research on this novel. Thus, this study is first ever conducted at least in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

3. **Problem Statement**

The problem statement of the study is how the shape of power of forgiveness is reflected in Dave Pelzer’s *A Man Named Dave* (1999).

4. **Limitation of the Study**

The limitation of the study is the power of forgiveness that employed in Dave Pelzer’s *A Man Named Dave*. This study uses a psychoanalytic Criticism.

5. **Objective of the Study**

1. To analyze power of forgiveness in Dave Pelzer’s *A Man Named Dave* (1999) based on its structural elements.
2. To analyze power of forgiveness in Dave Pelzer’s *A Man Named Dave* (1999) based on psychoanalytic criticism.

6. **Benefit of the Study**

This study has two benefits. First, theoretical benefit. This study is projected to give novel contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly in the literary studies. Second, practical benefit. The study is expected to enrich the knowledge and experience of the writer and other students at UMS or the other universities interested in literary studies.
7. Underlying Theory

a. Notion of Psychoanalytic Theory

In this study, the writer uses psychoanalytic approach of Sigmund Freud’s theory. Psychoanalysis is a method of treating emotional and psychological disorders. The psychoanalyst, trained to spot the symbolic expression of these hidden desires, could thus interpret these symbols and symptoms to the individual, who in turn would thus gain, it was duly hoped, some sort of understanding and amelioration of his or her distressing condition.

b. Structures of Psychoanalytic

1) **Id**

Freud in Bressler (1999: 150) states the id is the irrational, instinctual, unknown, and unconscious part of the psyche. The id is part which containing our secret desires, our darkest wishes, and our most intense fears, the id wishes only to fulfill the urges of the pleasure principle. Based on the definition above the writer concludes that the id is part of brain which work based on pleasure principle.

2) **Superego**

Superego represents the moral branch of our functioning, containing the ideals we strive for and punishment we expect when we have gone against our ethical code. As like Bressler (1999: 151) the superego, acts as an internal censor, causing us to make moral judgments in light of social pressures. The superego operates according to the morality principle and serves primarily to protect society and us from the id.

3) **Ego**

The ego is the rational, logical walking part of the mind, although much of its activities remain in the unconscious. The ego operates in harmony with the reality principle. It is the ego
job to regulate the instinctual desires of the id and to allow these desires to be released in some non-destructive way.

c. **Notion of Forgiveness**

Forgiveness is a paradigm shifting solution for transforming anger. It liberates you from the trap of endless revenge so that you can experience more joy and connection. Forgiveness does more for you than anyone else because it liberates you from negativity and lets you move forward. Forgiving might not make anger totally dissolve but it will give you the freedom or knowing you are so much more.

1) Accept what is going on

According Gani (2011: 24) Forgiveness is not only to fate but also to accept what just happened in ourself. Forgiveness is not a passive and put yourself as the object of an incident sufferers.

2) Delay to anger

Anger is a marker that your rights, your self-esteem, and your dignity was feel disturbed. Forgiveness is not only delay to anger. Forgiveness is can you feel to angry is not to delay but you can managing a emotion so you cannot to hold.

3) Neutral with other

Forgiveness is not only distract from a negative attitude to a neutral stance. Forgive will make you to neutral with the other. You must gracefully with everyone to give a forgive.

4) Make our self feel good

When you was feel there are other people who threaten your dignity or self-esteem, it is natural when you feel yourself is uncomfortable. To manage of our self to be able to feel comfortable is not necessarily equal to forgive.
d. Structural Elements of the Novel

a) Character and Characterization

A character is presumably, an imagined person who inhabits a story, stories may happen not only to people but to elements of nature such as the wind, the wave, grass, stone and animal (Kennedy, 1983:45). Characterization is the description of the quality of character, which includes physical, mental, social, and moral elements of character.

b) Setting

Setting is the place of incident (Kennedy, 1983:38). Setting is given to create the story as real and as possible, it is real important to create real impression of the story. Setting may help the readers in developing their imagination about the story.

c) Plot

According to Kennedy (1983:9) plot is pattern of show from beginning to the end and will arise out of conflicts. Plot is the sequence of events having cause and effect relationship in a narration or play. According to Kennedy (1983:9) plot refers to simply to the event in a story. It means plot will mean the artistic arrangement of those events.

Meanwhile according on Wellek (1956:216) plot can be classified as the narrative structure of play, tale or novel. The plot in this novel consist of exposition, complication, resolution.

1) Exposition
Exposition is the opening portion that sets the scene, introduces the main characters, tells about what happens before the story opens, and provides any other background information that is needed in order to understand and care about the events to follow (Kennedy, 1983:8).

2) Complication

According to Aristotle (Koesnosoebroto, 1998:53) complication is all over all the beginning of the story to the point just before the change to the hero’s fortune. Complication means the rising action runs a number of crises.

3) Resolution

Resolution is the outcome or conclusion, and the unifying of the knot (Kennedy, 1983:9). Resolution is also known as the final decision when the climax is going down. Koesnosoebroto (1998:49) states that resolution is turning points or denouement or key movement.

d) Point of View

In the literary work there must be a person who tell the story, person here means the director. Point of view is the way of the director tells the viewer about his story by using a narrator. Kennedy defined point of view as “the identification of the narrator of the story, describing any part he plays in the events and any limit placed upon his knowledge” (Kennedy, 1983:18).

e) Style

Style is the language use of the story. It is also defined as the element of language, such as : grammatical structure, sentence construction, diction and figurative
language (metaphor, simile, personification and hyperbole). According to Kennedy, style is “the individual traits or characteristics of a piece of writing; to a writer’s particular ways of managing words that we come to recognize as habitual or customary (Kennedy, 1998:75).

f) Theme

One of the most important parts of the play in the literary work is theme. Theme of a story is considered as the actual thought or idea of the director to overcome the social problem he faces. Kennedy (1983:103) states that the theme of a story as what ever general idea or insight the netire story reveals.

B. Research Method

1. Type of Study

In this study the researcher applies qualitative research that has two data source, namely library and literary data. Its purpose is to analyze using Psychoanalytic Criticism.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is A Man Named Dave and was produced in 1999 by California.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

There are two types of data, namely primary and secondary data. The primary data source is the novel of A Man Named Dave was produced by California. The secondary data sources are books or any information relation to the analysis.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

There are five techniques of data collection. First, reading the novel repeatedly. Second, taking notes of important parts both primary and secondary data. Third, arranging the data into several groups based on its theoretical category. Fourth, selecting particular parts considered
important and relevant for analysis. The last, taking conclusion and formulate its pedagogical suggestion.

5. **Technique of the Data Analysis**

In analyzing the data, the writer applies a descriptive approach. The steps taken by the writer in analyzing the data are as follows: The first is analyzing the data based on its structural elements. Focus will be paid on the structural analysis of the novel. The second step is analyzing the data based on psychoanalytic criticism.

C. **Research Finding And Discussion**

There are some points that should be analyzed from *A Man Named Dave* novel:

1. **Structural Elements of the Novel**

There are two elements of the movie:

   1) **Character and Characterization**
   
   a) Major Characters

      (1) Dave Pelzer as Dave

      He is the main character in this novel. He is a child who experienced violence from his mother. He never got a food from his mother. He must do a duty in order to get a food. He lived in basement everyday.

      I’m scared. My feet are cold and my stomach cries for food. From the darkness of the garage I strain my ears to pick up the slightest sound of Mother’s bed creaking as she rolls over in the bedroom upstairs. I can also tell by the range of Mother’s hacking cough if she’s still asleep or about to get up. (DP, 1999:7)
(2) Catherine Roerva Pelzer as Dave’s mother

Catherine Roerva Pelzer is the mother of Dave Pelzer. She is a good housewife and always loved her children and also always respectful of her husband. Catherine is a mother that truly dazzle. She has eyes full of love and without the slightest flaw.

Catherine Roerva Pelzer was absolutely stunning. Her eyes glowed with love. Her complexion was flawless. She seemed to radiate the model of a young bride who couldn’t wait to live a lifetime filled with happiness. As I admired Mother’s portrait. (DP, 1999: 85)

(3) Stephen Pelzer as Dave’s father

Stephen Pelzer is a Dave’s father. He worked as fireman. So he understood about health. Father, a fireman with medical training, didn’t question Mother’s strange tale. (DP, 1999: 8)

b) Minor Characters

(1) Turnbough Families

Turnbough family was one of the foster parents Dave Pelzer. They are very fond of Dave as their children. They always introduces Dave after he was home from school.

My foster mother, Mrs Turnbough, spent hours with me every day after school, teaching me phonics and helping me to imagine my words flowing from my mouth, like water cascading over a fall. (DP, 1999: 32)

(2) Michele Marsh

Michele marsh is a coach of flight to Dave. She was guide Dave with patiently and very firm. My “aviation mentor” Michael Marsh from my days in foster care, and my father. (DP, 1999: 45)
(3) Ronald

Ronald is the first brother of Dave. Ronald can free from his mother because he was in military on 18 years old.

(4) Sergeant Campbell

Sergeant Campbell is a supervisor of Dave. Sergeant Campbell is a black man whose body was tall and always spoke in a tone that govern. Sergeant Campbell always guide to Dave in duty squadrons.

2) Setting

a) Setting of Time

In A Man Named Dave, the beginning of the story takes setting of time in 1973.

b) Setting of Place

In A Man Named Dave, setting of place such as Daly city california, guerneville russian river, tarmac, florida, kaiser hospital, colorado, san fransisco, beale air force base, saudia arabia.

3) Plot

a) Exposition

The story of A Man Named Dave begins when Dave got abuse from his mother. He always stay in basement and doing any jobs in their home. He can’t refuse order from his mother. If he refuse, he will get

b) Conflict

The conflict in this novel happens when Dave and his mother abusing him and not being the great mother he always dreamed. Dave always tried his best to listen to mother so he wouldn’t get surprised.
c) Resolution

The resolution in this novel is when Dave flies away from Southern California to join the Air Force in Florida. Dave remembering the time in Foster Care when he had to learn things that even a toddler would know.

4) Point of View

After analyzing and investigating the text of the novel, the researcher considers that Pelzer employs the first person narrator; it means the narrator is involved in this story.

5) Theme

Theme in A Man Named Dave novel is “the powerfull of forgiveness is a power that to give a forgive from torture”

2. Psychoanalytic Analysis

1. Dave’s System of Personality

   In this novel, Dave Pelzer is a major character who faces inner conflict in his life. The conflict is caused by the contradiction of her id, ego, and superego.

   a. The id

   Id is the basic system of personality to satisfy the need, wished by human being. This tendency of the id to devote itself exclusively to immediate reduction or tension called the pleasure principle.

   The id when Dave’s childhood desires to get food, warm of the air and can be survive. He also wants to know that his mother often tortured.

   My mind begins to spin as I fight to remember my past. I know that to somehow survive, my answers are in my past. Besides food, heat, and staying alive, learning why Mother treats me the way she does dominates my life. (DP, 1999: 8)
b. The superego

As like Bressler (1994: 151) the superego, acts as an internal censor, causing us to make moral judgments in light of social pressures. The superego operates according to the morality principle and serves primarily to protect society and us from the id.

Based on Dave’s id that Dave’s childhood desires to get food, warm of the air and can be survive. And the first superego that Dave must get a food although his mother didn’t feed him. And he wants to stolen of food.

If Mother didn’t feed me, I would steal scraps of food anywhere I could. When she filled my mouth with pink dish washing soap, I’d hold the liquid in my mouth until I could spit it in the garage garbage can when she wasn’t looking. Defeating The Mother in any way meant the world to me. Small victories kept me alive. (DP, 1999:9)

c. The ego

Ego is based on the reality principle. The first ego happen that based his id that Dave’s childhood desires to get food, warm of the air and can be survive. And the superego that Dave must get a food although his mother didn’t feed him. And he wants to stolen of food. And the first ego that Dave’s mother was refuse an desire of Dave. So, the superego dominates the id.

If Mother didn’t feed me, I would steal scraps of food anywhere I could. When she filled my mouth with pink dish washing soap, I’d hold the liquid in my mouth until I could spit it in the garage garbage can when she wasn’t looking. Defeating The Mother in any way meant the world to me. Small victories kept me alive. (DP, 1999:9)
2. Forgiveness Analysis

Forgiveness is a paradigm shifting solution for transforming anger. It liberates you from the trap of endless revenge so that you can experience more joy and connection.

a. Accept what is going on

In *A Man Named Dave*, the first forgiveness that Dave always feel afraid with his mother. He even allowed himself to feel hungry in a basement of a very dark. Dave can feel to be free if his mother is sleeping in the bedroom. Dave has an opinion that the God is not like him. Although opinion’s Dave is feel the God is not like him, he wants to pray.

I’m scared. My feet are cold and my stomach cries for food. From the darkness of the garage I strain my ears to pick up the slightest sound of Mother’s bed creaking as she rolls over in the bedroom upstairs. I can also tell by the range of Mother’s hacking cough if she’s still asleep or about to get up. I pray Mother doesn’t cough herself awake. I pray I still have more time. Just a few more minutes before another day in hell begins. I close my eyes as tightly as I can and mumble a quick prayer, even though I know God hates me.

(DP, 1999:8)

b. Delay to anger

In *A Man Named Dave*, the first delay to anger happen if his mother was getting drunk so she was getting angry with Dave. One day Dave gets a abusing that his arm was broken, it is happen because his mother was out of control. It is different with usual treatment of face slapping, body punching, or being thrown down the stairs.

As a small child, I also realized that the more she drank, the more my mommy slipped away, and the more The Mother’s personality took over. One Sunday afternoon before I
was five years old, during one of The Mother’s drunken attacks, she accidentally pulled my arm out of its socket. The moment it happened, Mother’s eyes became as big as silver dollars. Mother knew she had crossed the line. She knew she was out of control. This went far beyond her usual treatment of face slapping, body punching, or being thrown down the stairs. (DP, 1999:8)

c. Neutral with the other

In *A Man Named Dave*, the first neutral with the other is Dave’s mother always hid with her problem. She was never talking about this problem with her husband. All the bad things with Dave, she always hidden from everyone. Although her attitudes was too much, she always preparing her reason to cover up his actions.

But even back then Mother developed a plan to cover her tracks. The next morning, after driving me to the hospital, she cried to the doctor that I had fallen out of my bunk bed during the night. Mother went on to say how she had desperately tried to catch me as I fell, and how she could never forgive herself for reacting so slowly. The doctor didn’t even bat an eye. Back at home, Father, a fireman with medical training, didn’t question Mother’s strange tale. (DP, 1999: 8)

d. Make our self feel good

The first make our self feel good in *A Man Named Dave* is Dave’s mentally and physically was exhausted. He feel good, if he make a dream in his sleep. As hard as he try to go back to sleep. He was too cold and starving in a basement.

I’m mentally and physically exhausted. It’s been months since I’ve been able to escape through my dreams. As hard as I try, I cannot go back to sleep. I’m too cold. I cannot stop my knees from shaking. I cautiously rub my feet together because I somehow feel if I make any quick movements, “The Mother”
will hear me. I am not allowed to do anything without The Mother’s direct authority. Even though I know she has returned to sleep in the bottom bunk bed of my brother’s bedroom, I sense that she still has control over me. (DP, 1999: 7)

D. Conclusion

Thus, from explanation above it can be concluded that *A Man Named Dave* novel is the tragedy novel that has tragic event between Dave Pelzer and Roerva Pelzer. Beside that, it has correlation between *A Man Named Dave* novel (1999) with the psychoanalytic theory. The researcher concludes that power of forgiveness is the individual emotions, it drives from system of personality. When *id* wants to satisfy soon, *superego* must consider it with morality. It can be said that *superego* gives a pressure on *id* and it causes the conflicts in the personality. Dave Pelzer gives the important points when the major character, Dave, gets the conflict between her *id* and *superego* to prove his problem in power of forgiveness.

E. Educational Implications

The researcher analyzes *A Man Named Dave* novel (1999) using psychoanalytic theory with power of forgiveness as the issues in this research. Then, the researcher hopes this research will be useful for education world, in particular the students of English Department in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. The educational implication in this research will explain as follows:

1. This study can be beneficial for students with moral values contained in this research that power of forgiveness of Dave Pelzer, the main character
in *A Man Named Dave* novel. The researcher hopes this research will be usefull for the reader and they can get an education in this novel.

2. To the students at in educational institution can get the experience after reading this research and understand the true meaning of forgiveness.
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