

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Chameleon is an animal that hides from its enemies simply by changing the color of the skin into the same color of its surroundings. This change makes it invisible, even for its most dangerous predator. Sometimes this change occurs in our life, in psychological way. The changes that we do to ourselves in order to avoid danger is a change so called coping behavior. According to Munn and Fernald (1969: 12), “behavior is something that an organism does or says”.

In a community, someone is determined by his or her behavior. If someone’s behavior is unaccepted by the community, he or she will face the risk of being alienated or misjudged. We may feel hurt or angry if someone takes offense when we do not mean to do it. According to Krassner & Ulmann (1973: 4), “on the basis of limited sample of people’s behavior we do obtain, however, that we place a label on other people; and these labels have an impact on our future behavior”. It means that we put labels on others, containing our opinion about the person. Based on those labels, we behave towards them. When we put labels on others, we realize that other people also put labels on us. So, in order to get a good label, we struggle so hard to show our best of behavior.

The background of someone's act in coping behavior is the feeling of inferiority. Inferiority, according to Adler as quoted by Ansbachers (1956: 110) is, "a manifestation of individual consciousness due to a condition, which is resulted from inability or imperfection feeling in daily life". These inferiorities maybe real inferiority, like physical handicaps, or felt inferiority, like feeling pessimist (www.sonoma.edu). The individual must compensate for these real or felt inferiorities, and to do so, he strives to make himself better "by more perfect living (functional finalisms), by developing his creative self, or by the manifestation of social interest" (Krassner & Ulmann 1973: 54).

This phenomenon of coping behavior is not only a psychological phenomenon, but also a concern of some authors and literary artists. We can see the example of this from the fairy tale of Cinderella, a stepdaughter plus maidservant who dressed up like a princess by the help of a fairy godmother. The prince thought she was the most beautiful princess he has ever seen, danced all night with her, and then he was left only with a shoe when the clock struck twelve. Cinderella made the crown prince believed that she was a princess, simply by changing her clothes.

One of the authors who have the same concern about the relationship between literature and psychology is Frances Parkinson Keyes, as it can be seen in her work, *Steamboat Gothic*.

In order to analyze this coping behavior, the present writer uses psychological approach, specifically, Individual Psychology by Alfred Adler. According to Ansbachers (1956: 3), “the Individual Psychology of Alfred Adler is first of all a depth psychology”. By this is meant that it is a part of dynamic psychology, which goes beneath and beyond surface phenomena, taking unconscious motivation fully into account.

Steamboat Gothic, written in 1959 by Frances Parkinson Keyes, shows a unique personal conflict among characters. The novel tells us how Clyde Batchelor, the major character of the novel, shows the coping behavior in order to start a new life that is better than before in his new house, a house built in gothic style adapting the architecture of a steamboat in a sugar cane and tobacco plantation beside Mississippi river, with his newly wedded wife, who has no idea about his past as a steamboat gambler.

Based on the internal conflict revealed in the major character and characterizations of the novel, the present writer has been inspired to expose it by using Individual Psychological Approach. In this thesis, the present writer will analyze the chameleon coping behavior of the major character of the novel, Clyde Batchelor, in order to limit her discussion. Then the present writer gives the thesis title, “CHAMELEON COPING BEHAVIOR IN FRANCES PARKINSON KEYES’ *STEAMBOAT GOTHIC*: AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH”.

B. Literature Review

This novel is a best-selling novel in 1959, in the category of historical romance, under the group of Crest Books, published by Fawcett World Library, on May 1959. There is no research has been done in Surakarta scope to study this novel, entitled *Steamboat Gothic*, at least at Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

But in her observation, the present writer found a study about the novel, entitled *Steamboat Gothic*. The study is entitled “Main Character Analysis in Frances Parkinson Keyes’ *Steamboat Gothic*” by Fitri Oktavia Damayanti (NIM: 2797080654, UI, 2002, Research Paper).

In her work, Fitri Oktavia Damayanti analyzed the main character of Frances Parkinson Keyes’ *Steamboat Gothic* by using structural analysis as the basic principles. While in the present research, the writer uses Individual Psychology by Alfred Adler to reveal the phenomena of chameleon coping behavior of the main character of the same novel. Of course, the study conducted by Fitri Oktavia Damayanti gives big contribution for the writer in analyzing Frances Parkinson Keyes’ *Steamboat Gothic*.

C. Problem Statement

The problem of the study is, “ How chameleon coping behavior is reflected in Frances Parkinson Keyes’ *Steamboat Gothic*”.

D. Limitation of the Study

The limitation of the study is the major character of the novel, named Clyde Batchelor.

E. Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is to find solutions of the problems as formulated in this problem statement, namely:

1. To analyze this novel, based on its structural elements.
2. To analyze this novel, based on Individual Psychology approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits that are expected from this study are as follows:

1. Theoretical benefit

This research is expected to enrich the literary field, especially on the chameleon coping behavior that reveals in Clyde Batchelor's character, and it is also expected to give more explanation that each human being is potential to be a good person, by leaving his/ her dark background behind.

2. Practical benefit

The practical benefit of this study is to answer the present writer's question about chameleon coping behavior in real life, why it happens, what the causes can be, and how it appears in real life.

G. Research Method

To analyze this novel by using Individual Psychological Approach, this research will cover:

1) Research Subject

The subject is literature, and then the novel *Steamboat Gothic* by Frances Parkinson Keyes will be analyzed. In conducting the research, the writer will analyze it by using psychological approach.

2) Data Source

The data is classified into:

- a. Primary Data: The text of the novel, entitled *Steamboat Gothic*.
- b. Secondary Data: The material about psychological approach in chameleon coping behavior, the author's biography, and another data related to this research

3) Data Collecting Method

The method in collecting data for this research is library research. The present writer collects the data, and then records the evidences from the primary and secondary data. The present writer works on some steps for collecting data, namely:

- a. Reading carefully and repeatedly in order to get the best comprehension on its structural element.
- b. Reading some related books to get the theory, supporting data and information that will help in the process of the study.
- c. Writing the primary and secondary data that is going to be analyzed.
- d. Classifying the data into groups according to the categories of elements of literary study.

4) Data Analysis Technique

The techniques are both descriptive and content analysis using psychological approach. The descriptive analysis are used to describe what is meant by chameleon coping behavior, and content analysis is employed to dissect the work into its smaller element particularly to highlight the psychological conflict of chameleon coping behavior. The psychological approach is used to reconstruct the major character's behavior in chameleon coping behavior.

H. Paper Organization

This paper consists of five chapters. Chapter I is the introduction, covering the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and paper

organization. Chapter II is the underlying theory. Chapter III deals with the structural analysis, which includes character and characterizations, setting, plot, and theme. Chapter IV deals with the psychological analysis of the major character in *Steamboat Gothic*. Chapter V is the conclusion and suggestion.