

**SURVIVAL OF THE MAJOR CHARACTER IN DAPHNE DU MAURIER'S
REBECCA:**

AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

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**THE SURVIVAL OF THE MAJOR CHARACTER IN DAPHNE DU
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ABSTRACT

The study is an individual psychological analysis on Daphne du Maurier's Rebecca. This study focuses on how Alfred Adler's principles of individual psychology theory are reflected in Mrs. de Winter's characters at the late of nineteenth century. The research aims at analyzing Daphne du Maurier' Rebecca from Individual Psychological perspective. This theory states basically the activities of human's life are motivated by two principles of motivation, striving for superiority and social interest. In conducting the study, the researcher uses the theory of Individual Psychological perspective. The theory of Individual psychological perspective is appropriate because the theory includes six principles of human's personality systems, inferiority feeling and compensation, striving for superiority, fictional finalism, creative self, social interest and style of life and its conflicts resulted from them. While the novel itself deals with the struggle of young woman from lower class who, is inexperienced in life to fight for her acknowledgement in her environment. The outcome of the study shows the following conclusions. First, based on structural analysis, it is clear that through the novel, the writer of the novel wants to illustrate how a woman has to fight for her acknowledgement through her roles in a family and society. Second, based on the psychological analysis, Daphne du Maurier's Rebecca tells about the survival of Mrs. de Winter in order to fight for her existence in the society.

Key words: fight for-survival

A. Background of the Study

The ideas of making the life easier become the reason for a human being to set certain aims of life. A human being lives with many ideas to reach several goals in life. The goals have their own priorities among people.

However, each person has a same destination; his own perfect life. The perfect life emerges happiness.

Unfortunately, as an individual, a human being never knows for sure what will come to his life. He has no certainty that he takes the better or the worse things. He cannot avoid from facing it. He is going to get it and pass it until his last breath whether he likes or not. The reason is that life is uncertain and unpredictable.

The uncertainty and unpredictability of life emerges many obstacles. Those problems become the first priority that should be solved if a person wants to achieve a perfect life. In overcoming these, the human being has to struggle for it from another man, environment and himself. He will not face a better life if he just waits it is changed by itself. The result will not be as he wishes. The man ought to set some necessities and desires first and then make ways to obtain it. All of those cannot totally be reached. The situations make an individual do different ways to surpass. The struggle can be positive or negative. Although sometimes it often opposite to the inner and essence of heart, he does all the ways in order to get a better life. Here, a human being learns to fight for a certain goal and leave another goal. The struggle puts man to survive from its nature. The survival determines the life's happiness.

The main enemy of an individual is his own mind. He should not beat his environment, another man but himself first. He was born with a consciousness to strive for his condition. Due to the reason, human being must be seen as a whole, one self-consistent totality. According to Adler (in Feist, 1985: 64), all behavior is seen in relation to the final goal of superiority or success. This goal of life gives direction and unity to the individual. The right relation between mind and body (the totality) arises self-determined. It shapes personality from the meaning he gives to experiences.

Moreover he explains that naturally the personality can be formed by heredity and environment but the creative power responsible not only for reacting to his environment but also on acting on it and making reacting to the surroundings (Feist, 1985: 78). Those mean once an individual states his goal

to change his life; it will start from his past experiences. The goal and the striving to gain it make him survive well

Since the condition above has a close relation with the issue of human's need to strive for his own life in order to get a perfect life, a happiness, the efforts to survive in the world becomes one among discussion in philosophy and psychology. Yet it also influences man literary works. One of those is Daphne duMaurier's *Rebecca*.

Rebecca is a novel written by Daphne duMaurier in the late summer of 1937. The novel is her most famous work and is still the one that she is best remembered for. *Rebecca* is described as the first major gothic romance in the 20th century. It certainly contains all the elements of the great gothic novel. The novel *Rebecca* is a curious hybrid—a mixture of romance, murder mystery and the gothic [www.dumaurier.org]. Beside containing a story which arises a mixture of romance, murder mystery and the gothic, this novel has specific style. It also has an effective diction and philosophical terms.

Rebecca is a story of a young woman who is helped from rags to riches by the older man. The man helped by marrying her as the second wife; his first wife has been killed because of drowning in the sea. This young woman had problems as an individual. Here, the central character, who was nameless, tried to survive her life by struggling her existence in Rebecca's house.

Based on the mentioned points, it is very interesting to conduct a research on Daphne duMaurier's *Rebecca* particularly in its major character's struggle to survive. Hence, through the use of individual psychology, this study is conducted under the title, "*The Survival of the Major Character in Daphne duMaurier's Rebecca: An Individual Psychological Perspective.*"

B. Research Method

The research methods used in this research are as follow:

1. Type of the Study

The type of the study is descriptive qualitative in which the writer describes structural elements of the novel and the aspects of individual psychology which are reflected in Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca*.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is the survival of the characters and her attitudes in Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca*.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Sources

The type of data in this study is text, which is taken from two kinds of data sources; primary and secondary. The primary source is the text of the novel *Rebecca*, whereas the secondary sources include materials about the author, the structure of the novel, psychological theories and some supporting materials.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The study uses two kinds of data collecting methods. The first method is documentation, by which the primary and secondary data are collected and recorded. The second method is library research. It includes summarizing, paraphrasing and wording.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

In this study, the data are analyzed descriptively by using individual psychological approach.

C. INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

In this chapter the whole of Adler's opinions are explained by five principles of human's personality systems; inferiority feeling and compensation, the striving for superiority, fictional finalism, creative-self and social interest.

1. Inferiority Feeling and Compensation

In novel *Rebecca*, Mrs. De winter acts as the first character who is suffering from some problems in her life. When a child the life of Mrs.de Winter is very poor. She has a sad experience about her family. Unconsciously she closes her past tightly. No one hears her childhood since then. His father has suffered from pneumonia for weeks and her mother thinks that it is useless for her to live beside him. The feeling of inferiority because of her childhood, Mrs. de Winter grows as someone who is lack of self confidence. It forms her. Her physical inferiority also stimulates it. Mrs. de Winter is not rather beautiful. Her tall is average. It can be concluded that she is not a kind of "the seen girl" for her appearances and performances.

Most of people ignore her existence; even a maid in the hotel thinks that there is no need to treat her well (p.15). Mrs. de Winter's inferiority can also be seen when the maid always serves bad food to her and she has no brave to protest it event to a servant.

Having an inferiority feeling, Mrs. de Winter appears to be sub massive, quiet, and restrained, in an offensive sort of person. She is very sensitive to others and afraid in doing something. Mrs. de Winter's circumstance has motivated her to overcome the inferiority feeling. It arises a desire to be superior. She learns things to improve her life.

2. Striving for Superiority

Problems of life always appear in every action of human. Problem of life must be solved and be faced, not be avoided. Occasionally, problems of life seems to burden life and become a kind of obstacle to move forward whenever human sees the problem as something unsolvable such depressed feeling usually presents a feeling of inferiority. As a matter of fact, whenever inferiority appears, there will be a trial to solve. Of course inferiority will be followed by compensation. Furthermore it leads to superiority.

The suffering experiences by Mrs. de Winter causes disturbances in growing and building the individuality. The lost of her parents makes her

feel strike and spirit shaken. The suffering is about her husband does not love her but his first wife. The condition becomes worse when they move to Manderley. Mrs. de Winter ought to face a new problem in life. Her first contact to Mrs. Danvers; Rebecca's/maid makes her realize her new environment which won't receive her because of Rebecca's memory. This suffering and sadness make her to fight alone to overcome her life.

Her personality has emerged a striving for superiority. This stimulus rises because of reflection on herself to the social reality and some people around her. It makes her stimulus rise from sadness and suffering during her life. Mrs. de Winter's survival comes to the next step. Maxim has made her think about her companion to Mrs. Van Hopper. Mrs. De Winter has to survive life and fight for herself. Therefore when Mr. Maxim de Winter proposes her, she sees it as a chance to make her life better.

The suffering is growing more and more after she feels that her husband does not love her but his first wife. The condition becomes worse when they move to Manderley. Mrs. De Winter ought to face a new problem in life. She copes the situation to show her authority by explaining them she would bother their household arrangements.

Every individual has inferiority feeling so that they always compensate to come close to their weakness. They learn to cover the weakness. When Mrs. de winter realizes that most of people compare her to Rebecca she's very shocked (p.91). The problem and conflict are still colored in Mrs. de winter's life, even that the problem she faces increasing. The comparison between Rebecca and her make Mrs. De Winter more striking. By some events happened in Manderley and her life make her to be more superior. So, she wants to gasp and solve this problem herself. At the end of the story, she wins Maxim's heart although it should be torn by the burning of Manderley. Here, it can be seen Mrs. De Winter tries to be more superiority after she faces some problems of her life. She tries to solve this problem as a form of compensation.

3. Fictional Finalism.

Every individual is always pushed forward to a certain goal. Human tends to focus on the hope of the future rather than of the past. The goal or the purpose drives the movement of human activities. Although this goal is fictional, as well call it fictional finalism, human always tries to achieve it by any means. All Mrs. De winter's activities are based on the fictional finalism that she wants to achieve. Her parents' death makes Mrs. De winter's life to be poor. That poverty makes Mrs. De winter struggle to attain her future and her happiness.

In her life she has no friend except Mrs. Van hopper. In a real definition Mrs. Van hopper cannot be called as a companion since she pays her for making a friendship, thus, she hopes many things to her marriage with maxim. The ambition of attaining a goal and her dreams makes Mrs. De winter faces many conflicts. Many people ignore her existence and ability. They often laugh at her back. Mrs. De Winter's ambition to fight for her life emerges because of the poverty which has been experienced since childhood. She tries to reach the goal and her dreams to survive her life.

4. Creative Self

Every individual manifests himself in a unique way, which is quite different from any other individual, in example in thinking, speaking and doing something. The unique of an individual is the result of creative self. The creative self is integration between inborn potential and environment influences, which lead to an action to solve any problems of life.

Mrs. De winter also feels that there is a secret of Rebecca's death. She tries to solve the mystery in order to help her husband released from the suspicious. She is able to grasp when everyone has kept Rebecca's death tightly. Being curious to know about Manderley and Rebecca, Mrs. de Winter wants to grasp mystery on that house. She absolutely faces some difficulties especially from Mrs. Danvers.

The creative self also refers to the way she chooses the problem solving. Mrs. De winter's problem is the dream to win maxim heart.

Because of the willingness, she has undergone many problems in life. She has to pass a cold war with Mrs. Danvers. She also has to win people's blind admiration to Rebecca. She knows that Maxim's heart is only able to be won if Rebecca's power and memory disappeared.

Mrs. De Winter's idea in solving the problem is asking Mrs. Danvers to discuss their misunderstanding (p. 284-286). The result, however, doesn't go as she wishes. Mrs. Danvers refuses to understand her and goes crazy. This condition, however, doesn't go long. Although the finding of Rebecca's dead body brings Mrs. De Winter and Maxim in a big problem, it makes her understand about the truth as a vice versa. The truth is Maxim never loves Rebecca. He loves her.

5. Social Interest

Social interest is pre-protent ability of which the existence is determined by outside factors of an individual namely through education, social interaction in the society. The development and formation of social interest is determined by socialization process. It is not inborn, but it is innate potentially which has to be consciously developed.

Mrs. De Winter develops her social interest as the time goes by. She is difficult to adapt to her environment for the first time. Gradually, then, she learns from her environment, her interaction with those who like or dislike her, and education she gets. Education can be understood in two meanings. It's from formal which is learnt from school or informal; she is able to learn from the society. Here, Mrs. De Winter learns from her environment. It means she gets life skills from informal education. She learns how to hold a banquet, dress correctly. She also learns how to talk gracefully by paying attention from the people she meets (p. 103).

Since a man was born he has automatically become a member of society if his social feeling can develop naturally, he will be able to make an adaptation with his living environments appropriately. This man should live among (the relationship with others), and this means that he must interact with others in his society so that his behavior is always influenced by his

society. At first Mrs. De Winter has an inferior feeling with people (p. 163). She, then gradually understands that she has to change the condition if she does not want to be oppressed by those who admire Rebecca. She learns she actually has a potential to be a true mistress as long as she is willing to fight for it (p. 164).

Later in a certain occasion, the development and formation of social interest will have a great influence upon an individual's attitude and behaviors in facing or solving problems of his life. This part can help the researcher to give more explanation about Mrs. De Winter's circumstances and the influence to the social interest in forming and in supporting the character's life, actions and attitudes among her fellow people in her society with all the norms and traditions.

6. Style of Life

In order to achieve superiority out of his feelings of inferiority, it is necessary for man to conduct his life in a certain prescribed way. This is called the style of life this means that each human being pursues is a combination of two things his inner self-driven and dictated direction of behavior and the forces from his environment which aid, interfere, or reshape the direction of the inner self wishes to take. That man feature is that behavior comes primarily from within himself but always in counter play with the environment.

Mrs. De Winter does not realize that she has a power to change the condition of her life. She takes her condition to be a poor person. She feels well to be a paid-companion with Mrs. Van Hopper (p.34). When she met Mr. Maxim de Winter she gradually grasp that it is her time to change the condition or she will stay as a paid-companion for good. She decides to choose the first option and ignores Mrs. Van Hopper's advice to move with her to France (p.68).

Having her first contact with people in Manderley has made her become inferior. Everybody seems to adore Rebecca. In her mind Rebecca is a powerful, perfect woman. Even after she died she indirectly manages

the house. As a new Mistress she has less power than her. This has thrown her in a deep despair (p. 85). The problem is getting worse when she thinks that her husband actually still loves Rebecca, not her. This thought, absolutely is incorrect. Mrs. De Winter needs time to understand it. Her lonely feeling has driven her to act if she wants to win her husband love. She develops her personality from inferior to superiority. She learns to have a great deal of social interest and activity. Mrs. De Winter style of life came from early experiences. Her character improves when she adopts new goals. Her past does not oppress her. She can change. She is free in the present and future to experience happiness and bring happiness to others.

From the explanation, Mrs. De Winter finally can be classified as a socially useful type person. The socially useful type is a type of an individual with a great deal of social interest and activity. Here, the character is the well-adjusted does not strive for personal superiority, but seeks to solve her problems in ways that are useful to other as well as herself.

D. Conclusion

After analyzing the novel 'Rebecca', we can conclude that the suffering which has been experienced by Mrs. De Winter is because of the death of her parents. It makes her become inferiority. This suffering and sadness stimulate her to fight alone to overcome her life. Stimulus grows in her personality for striving to superiority. This stimulus causes reflection from herself towards social reality and some people around her. The poverty, the death of her parents, and the and the bad treatment of her new environment after her marriage make Mrs. De Winter survive her life so that she has fictionalism to get a goal of life. Finally Mrs. De Winter is able to solve the problem of her life because she has a creative self.

By using psychological approach, the writer knows how psychological aspect plays an important role in individual survival. From the point of view of individual psychology such as inferiority feeling, striving for superiority,

fictional finalism and creative self can help the way an individual face his or her life. The effects that have been experienced by someone after getting some problems in life will influence the individual's life. Hence, someone will be able to survive in her or his life if someone has effort for facing and solving it.

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