PLEASURE - SEEKING PERSONALITY REFLECTED IN THEODORE DREISER’S *SISTER CARRIE* (2005): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this research is to describe ‘Sister Carrie’ novel based on structural elements of the novel and to analyze how pleasure-seeking personality is reflected in Theodore Dreiser’s Sister Carrie by using psychoanalytic approach. This research is qualitative research and technique of analyzing data is descriptive analysis. The techniques of collecting data are (1) Reading the novel repeatedly and underlining the important data. (2) Exploring the main data of character that will be analyzed. (3) Identifying a particular part that is important and relevant for the analysis. (4) Making note both primary and secondary data, and (5) Classifying the data into some categories. Based on the psychoanalytic theory, it can be concluded that the personality of major character in ‘Sister Carrie’ is classified as pleasure-seeking personality. Carrie’s Id is more dominant than Ego and superego. Carrie’s personality is caused by economic situation.

Key word : id, ego, superego and pleasure-seeking personality.
A. Introduction

1. Background of the Study

Theodore Dreiser wrote a novel *Sister Carrie* based on his sister Emma’s story who has an affair with Hopkins a married man. This novel was published by the Doubleday company in 1900 and published by Pennsylvania State University in 2005 which has 409 pages and consists of 42 chapters. This novel tells about an urban American girl who tries to find happiness in her life. *Sister Carrie* got ranked 33rd of the 100 best English-language novels of the 20th century in 1998 in the modern library. Theodore Dreiser was born in August 27 1871, Terre Haute, Indiana. He was the ninth of ten surviving children (three others died as infants) of Säräh Schanab and Johann Dreiser. Dreiser's childhood coincided with the family's hard times. Consequently, his earliest memories included the joblessness of his father and older siblings, as well as the constant search for economic stability.

The story began when an eighteen years old young girl, Carrie arrived at Chicago to find job and met Dreout in the train. They had conversation, exchanged their address. After many days she searched job she got job although with low wage. But she got fired and then one day she met Drouet who invited her to have lunch and lent her some money to buy clothes. The following day, she planned to return Drouet’s money that she could not buy clothes. Drouet offered a room to Carrie when she went out from Minnie’s flat, then they lived together. Someday Drouet said to Carrie that he was invited his friend Mr. Hurstwood a manager of of Fitzgerald and Moysto come home.
Carrie felt that Mr. Hurtswood was cleverer than Drouet. When Drouet was out of the city, Mr. Hurstwood came to visit Carrie and the affair both them began. Finally, their affair found by Drouet and Mr. Hurstwood’s wife. One day Mr. Hurstwood runs away with Carrie to New York and married illegally. For the first year they lived happy, but the next year they found difficulties. New York was different from Chicago, in New York lived was hard it was very difficult to find job and so to pay apartment.

Carrie found job as a player at theater and start the carrier from it. Unlike Carrie who got job, Wheeler or Hurstwood did not have any job. Finally Carrie decided to separate with Hurstwood and leave him some money. For a short time she became famous as a player and she got much money. The ending of the story is Hurstwood lived in poverty, bad luck and dead finally. Carrie lived in luxury but she did not feel happy and her life is so empty.

The researcher uses Psychoanalytic approach and constructs the title “PLEASURE -SEEKING PERSONALITY REFLECTED IN THEODORE DREISER’S SISTER CARRIE (2005): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH”

2. Literature Review

The researcher presents some literary review. The first is “DESERE FOR WEALTH IN THEODORE DREISER’S NOVEL SISTER CARRIE (1900): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH” conducted by Andamruci Nonika Nusagam, a Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta student.
The second was conducted by Laelatul Ardiati a student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta “AMERICAN DREAM IN THEODORE DREISER’S SISTER CARRIE: SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH”. The third was conducted by Umu Habibah, a Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta student (2010), entitled “PORTRAIT OF CARRIE’S MISERY LIVING IN POVERTY IN THEODORE DREISER’S NOVEL SISTER CARRIE (1900): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH”. The fourth was conducted by Rosalyn, Olivia (2006) “A STUDY OF THE CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF CARRIE’S OBSESSION WITH MATERIAL WEALTH AS SEEN IN THEODORE DREISER’S SISTER CARRIE”. The fifth was conducted by Irawati (1999) “A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON THE EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL FACTORS WHICH INFLUENCE THE TWO MAIN MALE CHARACTERS IN DETERMINING THEIR FINAL DECISION IN THEODORE DREISER’S SISTER CARRIE AND JENNIE GERHARDT”.

The sixth was conducted by Rong, Jin a lecturer at a School Of International Studies Of Xi’an Jiaotong University in 2007 “SISTER CARRIE IN CONSUMER SOCIETY AS SEEN FROM DECEPTION WITHIN NON-VERBAL AND VERBAL FRAMEWORK AND THE FULFILLMENT OF DESIRES”. The seventh was conducted by Chengcheng Zhang and Hui Zhang (2009) “FROM AMERICAN DREAMS TO AMERICAN TRAGEDIES — THEODORE DREISER’S PONDERATION ON AMERICAN SOCIETY AND RUINATION OF MORALITY”. The last is submitted by Miamial in
2010 which titled “SISTER CARRIE’S PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS AS AN ACTRESS”. She elaborated that this paper made an attempt to explore how Sister Carrie’s pursuit of happiness was associated with her career as an actress.

This study is different from the previous study because the theme is different. This research focuses on Pleasure-Seeking Personality Reflected in Theodore Dreiser’s *Sister Carrie* (2005): A Psychoanalytic Approach.

3. Problem Statement

Based on the previous background of study, the writer proposes the problem “How is pleasure-seeking personality portrayed in Theodore Dreiser’s *Sister Carrie*?”

4. Objectives of the Study

In carrying this research the researcher formulates the objectives of the study as follows are:

a. To describe *Sister Carrie* novel based on structural elements of novel.

b. To analyze pleasure-seeking personality which is reflected in Theodore Dreiser’s *Sister Carrie* (2005) based on psychoanalytic approach.

5. Benefit of the Study

The writer hopes that her research at *Sister Carrie* (2005) has benefits. The benefits of this study will be distinguished into two benefits:

a. Theoretical Benefits
The result of this study is expected to be able to give an information and contribution the development of the knowledge, an academic reference by other researchers to conduct further research and particularly the literary at *Sister Carrie* (2005) novel.

**b. Practical Benefits**

The study is expected to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and another student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another university who have interest with literary study on the novel from a psychoanalytic approach.

**6. Underlying Theory**

In this chapter, the researcher discusses the theories related to psychoanalytic approach. There are some points explained in this chapter such the notion of psychoanalysis, system of personality, type of personality, structural elements of the novel and theoretical application. The more explanation will be discussed as follows:

**a. Notion of Psychoanalysis**

Psychoanalysis is a part of psychological study, which is developed by Sigmund Freud. For Freud, “the person in pursuit of pleasure was in conflict with society and civilization” Pervin (1984: 62, 68).

**b. System of Personality**

The personality is divided into three parts there are the *id*, the *ego*, and the *superego*. All of them has different functions but are related to each other.
1) **Id**

According to Pervin (1984: 76), the id “cannot tolerate frustration and it is free of inhibitions. It shows no regard for reality and can seek satisfaction through action or through imagining that it has gotten what it wants- the fantasy of gratification is as good as the actual gratification”.

2) **Ego**

The function of ego based on Pervin (1984: 77) in Personality is "to express and satisfy the desires of the id in accordance with reality and the demands of the superego.

3) **Superego**

In Freud psychology, the superego represents the moral aspect and ideal personality and is guided by idealistic and moralistic principles as the opponent for id pleasure principles and the ego reality principle. (Feist and Feist, 2008: 28).

**B. Research Method**

1. **Type of the Study**

In this research, the writer uses a qualitative research. It is library research while data sources are using literary data. It aims at analyzing novel using psychoanalytic approach. The steps to conduct this research are (1) determining the type of the study (2) determining the object of the study, (3) determining data and data source, (4) determining technique of data collection, and (5) determining technique of data analysis.
2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is the novel *Sister Carrie* (2005) written by Theodore Dreiser.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

There are two data sources that are needed to do this research namely:

a. The primary source is Theodore Dreiser’s *Sister Carrie* novel.

b. The secondary sources are from other sources related the study, such as: author’s biography, dictionary, personality books and other books that support the analysis.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The methods of collecting data in this study are library research and documentation. The process of writing this thesis uses the procedures as follow:

a. Reading the novel repeatedly and underlying the important data.

b. Exploring the main data of character that will be analyzed.

c. Identifying a particular part that is important and relevant for the analysis.

d. Making note both primary and secondary data.

e. Classifying the data into some categories.
5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique of data analysis in this study is descriptive analysis. It means that the writer interprets the analysis text and content relating to the psychoanalytic approach in *Sister Carrie* novel.

C. Result and Discussion

1. Structure of Personality

The researcher analyzes the structural analysis of the novel, and a psychoanalytic analysis. Theodore creates major and minor character in building *Sister Carrie*’s story. The major character named Carrie, She is an American urban. Physically, Carrie is 18 years old, beautiful, bright and timid. The story of *Sister Carrie* takes place in Colombia, Chicago, Canada, and New York in 1889 and mostly takes place in Chicago and New York. Here Theodore wants to show the reader the condition at that time when many people move to Chicago and New York a big city to find good work and life. Theodore brings the story by giving the reader an urban American girl who tries to find good life and comes to Chicago. Theodore uses traditional plot to make the reader interested in reading the novel by giving exposition, complication, climax and resolution.

In writing novel he uses standard grammatical and nonstandard grammatical to attract the reader to read and understand the novel. The structural elements of the novel such as character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, theme and style are related to each other and create good story. It can be concluded that by using his style Theodore
serves a good literary work about an urban girl who thinks that happiness is about material achievement.

2. Psychoanalytic Analysis

There are three parts of personality based on Freud, *Id*, *Ego* and *Superego*.

a) *Id*

*Id* based on pleasure principle. In the beginning of the story Carrie leaves Columbia and her family to Chicago to find good life and get work. The second Carrie’s *id* is seen when she meets Drouet in the train and they have to separate in the station she feels that there is something missing in her heart. The third *id*, she does not like the job in running machine. When Drouet offers to live in his house, Carrie accepts it. Her *id* wants to get something better if she stays in Drouet’s place. The fifth *id* can be seen in Carrie feelings that she likes Drouet but when Hurstwood comes to her house she feels that Hurstwood is more interesting than Drouet and then they fall in love.

The sixth *id* in Carrie appears when she knows that Hurstwood is a married man and she feels hurt. The seventh *Id* appears when she knows that Hurstwood is a married man then she decides not to meet him. The eighth *Id*, when Hurstwood deceives Carrie that Drouet gets injured and she says that she
hates him although she loves him. The ninth id appears when Carrie wants to look beautiful as Mrs. Vance. The tenth id, when Hurstwood has no work to do, Carrie tries to think how if she works as a player in stage. The eleventh id, after Carrie gets a job in stage she gets a wage from it and she spends her money to buy what she wants. The last Id shows after she works at theater she decides to leave Hurstwood. It shows she wants to live freely from the economic problem.

b) *Ego*

Ego is based on realistic principle The first ego is shown when Carrie leaves her family in Columbia. The second ego, when Carrie meets Drouet in train, they have to separate and she feels there is something missing in her heart. Here she comes with Minnie. The third ego, when working at shoe’s factory she feels that the salary is low and she does not like to do her job running machine but she continues her job The fourth ego can be seen when Carrie leaves Minnie’s flat and moves to Drouet’s house.

The fifth ego is shown when Carrie meets Drouet she likes him but when Drouet bring Hurstwood come to his house she feels that she likes him and has an affair. The sixth ego is shown when she knows that Hurstwood a married man, she blames Drouet for all the tragedy. Finally she chooses to live
with Hurstwood than Drouet although he is a married man, after Hurstwood has got a divorce then they get married. The seventh ego can be seen after knowing the fact about Hurstwood is a married man, Carrie writes a letter and tells him not to meet her anymore. The eighth ego is shown when knowing the fact that Carrie is deceived by Hurstwood information about Drouet’s injured, she hates him although she loves him and finally she decides to live with Hurstwood and ask him to get married.

The ninth ego is seen she wants to look beautiful by wearing dark-blue walking dress with a nobby hat. The tenth ego is seen when Carrie tries to find work in stage and finally she gets it. The eleventh ego is seen when she goes to buy what she wants, she buys shirt and clothes until she spends much money to buy it. The last ego is shown when Carrie leaves Hurstwood because she feels that their economic situation is impossible to fulfill their necessary.

c) Superego

Superego is moral principle. The first superego is seen when she gets a job in shoes factory and she gets low wage and she doesn’t like to work there, she continues work there. She must hold out in that job because she needs money to buy food and other.
The last superego is seen when her id wants to leave Hurstwood, her ego accepts this decision because if she leaves with Hurstwood she cannot buy her necessary. So, her superego asks her to leave money to Hurstwood. So, when she leaves Hurstwood she leaves money in envelope.

3. Type of Personality

There are three types of personality: pleasure-seeking personality, guilty-ridden personality and psychologically healthy personality. Pleasure-seeking based on Freud in Feist and Feist (2008:28) is kind of personality refers to pleasure without caring whether it is right or proper. Here id is more dominant than ego and superego.

Table of Id, Ego and Superego founded in Carrie’s personality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Id</th>
<th>Ego</th>
<th>Superego</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Carrie leaves her family and comes to Chicago to find job</td>
<td>Carrie leaves Columbia and comes to Chicago.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>When she meets Drouet she feels that there is something different in her heart.</td>
<td>She separate with Drouet in station because she must go with Minnie.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>She does not like her job in running machine.</td>
<td>Although she does not like the job she continues this job.</td>
<td>She must continue her job in running machine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>She lives in Drouet’s place to get the better life.</td>
<td>She accepts Drouet offer to live in Drouet’s place</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>When she meets Hurstwood she feels that she likes him</td>
<td>Carrie has an affair with Hurstwood.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>She knows Hurstwood is a married man, she feels sad</td>
<td>She feels crumbling and blames Drouet for all the tragedy.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>She writes a letter and asks Hurstwood not to meet her</td>
<td>She sends a letter the next morning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>She feels deceived by Hurstwood anymore.</td>
<td>She hates him although she loves him and finally she decides to live with Hurstwood and asks him to get married.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>She wants to look beautiful as Mrs. Vance.</td>
<td>She wears dark-blue walking dress with a nobby hat.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Hurstwood has no work to do, and then Carrie thinks how if she works as a player in stage.</td>
<td>Carrie tries to find work in stage and finally she gets it.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Carrie gets a wage from her job. Then she wants to keep her money to buy what she wants.</td>
<td>She going to buy what she wants, she buy shirt and clothes until she spend much money to buy it.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>She wants to live freely from the economic problem.</td>
<td>Carrie leaves Hurstwood and leaves money for Hurstwood. Her superego asks her to leave money to Hurstwood.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In *Sister Carrie* it can be seen find out that Carrie’s personality is pleasure-seeking personality because she seeks pleasure for her life without caring whether it is good or not. Her *Id* is more dominant than *Ego* and *Superego*. So, Carrie is type of pleasure-seeking personality.

### D. Conclusion

Based on structural analysis, it shows that the writer wants deliver a message that happiness is not about material achievement but based on the capability to be thankful for what you have. Here the writer creates an urban young girl who was seeking for pleasure and think that money is the way to get pleasure, by bringing Carrie’s character and personality to prove his idea. Theodore brings the setting of story takes place in Chicago and New York because he wants to describe about the society that tend moving from village to city to make a better life and the setting of time is
in 1889 up to 1896 because in this era, peoples did urbanization as the major character did and it can support the writer idea in building the story and literature usually reflect the condition of the society of its era. Theodore uses traditional plot in drawing the story consist of exposition, complication, climax and resolution. The writer is the third person point of view because he does not involve in the story. He uses style in writing the novel by bringing diction and figurative language to make the reader interest to read and to create the beauty of language. All of the elements such setting, character, plot and other relates to each other and form a unity of literary work.

Based on psychoanalytic analysis it shows that in this novel the writer illustrates a psychological phenomena when someone’s behavior was dominated by Id. It was evidence that in getting happiness, Carrie thinks that money is the way to get happiness and she tend to fulfill her id without think is it right or not. She will do everything to get what they want. Carrie’s personality is pleasure-seeking because her id is more dominant than ego and superego as what Freud referred in Feist and Feist (2008) that type of pleasure-seeking personality is personality which refers to pleasure without care is it right or not and id is dominant. Theodore gives Critic that Happiness is the human goal in life but it cannot be reaching only by money, happiness can come to someone who live in thankful and patient with what they have.