THE INFLUENCE OF POST TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE
ON THE PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT
OF LISBETH SALANDER IN STIEG LARRSON’S
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO NOVEL (2008):
A PSYCHOANALYTIC CRITICISM

PUBLICATION ARTICLES

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education
in English Education Department

Proposed by:

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SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA
2014
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ABSTRACT

The major issue of this study is How the influence of past traumatic experience on the personality development of Lisbeth Salander is reflected in Stieg Larsson’s The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo novel. The objective of this study is to identify what causes the influence of past traumatic experience on the personality development in the self of Lisbeth Salander and to explain why Lisbeth Salander tries to solve the problem of past traumatic experience on the personality development. The research is qualitative study. The researcher uses two data sources: primary data source and secondary data source. Primary data is the primary data sources are taken from Stieg Larsson’s novel The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo and the secondary data sources are taken from literary books or any information related to past traumatic experience on the personality development that support the psychoanalytic criticism. The data analysis method is descriptive qualitative analysis based on psychoanalytic criticism. The result of the study is as follows. First, based on the structural analysis, it can be concluded that in this novel the author conveys a moral message that “One cannot escape from one’s past time”. Secondly, according to psychoanalytic analysis, it can be concluded that in this novel the author illustrates a psychological phenomenon in which an individual is very much influenced by the past traumatic experience.

Keyword: selfish, altruistic, desires, psychoanalytic criticism.
I. INTRODUCTION

The Girl with The Dragon Tattoo is a novel that has many public responses. These responses come from some readers. (Keith P. 2011. in Amazon.com), he said that “Excellent film and book, look forward to reading the other and possible sequel to movie, gotta love that Daniel Craig”. (Emma. 2012. In Goodpress), said that “Hated it with a passion. Really didn't like it. It was overly wordy, misguided, easily lost, needlessly violent and masochistic, and overall a very unfulfilling read”. From stieglarsson.com, website, said that “Wonderful book. Must disturbing book I have ever read and I was absolutely astonished when I realized that there was a Millennium Trilogy. I thought that the book just ended abruptly but I was surprised to find out there was more books. I am so excited to read more about Lisbeth Salander”. According to the researcher there are four interesting points of the novel to be researched. First the characters in the novel have strong. Lisbeth Salander, known for her "crooked smile," is one of the most intriguing characters to hit bookstores ever. Salander's appearance (tattoos, piercings, provocative T-shirts, spiky hair, short skirts). Second, the novel is set in Hedeby Island. The interesting of the setting in the novel is that the setting of the novel is a real life. Third, the novel has interesting plot. Stieg Larsson uses a personality of Lisbeth Salander plot and inner trauma conflict subplot to tell the story in the novel. The last point, the novel has important theme to be discussed. The theme of the story is post traumatic experience.

For the study the researcher found several researchers analyzing The girl with a Dragon Tattoo novel. First is done by Ari Fatmawati (2013), “Superwoman Reflected In David Fincher’s The Girl with The Dragon Tattoo Movie (2011): A Feminist Approach”. Second by Maya Ruhil Ahmani (2013), “Ambition of Mikael Blomkvist reflected in Stieg Larsson’s The Girl with The Dragon Tattoo Novel (2008): A Psychoanalytic Approach”. The different from the previous research, this study focuses on the influence of past traumatic experience on the personality development of Lisbeth Salander, one of the major characters in this novel by using psychoanalytic criticism. The
researcher entitled this research “The Influence of Past Traumatic Experience on The Personality Development of Lisbeth Salander in Stieg Larsson’s The Girl with The Dragon Tattoo Novel (2008): A Psychoanalytic Criticism”.

Underlying theory, post traumatic experience is a disturbing event in the present, or reminiscing about a terrible episode. For some people, bad experiences can open the frightful and horrible memories. Related with psychoanalytic, people who post traumatic experiences often have symptoms and problems afterward. Psychoanalysis appears thought the research of Sigmund Freud (1856-1939). Psychoanalysis is branch of psychological that concern with the study of level consciousness served as focal point in psychoanalytic thinking. Freud states that “psychoanalysis aims at achieves nothing more than discovery of the unconscious in mental life” (Pervin, 1997:71). According to Freud psychoanalytic theory of personality, personality is composed of three elements. These three elements of personality known as the id, ego and the superego, work together to create complex human behaviors. Id is the only component of personality that is present from birth. It is without reason, logic, values, morals, or ethics. the id cannot tolerate frustration and is free of inhabitations (Previn, 1984:76). Ego is the component of personality that is responsible for dealing with reality. The superego is the aspect of personality that holds all of our internalized moral standards and ideals that we acquire from both parents and society our sense of right and wrong. (Hall and Lindzey, 1985: 38). Researcher used psychoanalytic criticism in The Girl with The Dragon Tattoo novel.

II. RESEARCH METHOD

This research used qualitative method Moleong (2000: 103). This research uses two data, primary and secondary data. The primary data sources are taken from The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo novel. The secondary data sources are taken from literary books that support the psychoanalytic criticism. Those data are collected in a form of library research (Mann, 2005: 61).
This research done the technique of data collection by reading and Learning Comprehension the novel repeatedly, reading translation novel to get more understanding, accessing to the internet to get several information and articles related to the object of the study, making a summary and determining (title, issue, topic, theory) about that novel, selecting particular parts considered important and relevant for analysis, and drawing conclusion based on the data analysis.

In analyzing the data, the researcher uses descriptive analyzes (Nazir, 1983: 63). The researcher analyzes the data viewed from psychoanalytic criticism focused on the influence of past traumatic experience of Lisbeth in *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* novel.

III. RESEARCH FINDING

A. The Personality of Lisbeth Salander

1. *Id*

   *Id* is the source of all psychic energy, making it the primary component of personality. *Id* is driven by principle human, which strives for produce gratification of all desires, wants, and needs. The function of *id* is to effort the energy to reach pleasure principle, and there are two way to reach it, firstly reflect action such as inhaling, coughing or sneezing.

   In *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* novel the *id* of the major character Lisbeth Salander appears related with her principle to produce desire and wants. The situation tells about the condition of Lisbeth, where when she was a child, she is the girl who has cut so many classes in school that she did not graduate can write a report so grammatically correct. But on her job, she tries to proof that she is the one with a large creation and imagination on investigation. This is her desire and wants to be an investigator.

   Lisbeth has a large desire since she was a kid, to be a great person. Then she did it, she possesed a unique gift, where on every
investigation she can give a great value based on her imagination and she always comes back with something different. She has an ability to gather information like a sheer of magic. She has the ability to get under the skin of the person she is investigating. Besides that, she has a report where her reports can be a catastrophe for the individual who landed in her radar.

The next id of Lisbeth also appears related with her desire and wants to become a good investigator. Lisbeth strong desire to gets her investigation success. Because she has a great gift to gather information, it looks that she does not care about people surrounds her and also her boss.

As a girl who has a strong desire and wants sometimes Lisbeth to much enjoyed on her world. So, she has a special character which is her boss hates, Lisbeth is a girl with less of smile, because this is what she wants. She wants to catch all the bad guys in her city and she does not want if people know her as a weak girl.

Lisbeth id will become the most hate by her boss. Because of she rarely laugh, Armansky conclude that she is a hard girl where no one can not touch her.

The next Lisbeth id also appears related with her wants and needs. As on Armansky employer, Lisbeth has a strong wants for always give her boss a large of respect and no close relationship among them.

Lisbeth is a hard girl. She tells everything about herself where she gives a lot of respect to Armansky because he is her boss and she has meet his wife and she want to keep her job with Armansky, and the most idiotic thing she cannot do is get involve with him.

The next id of Lisbeth appears related with her wants and need. On the novel, beside her strong wants in a great job as investigator, she is also has a strong wants to keep her mother happy.
In the middle of light conversation between Lisbeth and her mother, Lisbeth tries to cheer her mother up by not hurting her mother’s heart. She tries to give a lot of cares to her mother by supporting her on everything.

2. **Ego**

The *ego* develops from the *id* and ensures that the impulses of the *id* can be expressed in a manner acceptable in the real world. The *ego* functions in both the conscious, preconscious, and unconscious mind. *Ego* operates based on the reality principle, which strives to satisfy the *id*'s desires in realistic and socially appropriate ways.

The *ego* of Lisbeth appears as one of her *id* where she loves her job as investigator. No one can disturb her when she is doing the investigation, even though her boss. Because of that sometimes she does not realize that she must disobey her boss rules.

In the middle of investigation, Lisbeth is a perfection girl, where she does not want if she fails on the investigation, so sometimes she disobey her boss call. Armansky assigns her to do a routine check on a researcher in the pharmaceutical industry before a corporate buyout. The job is schedule to take a week, but it drag on for a while. After four weeks’ silence and several reminders, which she ignored, Salander came back with a report documenting that the subject in question was a pedophile.

One day in certain of investigation related with the pedophile, he boss calls her and she do not pick up the telephone and call Armansky or come into his office wanting to talk to him. This is one of her strong ego, where she does not care with everything accept she gets success on the investigation.

Below is the next Lisbeth *ego* where she does not care about around her. Her *id* in laugh rarely really makes her boss dislike her attitude, but she does not care. Lisbeth characters where she lacks of
emotional response. These characters are ok for her but for her boss this is disaster.

3. Superego

The superego is the part of the personality that represents the moral standards of society as convoyed to a person by his or her parents. The superego as approximately equivalent to what we call “conscience”. Like the id, superego is oblivious of reality. Instead of considering what is realistic or possible, the function of superego is to establish whether it right or wrong, immoral in order to the personality can measure suitable with moral society. Superego is to oppose the ego or id and make the world become an ideal conception, the main functions of the superego are to control the impulse of id in order the impulse is most highly condemned by society, to persuade the ego to substitute moralistic, to strive for perfection.

The Superego of Lisbeth appears in the middle of investigation, where she uses an appropriate camouflage for an expedition behind enemy lines. When Lisbeth waiting for the enemy movement in almost half an hour, the old woman passes her and she studies her with suspicious. As a strong girl, in a certain situation, this can makes her very angry with the old lady because of the suspicious look. But she knows that her ego will not finished her investigation, then she just gives her a light smile to calm her suspicious down. This is her superego to press her ego down. Try to think positive and act positive with civilian.

The next superego of Lisbeth also appears when she meets with her informant named “Plague”. She comes to his house and she just judged the entire condition of his house.

When she meets with Plague, in a room that is dark in the apartment; the light from a single lamp seeped out into the hall from the bedroom he used as an office. The place is smell stuffy and stale. The negative think of Lisbeth appears because of that. This negative think of
Lisbeth appears because for a long time she lives in a better place, then she finds her friend lives in a bad place.

But, after she hears the story behind the place, she concludes that all of her thought is wrong, then she takes her words back, and tries to understand the entire story of his friend place.

B. Traumatic experience of Lisbeth Salander

An unforgettable experience are good experiences always become give spirit for people, but the bad experiences give people trauma. Post traumatic experience is a disturbing event in the present, or reminiscing about a terrible episode. For some people, bad experiences can open the frightful and horrible memories. People who post traumatic experiences often have symptoms and problems afterward. This is very serious, because symptoms and problems are depends on many including a person's life experiences before the trauma. This is happen if people find themselves suddenly in danger; sometimes they overcome with feelings or fear, helplessness, or horror. Some common past traumatic experience include being physically attacked, being in a serious accident, being in combat, being sexually assaulted, and being in disaster.

In The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo novel there are also traumatic experience appears related with Lisbeth life. Her traumatic experienced when she was a child on the age of twelve years old, she experienced a traumatic life, where she lives alone without parents. Grown up people handed her over into a social and psychiatric guardianship, and she never gets a lot of care and love from her family.

The above quotation is the causes of Lisbeth traumatic experience. Her life is not good enough for twelve years girl. She never gets a real love from her family. She adopts with more than one parents but it's all never work. Because of this traumatic experience she is deem to be emotionally disturb and dangerously violent towards her classmate and possibly towards herself.
Because of her uncontrolled behavior, there are no psychiatric able to change her into a normal girl. Then the court gives her a new parent and they are an AdvokatPalmgren who, in spite of a rather difficult start, has success where psychiatrists and doctors have failed.

The other causes is also find after the doctors know that the adopt parents will not finish Lisbeth problem. Then the doctors ask the court the release her in society by way of a Foster family.

But the family also cannot change her normal. She still with her old habit, involve in many kinds of crime, like drug. The above quotation is the effect of traumatic experience of Lisbeth, where finally she is uncontrolled, and she involves with drug. At the age of seventeen, she is arrested by the police on four occasion. Twice she is intoxicated and end up in emergency room. Then she gets involve in narcotic.

The above causes and effects of traumatic experience can create her id, ego and superego for the next life of her. Because of her traumatic experience on the past, it can create her character, such as, she becomes a hard and taught girl without a smile and also far from civiliant. Then it can also change her ego after her traumatic experience, she does not care about people around her anymore, the most important thing is that she can finish what she want to do.

IV. DISCUSSION

_The Girl with The Dragon Tattoo_ novel is on of the strongest novel with a lot of views appeared. Like from the novel itself, the novel translation and also the movie. It is because the novel has the strong charachters. LisbethSalander, known for her "crooked smile," is one of the most intriguing characters to hit bookstores ever. Salander's appearance (tattoos, piercings, provocative T-shirts, spiky hair, short skirts) and her unusual mannerisms give those who encounter her plenty of room to misjudge and stereotype her. The awesome mental processing, the questionable morality, the cold gaze, the difficulty interacting "normally" with people, the seeming lack of emotion, the
underground pursuit of justice, the holding back of information from the cops and other authorities, the use of technology and scientific reasoning to solve crime. Salander is very vulnerable and full of self-doubt. She's isolated by the mysterious trauma of her past, and by her official status as a mentally ill person. With a photographic memory, a proclivity for snooping, and a genius for hacking, she's the perfect private investigator-vigilante.

The personality of Lisbeth appears in a form of *id, ego* and *superego*. The *id* of Lisbeth also appears in a form of her desire, wants and need, where she has a strong desire to become an investigator and also she wants to take care of her mother. As a girl who has a strong desire and wants sometimes Lisbeth to much enjoyed on her world. So, she has a special character which is her boss hates, Lisbeth is a girl with less of smile, because this is what she wants. She wants to catch all the bad guys in her city and she does not want if people knows her as a weak girl.

The *ego* of Lisbeth appears because of her id who has a strong desire as an investigator. Because of this desire, she does not care about people around her especially her boss. Lisbeth characters shows that she lacks of emotional respons. These characters is ok for her but for her boss this is dissaster.

The *Superego* of Lisbeth also appears in the middle of investigation she always tries to think positive on people. When Lisbeth waiting for the enemy movement in almost half an hour, the old woman passes her and she studies her with suspiscious. As a strong girl, in a certain situation, this can makes her very angry with the old lady because of the suspicions look. But she knows that her *ego* will not finished her investigation, then she just gives her a light smile to calm her suspicous down. This is her *superego* to press her *ego* down. Try to think positive and act positive with civilian.

The traumatic experience of Lisbeth appears in two ways, causes and effects. The causes of Lisbeth traumatic experience is because she lives alone without parents. Grown up people handed her over into a social and psychiatric guardianship, and she never gets a lot of care and love from her family. The effect of traumatic experience of Lisbeth, where finally she is uncontrolled, and
she involves with drug and experience with violence. Lisbeth kick a male passenger in the head in the head inside the gates of the Gamla Stan tunnelbana station.

V. CONCLUSION

In *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* novel the writer analyze by using psychoanalytic criticism.

Based on psychoanalytic criticism analysis *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* novel by Stieg Larsson illustrated a psychological phenomenon in which an individual is very much influenced by the past traumatic experience.
VI. BIBLIOGRAPHY


http://www.stieglarsson.com/The-Girl-With-The-Dragon-Tattoo