

**HALLUCINATION EXPERIENCED BY THE GOVERNESS IN HENRY
JAMES' *THE TURN OF THE SCREW* (1898) : PSYCHOLOGICAL
PERSPECTIVE**



PUBLICATION ARTICLE

**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement
for Getting the Post Graduate Degree of Language Department
at Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta**

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APPROVAL

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ABSTRACT

SRI HARTINI. S 200120046. HALLUCINATION EXPERIENCED BY THE GOVERNESS IN HENRY JAMES' *THE TURN OF THE SCREW* (1898) : PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES. THESIS. POST GRADUATE PROGRAM OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT. MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA. 2014.

The study deals with how hallucination reflected in Henry James' *The Turn of The Screw*. According to Hornby (1987 : 387) stated hallucination is experience a seemly real perception of something not actually present. This study focus on Sigmund Freud theory and other experts. Psychologically, the objectives of this study are presenting an analysis of the symptoms, types, causes and effects of hallucination experienced by the governess, the main character. This research employs a qualitative approach. In this method, there are two types of data source, namely primary and secondary data source. The primary data source is the novel and the secondary data is other material related to the study. Both data are collected through library research and analyzed by descriptive analysis. The findings of the research reveal the symptoms of hallucination experienced by the governess which are feeling anxious, seeing the apparitions, hearing some voices, feeling afraid, day dreaming, screaming, and talking to oneself, and the types of hallucination experienced by her which are auditory, visual, olfactory and mood-incongruent hallucination. The causes of hallucination experienced by her are her repressed and unfulfilled sexual desires. And the effects of hallucination found are the governess insanity and over protective to the children. The findings of this research are expected to give a wider horizon about hallucination, and also can add and enrich the knowledge about literature product. Furthermore, it will give some fresh ideas for further study in this research

Keywords : Hallucination, *The Turn of The Screw*, Psychological Perspective.

A. Introduction

The Turn of the Screw was written by Henry James reflects how hallucination experienced by the main character, governess. By his ability, he is able to come back again from fantasy world moving to real world. He tries to be out from fantasy world by connecting much experience of daily life which is so interesting, then pouring out into an artistic story. So, his work is like the reality. He said, “ Both the initial impressions and the execution were important” (Blair, 1959 : 751). The story of *TTOTS* focuses on a young, naive governess who is confronted by a pair of ghosts that she suspects is corrupting the two young children, Miles and Flora in her charge.

This research is using psychological perspective. Some previous researches that the writer uses as the sources of data are *Psychical Research and The Turn of The Screw* (Roellinger Jr, 1948), *Psychosexual Problem of Governess in The Turn of The Screw* (Jericho, 2008), *Analysis : Henry James’ The Turn of The Screw, Literature and Photography in the 19th Century America: Spectacles of the Body* (Festante, 2003), *The Role of Repression in Henry James’ The Turn of The Screw* (Rodriguez, 2006), *Tracing the Thread: a Textual Analysis of The Turn of The Screw* (Emond, 1986).

Anderson says that the theme of *TTOTS* is to discover a Garden of Eden archetype in *The Turn of the Screw* (Edel, 1963: 9). Professor Heilman says that the theme of this story is the struggle of evil to possess the human soul (Baym, 1985: 426). According to an essay on Victorian governesses, being carried away was something to be expected of a young woman with a stressful profession. Anna Jameson explains that a young governess will typically be “nervous and over-anxious” (2004: 131). Mary Maurice (2004: 135) said while exploring some of the prejudices against governesses, describes stereotypes those are similar to the governess’ behavior. She states that the governesses frequently become the children’s corrupter and that the sons were in some instances objects of notice. The idea of governesses warping young minds was predominant in the Victorian culture.

The novel is rich with psychological aspects that are manifested in the characters' acts and manners. The governess who sees the ghost, is neurotic and sexually repressed, and the ghosts were merely symptoms of her state as not real ghosts, but only hallucination. So, the actual reason behind the governess' hallucination of the "ghosts" is the most reasonably involves her psychological problems and approaching it by this point of view is far more logical considering it supernaturally: her young age, her sexual regression in the Victorian era, her background, her lack of experience in taking her job, her affection toward her master and even toward Miles are the reasons behind her to have this hallucinations and emerge insanity.

Hallucinations are intriguing psychological phenomena that have a number of important clinical, theoretical and empirical implications; they are also among the most severe and puzzling forms of psychopathology. Hallucination also can be defined as the experience of perceiving objects or events that do not have an external source, such as hearing one's name called by a voice that no one else seems to hear. It is similar with Hornby (1987 : 387) stated hallucination is experience a seemly real perception of something not actually present. Leister (1988 : 8) in *The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders or DSM-IV* defines hallucination is a sensory perception that has the compelling sense of reality of a true perception but that occurs without external stimulation of the relevant sensory organ. While Manford (1998 : 72) defined as the perception of an object or event (in any of the 5 senses) in the absence of an external stimulus, are experienced by patients with conditions that span several fields (e.g., psychiatry, neurology, and ophthalmology). As some kinds of psychological events appear within the novel, the researcher applies the theory from Sigmund Freud and other experts.

Wellek and Warren (1956: 216) state, "The novel is a picture of real life and manners and of the time in which it is written". While if one studies the character's mind or psyche, one deals with psychological approach. In reading a novel, a good reader, as Brooks and Warren (1959: 648) state, is the

psychological value in literary work; we can use a psychological approach. According to Wellek and Warren (1956: 81), there are four psychological approaches in literature but in this analysis used the third one, that is the study of psychological types and laws present within works of literature. This part analyses or interprets the literary works with the psychological theory which is sometimes is the result of author's imagination who escapes from the reality in life into fantasy world. It is called by Thorpe (1961 : 75), "the creativity of author and it is an escape or a run".

Hilgard (1962: 2-3) says that psychology may be defined as the science that studies the behavior of man and other animals. While Lyle E. Bourra Jr and Ekstrand (1973:11) say that psychology is the scientific study of behavior and the systematic application of behavior principles. By psychology, we may observe how living creatures cope with their environment and the way they interest each other.

B. Research Method

This research employs descriptive qualitative research. Descriptive method is a method which is employed to collect data, analyze data and draw conclusion of the analyzed data. As stated by Creswell (1994:171) "Descriptive method is collecting the qualitative data, analyzing them and writing result." In this method, there are two types of data source, namely primary and secondary data source. The primary data source is the novel itself, meanwhile the secondary data sources are other materials related to the study. Both data are collected through library research (Denzin and Lincoln, 2005: 3).

In collecting data, the writer will take some steps as follow: reading the novel repeatedly, taking notes of important parts both primary and secondary data, arranging the data into several groups based on its theoretical category, selecting particular parts considered important and relevant for analysis, and drawing conclusion.

In analyzing the data, the writer applies a descriptive approach. The writer analyzes the data based on psychological perspective. The focus will be paid on the problem of hallucination reflected in *The Turn of The Screw* novel.

C . Research Findings

1. The symptoms of hallucination

By analyzing the content of the story, it is found that the governess shows some kinds of symptoms of hallucination. She shows “feeling anxious”. Naturally, someone will be afraid and anxious in taking her first job, because she is in the big responsibility in her first experience. For her, this responsibility needs much time and seriousness in doing her duty. This looks on how her commitment of her job. Further, the responsibility itself will be used as a measure by the employer to know how far she cares and does her job well. The next symptom is “seeing the apparation.” One time, the governess feels the attendance of ghost at Bly which threatens herself and children’s safety as the next matter. She feels that she can not do her duty to save her children from the ghost terror. The children are afraid when the governess talks about Peter Quint and Miss Jessel who have died. This event really gives her the bigger difficulty. After that, “hearing some voices.” Besides the governess sees the apparition, she also hears some voices that annoys her very much. Because of her lack of experience in managing home by herself, She is unable to arrange the planning related to the children’s activities. So, she wants an experienced friend to solve the problems that she faces. In her mind, she just wants her employer who can help her at all. In fact, the governess has been given “Carte Blanche”. It means that she must make her own decisions and may not communicate with her employer. Although there are many person at Bly, the governess is really in supreme authority. It is just her who may decide all of thing which will be done by all the people at Bly. Later is feeling afraid. The governess believes that the ghost has special aims in his

appearance dealing with her beloved pupils. She thinks that the ghost's appearance has threatened herself and her pupils' safety. She always imagines the ghost's appearance that wants to look for her pupils. Furthermore, is "day dreaming". Another indication that shows if the governess experiences hallucination is when she felt the loneliness. Considering the pressure to raise children while simultaneously being isolated from the rest of the community, it is no wonder that the governess experienced severe depression or psychotic episodes. Besides that, is "screaming". Another symptom of hallucination that often appears is screaming to sign that a strange and frightful thing comes to close. On the day, when the governess thinks her companion coming, she shouted in scary look. And the last one is "talking to oneself". When someone talking to herself or speaking to herself, it might be indicated as insane or someone who communicates with the unseen things, but it's not the worse, it can be also one of the symptom of hallucination. Here, the governess with her unconsciousness has been talking to herself and thought of something out of her mind.

2. The causes of hallucination

The causes of hallucination that is experienced by the governess, categorized as follows:

a. Repressed sexual desire

The governess is full of love and affection. After she falls in love with her handsome employer, she nurses her feeling with fantasies, and much of her later behaviour is motivated by her desire to impress him. Her day dreams are filled with the figure of the man in Harley street. She always imagines how happy she is if the employer comes to her along her stroll. She is never to meet her employer again, what she does meet is the apparition.

b. Unfulfilled sexual desire

The governess really admires the children and she feels getting satisfaction when she is together with them. The children have special

beauty and have the bloom of health and happiness. Miles is too fine and fair for the world; he is a handsome little boy. Indeed, she is dazzled by the loveliness of her pupils.

3. The effects of hallucination

The effects of hallucination in the governess life are being “overprotective” and “insane”. Although the governess adores Miles and Flora when she first meets them, she quickly becomes suspicious of their every word and action, convinced that they hope to deceive her. She is fickle, however, and frequently switches back to being absolutely sure of their pure innocence. At these times, her affection for the children can be intense. She embraces them often and with passion, going so far as to kiss Miles. The ambiguity of the text allows these displays of affection to appear both harmless and inappropriate.

As the story goes on, the governess does start to appear a little crazy. She imagines that the children under the influence of the ghosts are plotting against her.

D. Discussion

Based on Wellek statement (1975:56) the writer assumed that the notion of psychology of literature means the relationship between the psychological study of the writer or the writer state of mind, as a type and as individual, or the study of the creative process, or (the study of the psychological types and laws present within the works of literature) and it affects to the readers (audience psychology) in addition, psychology of literature is a study of literature based on psychological perspective that is described by the author in his or her literary work to understand the human personality. Psychology studies the human personality in real life, where as literature is created based on psychology.

First, *The Turn of the Screw*, written by Henry James, is clear that this story is psychological thriller based within the Gothic tradition, this means by

proxy, ghosts or elements of the supernatural should be presented. Studying the character's mind or psyche, it deals with psychological approach. In reading this novel, as a good reader, the psychological value in a literary work uses the third psychological approach that is the study of psychological types and laws present within works of literature which is sometimes is the result of author's imagination who escapes from the reality in life into fantasy world. *TTOTS* describes the mind of the main character, governess that is disturbed because of experiencing hallucination caused by the repressed and unfulfilled sexual desires.

Second, the governess experiences hallucination that is signed by some symptoms that a normal one rarely experiences it; they are feeling anxious and afraid, seeing apparition, hearing some voices, day dreaming, screaming, and talking to oneself. So, in long time governess is getting overprotective and insane.

E. Conclusion

After analyzing *The Turn of The Screw* novella, the writer concludes that the story of the novella reveals the symptoms, the types, the causes and the effects of hallucination experienced by the main character, the governess. The hallucination is also happened because of some reasons such as the governess poverty, low education, too much responsibility, repressed and unfulfilled sexual desire. It is also caused by some effects on her life that lead to her become insane and over protective to the children, Miles and Flora.

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