

**ALTRUISM REFLECTED AT VICTOR HUGO'S *LES MISERABLES* (1862):
A PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDY OF LITERATURE**



PUBLICATION ARTICLE

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

by:

ANITA REDİYATI RUKMANA

A 320100260

**TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION FACULTY
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

2014



UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH SURAKARTA
FAKULTAS KEGURUAN DAN ILMU PENDIDIKAN

Sekretariat JL. A Yani Tromol Pos 1 Pabelan, Kartasura, Surakarta 57102 Telp. (0271) 717417 Ext. 188

Surat Persetujuan Artikel Publikasi Ilmiah

Yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini pembimbing skripsi/tugas akhir:

Nama : Drs. M. Thoyibi, M.S
NIK : 410
Nama : Titis Setyabudi, S.Si., M.Hum
NIK : 948

Telah membaca mencermati naskah artikel publikasi ilmiah, yang merupakan ringkasan skripsi (tugas akhir) dari mahasiswa:

Nama : Anita Rediyati Rukmana
NIM : A320 100 260
Program Study : Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris
Judul Skripsi : ***ALTRUISM REFLECTED AT VICTOR HUGO'S LES MISERABLES (1862): A PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDY OF LITERATURE***

Naskah artikel tersebut, layak dan dapat disetujui untuk dipublikasikan.
Demikian persetujuan ini dibuat, semoga dapat dipergunakan sepenuhnya.

Surakarta, 1 Desember 2014

Pembimbing I

Drs. M. Thoyibi, M.S
NIK. 410

Pembimbing II

Titis Setyabudi, S.Si., M.Hum
NIK. 948

**ALTRUISM REFLECTED AT VICTOR HUGO'S *LES MISERABLES*
(1862): A PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDY OF LITERATURE**

**ANITA REDIYATI RUKMANA
A 320100260**

anitredukmn@gmail.com

Department of English Education
Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta

ABSTRACT

This research paper is aimed to show visible image of Victor Hugo's novel which is analyzed by using psychoanalytic approach. The objective of the research is to analyze the novel based on psychoanalytic approach proposed by Sigmund Freud. This research paper belongs to qualitative research. Data of the research are divided into two, primary data and secondary data. The primary data source is Les Miserables novel and the secondary data is taken from other material related to the study. Both data are collected through library research and analyzed by descriptive analysis. The conclusion of the research is based on the psychoanalytic analysis of the novel, it can be inferred that Victor Hugo illustrates psychological phenomena in which the character experienced an altruism.

Keywords: altruism, altruistic, Les Miserables, psychoanalytic approach

A. Introduction

Altruism is feeling to help others and a lack of selfishness. Altruism can also occur by sublimation. Sublimation is one of the defense mechanism caused by negative factors that motivate someone to act or to respond into better direction at society. If someone meets an unpleasant impulse they usually dispose to act negatively, but in altruism the stimuli is received by *superego* and being processed for the good of the society. In this case, altruism provides people to act based on communal value. There are many novels raising this issue, and one of them is *Les Miserables* novel written by Victor Hugo.

Les Miserables is a French novel. It was published by Lacroix and Verboeckhoven in 1862. The novel was firstly published in Belgia. This novel is translated into 9 different languages. It consists of 1500 pages in English version edition, and 1900 pages in French. *Les Miserables* was adapted into movie, drama, and opera with the same title as its novel. The story takes place in France arround 1815-1832 during French revolution.

There are some literature reviews concerning with *Les Miserables* (1862) written by Victor Hugo. By using *ProQuest*, the researcher managed to find foreign researchers. Algis Valiunas (2007) with his thesis entitled *The Sacred Heart of Victor Hugo*. He concludes that the story of Victor Hugos's last time effects to his novel. In Steven Alan Carr's thesis (2002) entitled *The Holocaust in the Text: Victor Hugo's Les Miserables and the Allegorical Film Adaptation*, he tells many movies are adapted from *Les Miserables*, and

Hugo's novel signals a resonance between the book and a modernist response to the Holocaust. The other thesis is from Mary Anne O'Neil (1999) with her thesis entitled *Pascalian reflections in Les Miserables*. He concludes that Pascal and Victor Hugo are an abstract philosopher.

The main issue of this research is altruism shown in the main character named Jean Valjean. It is analyzed by using psychoanalytic approach proposed by Freud. Psychoanalysis is the most famous theory of psychology, in which a branch of psychological study concerns with personality of human being. Then, structure of personality is divided into three levels, namely: *id*, *ego*, and *superego*. Roughly, *Id* represents "inhibited impulses". It has orientation on avoiding pain and pursuing pleasure (pleasure principle) (Pervin, 1984: 76). The *superego* represents "the voice of conscience". This structure functions to control behavior in accordance with the rules of society and reward and punishment. The *ego* represents "rational thinking" (Hall and Lindzey, 1985: 33).

In this research, the research is analyzed by using the psychoanalytic approach proposed by Freud. The researcher uses qualitative research. There are some steps to conduct the research: determining the type of study, the object of the study, data and data source, technique of data analysis.

There are two types of data sources which are needed to conduct this research, they are primary data sources and secondary data sources. The primary data source is the novel Victor Hugo's *Les Miserables* (1862), while the secondary data sources are other materials related to the study, such as:

website, dictionary, and some books which support the research. The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It relates to structural elements of the novel *Les Misérables* (1862).

B. Research Findings and Discussion

1. Findings

In analyzing *Les Misérables* novel, the researcher gets some findings. This study uses psychoanalysis in analyzing the novel. Theory of psychoanalysis views that mental process of an individual has three systems there are *id*, *ego*, and *superego*.

a. Structure of Jean Valjean's Personality

Jean Valjean is the main character who attempts to escape from Javert while enduring forward the Myrel's message. He had conflicts among *id*, *ego* and *superego* which influence his mental condition. The first *id* arises when the Bishop helps him. Thus silver cutlery comes to his attention, he could get much money more than her fee in nine-teen at prison.

The second *id* appears when Jean Valjean meets Fauchelevent who gets an accident. He wants to help Fauchelevent, his enemy. The third *id* occurs when inspector Javert catches Fantine. Jean Valjean wants to free her. The fourth *id* of Valjean is when he writes letters for Thenardier to send Cosette. He wants to help Fantine to meet her daughter. The fifth *id* of Jean Valjean is his promise to pick Cosette from Thenardier family. Madeleine (Jean Valjean) promises to meet her

with Cosette. The sixth *id* occurs when Champmathieu is suspected by court as Jean Valjean, the fugitive. Madeline a.k.a Jean Valjean wants to help him by telling the truth, but in otherhand he must pick Cosette and also he does not want to leave his big name as a mayor.

The seventh *id* occurs in the Orion Ship when he wanted to help a sailor. No one is brave because it is to risky. The eighth *id* is his willing to pick Cosette from Thenardier family. They manipulated him to squeeze a lot of money. The last *id* is shown when Javert and his soldier catch him and Cosette. He wants to save Cosette but the soldiers are surrounding.

The first *superego* of Jean Valjean appears when he helps Fauchelevent by offering rewards for the savior. No one accept it, so he decides to help Fauchelevent him-self although its to risky. Jean Valjean took him to an infirmary. He also gave some money for the broken carriage, and for the dead horse. He latter employes Fauchelevent as gardener of a convent in Paris.

The second *superego* occurs when Javert catches Fantine. Knowing her story, Jean Valjean realizes that he should help her. The third *superego* is shown when he sent requests and money to take Cosette from Thenardier family. He sent the request twice because Thernadier did not response. The fourth *superego* occurs when Valjean's *id* wants to depart to Montfermeil. The *superego* tries to stop

the *ego* which books a horse. He goes to Arras. He considers to free Champmathieu by claiming that he is the real Jean Valjean.

The fifth *superego* is seen when he helps a sailor in the Orion ship. A crew of sailor is down to lower a sail. No one is brave because it is too risky. The sixth *superego* occurs when he goes to Montfermeil to fulfill his promise to pick Cosette. With all schemes, Thenardier requests a lot of money from Jean Valjean. The last *superego* appears when Javert catches Jean Valjean and Cosette. They were surrounded though it is not possible to escape, Jean Valjean keeps trying.

Valjean's first *ego* occurs when the Bishop helps Jean Valjean, so that he could stay in the convent. The silver cutlery comes to his attention, he could get much more money than her fee in nineteen at prison. His *ego* decides to leave the convent after stealing a set of silver cutlery. The second *ego* is seen when Jean Valjean tries to help in Fauchelevent's accident. Although Fauchelevent is his rival, he tries to help by offering rewards.

The third *ego* of Jean Valjean is his decision to pick Cosette from Thenardier as his promise to Fantine. He books a horse-drawn carriage to find Cosette in Montfermeil. The fourth *ego* is shown when he wants to save Cosette while Javert chases them. They are surrounded though it is not possible to escape, he feels desperate.

b. Altruism in the novel *Les Misérables*

Altruism is feeling and behavior to help other people and a lack of selfishness. In *Les Misérables*, the researcher finds numerous of altruism within Jean Valjean character.

1) Helping Fauchelevent

Fauchelevent had just fallen beneath his carriage. Valjean offers some money as the reward for anyone to help Fauchelevent. No one is brave and strong enough to assist. Because of that, Valjean helps Fauchelevent him-self till his clothes are torn and covered with mud.

2) Employing disabled worker

Madeleine a.k.a Jean Valjean took Fauchelevent to an infirmary. Madeleine gave some money for the broken carriage and for the dead horse. Madeleine also gave Fauchelevent a job as gardener of a convent in Paris.

3) Freelying Fantine

Fantine is arrested by Javert to be prisoned, but Madeleine intervenes. Madelaine helps her, so Fantine is free.

4) Sending request to Thenardiers

He sent requests and money to take Cosette from Thenardier family. He sent the request twice because Thernadier did not response.

5) Canceling to go to Montfermeil

Champfmathieu is suspected by courtas Jean Valjean, the fugitive. Although he has hundreds of employees depending on his factories and promise to pick Cosette, he considers to claim that he is the real Jean Valjean to free Champmathieu.

6) Taking care of Fantine

In his infirmary, Jean Valjean often visits Fantine to see her condition.

7) Preparing the funeral

When Jean is arrested by Javert, at the night, he breaks the window and returns to his house. He prepares Fantine's funeral. He just entrusts a letter to Monsieur le Cure.

8) Helping a sailor

In the Orion ship, a sailor is down to lower a sail. No one is brave because its to risky. Valjean helps the sailor by him-self.

9) Picking Cosette from the Thenardiers

Jean Valjean breaks out of the Orion ship, he goes to Montfermeil to pick Cosette. Thenardiers manipulated him to squeeze a lot of money. He provides the amount that they want.

10) Runing from Javert

When Javert and his army catches Valjean and Cosette, they were surrounded though it is not posible to escape, Valjean keeps trying. He takes Cosette to hide in a convent.

11) Treating as his own child

Jean Valjean wants to see Cosette happy and forgetting her past in Thenardiers's house. He buys her toys, clothes, and being her father.

12) Helping Javert

Jean Valjean helps to release Javert from the rebels. Though Valjean could easily finish Javert to prevent from chasing them in the future, he prefers to save Javert.

2. Discussion

In *Les Misérables* novel, Victor Hugo illustrates a psychological phenomenon in which an individual has experienced internal and external conflict. He emphasized the story conflict by creating Valjean character. The theme of the story is that "a good personality is reflected through honesty and sincerity in helping others". It is reflected in the character of Jean Valjean. Hugo describes psychological condition in major character personality. Through the major character's psychological condition, the researcher uses three level of psychoanalysis to analyze it. It was evidence that Valjean altruism happened when someone's *superego* dominating in his decision. Through Jean Valjean's personality, Hugo creates some conflicts of *Id*.

The researcher uses three elements of personality to build the major character's mental condition including *id*, *ego*, and *superego*. The major conflict of Jean Valjean is his willing to run from Javert and enduring

forward Bishop's message to be a good person. The *id* of Jean Valjean is to meet Cosette with Fantine, but he also wants to save Champmathieu who is suspected as him. His *ego* tells him to fulfill his promise with Fantine who is currently dying because of her illness and she misses Cosette so bad. But latter, his *superego* confronts him to do the right thing by claiming that he is the real Jean Valjean. So that, Champmathieu could be saved from sentences. In prison, Jean Valjean still thinks of his promise to Fantine. He wants to pick Cosette from Thenardier family. So, his *superego* tells him to break the jail and trying to find Cosette. He treats Cosette as his own child inspite of Javert who always tries to catch and arrests him, it provides the altruism he has.

Jean Valjean altruistics show that his *superego* is stronger than his *ego*. The principle of *superego* is that person must respect others although they are different creatures. It then can be concluded that a good person *superego* determines and motivates his action. Altruism can also occur by sublimation. Sublimation is one of the defense mechanism caused by negative factors that motivate someone to act or to respond into better direction at society. According to Freud in Feist (1985: 36), sublimation is defined as a repression of the genital aim of Eros by substituting a cultural or social aim. The sublimated aim can be seen most obviously in creative cultural accomplishments such as art, music, and literature, but more subtly in all human relationships and all social pursuits.

The result of the analysis of Jean Valjean personality in *Les Misérables* by Victor Hugo based on Freud's psychoanalytic theory shows that the *superego* of Valjean is dominating in his psychological activity. Victor Hugo describes Jean Valjean as the major character to bring altruism. Victor Hugo writes the novel as one of literary work to describe the condition in France at that time whose full of injusticeness. Through Jean Valjean's personality, Hugo creates some conflicts to show the injusticeness of law. Victor Hugo believes by creating Jean Valjean character, the people would realize the importance of altruism.

C. Conclusion

Les Misérables novel the researcher is analyzed by using psychoanalytic approach. Based on the psychoanalytic analysis of the novel above, the researcher concludes that Victor Hugo illustrated psychological phenomenon in which an individual has experienced internal and external altruistic conflicts. Victor Hugo shows the psychological phenomenon in French through the theme, plot and characterization in *Les Misérables*.

D. Bibliography

- Barnet, Sylvan. 1963. *An Introduction to Literature*. Boston: Little, Brown and Co.
- Feist, J and Feist, Gregory J. 1985. *Theories of Personality*. New York: McGraw Hill.
- Freud, Sigmund. 1940. *An Outline of Psychoanalysis*. London: The Hogarth Press.
- Hall, Calvin S. and Gardner Lindzey. 1985. *Introduction to Theories of Personality*. Canada: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
- Hjelle, Larry A. and Daniel J. Ziegler. 1992. *Personality Theories: Basic Assumptions, Research, and Applications; third edition*. United States: McGraw-Hill, Inc.
- Kennedy, X. J. and Dana Gioia. 2007. *Tenth Edition Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, Drama, and Writing*. London: Pearson Longman.
- Pervin, Lawrence A. 1984. *Personality: Theory and Research*. Canada: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.
- Wellek, Rene & Austin Warren. 1956. *Theory of Literature*. San Diego: Hart Court& Brace Javanich Publication.