BETWEEN DESPAIR AND SPIRIT OF LIFE REFLECTED IN ERNEST HEMINGWAY’S *THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA* (1952): A PSYCHOANALYTIC CRITICISM

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ABSTRACT

The major problem of this study is how despair and spirit of life is reflected in Ernest Hemingway “The Old Man and the Sea” novel (1952). The objective of this study is to analyze the novel based on the structural elements and based on psychoanalytic criticism. The research uses qualitative research. The data of the research consists of primary data and secondary data. The primary data of the research is the The Old Man and the Sea novel and the secondary data of the research are other materials related of the study. The result to the study shows the following conclusion. Based on psychoanalytic criticism, it shows that “The Old Man and the Sea” novel illustrates a psychological phenomenon in which an individual has experienced the nature between despair and spirit of life desire. Santiago attempts to cover her conflict using his strength and courage, to end the cruelty of nature.

Keyword: despair, spirit of life, the old man, psychoanalytic criticism.
A. Introduction

The *Old Man and the Sea* is a novella by Ernest Hemingway and was published by Charles Scribner's Sons in 1952. The book was first published in America. It was the last major work of fiction to be produced by Hemingway. It is the seventh novella wrote by Ernest Hemingway. The novel consist of 48 pages.

The novella tells about the life of an old fisherman named Santiago. He faced the pressures of life between despair and spirit of life in his life. The author of this novel uses the style language simple to be easily understood by the reader and he can express his ideas through the stories. Hemingway takes the third person omniscient point of view because he wants the reader to know the meaning of the story. This story of the novel teaches to always be the spirit in the face of challenge, patience, hope, friendship and love.

There are some researches that have studied this novella. The first research was conducted by abhrapaul (StudyMode, 2006) entitled *Old Man and the Sea: Parable of Man's Struggle with Natural Force*. The result of research shows that a man may grow old and be wholly down on his luck, but he can still dare, persist when he is defeated or thwarted, and thus by manner of his losing can win a victory. The second research was conducted by Venansius Pandiangan (USU, 2008) entitled *Human Existence As Reflected in Ernest Hemingway’s The Old Man and The Sea*. The result shows that human existence is presented through the character Santiago include subjectivity, conscious being in the world, contingency, anti-materialism, humanity and faith. The third research was conducted by Sophie Chen (National Dali Senior High School, 2007) entitled *A Man Can Be Destroyed But Not Defeated The Struggle of Life in “The Old Man and the Sea”*. The result shows Santiago ends the novella with his spirit undefeated. He represents the courage, strength and endurance of the human race. The researcher analyze between despair and spirit of life reflected in Ernest Hemingway’s *The Old Man and the Sea* (1952) by using psychoanalytic criticism.
This research paper concerning is between despair and spirit of life. Despair is a negative emotion because it contains things that are not fun. Fleming (2004: 17) defines that despair is “the result of the negative resolution that manifests itself as a fear of death, a sense that life is too short, and depression”. Spirit of life is a positive emotion to do positive things. Curley (1984) there are some characteristic of spirit of life are “courage, determination, and gallantry.”

The main issues of this research is between despair and spirit of life by the main character named Santiago. It is analyzed by using psychoanalytic criticism by Freud. Freud divides into three levels namely; id, ego, and superego. The id operates based on the pleasure principle, which demands immediate gratification of needs. According to Hall and Lindzey (1985: 34) “the ego based on the reality principle.” It means the ego can distinguish between things in the mind and things in the external world. According to Stey and Lapsley (2011: 6-7), superego is “the conscience which can punish the ego through causing feelings of guilt.”

B. Research Method

In this research, the writer uses a qualitative research. The steps to conduct this research are determining the type of the study, the object of the study, data and data source, technique of data collection, and technique of data analysis. The object of the study is between despair and spirit of life reflected in Ernest Hemingway’s *The Old Man and the Sea* (1952) by using psychoanalytic criticism.

There are two data sources needed to do this research, namely: primary data sources and secondary data sources. The primary data sources are *The Old Man and the Sea* novella (1952) directed by Ernest Hemingway. The secondary data sources are other sources related to the study, such as: website, dictionary, some books that support the analysis. The technique of data analysis, the writer used take notes as the method of collection data in this research. The technique of data analysis is descriptive analysis.
C. Finding and Discussion

After analyzing this novel, the researcher found some research findings. The research findings will be discussed below.

1. Finding

a. Structure of Santiago’s Personality

According to Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory, personality consists of three elements are id, ego, and superego. Id, ego, and superego are the unity and human behaviours is the result of these aspects.

1. The Id

According to Freud (Hall and Lindzey: 1957: 32), id is “the original system of personality where ego and superego become differentiated and consist of everything psychological that is inherited.” According to Freud (Bressler, 1998: 150), id is “the irrational, instinctual, unknown, and unconscious part of the psyche.”

The first id appears when santiago working as a fisherman and he has the desire to catch very big fish. Then the id fishing into the sea to get what id wants.

The second id arises when Santiago and his best friend named Manolin to do a mental image through imagination.

“What do you have to eat?” the boy asked.
“A pot of yellow rice with fish. Do you want some?”
“No. I will eat at home. Do you want me to make the fire?”
“No. I will make it later on. Or I may eat the rice cold.”
“May I take the cast net?”
“Of course.”

There was no cast net and the boy remembered when they had sold it. But they went through this fiction every day. There was no pot of yellow rice and fish and the boy knew this too (p. 4).
From the fantasy fiction on top, we can't always satisfy our urges right away. Sometimes we need to wait until the right moment to the things that will fulfill our needs. The id also relies on the primary process to temporarily relieve the tension by creating a mental image either through day dreaming, fantasizing, hallucinating, or some other process.

The third id arise when when Santiago go toward the sea he had hoped to find fish that can be found there. To get his desire, id carrying the his fisherman's equipment and his bait.

The fourth id appears when Santiago wants to keep speed his boat well by rowing his boat steadily and stable. He also was letting the current do a third of the work.

The fifth id comes when Santiago wants produce something of his job in the middle of the sea. So, the id wants him to baits out and letting the drift with the flow.

One bait was down forty fathoms. The second was at seventy-five and the third and fourth were down in the blue water at one hundred and one hundred and twenty-five fathoms. Each bait hung head down with the shank of the hook inside the bait fish, tied and sewed solid and all the projecting part of the hook, the curve and the point, was covered with fresh sardines. Each sardine was hooked through both eyes so that they made a half-garland on the projecting steel. There was no part of the hook that a great fish could feel which was not sweet smelling and good tasting (p. 11).

The sixth id arise when Santiago feel tired then id must to rest in a comfortable place. He had found a way of leaning forward against the bow so that he was almost comfortable and the next day he was sleeping after some days he did not sleep and he was dreaming about lions and African beaches.

The seventh id comes when he began to hungry. So the principle of pleasure is eating. He shall have power to remain
strong and concentrate to keep the fish before he behave or did movement suddenly.

The eight id comes again when Sanntiago felt thirsty. The id wants to get pleasure by drinking. He reached the water bottle with one hand. He opened it and drank a little.

The ninth id arise when Santiago want to beat the marlins. So the id fighting with all his strength, and he wants to prove to him what is done with the power of his survive.

2. The Ego

According to Freud (1962: 18), ego is “reality that implies that the Ego recognizes what is real and understands that behaviors have consequences to live and socialize with other people”. It uses secondary processes such as perception, recognition, judgment and memory that are developed during childhood. According to Freud (Stey and Lapsley, 2011: 6) states that “ego extends throughout the id by means of repressing these desires with set up the defense”.

The first ego comes when Santiago want always borrow money to someone. But ego often postponing satisfaction to avoid negative consequences of society. So, ego try not to borrow because if he always owe, he will look like a beggar.

The second ego appears when Santiago wants bring his lunch but for a long time now eating had bored him and he never carried a lunch.

The third ego comes when the ego wants to fishing a dolphin and ego make ways to get it.

He shipped his oars and brought a small line from under the bow. It had wire leader and a medium-sized hook and he baited it with one of the sardines. He let it go over the side and then made it fast to a ring bolt in the stern. Then he baited another line and left it coiled in the shade of the bow (p. 12).
The fourth ego comes when ego wants to retain his catch. So ego decides to do something to his fish so as not to lose. He continued to hold rope his bait and continue to be cautious in taking a stance.

The fifth ego appears when Santiago was on standby to catch and keep the fish had half a day and one night he had not slept. So the ego do must think of ways to be able to sleep.

The sixth ego appears when Santiago felt pity the big marlin, but the ego decided to kill him because it is the right action for the fish are very beautiful and unique, and it is the biggest challenge of his life.

The seventh ego comes again when Santiago express feel of emotion and it is form of communication on his annoyance.

“What kind of a hand is that,” he said. “Cramp then if you want. Make yourself into a claw. It will do you no good”. (p. 21)

He spat into the ocean and said, “Eat that, galanos. And make a dream you’ve killed a man.” (p. 45)

3. The Superego

According to Stey and Lapsley (2011: 6-7), superego is “the conscience which can punish the ego through causing feelings of guilt.” For example, if the ego gives in to the id's demands, the superego may make the person feel bad through guilt. According to Freud (Hall & Lindzey, 1985: 35), superego is “the part of personality that represents parental values in the morals of society.”

The first superego arise when Santiago get ridiculed by other fishermen because he had gone fishing eighty-four days without taking a fish. But superego to think positive that it is a mockery of criticism that he can be proved his spirits for fishing.
The second superego arise again when Santiago find the beauty of the sea and surrounding areas. That means the superego can be understand the relationship between the individual and the environment.

The third superego comes when the ego wants to fishing a dolphin and ego make ways to get it.

He shipped his oars and brought a small line from under the bow. It had wire leader and a medium-sized hook and he baited it with one of the sardines. He let it go over the side and then made it fast to a ring bolt in the stern. Then he baited another line and left it coiled in the shade of the bow (p. 12).

But the ego fails to do it, then the superego has feeling of regret, but superego controlling feeling of regret by positive thinking. If group of dolphins was leaving the old man, the superego believe his big fish there somewhere.

The fourth superego arise when Santiago suffering and difficulties in the big fishing trip. So superego refuge in religion he prayed to God and Christ to help him because no one else who helped. Although once he confesses that he is not a religious person, he feels that he has no other choice but taking refuge in his religious beliefs.

The fifth superego generate feelings of guilt. That happen when the old man’s anxiety when he sees that the sharks are constantly mutilating the fish. He feels regret catch fish. He wishes it were a dream. But to overcome this sense superego assure that what it already feels right, maybe he should not be a fisherman, but that was the reason he was born.

The sixth superego comes when ego has feling guilty because at the first id not more thinking for bring stock purchasing his fisherman and now the old man regretting. He did not bring a
stone for the knife. But superego give direction ego to positive things by think of what that can do with what there is.

The seventh superego arise when Santiago felt lonely. That is punishment if he sailed alone. He always wished his best friend named Manolin with him in any circumstances.

b. Between Despair and Spirit of Life

1. Despair

According to Fleming (2004: 17), despair is “the result of the negative resolution that manifests itself as a fear of death, a sense that life is too short, and depression.” Despair, however, implies a lack of further hope. Despair can result from unfulfilled potential or a feeling that one has wasted one’s life, without hope for personal redemption.

Despair is also a negative emotion because it contains things that are not fun. According to Curley (1984) there are some characters of despair are, “helplessness, sadness, dejection, discouragement, and discontent.”

a. Helplessness

Helplessness is feelings of unconcerned where consciousness of self is less. In the story helplessness arises when Santiago felt very tired, weak and sick when fishing. He felt helpless in such circumstances but helplessness Santiago felt was just a moment and then he was thinking clearly.

You are killing me, fish, the old man thought. But you have a right to. Never have I seen a greater, or more beautiful, or a calmer or more noble thing than you, brother. Come on and kill me. I do not care who kills who (p. 35).

The old man felt faint and sick and he could not see well (p. 35).
You must keep your head clear. Keep your head clear and know how to suffer like a man. Or a fish, he thought (p. 35).

b. Sadness

Sadness is feeling of losing something that they desire. In this story, sadness arises when Santiago saw relics of his wife who had left him.

On the brown walls of the flattened, overlapping leaves of the sturdy fibered guano there was a picture in color of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and another of the Virgin of Cobre. These were relics of his wife. Once there had been a tinted photograph of his wife on the wall but he had taken it down because it made him too lonely to see it and it was on the shelf in the corner under his clean shirt (p. 4).

He also remembered the old incident when he saw the saddest events when fishing one of a pair of marlin.

The male fish always let the female fish feed first and the hooked fish, the female, made a wild, panic-stricken, despairing fight that soon exhausted her, and all the time the male had stayed with her, crossing the line and circling with her on the surface. He had stayed so close that the old man was afraid he would cut the line with his tail which was sharp as a scythe and almost of that size and shape. When the old man had gaffed her and clubbed her, holding the rapier bill with its sandpaper edge and dubbing her across the top of her head until her colour turned to a colour almost like the backing of mirrors, and then, with the boy’s aid, hoisted her aboard, the male fish had stayed by the side of the boat. Then, while the old man was clearing the lines and preparing the harpoon, the male fish jumped high into the air beside the boat to see where the female was and then went down deep, his lavender wings, that were his pectoral fins, spread wide and all his wide lavender stripes showing. (p. 17-18)

c. Dejection

Dejection is feeling of emotions with yourself and others. In this story dejection comes when Santiago is annoyed on what happens when fishing.
He spat into the ocean and said, “Eat that, galanos. And make a dream you’ve killed a man.” (p. 45)

d. Discouragement

In this story discouragement arises when Santiago was disappointed on himself. He was discouragement to see the fish catch was no longer intact again.

.....a woman saw a great long white spine with a huge tail at the end that lifted and swung with the tide while the east wind blew a heavy steady sea outside the entrance to the harbour (p. 48).

e. Discontent

In this story discontent happens when Santiago thinks the ocean is very good and beautiful, but he stressed that the ocean is able to be so cruel, making small birds are too weak and pitiful life in the ocean. It shows that discontent Santiago on the cruel sea.

2. Spirit of Life

Spirit of life is also a positive emotion to do positive things. According to Andries (2011: 31) emotion positive is “part of the success of effort which provides energy to complete the activities.” According to Curley (1984) there are some characteristic of spirit of life are “courage, determination, and gallantry.”

a. Courage

Courage is an action against fear for the sake of a worthy goal although there is a danger or risk in it.”

The story shows about the courage of someone who dared to challenge the courage of his life in the vast ocean and had to fight the weight lifting Marlin fish and the wild sharks. This indicates that life's challenges must be faced. Santiago also dares to take a decision for his life choice.
His choice had been to stay in the deep dark water far out beyond all snares and traps and treacheries. My choice was to go there to find him beyond all people. Beyond all people in the world (p.18).
He also brave sailed the seas alone. For him sea was very beautiful but sometimes there were evil actions in it.
Why did they make birds so delicate and fine as those sea swallows when the ocean can be so cruel? She is kind and very beautiful. But she can be so cruel and it comes so suddenly and such birds that fly, dipping and hunting, with their small sad voices are made too delicately for the sea (p. 10).

b. Determination

In this story, Santiago has a determination to go fishing after eighty-four days failed. Although he is an old man his spirit is like young people. He is determined to bring big fish to his home.

He is a great fish and I must convince him, he thought. I must never let him learn his strength nor what he could do if he made his run. If I were him I would put in everything now and go until something broke (p. 23).

“I’ll kill him though,” he said. “In all his greatness and his glory.”
Although it is unjust, he thought. But I will show him what a man can do and what a man endures.
“I told the boy I was a strange old man,” he said.
“Now is when I must prove it.”
The thousand times that he had proved it meant nothing. Now he was proving it again. Each time was a new time and he never thought about the past when he was doing it (p. 24).

c. Gallantry

In this story, Santiago’s gallantry is shown when he succeeded in killing the big marlin as catch and succeeded fight the sharks with all the ability and strength.

I’ll try it again, the old man promised, although his hands were mushy now and he could only see
well in flashes. He tried it again and it was the same. So he thought, and he felt himself going before he started; I will try it once again (p. 35).

He took all his pain and what was left of his strength and his long gone pride and he put it against the fish’s agony and the fish came over onto his side and swam gently on his side, his bill almost touching the planking of the skiff and started to pass the boat, long, deep, wide, silver and barred with purple and interminable in the water (p. 35).

The shark’s head was out of water and his back was coming out and the old man could hear the noise of skin and flesh ripping on the big fish when he rammed the harpoon down onto the shark’s head at a spot where the line between his eyes intersected with the line that ran straight back from his nose. There were no such lines. There was only the heavy sharp blue head and the big eyes and the clicking, thrusting all-swallowing jaws. But that was the location of the brain and the old man hit it. He hit it with his blood mushed hands driving a good harpoon with all his strength. He hit it without hope but with resolution and complete malignancy (p. 38).

D. Discussion

Santiago is the main character who unlucky for eighty-four days without taking a fish. The researcher uses those three elements of personality for to knows the major character’s mental condition in any situation. They are id, ego, and superego. That elements proving that Santiago has conflict with animals.

The id are reflected in Santiago's desire. The greatest desire is to catch fish to exceed the limits of people. The other id want to eat yellow rice and fish. But it is not there, then id satisfying his encouragement by doing imagination. In the middle of sea, he also to keep speed his boat well so that his job is well. If he feels tired, thirsty, and hungry, the pleasure principle is resting, drinking, and eating.

The ego are repressing of desires id with set up the defense. When Santiago want always borrow money to someone. Ego inhibit the instincts because it is not always accepted by the environments. In orther ego are when
Santiago wants to retain his catch. So the ego thinking to find the best alternative to do something. The ego also express feel of emotion form of communication on his annoyance when he has any problem.

The superego is the part of personality to distinguish between right and wrong in society. When the ego fails to do something, then the superego has feeling of regret, but superego controlling feeling of regret by positive thinking. In the middle of the sea, Santiago suffering and difficulties when fishing and he could only pray to God that no one helped him.

The result of the analyzing Santiago’s personality in *The Old man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway based on Freud’s psychoanalytic theory shows that superego of Santiago is every individual has the right to reach perfection to live and Santiago’s psychological activities.

In the analyzing between despair and spirit of life in this story indicate that spirit of life is greater than of despair. This means that the level of despair only temporary after that there are only positive behavior that makes rise up from despair. Santiago struggling to find hope in the midst of situations that does not contain hopes. He relied on strength, courage, determination, and spirit in any situation.

E. Conclusion

After analyzing *The Old Man and the Sea* novel, the researcher describes the following conclusion. Based on psychoanalytic criticism, it shows that *The Old Man and the Sea* novel illustrates a psychoogical phenomenon in which an individual has experienced the nature between despair and spirit of life desire. Santiago attempts to cover her conflict using his strength and courage, to end the cruelty of nature.


VIRTUAL REFERENCES


