THE INFLUENCE OF PAST EXPERIENCE ON PERSONALITY REFLECTED IN EMILY GIFFIN’S WHERE WE BELONG NOVEL (2012): A PSYCHOANALYTIC CRITICISM

ARTICLE

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THE INFLUENCE OF PAST EXPERIENCE ON PERSONALITY REFLECTED IN EMILY GIFFIN’S *WHERE WE BELONG* NOVEL (2012) : A PSYCHOANALYTIC CRITICISM

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ABSTRACT

This study is aimed to show the influence of past experience on personality which is represented by the characters in *Where We Belong* novel by Emily Giffin using psychoanalytic criticism approach. This research is descriptive qualitative research. It is done by verifying two objectives: the first is analyzing the novel based on its structural elements and the second is analyzing the novel on the psychoanalytic criticism approach. In this method, there are two types of data sources, namely primary data source and secondary data source. The primary data source is *Where We Belong* novel (2012) by Emily Giffin. The secondary data sources are materials other sources such as books, dictionary, internet and journal which is related to the study. The data analysis method is descriptive qualitative analysis based on psychoanalytic criticism. The result of the study are as follows. First, based on the structural analysis of each elements, it shows that the character and characterization, setting, plot, theme, point of view, style are related to each other and establish a unity of pleasant novel. Second, based on psychoanalytic criticism approach, the author reflect the influence of past experience on Marian Caldwell’s personality. This novel is an object which explains a secret will be exposed by the truth.

Keywords: Past Experience on Personality, *Where We Belong*, Psychoanalytic Criticism.
I. INTRODUCTION

One of the famous novels in the world is *Where We belong* by Emily Giffin. The novel was released by St. Martin's Press on July 24, 2012. The author of five blockbuster novels, Emily Giffin. The story simultaneously covers the lives of Kirby Rose and Marian Caldwell, two completely different people who have one very important thing in common. *Where We Belong* follows the story of two women, Marian Caldwell, a 36 year old TV producer in New York, and 18 year old Kirby, a high school senior in St. Louis who are bound by a secret. According to the researcher there are four interesting points of the novel to be researched. First is because it is a big novel from New York Times Bestselling Author (Emily Giffin). Second is because it is an emotionally powerful story. Third is this novel tells the story of youth. Fourth is because this novel tells about the legacy of adoption.

There is literature review related to *Where We Belong* (2012) novel written by Emily Giffin that researcher got in another country. He is Sue Corbett, in his article published on July 30, 2012, entitled “adoption fiction”. He told about Kirby Rose who finally knows that her parents who have taken care of her until she grows up apparently are not her biological parents. The researcher entitled this research “The Influence of Past Experience on Personality Reflected in Emily Giffin’s *Where We Belong* Novel (2012) : A Psychoanalytic Criticism Approach”.

Underlying theory, experience provides a framework for thinking about the future. You can draw on your experience to gain perspective and avoid
repeating mistakes. Psychoanalysis is the part of psychological study that focuses on the personality of human being (Hjelle and Ziegler, 1992: 86). Psychoanalytic criticism originated in the work of Austrian psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud, who pioneered the technique of psychoanalysis. There are three systems theory of Psychoanalysis that view about the mental process of individual, namely the id, ego, and superego (Koeswara, 1991: 312). The id is most primitive part of the mind, what we are born with. The id based on biological impulses, the id always seeks pleasure. The ego is the part of the personality that maintains a balance between our impulses (our id) and our conscience (our superego). Hall and Lindzey (1981: 37) state that the ego is operated by the reality principle that means the gratification of instinct is delayed until an optimum time that human being can get the most pleasure with the least of unpleasant consequences. Superego is morality element branch of justice of personal system, superego is the internal representative of traditional values and evaluative norms (Hall, 1988: 35). The superego is the part of the personality that represents the conscience, the moral part of us. The researcher used psychoanalytic criticism in Where We Belong novel.

II. RESEARCH METHOD

This research is descriptive qualitative research. It is done by verifying two objectives: the first is analyzing the novel based on its structural elements and
the second is analyzing the novel on the psychoanalytic criticism approach. In this method, there are two types of data sources, namely primary data source and secondary data source. The primary data source is *Where We Belong* novel (2012) by Emily Giffin. The secondary data sources are materials other sources such as books, dictionary, internet and journal which is related to the study. The data analysis method is descriptive qualitative analysis based on psychoanalytic criticism.

This research done reading translation novel to get more understanding, Learning Comprehension the novel repeatedly, making a summary and determining about that novel, accessing to the internet to get several information and articles related to the object of the study, 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. The researcher analyzes the data viewed from psychoanalytic criticism focused on the influence of past experience on personality reflected in Emily Giffin’s *Where We Belong* novel.
III. RESEARCH FINDING

A. The Structure of Marian Caldwell’s Personality

1. Id

The id is most primitive part of the mind, what we are born with. The id based on biological impulses, the id always seeks pleasure. According to Freud, we are born with our id. The id is an important part of our personality because as newborns, it allows us to get our basic needs met.

In Where We Belong novel the id of the major character Marian Caldwell appears related with her principle to produce desire and wants. The first id arises when Marian Caldwell wants to ask Peter about their relationship after nearly two years of dating. After all of happiness that she feel in her relationship. Marian is very anxious with that. Marian wants to ask Peter about continuing their relationship.

The next id arises when Marian meets Conrad and she must get a moment that she never imagined. They do something that they should not do. In this moment, Marian feels complicated. She does not know whether she happy or sad with that situation.

The next id arises when Kirby Rose’s appearance on Marian’s life and make Marian Surprised. Kirby’s appearance make Marian feels happy but she afraid because it is a big secret that she has kept during eighteen years old.
The next *id* is Marian’s happiness with Kirby. She is very excited for Kirby’s future. She wants to give the best for Kirby’s future.

The last *id* arises when Marian misses Peter. Since Kirby’s appearance, Marian’s relationship with Peter is getting lost contact. Peter leave Marian because Peter can not approve Kirby’s appearance.

2. **Ego**

The *ego* is the part of the personality that maintains a balance between our impulses (our *id*) and our conscience (our *superego*). The *ego* is based on the reality principle.

The first *ego* arises when Marian’s *id* is very excited for Kirby and she is very happy. Then Marian’s *ego* wants to own Kirby in whole and takes Kirby to live with her.

The next *ego* arises when Marian’s id misses Peter but she wants to move on. Since Kirby’s appearance, Marian’s relationship with Peter is getting lost contact. Peter leave Marian because Peter can not approve Kirby’s appearance.

3. **Superego**

The *superego* is the part of the personality that represents the conscience, the moral part of us. The first *superego* is based on Marian’s *id*. Marian is happy with Kirby’s appearance and Marian’s *ego* wants to own Kirby in whole, finally she knows that it is impossible and hard. She knows that she does not have full rights over Kirby.
The second *superego* is when Marian’s *id* misses Peter, then Marian’s *ego* wants to move on, finally she knows that she have no to do that. She must think about her career and she must move on.

There are two parts of superego, the conscience and the ego ideal. Freud (in Calvin S. Hall, 1976, 35) states that the conscience punishes the person by making him feel guilty, the ego ideal rewards the person by making him feel proud of himself. With the formation of the superego, self control is substituted for parental control. In the *Where We Belong* novel, Marian’s superego is bigger than her id and ego. If the superego of a person controlled most of the psychic energy, then the personal will act on things that are morality, pursue perfect things that are sometimes irrational. As seen in the illustration bellow.

![Figure 1: The Structure of Marian Caldwell’s Personality](image)

With this explanation above, it can be interpreted that Marian is able to control her *id* and *ego* dan Marian was still concerned with moral rules are there. Marian felt guilty of Kirby. She has made Kirby can not feel the love of a birth mother for eighteen years. She also felt guilty for keeping a big secret. All changed after the appearance of Kirby. Marian can not deny that she is very happy with the appearance of Kirby. In fact, she was very enthusiastic about the future of Kirby. But Marian realized
that he can not take Kirby of parents who have adopted her. She knows she does not have full rights over Kirby.

B. Past Experience

Everybody have some experiences in their life. Experience is an event as apprehended in life and an event that affects or involves a person. Everybody has different experiences. Experience that got in their journey of their life is past experience. Past experience provides a framework for thinking about the future. You can draw on your experience to gain perspective and avoid repeating mistakes. But measuring your future success by the yardstick of past experience (particularly failures) can really sap your self confidence.

As human beings in general, Marian Caldwell also has past experience. Marian has a very complicated past. There are some past experiences of Marian Caldwell. Firstly, it is about a big secret in Marian's youth. She had done something that she never imagined.

Secondly, it about Marian’s experience with Conrad. Marian spent her youth in Chicago. The place where Marian got her first love, Conrad. Conrad is Marian's friend since elementary school. They had lost contact and finally they meet again at the time of high school graduation ceremony. Conrad is Marian’s first love. They meet at her best friend’s home, Janie. That night was meeting with Conrad after their last meeting since they were in elementary school.
Thirdly, is unwanted pregnancy. The meeting of Marian and Conrad in Janie’s home after all this time they are not met, making them afflicted with deep nostalgia and get them doing acts that they do not necessarily. Marian and Conrad made those night become a night that never forget by them. They do something that should not have to do and it has made Marian Pregnant.

Fourthly, it is Marian's decision to keep about her pregnancy from all people. Especially her parents which did not serve her well when she got pregnant by a boy who was not what her parents wanted for her. Marian decided, she does not tell anyone about her pregnancy. She gave birth in Chicago on April 1996, in Northwestern Memorial Hospital. She decided to give her daughter to adoption agency. After she gave birth, she moved to New York to school in film school. She keeps a big secret that keeps by herself during 18 years But the truth will expose itself. The truth begins exposed with the appearance of Kirby Rose, daughter of Marian Caldwell.

IV. DISCUSSION

After the researcher analyzed the personality of Marian Caldwell as the major character including analyzing the id, ego, and superego in Emily Giffin’s Where We Belong novel, the researcher will discuss about the influence of past experience on Marian Caldwell’s personality as a major character in this novel. As we know, everybody who is live certain they have some experiences in their
life. As well as Marian who had past experience. It is all about Marian’s youth and a secret that she kept.

The researcher found that Marian has many conflict in her life that bind with a secret. Marian’s first *id* is her happiness with Kirby and her *ego* she wants to own Kirby in whole, but her *superego* knows that she do not have to do that, because she knows that she does not have full rights over Kirby. Then Marian’s *id* think that she misses Peter. But her *ego* wants to move on. Finally, she knows that she have no to do that and she must think about her career and she must move on. Based on those conflict, Marian’s *superego* is bigger than her *id* and *ego*. We can see that Marian’s personality is good. She never wants to hurt anybody in her life and she has a great passion with her life.

V. CONCLUSION

Firstly, based on structural analysis, Emily Giffin delivers a message that the thruth will expose itself. Marian dicisions to give Kirby in a adoption agency is a good way than abortion, but a secret that Marian keeps about Kirby will be open by the truth. In order to deliver the message, she creates Marian as a strong woman with her problem that complicated about a big secret. The setting, plot, style, point of view that related one another to build the theme of *Where We Belong* novel.

Secondly, based on psychoanalitic analysis, there are some factors that influence Marian Caldwell’s personality as the main character in *Where We
Belong novel. The major character of the novel is Marian Caldwell who has a big secret in her life. But secret will be exposed by the truth. During eighteen years she keeps her secret, it was expose by Kirby Rose’s appearance in her life. Kirby is Marian daughter that she gave to adaption agency. Marian is very suprised, but she know that she is happy. Marian has used a good way to take Kirby in adoption agency because she can meet Kirby. The adoption agency will give information to Kirby about her biological parents after Kirby had her birthday in eighteenth years old. Marian made a better choice when she decided against abortion.


VIRTUAL REFERENCES

http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/where-we-belong-emily-giffin/1107039077#product-commentaries-1