LIFE STRUGGLE OF MIKAEL BLOMKVIST REFLECTED IN STIEG LARSSON’S
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO NOVEL (2008) :
AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

The research paper aims at knowing life struggle of Mikael Blomkvist in The Girl with the Dragon is a novel by Stieg Larsson which is analyzed by using individual psychological. The objective of the research is to analyze the novel based on the structural elements of the novel and to analyze the novel based on individual psychological proposed by Alfred Adler. The type of this research is descriptive qualitative. Data of the research are taken from primary and secondary data. The primary data of research is The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo novel. The secondary data of the research are taken from books, other source and website that related to the study. The technique of collecting data are reading novel, clasifying the data, identifying the data that can be analyzed. The method to analize of this data is descriptive analysis. The research show that moral massage The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo novel by Stieg Larsson that “ni pain no gain” it is an action taken by everyone to be able to struggle through eveything occupation that they do. Based on the individual psychological analysis, the author illusrates a psychological phenomenon in which an individual should work hard in order to meet his need. The psychological phenomenon is delivered by the struggle of Mikael blomkvist as a major character in The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo novel has many manner for his life.

Keywords: The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, life struggle of Mikael Blomkvist, individual psychological.
A. Introduction

*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* novel told about Mikael Blomkvist, a middle-aged journalist who publishes the magazine Millennium in Stockholm, has just lost a libel case involving allegations about billionaire Swedish industrialist Hans-Erik Wennerström's unscrupulous activities, and is sentenced to three months incarceration. Blomkvist steps down from his position on the magazine's board of directors, despite strong objections from his longtime friend, occasional lover, and business partner Erika Berger.

The writer is interested to analyze *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* novel because there are many reasons. First, the story of the novel is interesting. Stieg Larsson takes about sex as the element of the novel. It is different from another novel. Second, Stieg Larsson’s extend his message in this novel by means of Blomkvist as the main character. Third, Stieg Larsson describes the character in novel clearly, it makes the readers understand with the story of novel. Fourth, the language style is standard language that easily to understand.

The writer focuses her research on the life struggle of Mikael Blomkvist in Stieg Larsson’s novel with the problem of this research is “How the life struggle of Michael Bomkvist is reflected in Stieg Larsson’s *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* novel?”. The writer will analyze the novel using Individual Psychological Perspective.

The objectives of the study are the following: the first, analize The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo novel by Stieg Larsson’s to analyze the structural elements of novel. The second to analyze the novel based on Individual Psychological Perspective.

The writer found that the first discussed previous studies that was done by Ary Fatmawati (2013), “Superwoman Reflected In David Fincher’s *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo* Movie (2011): A Feminist Approach”. The second previous study at Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta with a title on ambition of Mikael Blomkvist reflected in Stieg Larsson’s *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* novel (2008) : A
Psychoanalytic Approach by Maya Ruhl Ahmani (2014). Different from the previous research, the writer focuses on the life struggle of Mikael Blomkvist, one of the major characters in this novel by using an Individual Psychological Perspective. The writer gives the research title “Life Struggle of Michael Blomkvist Reflected In Stieg Larsson’s The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo Novel (2008): An Individual Psychological Perspective”.

Life is a struggle in which the hopes, dreams, goals, and desires to interpret the meaning of a process in life. We know life is like on the battlefield, which is we become a role as a fighter and maintain and sustain mutual struggle towards life until actual destination. Everyone was born in the world started as an initial process flow guidance and has goal in every step. Every human being living in the world would experience the process, this is called a life of struggle.

According to Adler individual psychology is a science that attempts to understand the experiences and behavior of each person as an organized entity (Hall. S and Lindzey, 1981: 95). Then in the book by Richard. M. Ryckman (1985: 161) Adler identified Freud’s theory with the principle of causality and his own with the principle of finalism:

“Individual Psychology insists absolutely on the indispensability of finalism for the understanding of all psychological phenomena. Causes, powers, instincts, impluses, and the like cannot serve as explanatory principles. The final goal alone can explain man’s behavior. Experiences, traumata, sexual development mechanisms cannot yield an explanation, but the perspective in which these are regarded, the individual way of seeing them, which subordinates all life to the final goal, can do so” (1930. P. 400)

Based on the definition above, it can these element related of individual psychological perspective is to know personality or individual style of life. Individual psychological perspective has many way in process to realize the direction namely
inferiority feelings, striving for superiority, style of life, social interest, creative self, social interest, and fictional finalism.

B. Research Method

The research about this novel belongs to qualitative research. Qualitative research is a type of research that does not enumeration and calculation. The researcher classifies her research into qualitative research because the research does not need a statistic data to analyze and explore the facts. Type of data in this research is textual data. It consists of word, phrase and sentences. The data source consists of two categories, they are primary data source and secondary data source. The primary data source is the novel itself. The secondary data source is about behaviorist and all relevant materials in the novel.

C. Finding and Discussion

1. Findings

There are six basic concepts of individual psychological perspective on The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo:

a. Adler defined by Hjelle and Ziegler (1992: 141) theorized that every person succumbs to disease in that region of the body which has been less well-developed, less successfully functioning, and generally “inferior” from birth. There are inferiority feelings of Mikael Blomkvist on the story of The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, Mikael Blomkvist get case about article that is written by him. He is slandered made false article. That case is brought to the courth. At the courth session, he is claimed false. At the claim, Blomkvist
must pay a debt 150,000 SEK and must be in the jail around 3 months. That is cause Mikael Blomkvist lacks of financial, because he must pay a debt.

b. Striving of Superiority

Adler describes striving for superiority is “the fundamental law of human life, a something without which life would be unthinkable” (Adler, 1956, p. 104) (Hjelle and Ziegler, 1992:143).

Striving of superiority is the effort of individual to cover her weakness to realize the superiority after resign from her job. The are four strivings for superiority of Mikael Blomkvist.

a. Mikael Blomkvist resigns from his job.

Mikael Blomkvist postpones himself from Millenium magazine because of a case that happened to him. The court decided that Blomkvist has slandered and blackened the kind of finance expert, Hans-erik Wennerstorm. The court has finished. He has not plan to submit a protest and ask pardon or make peace to Wennerstorm. He was sure that he would be loser. Because that case, he felt that he could not stay on as the publisher of Millenium magazine. The main reason is to maintain the magazine’s credibility. He didn’t want that the name of Millenium magazine would be bad because of his case (*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, 2008:72)

b. Mikael Blomkvist works to Henrik Vanger.

Mikael Blomkvist works to Henrik Vanger to get money. After postpones from Millenium magazine, by accident, Blomkvist is offered to work with Henrik Vanger. At the beginning, he refused it. But at the end, he received
it. Dirch Frode, a lawyer, said that if he received to work with Henrik Vanger, he would get much money. As court’s decision, Blomkvist is asked to pay a debt 150,000 SEK, and it was a big total. He thought that by working to Henrik Vanger, he would get money and could pay the debt (The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, 2008:146)

c. Mikael Blomkvist finished his work.

Mikael Blomkvist finished his works that is he found Harriet and brought her to Henrik Vanger so, he got what is Henrik Vanger’s want. Working to Henrik Vanger is not an easy thing. He must work hard and focuses. He started to read and learn some documents, books, and Harriet’s diary. He found some codes in her diary. Blomkvist is helped by Lisbeth Salander to solve the codes. They could solve them one by one. At the end, they could solve the case. Even though, Blomkvist beared his soul and almost dead when he solved this case. Finally, he could find Harriet and brought her to Henrik Vanger. He knew where is Harriet from Lisbeth’s memo. At that memo, Lisbeth wrote that there is Anita anger who lives in Australia. In fact, Anita has dead. Blomkvist believed she is Harriet. He went to Australia directly (The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, 2008:621)

d. Mikael Blomkvist came back as a journalist.

In spending his detection period, Mikael Blomkvist backs to write. At the beginning. She just said that the books were light reading. In fact, they consisted some proofs about Wennerstorm’s badness. When Wennerstorm was employed in the finance department of the Vanger corporation, he spent several million kronor speculating on foreign currency. This was long before foreign exchange futures. Become the rage. He did this without
authority. One deal after another went bad, and he was sitting there with a loss of seven million kronor that he tried to cover up. Blomkvist arranged an interview and went to publik with a direct assault on Wennertorm. Not for a long time, there was information that Wennertorm killed himself. After that information, Blomkvist backs to write as publisher in Millenium magazine (*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, 2008:341).

c. Style of Life

Style of life is “the system principle by which the individual personality functions; it is the whole that commands the parts” (Hall and Lindzey, 1957:164). So researcher argues style of life is a unique way in facing the life and achieving the goal of life. Based on theory above Mikael Blomkvist is a type of person that always tries to reach everything he wants and never gives up. Blomkvist does his work eventhough he is forced by Martin that to eliminate eventhough he bets his soul, Mikael Blomkvist always tries to safe himself from Martin’s torture to solve a case that is researched by him. Mikael blomkvist doesn’t give up to finish his job, because he has contract with Henrik Vanger and deal to do his job. (*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, 2008:466)

d. Creative Self

According to Adler (Feist, 1985: 66), “Creative self is every individual has various strategies to solve their problems of life and the differences of the strategies called the creative self on an individual”. Creative self is responsible for the person’s life goal and contributes to the development of social interest. The major character of Mikael Blomkvist used
his creative self to realize his dream. He wants to be a journalist. To get his dream, Mikael Blomkvist starts to study as journalist at 21 years old in Stocklom and gets title in jurnalistic level

e. Social Interest

Adler explains social interest is “ the innate potential to live cooperatively with other people. It is enables the person to value the common good above personal welfare. It is not matter of sacrificing self for other, though (Cloninger, 2009:113). In The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo story, the major character is Mikael Blomkvist, he has a big social interest that is portrayed in his performance. Blomkvist incudes easy to talk to each other. In The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo novel there is not found interaction between Mikael Blomkvist with people surrounding area, but the researcher knows his interaction with his partner. He includes a charitableman. Mikael Blomkvist takes care to his partner. Mikael Blomkvist visits Frode’s house to ask about the condition of Henrik Vanger. He is happy to hear that the condition of Henrik Vanger has been fine. It proves that Mikael Blomkvist is care person, not a selfish person. (The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, 2008:463)

f. Fictional finalism

Fictional is through, or dream of every human being in this world. Meanwhile, finalism is a goal that person wants to reach or human’s expectation toward his future life. So, fictional finalism deals with the individual goal of life, which is unreal in future or as a fiction. The fictional finalism of Mikael Blomkvist is he wants as a journalist. Mikael Blomkvist likes written, studies as a journalist, and gets tittle in jurnalistic. Then Mikael Blomkvist as a journalist until now.
2. Discussion

In novel *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson tells about Mikael Blomkvist to looking for Harriet Vanger, Hendrik Vanger’s niece. The writer focuses in major character that is Life struggle of Mikael Blomkvist in *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* novel. The writer uses six basic concepts of individual psychology to analyze the main character’s mental including inferiority feelings, striving of superiority, style of life, social interest, creative self and fictional finalism.

The inferiority feelings reflected by Mikael Blomkvist, the major character of the novel. He is a journalist who works for the Millennium magazine, who has lost a libel case brought by a right wing industrialist who set Blomkvist up, Hans-Erik Wennerström. Mikael Blomkvist is slandered have stained Wenerstorm’s name.

The striving of superiority is Mikael Blomkvist postpones himself from the Millenium magazine because of a case that happen with him. Mikael Blomkvist works to Henrik Vanger to get money. He can finish his job and get that promised. The last Mikael Blomkvist backs to his job as a journalist.

Style of life is “the system principle by which the individual personality functions; it is the whole that commands the parts” (Hall and Lindzey, 1957:164). So researcher argues style of life is a unique way in facing the life and achieving the goal of life. Based on theory above Mikael Blomkvist is a type of person that always tries to reach everything he wants and never gives up.

The creative self of Mikael Blomkvist is, after he postpones himself from Millenium magazine because that happen with him, he works to Henrik Vanger to
get he wants and it is life struggle of Mikael Blomkvist. Mikael Blomkvist also as a journalist.

Social interest of Mikael Blomkvist is In *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* story, the major character is Mikael Blomkvist, he has a big social interest that is portrayed in his performance. Blomkvist incudes easy to talk to each other. In *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* novel there is not found interaction between Mikael Blomkvist with people surrounding area, but the researcher knows his interaction with his partner. He includes a charitable man.

Fictional finalism can be regarded as an expectation or desire that fiction. Adler explains that the people more motivated to expectation about future than her or his past. In *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* novel Mikael Blomkvist wants to be journalist. And he studies to get tittle in journalist level.

Based on the theory from the explanation above, the researcher obtains the definition that life struggle is “an action taken by everyone to be able to struggle through everything occupation that they do”. Life struggle is “a process to fulfill the basic requirements in order to perpetuate his life”.

The writer takes An Individual Psychological Perspective because the theory is suitable for the major characters and the story of the novel. So, the writer decides to use this theory to analyze a major character and to equal of theory and type of character in *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* novel.

Based on the explanation by the expert, the researcher obtains definition that the rationality-self is “capable of rationalization and denials but it is also capable of reasoning correctly and finding solutions to the problem of living” (Feist, 1985:355). Blomkvist tries to be better eventhough he has much problems such as
to pay a debt. But, he can solve his problem or get solution to pay it because he works to Henrik Vanger.

Based on Rene Wllek and Austin Warren. Psychology of literature has four meanings: the psychological study of the writer, the study of creative process, the study of psychological types and laws present within works of literature, and the effect of literature upon its readers (Wellek and Warren, 1962: 81). This study is included in the study of psychological types and laws present works of literature, Stieg Larsson creates Mikael Blomkvist as major character to illustrate psychology of phenomenon as a journalist who has much problems. But, he can find the solution of his problem. At the end, he becomes a journalist anymore.

D. Conclusion

Second, based on the individual psychological analysis, it can be concluded that in this novel, the writer illustrates a psychological phenomenon in which an individual should work hard in order to meet his need. The psychological phenomenon is delivered by the struggle of Mikael blomkvist as a major character in The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo novel has many manner for his life

E. References


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