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SHIRAKAWA’S CRIME REFLECTED IN HARUKI MURAKAMI’S AFTER DARK (2004): AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

This research paper aims at knowing Shirakawa’s crime related Haruki Murakami’s After Dark which is analyzed by using an 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 identifying the relation between the theory and the character. The type of this research is descriptive qualitative. The sources of the data come from both the primary data sources and information about the author’s biography, website about the novel, and theory about individual psychological. The method to analyze the data is descriptive analysis. Having analyzed the novel, the research comes to the conclusion as follows (1) based on the structural analysis, it is apparent that in this novel Haruki Murakami delivers a moral message that don’t underestimate and judged another people live, Takahashi point out the moral for us: ”it’s not as if our lives are divided simply into light and dark. There’s shadowy middle ground. Recognizing and understanding the shadow is what a healthy intelligence does”. (2) Based on the individual psychological analysis, the author illustrates a psychological phenomenon which an individual should make every effort to cope with the problem of life. The psychological phenomenon is shown by Shirakawa’s crime to fulfill his desire to be perfect and superior in everything.

Keywords: Crime, Individual Psychological Approach, After Dark novel
A. INTRODUCTION

Literary is the source of English learning which related with human’s life. It can be said that all of human activity is never far from literature, such as; human’s personality, human’s social life, etc. so there is literary works that appear in the middle of human’s life as literary development. To give the understanding on literary works it has to give back to the society itself because the literary works is part of social structural integration, literary works being adapted and measured by society (Nyoman, 2008).

The literary works that can be expressed and appreciated such as: poem, novel, film, drama and etc. it depends on the people how they want to expresses it and analyzes it. Here the writer wants to try to analyze and express on of the literary works in the novel. The writer wants to analyze the novel using one of literary approach name individual psychological.

*After Dark* was published in 2004. Since starting his career in the 60s, when he was already in his thirties, he has released over ten novels, many of them released during the 90s and 00s. When you pick up a book by Murakami it often does not take more than reading the first couple of sentences to recognize that simple, modern, concise and daring style. As a statement about what literature should be, Murakami has been a challenge. His work has been either hated or deeply loved, specifically for his use of modern language and modern topics.

The characters are often very similar in Murakami’s novels. The setting is mostly Tokyo, where Murakami come from. The main character is often, if not almost always, a middle aged man who is confused about life. *After Dark* diverges from this. The novel does not present just one main character but several, both men and women, with equal focus on them all as there are chapters devoted to all of them.

*After Dark* novel takes place in the entertainment district of Tokyo, a place of all-night dinners, cafes, bars, and love hotel named Alphaville. The story starts a few minutes before midnight and ends as the sun is rising, right before 7:00 AM. It is the darkness of this setting that gives the story its intrigue, as it is often insinuated that this is the time that gangs lurk in the shadows, when woman are not safe on the street, and when a social psychopath can get away with brutal beating. Although
these same things could be said about normal daylight, the dark setting menacing shadows that add more tension.

The story opens in an all-night Denny’s, sterile and plastic. In placing an American restaurant in the Japanese city, the author demonstrates the Westernization of his culture, another of his favorite topics. Tokyo could be any major city, the narrator implies. There is nothing that he mentions in the story that is specifically Japanese except for the names of the outlying towns that are mentioned.

The themes of *After Dark* novel tells us about Tokyo nightlife. It’s about insomnia, isolation, and the uncertainties of the night persist, but Murakami has explored these before in a more considered fashion.

There are some reasons why the writer interested in analyzing *After Dark* novel. Firstly, *After Dark* novel is a depiction of metropolitan Tokyo over the course of one night. From midnight to dawn we follow five lost souls: a woman in a quasi-comatose state; a jazz musician at an all-night practice session; a prostitute assaulted at a “love hotel”; a salary man working late on a software project; and a 19-year-old girl looking to escape from the tenison of her strained home life. Secondly, parts of the story take place in a world between reality and dream, and each chapter begins with an image of a clock depicting the passage of time throughout the night. Last, the character of Shirakawa as a married man who works all night and beats up the Chinese prostitute.

Relating to all the description above, the writer uses individual psychological approach. Alfred Adler’s theory individual psychological is the theory of human behavior emphasizing the drive to overcome feelings of inferiority by compensation and the need to achieve personal goals that have value for society.

The problem statement of this research is “How is Shirakawa’s crime related in *After Dark* novel?”

The objectives of the study are mentioned as follows: firstly, to analyze Haruki Murakami’s *After Dark* novel based on structural elements of the novel. Secondly, to reveal Shirakawa’s crime by means of psychological perspective particularly an individual psychological approach.
There is some research that is used by the researcher as guidance of this study. The first research is written by J.P. Dil on 2007 from University of Canterbury with title “Haruki Murakami and The Search of Self-Therapy”. On that research, J.P. Dil concerned about the psychological relationship between of the author (Haruki Murakami) and his novels (including After Dark). Here, he believes that psychological condition will always influence every word that produce inside the novels. And if some common words inside the novels that does not contain the common meaning, but it is used to represent something else that more complicated and deep.

The second research is written by Masayu Oda in 2011 with title “村上春樹「アフターダーク」の空間的読解:闇」と出会う場所としての深夜の街” or in English it means “Spatial Analysis of Murakami Haruki’s "After dark": Midnight Town as A Place Where We Encounter The Darkness”, which described the midnight life in the town.

The third research is written by Tutut Dwi Desiningtyas in 2013. Here, she focused on the reaction and opinion of Mari and Takahashi (the characters of the novel) about the modernism paradigmatic in Japan.

According to Adler, “Individual psychology is an optimistic view of people while resting heavily on the notion of social interest, that is, a feeling of oneness with all human kind” (Hoffman, 1994). Individual Psychological theory emphasis on the following concepts psychological determinism, the unconscious, behavior as goal directed and expressive of interplay among forces or dynamics and the behavior as an outgrowth of events in the last time on the individual.

According to Adler (in Ryckman, 1985: 95), individual psychology is a science that attempts to understand the experiences and behavior of each personality should be to serve as a fruitful guide for therapist and ultimately for everyone, in affecting change toward more psychologically healthy behavior.

According to Alfred Adler’s Individual Psychological theory, personality consists of three elements. These three elements of personality known as the id, ego and superego are working together to create complex human behaviors. According to Adler, id, ego and superego “are not persons, places, or physical things they are the
names given to certain motivational forces whose existence is inferred from the way people behave” (Hoffman, 1994).

According to Freud (Burger, 1986: 56), *id* is “the most basic system of personality where the innate instinct exists”. The *id* is the only component of personality that is present from birth. Aspects of personality are fully conscious and inclusive of instinctive behavior. *Ego* is the component of personality that is responsible for dealing with reality. According to Koeswara (1991:33-34), “*Ego* is a personality system that acts as individual director to the object of reality, and perform its functions based on the principle reality”. According Kartono (1996:129) *superego* is the highest substance on humans, which provides guidance lines ethical and norms that must be adhered to.

**B. RESEARCH METHOD**

*After Dark* novel analyzed by using an individual psychological approach. The objective of the research is 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 of the research are taken from books, other source, and website that related to the study. The technique of collecting data are reading novel, identifying the data that can be analyzed, taking note, and browsing to the internet. The method to analyze of this data is descriptive analysis.

**C. FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

1. FINDING

   Adler proposed that inferiority feelings are the source of all human striving. Individual growth results from compensation, from our attempts to overcome our real or imagined inferiorities. Throughout our lives, we are driven by the need to overcome this sense of inferiority and to strive for increasingly higher levels of development. The inferiority of Shirakawa is apparent when he doesn’t want to meet his family specially his wife at night. It’s not because he is a
shy person but it’s more like he doesn’t want to see his family. Actually he still cares with his family, but he do it in different ways.

Adler assumed that striving for superiority was a fundamental part of human nature, he knew that it happened in isolation. On positive side, striving for superiority can motivate people to achieve their fullest potential. On the negative side, Adler also noted the possibility of its taking turn for worse and manifesting itself in the form a superiority complex is someone who seeks to abuse, exploit, and dominate others in an attempt to achieve superiority over them.

When we saw Shirakawa from outside, he is such an ordinary and normal person. But actually he is a type of a man who wants to be superior at all of he do, in his family or work. Because of his work and his night shift, he becomes depressed, especially with his sexual life with his wife. He doesn’t want to admit it but his natural instincts really want it.

He releases it with a Chinese prostitute. But something happen when they want to starts it. Dongli got her periods all of sudden and that make him so angry. He beat up Dongli and carry away everything she had–her phone, bag, and even her clothes–. He do that because he wants to keep her in the room hotel and not to run away then chased him. Shirakawa is a straight type which mean, he always wants to be perfect in everything but the reality he can’t do that. He just imagined it but doesn’t have a reason to execute it in direct way.

As we know, Japan is a developed country with all their modernization, either in terms of economic, political, social and infrastructure facilities. Japan is a real example of the globalization era. Many things in Japan can make us admiring them but not with their individuality. Japanese people are more concerned with careers rather than their personal lives.

In Shirakawa cases, he and his family do not always meet each other directly. He doesn’t have a time for his family. Because of his inferiority and his desire to be superior, Shirakawa wants to show up him selves. He wants to take a lead of his family, his work, his life but the reality is not. He can’t be with his family, his wife, or with his night shift job. Shirakawa is a loner type. He does not really like gathering around with someone else even with his colleague.
Adler believed that the individual creates the style of life. Although unclear on specifics, Adler insisted that our style of life is not determined for us; we are free to choose and create it ourselves. Unfortunately, Shirakawa is not having a good intention to change all. He is still with his personality which is his inferiority and his desire in taking control of him.

2. DISCUSSION

The application of individual psychological analysis is divided into six specific parts namely inferiority feelings, striving for superiority or perfection, fictional finalism, style of life, social interest, and creative power.

After analyzing After Dark novel, the most influenced Shirakawa personality is the Japan society in the modern era. Which like we know that Japan is the best example of globalization era. The negative effect is the high individualism between the societies. And Shirakawa is one of it with more individualism even with his family, he still do it.

The inferiority of Shirakawa is shown when he doesn’t want to meet his family specially his wife at night. Even his family wants to meet him; he still just doesn’t want to meet them. It’s not because he is a shy person but it seems like he doesn’t want to see his family. May be it’s like he got bored with his family but it’s not. Actually he still cares with his family, but he do it in different ways.

In Shirakawa case, he striving of superiority on negative side is reflected when we saw Shirakawa from outside. He is such an ordinary and normal person. But, In spite of facts, he is a type of a guy who wants to be superior at all of he do, in his family or work too. Because of his work and his night shift, he feels lonely. But he doesn’t want to admit it. And because of that he becomes depressed without him knowing, especially with his sexual life.

He can’t fulfill his desire of a man. He releases it with a Chinese prostitute. But something happen when they want to starts it. Dongli got her periods all of sudden and that make him so angry. He beat up Dongli and carry away everything she had—her phone, bag, and even her clothes—. He do that because he wants to keep her in the room hotel and not to run away then chased him. Shirakawa is a straight type which mean, he always wants to be perfect in
everything but the reality he can’t do that. He just imagined it but doesn’t have a reason to execute it in direct way.

Japanese people are more concerned with careers rather than their personal lives. Individualism holds that a person taking part in society attempts to further his or her own interests, or at least demands the right to serve his or her own interests, without taking the interests of society into consideration (an individualist need not be an egoist). The individualist does not favour any philosophy that requires the sacrifice of the self-interest of the individual for higher social causes.

In Shirakawa cases, he and his family do not always meet each other directly. He doesn’t have a time for his family. Even if he has, he always makes some excuses for not gathering with them. And of course that’s a lie, he always lies to his family like he always pretending he busy doing his work at his company. That actually he was going out doing another sex activity.

Shirakawa is employed by a company which concerns in his job with a technology like computer programmers. He gets night shift. And his wife has a job too at daylight. So it makes them so difficult to meet each other, let alone spend a sleep time together.

Shirakawa has no interest in socializing. He is quite happy with his solitude, even though he has a family he prefers to spend his time to work. When the family asleep he chooses to work, and when the family awoke he chose to sleep because night work. And at work he also does not really like gathering around with someone else even with his colleague.

He doesn’t want to have unnecessary bond. He was once gathering is with Chinese Prostitute, maybe it’s because after he finished his business they never meet or contact each other. And he also was rejecting to have chat with taxi driver with pretending sleep. Shirakawa is the type of person who does not want to interfere other people's business and do not like to interfere with other people.

Adler insisted that our style of life is not determined for us; we are free to choose and create it ourselves. Shirakawa is not having a good intention to change all. He stills the same personality which is his inferior and his desire has
taken control of him. He doesn’t want to make up his relation with his family. He still doesn’t want to meet his family and always be alone. And after he beats up the Chinese prostitute and carries away everything—cellphone, clothes, hand bag—that Chinese have without any mercy for her, he tries to avoid taking responsibility for beating her so hard and tracking someone to take the responsibility with put the cellphone in the one of shelf at 7-Eleven. Although he feels a little guilty of what he has done with Dongli. He is tries to ignore it. He pretends to have nothing happen at all. It seems that he is truly a psychopath.

D. CONCLUSION

Having analyzed After Dark using the individual psychological approach, the researcher comes to the following conclusions: Firstly, based on the structural analysis, it is apparent that in this novel Haruki Murakami delivers a description about the globalization era that impacts the human right now. Globalizations itself have a positive and negative impacts. Murakami’s novel has a negative impact especially in individualism. Murakami builds the story about nightlife that happen in big city like Tokyo.

Murakami revives the character of Shirakawa, an ordinary guy who had high individualism about his life and also had a psychopathic characteristic. It is because he had another desire about sex and perfection. In telling the story, he used omniscient point of view, so it could go mind of his character freely and describe what they taught and felt. Murakami built the story in such a way that the elements are related to one and another forming a unity.

Secondly, based on the individual psychological analysis, it is evident that Shirakawa is a type of characteristic that he only cares about what he wants. Shirakawa try to taking turn for worse and manifesting itself in the form a superiority complex is someone who seeks to abuse, exploit, and dominate others in an attempt to achieve superiority over them. In his social life, he is type of person who does not want to interfere other people's business and do not like to interfere with other people. Even he was restricting his family to get closer with him.
He had perfectionist sex desire. He wants to be superior in his carrier and family but he can’t, so that’s why he had the psychopathic characters. In the novel, he is doing crime, a lot of crime. He beat up the Chinese and throws the blame to the innocent people; he always lies to his family. Also, he is probably doing something bad to Eri but it can’t be proven because the story ends with ambiguity. Adler insisted that our style of life is not determined for us; we are free to choose and create it ourselves.

From this novel we can learn about the society that we can never imagine. A girl who had family problem and always loss from her own sister that make her become a rebel girl. A man who had falls in love with sisters. A prostitute who get beat up from her customer because of a little accidents. There are mysterious guys with black coat that make someone fall in a deep sleep. There is also a programmer who always works at night shift with some purpose on his mind.

We can learn how the society work and impact onto our decision to reach our goal. Some goals that can’t be reached just with our selves but also with the help from another people. With a good communication we can finish our problem.
E. BIBLIOGRAPHY


