

**MULTIPLE PERSONALITY**  
**IN SIDNEY SHELDON'S *TELL ME YOUR DREAMS*:**  
**A PSYCHOANALYTIC PERSPECTIVE**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

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by

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **A. Background of the Study**

Problem is part of human's life. People have assumed that life is being identical with the problem itself. Then people will do everything to find the perfect solution for their problems. Sometime, multiple personality may occur when people face a complicated situation. Then, this condition make people do something that is not suitable with the norm in society.

The phenomenon of multiple personality may happen in human's personality. Multiple personality may arise because of the past trauma and it makes a person unable to control his behavior at a certain time. For example is when a woman who has a traumatic rape experience in her childhood makes her has more than one personality. Then, when she has to face the reality that somebody wants to rape her again, like her past trauma, she cannot control her behavior and decides to kill that man, although she never does some criminals action before. In psychology Multiple Personality Disorder (MPD) is also known as Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID). The appearance of two or more separate personality within a single individual is the primary characteristic of the multiple personality disorder. The original personality usually is not realizes about the existence of those other personalities.

As a psychological study, Psychoanalysis is often used to analyze some literature, such as fiction. The author presents many characters with

many characterizations and offers some conflicts to complete the story. The conflict of the story will arise psychological indication that will shown in character's behavior that is described by the author.

One of the authors who is interested in multiple personality phenomenon is Sidney Sheldon. He expresses his feeling in his famous novel entitled *Tell Me Your Dreams* which is published by Warner Books, Inc in 1998 consisting of 363 pages. In this novel, Sheldon tries to present and give a drawing of the real conditions of the multiple personality victims where there are several conflicts and incidents which had made someone's life change.

Sidney Sheldon was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1917. The winner of an Oscar, a Tony, and an Edgar Allan Poe Award, Sheldon has over 200 television scripts, twenty five major motion pictures six Broadway plays and seventeen novels (which have sold over 300 million copies) to his credit, ranking him as one of the world's most prolific writers. "Sidney Sheldon recently was awarded in memoriam as a Gold Circle honoree from The National academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS), Pasific Southwest Chapter". He passed away on January 30, 2007. ([www.hachettbookgroupusa.com](http://www.hachettbookgroupusa.com)).

Sidney Sheldon is known for his known for his existing blockbuster novel such as *The Naked Face* (1969), *The Other Side of Midnight* (1974), *A Stranger in the Mirror* (1975), *Bloodline* (1977), *Rage of Angels* (1980), *Master of the Game* (1982), *If Tomorrow Comes* (1986), *Winds Mills* (1987),

*The Sands of Time* (1988), *Memories of Midnight* (1990), *The Doomsday Conspiracy* (1991), *The Stars Shine Down* (1992), *Nothing Lasts Forever* (1994), *Morning, Noon & Night* (1995), *Best Laid Plans* (1997), and *The Sky is Falling* (2000).

*Tell Me Your Dreams* is a novel which tells about past traumatic experience faced by the major character which disturb her mind and becomes the cause of appearing three personalities in her mind.

*Tell Me Your Dreams* is Sheldon's sixteen novels. The story of this novel tells about multiple personality disorder phenomena which happen in the major character's personality. The main character of this novel is Ashley Patterson, a daughter of a famous doctor named Steven Patterson. In this novel, Ashley is described as a woman with the past trauma because she has been raped by her own father repeatedly and she could not stop him. After she is adult, she becomes a beautiful young woman. Her father always forbids her to have a boyfriend. The novel tells there are five men fall in love with Ashley and finally rape her. She always remembers about her father when she is rape d by each man who rapes her and it makes Ashley trauma. All men who rape Ashley are killed by Ashley and being castrate d stabbed, but it is controlled by her other personalities. After killing the man who rapes her, Ashley does not have memory for what she had done. Her condition is known after some doctors make investigation towards her and find that there are three personalities in Ashley's mind, and they call it "Multiple Personality Disorder (MPD).

Based on this psychologist factor, the writer will analyze the novel by using psychoanalytic perspective under the title” **MULTIPLE PERSONALITY IN SIDNEY SHELDON’S *TELL ME YOUR DREAMS: PSYCHOANALYTIC PERSECTIVE*”.**

## **B. Literature Review**

There are two previous studies which had been conducted in Tell Me your Dreams. The first study is conducted by Dwi Elisa Handayani with the title “*An Analysis Of English Idiomatic Expressions Translated Into Indonesian In Sidney Sheldon’s Novel Tell Me Your Dreams*”. The second study is conducted by Windarto entitled “*Traumatic Experience and Its Influence On The Major Character’s Personality In Sidney Sheldon’s Tell Me Your Dreams : Individual Psychological approach*”. As long as the writer knows, there is no research has been conducted to study this novel by using Psychoanalytic Perspective at least among the students in Surakarta.

## **C. Problem Statement**

The major problem in this study is “How Multiple Personality is illustrated in Sidney Sheldon’s *Tell Me Your Dreams*.”

#### **D. Limitation of The Study**

The writer will focus on analyzing the mental condition of Ashley as the main character of the novel based on psychoanalytic perspective developed by Sigmund Freud.

#### **E. Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the research are:

1. To analyze the novel in terms of its structural elements
2. To analyze the novel based on the psychoanalytic perspective

#### **F. Benefit of the Study**

The benefits of the research are:

##### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

To give additional information and contribute to the larger body of knowledge, particularly studies on Sidney Sheldon's *Tell Me Your Dreams*.

##### **2. Practical Benefit**

To give deeper understanding for the writer herself about the novel based on psychoanalytic perspective.

#### **G. Research Method**

##### **1. Type of the Study**

The type of the study which is used in this study is qualitative research.

## 2. Type of the Data and the Data Sources

The type of data is texts that consist of words, phrases and sentences which are categorized into two; primary data source and secondary data source.

### a. Primary data source

The primary data source is the novel *Tell Me Your Dreams* by Sidney Sheldon.

### b. Secondary data source

The secondary data are some selected materials and references which are related to the study.

## 3. Technique of the Data Collection

The method of collecting data used in this study is library research by collecting and selecting both the primary and secondary data. Some steps of collecting data are:

- a. Reading the novel repeatedly
- b. Taking notes and information in both primary and secondary data
- c. Classifying the data into some categories
- d. Analyzing the data
- e. Drawing conclusion based on the result analysis

## 4. Techniques of the Data Analysis

The writer uses descriptive analysis. Firstly, she arranges the data into a list. Secondly, she analyzes the data based on Sigmund Freud's theory of personality.

## **H. Paper Organization**

This research consists of five chapters. Chapter 1 deals with introduction which explains the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, theoretical approach, research method and thesis organization. Chapter II deals with underlying theory. Chapter III is structural analysis and discussion of the novel. Chapter IV is the psychoanalytic analysis of the novel and discussion. Chapter V is the conclusion and suggestion