PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT OF GRIGORY STEPAKOVITCH SMIRNOV IN THE BEAR DRAMA BY ANTHON CHEKHOV (1888):
AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

The object of the research is the drama entitled *The Bear* by Anthon Chekhov. The major problem of this study is how personality development influences the major character, Grigory Stepanovitch Smirnov, in Anthon Chekhov’s *The Bear*. It is aimed to analyze the drama based on individual psychological approach by Alfred Adler. The type of the study is qualitative research. There are two data sources that the researcher uses, the primary data sources and secondary data sources. The primary data source is the drama itself and the secondary data sources are any information related to study and other books which deal with the study. The techniques of data collection are documentations and library research. Anthon Chekhov wants to tell that everyone has his own personality developments and ways of overcoming them. In the drama, Smirnov has problem with his personality development. It influences his personality in facing the others people. He becomes coarse person and disrespect person.

A. Background of the Study

Personality is a dynamic and organized set of characteristics possessed by a person that uniquely influences their environment, cognitions, emotions, motivations, and behavioral science in various situations. The word "personality" originates from the Latin *persona*, which means mask. In
making changes the theatre of the ancient Latin-speaking world, the mask was not used as a plot device to \textit{disguise} the identity of a character, but instead was a convention employed to represent or \textit{typify} that character. The knowledge of the psychology helps the author to create characters in plays and novels more real as well as situation and plot (Wellek and Warren, 1956: 88-91).

Personality also refers to the pattern of thoughts, feelings, social adjustments, and behaviors consistently exhibited over time that strongly influences one's expectations, self-perceptions, values, and attitudes. It also predicts human reactions to other people, problems, and stress. There is still no universal consensus on the definition of "personality" in psychology. Gordon Allport (1937) described two major ways to study personality: the nomothetic and the idiographic. \textit{Nomothetic psychology} seeks general laws that can be applied to many different people, such as the principle of self-actualization or the trait of extraversion. \textit{Idiographic psychology} is an attempt to understand the unique aspects of a particular individual. Allport offers his definition: Personality is the dynamic organization within the individual of those psychophysical systems that determine his unique adjustments to his environment (Allport, 1937, p. 48).

Personality is the unique way an individual has learned to deal with challenges and work. Those the personality of every person is difference. The people will develop and organize their pattern of behaviors and attitudes that make distinctive.

Personality development occurs by the on going interaction of temperament, character, and environment. Growth of habitual patterns of behavior is in childhood and adolescence. An improvement in all spheres of an individual.
Anton Chekhov, in full Anton Pavlovich Chekhov was born on 29 January 1860 in Taganrog, Russia – died on 15 July 1904, Badenweiler, Germany. He is a Russian physician, dramaturge and author who is considered to be among the greatest writers of short stories in history. His career as a dramatist produced four classics and his best short stories are held in high esteem by writers and critics. Chekhov practiced as a medical doctor throughout most of his literary career. He is the third of six surviving children. His father is Pavel Yegorovich Chekhov, a grocery store man. His mother is Yevgeniya, a story teller all of Russia.

Anthon Chekhov careers are dramatist, short story writer, and novelist; during his early career, worked as a physician, beginning 1884; editor of the literary section of Russkaya mysl, 1903; founder of two rural schools. Beside that, Anthon Chekhov also getting awards from his work: Pushkin Prize, Division of Russian Language and Letters of the Academy of Sciences, 1888, for collection of stories, *V sumerkakh (In the Twilight)*; elected Honorary Academician of the Pushkin Section of Belle Lettres of the Academy of Sciences, 1899; awarded Order of St. Stanislav for work in the cause of national education, 1899; Griboedov Prize, Society of Dramatic Writers and Opera Composers, for *Tri syostry: Drama v chetyryokh deystviyakh (The Three Sisters: A Drama in Four Acts)*. ([https://people.brandeis.edu/~teuber/chekhovbio.html](https://people.brandeis.edu/~teuber/chekhovbio.html))

Anthon Chekhov included into the influential writer in his period until this time, proved by his plays, novel/novellas, short stories and article. Along with his prolific output of letters to friends and family and his four most popular plays *The Seagull* (1894), *Uncle Vanya* (1899), *The Three Sisters* (1900) and *The Cherry Orchard* (1903), further works by Chekhov include his plays; *The Boor or The Bear* (1881), *That Worthless Fellow Platonov* (1881), *On the Harmful Effects of Tobacco* (1886), *Swansong*
The action begins at Elena Ivanovna Popova’s house, as she is seen bending over a photograph of her dead husband with a look of “deep mourning” on her face. Her servant, Luka, tries to comfort her and encourage her to finally leave the house, seven months after her husband’s death. Popova stubbornly refuses, citing the pretext that she must remain forever faithful to her husband—as he had never been to her. By locking herself up in her house for the rest of her life, she intends to show her deceased husband what true love and faithfulness mean.

A bell interrupts Popova’s mournful sobbing, and Grigory Stepanovitch Smirnov enters the scene. Naturally, Popova refuses to see him—after all, she has sworn to not see anyone until her death. Smirnov does not give up, claiming that he has come on urgent business. Without the excessive show of courtesy characteristic of his social class—a sign of his alleged disillusionment with high-society life and women—Smirnov demands that Popova return the money owed to him by her late husband. As she does not have money at the house and is not in the “mood” to deal with financial matters, she tells him to return the day after tomorrow.

Angered by her casual response, so “typical” of capricious female nature and fickle “female logic,” Smirnov refuses to leave until she repays the debt. Next, they engage in a series of arguments: Smirnov accuses women of dishonesty and of making false claims to equality, while Popova makes the argument personal by calling Smirnov a “bear” for his boorish manners. Smirnov exclaims that if Popova, as a feminist, really wants equality, he will give it to her—in the form of a duel. Surprised by her
acceptance of his challenge, Smirnov begins to fall in love with this “fire, powder, rocket” of a woman. After instructing her on how to use a pistol, he is forced to admit that he is beginning to like her. Even then she refuses to back down from his challenge. This refusal fuels Smirnov’s love for her further and he offers her his hand. After Popova’s numerous refusals and Smirnov’s threats to leave, Smirnov passionately kisses her. At this moment, Luka and two other workers enter the scene with household weapons, ready to break up the dual by force.

The Bear is an interesting drama. There are three reasons why the writer is concerned to study this drama. The first which makes it interesting is the major character, Grigory Stepanovitch Smirnov. He is a strong man with his establishment to get his right. He will not leave Popova’s house before she pays her loan. But finally, Smirnov has a feeling to Popova. He feels in love with her and forgets her loan.

“I absolutely like her! Absolutely! Even though her cheeks are dimpled, I like her! I’m almost ready to let the debt go... and I'm not angry any longer.... Wonderful woman”! (The Bear, 1888: 15)

Second, The Bear drama has some essential moral messages. It is about how a man treats the woman. From this drama, Smirnov treats Popova with the bad and rude acts. He often speaks loudly to Popova to debts her loan.

“Well, there! "A state of mind."... "Husband died seven months ago!" Must I pay the interest, or mustn't I? I ask you: Must I pay, or must I not? Suppose your husband is dead, and you've got a state of mind, and nonsense of that sort.... And your steward's gone away somewhere, devil take him, what do you want me to do? Do you think I can fly away from my creditors in a balloon, or what? Or do you expect me to go and run my head into a brick wall? I go to Grusdev and he isn't at home, Yaroshevitch has hidden himself, I had a violent row with Kuritsin and
nearly threw him out of the window, Mazugo has something the matter with his bowels, and this woman has "a state of mind." Not one of the swine wants to pay me! Just because I'm too gentle with them, because I'm a rag, just weak wax in their hands! I'm much too gentle with them! Well, just you wait! You'll find out what I'm like! I shan't let you play about with me, confound it! I shall jolly well stay here until she pays! Brr!... How angry I am to-day, how angry I am! All my inside is quivering with anger, and I can't even breathe.... Foo, my word, I even feel sick”! (The Bear, 1888: 6)

The last, the writer analyzes the drama because it represents the human life between loaner and the peoples who have the loan. *The Bear* is one of the best dramas. And Indonesia, there are two translations drama from *The Bear: Beruang Penagih Hutang* by Landung Simatupang and *Orang Kasar* by W. S Rendra. Both of them also the best writers from Indonesia in their period and many drama or theater groups perform this drama.

Based on the previous reasons, the writer will observe *The Bear* drama by using individual psychological approach theory. So, the writer constructs the paper entitled: “PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT OF GRIGORY STEPANOVITCH SMIRNOV IN THE BEAR DRAMA BY ANTHON CHEKHOV (1888): AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH.”

B. Research Method

1. Types of the Study

The type of this research is qualitative research. It means that the researcher does not use the statistic to collect, to analyze, and to interpret data.
2. **Types of the Data and the Data Source**

   In this research, the researcher takes two kinds of data:
   
   a. Primary Data
      
      Primary data is the main data obtained from the drama.
   
   b. Secondary Data
      
      Secondary data is the supporting data taken from literary books, criticism, articles, and journals related to the drama.
      
      The types of data taken from the theatre show are: issue of the drama, the story of the character in the drama and setting in the drama.

3. **Object of the Study**

   The object of this research is the drama *The Bear* written by Anthon Chekhov.

4. **Technique of the Data Collection**

   In this research, the researcher uses library and digital research. The data are collected by reading the script and collected from the books related to the topic. The first step is reading the script *The Bear* to identify the data and taking notes the data. Then, it is continued by reading the related references to learn more about the data. After that, the data is analyzed by using the relevant theory and references from the articles, journal and digital references from internet which is containing the meaning of each data.

5. **Technique of the Data Analysis**

   The technique of data analysis is descriptive in which the researcher uses an Individual Psychological approach and draws a conclusion.
C. Individual Psychological Analysis

There are six basic concepts of Adler’s individual psychology. The concepts are: (1) inferiority feeling and compensation, (2) striving for superiority, (3) fictional finalism, (4) style of life, (5) social interest, and (6) creative self.

1. Inferiority feeling and compensation

Inferiority feeling relates to an individual consciousness that man tries to understand his weaknesses, incapability’s, and imperfection dealing with his self-condition to strive for superiority. In accordance with the basic characteristic as an individual who always wants to be perfect, Adler believes, “inferiority feelings support a man to strive for superiority” (Hall and Lindzey, 1985: 98).

Grigory Stepanovitch Smirnov is a major character in The Bear drama. He is a rich landowner who has a lot of money and land. Smirnov’s inferiority feeling arises when he has a habit to loan his money to the customers that wants a debt. Sometimes he gets a claim from bank to pay his obligation soon. He feels afraid if he doesn’t pay it. So, the compensation that he takes is he gets an idea to dun his money from the customers to pay in bank.

SMIRNOV.
Thank you so much. I’ll make a note of it.
[Shrugs his shoulders]
And then people want me to keep calm! I meet a man on the road, and he asks me "Why are you always so angry, Grigory Stepanovitch?" But how on earth am I not to get angry? I want the money desperately. I rode out yesterday, early in the morning, and called on all my debtors, and not a single one of them paid up! I was just about dead-beat after it all, slept, goodness knows where, in some inn, kept by a Jew, with a vodka-barrel by my head. At last I get here, seventy versts from
home, and hope to get something, and I am received by you with a "state of mind"! How shouldn't I get angry.

POPOVA.
I thought I distinctly said my steward will pay you when he returns from town.

SMIRNOV.
I didn't come to your steward, but to you! What the devil, excuse my saying so, have I to do with your steward! (The Bear, 1888: 5)

Based on the information above, Grigory S Smirnov has many inferiority feelings in his life. The dialogue shows there is no respect from Popova. Smirnov thinks that fight is the best answer to clear his problem with Popova.

2. Striving for Superiority

Adler says the striving for superiority is “a continuous process” (Hall and Lindzey, 1978: 123). The striving refers to the human’s efforts in order to get precision of life. Striving for superiority is a response to the feeling of inferiority. People will try to cover his or her weaknesses to be perfect.

To cover his weaknesses, Smirnov shows his striving for superiority to get a new life, his money from the debtors. His attitude is reflection about his life. In the same time, Popova says if she wants to give an obligation after her steward comes from the town. So, Smirnov also has an idea to live in Popova’s house until she gives his money.

SMIRNOV.
And I told you perfectly plainly I don't want the money the day after to-morrow, but to-day. If you don't pay me to-day, I'll have to hang myself to-morrow.

POPOVA.
But what can I do if I haven't got the money? You're so strange!
SMIRNOV.
Then you won't pay me now? Eh?

POPOVA.
I can't.

SMIRNOV.
In that case I stay here and shall wait until I get it. [Sits down]
You're going to pay me the day after to-morrow? Very well! I'll stay here until the day after to-morrow. I'll sit here all the time....
[Jumps up] I ask you: Have I got to pay the interest to-morrow, or haven't I? Or do you think I'm doing this for a joke? (The Bear, 1888: 8)

Based on the facts above, Smirnov tries hard to cover his inferiority feelings. He never gives up getting what he wants. He knows that collecting money from the debtor is more difficult than he gives a loan. In addition, he also has a debt in bank and he must pay soon. Smirnov uses this way in order he gets money and finishes his requirement.

3. Fictional Finalism

Fictional finalism deals with individual goal of life. People will realize and reach this in various ways with all their capabilities and weaknesses to be superior. An individual will strive for perfection or compensation for his inferior condition in the course of gaining superiority (Adler in Hall and Lindzey, 1978: 162).

This drama tells a person who has a dream to get a new life, new spirit and true love from a woman. It can be seen from the major character that uses honey words, wearing jewelry and good perform than before. He tries motivating himself.

POPOVA.
That's silly and rude.

SMIRNOV.
[Teasing her]
Silly and rude! I don't know how to behave before women! Madam, in my time I've seen more women than you've seen sparrows! Three times I've fought duels on account of women. I've refused twelve women, and nine have refused me! Yes! There was a time when I played the fool, scented myself, used honeyed words, wore jewellery, made beautiful bows. I used to love, to suffer, to sigh at the moon, to get sour, to thaw, to freeze... I used to love passionately, madly, every blessed way, devil take me; I used to chatter like a magpie about emancipation, and wasted half my wealth on tender feelings, but now--you must excuse me! You won't get round me like that now! I've had enough! Black eyes, passionate eyes, ruby lips, dimpled cheeks, the moon, whispers, timid breathing--I wouldn't give a brass farthing for the lot, madam! Present company always excepted, all women, great or little, are insincere, crooked, backbiters, envious, liars to the marrow of their bones, vain, trivial, merciless, unreasonable, and, as far as this is concerned

[taps his forehead] excuse my outspokenness, a sparrow can give ten points to any philosopher in petticoats you like to name! You look at one of these poetic creatures: all muslin, an ethereal demi-goddess, you have a million transports of joy, and you look into her soul--and see a common crocodile! ........

(The Bear, 1888: 9)

Fictional finalism in *The Bear* drama deals with the Smirnov’s goal of life. He reaches his goal of life with several ways. He arranges his way from the small things to the great things. All of his efforts are aimed to Popova. It is clear that Smirnov’s goal of life is he wants to live with Popova ever after.
4. Style of Life

Style of life is the movement towards the goal. It depends on the person’s flavor. Style of life is the product of the interaction of heredity, environment, and goal of success, social interest and creative power. Adler states that style of life is originally called “the life plan or guiding image refers to the unique ways in which people pursue their goal” (Adler in Ryckman, 1985: 98).

Physically, Smirnov is tall, handsome, and he has a loud sound when he speaks to other. He is a retired soldier. Style of life arises from the major character, he is a petulant person. It can be seen when he tries to debt his money to customers who have any reasons to not pay it, included Popova. He comes to Popova’s house to collect too. And Popova can not give the money for him like other before. He thinks he can pay bank’s obligation soon after he gets the money from Popova.

POPOVA.

   Excuse me, sir, I am not accustomed to listen to such expressions or to such a tone of voice. I want to hear no more.
   [Makes a rapid exit.]
SMIRNOV.

   Well, there! "A state of mind."... "Husband died seven months ago!" Must I pay the interest, or mustn't I? I ask you: Must I pay, or must I not? Suppose your husband is dead, and you've got a state of mind, and nonsense of that sort.... And your steward's gone away somewhere, devil take him, what do you want me to do? Do you think I can fly away from my creditors in a balloon, or what? Or do you expect me to go and run my head into a brick wall? I go to Grusdev and he isn't at home, Yaroshevitch has hidden himself, I had a violent row with Kuritsin and nearly threw him out of the window, Mazugo has something the matter with his bowels, and this woman has "a state of mind." Not one of the swine wants to pay me! Just because I'm too gentle with them, because I'm a rag,
just weak wax in their hands! I'm much too gentle with them!
Well, just you wait! You'll find out what I'm like! I shan't let you
play about with me, confound it! I shall jolly well stay here until
she pays! Brr!...
How angry I am to-day, how angry I am! All my inside is
quivering with anger, and I can't even breathe.... Foo, my word, I
even feel sick!
[Yells]
Waiter!
[Enter LUKA.] (The Bear, 1888: 5 – 6)

Smirnov’s life style shows that he is an extravagant person. He
lives with a lot of money, women. He lives as a soldier longtime too. So, it can influence the character of Smirnov. In the deep of his heart he looks for a new life from his experience.

5. Social Interest

Social interest is a form of striving for superiority, which is done by joining with the community in order to reach the final goal of perfection. Therefore, people should live among others, and it means that they must interact with others in their society. Human will join with the society through co-operation, interpersonal and social relations, and identification with the group and empathy (Hall and Lindzey, 1978: 122).

Smirnov is a bad performance man. He has a lot of bad appearance. He can not speak softly, stubborn act, disrespect to others. If he has a desire, he must get it at the same time. But, in the deep his heart, he feels so lonely. He is looking for a woman to make himself happy. Social interest value of Smirnov is disrespect to others. It can be seen by the conversation between Popova and Luka and while he introduces himself.
LUKA.  
Madam, somebody is asking for you. He wants to see you....  
POPOVA.  
But didn't you tell him that since the death of my husband I've stopped receiving?  
LUKA.  
I did, but he wouldn't even listen; says that it's a very pressing affair.  
POPOVA.  
I do not receive!  
LUKA.  
I told him so, but the... the devil... curses and pushes himself right in.... He's in the dining-room now.  
POPOVA.  
[Annoyed]  
Very well, ask him in.... What manners!  
[Exit LUKA]  
How these people annoy me! What does he want of me? Why should he disturb my peace?  
[Sighs]  
No, I see that I shall have to go into a convent after all.  
[Thoughtfully]  
Yes, into a convent....  
[Enter LUKA with SMIRNOV.]  
SMIRNOV.  
[To LUKA]  
You fool, you're too fond of talking.... Ass!  
[Sees POPOVA and speaks with respect]  
Madam, I have the honour to present myself, I am Grigory Stepanovitch Smirnov, landowner and retired lieutenant of artillery! I am compelled to disturb you on a very pressing affair.  
(The Bear, 1888: 3)  

From the information above, we can conclude that Smirnov has no good relationship with the others. He lives among the others unwell. He
has no good empathy. His aim is Popova gives his money so he can go from her house. He also wants to get the Popova’s sympathy. Because he wants to become good person, he falls in love to Popova.

6. Creative Self

Creative self is responsible for the person’s life goal and contributes to the improvement of social interest. Everyone has different way and strategy to solve his problem of life. This difference is what we called as the creative self of an individual. Creative self means an integration between inborn potential and environmental influences, which leads to an action to solve any problem in his life (Feist, 1985: 66).

The major character Smirnov uses his creative self to reach his dream. His dreams are getting the money from Popova and live together with Popova. The first decision is giving a threat to Popova. He must pay debt of bank before he lost his wealth.

SMIRNOV.
And I'm in a state of mind which, if I don't pay the interest due to-morrow, will force me to make a graceful exit from this life feet first. They'll take my estate!
POPOVA.
You'll have your money the day after to-morrow.
SMIRNOV.
I don't want the money the day after tomorrow, I want it to-day.
POPOVA.
You must excuse me, I can't pay you.
SMIRNOV.
And I can't wait till after to-morrow.
POPOVA.
Well, what can I do, if I haven't the money now!
SMIRNOV.
You mean to say, you can't pay me?
POPOVA.
I can't.
SMIRNOV.
Hm! Is that the last word you've got to say?
POPOVA.
Yes, the last word.
SMIRNOV.
The last word? Absolutely your last?
POPOVA.
Absolutely. (The Bear, 1888: 4 – 5)

From the information above, we know that Smirnov’s passion to get Popova is so strong. As the proof, he does many ways to get her. He never cares anything happening to him. He tries many strategies to love, care and respect to Popova. Smirnov has own ways to show to Popova how great his love is. He changes his personality from bad appearance into good person. Popova has a unique character than Smirnov knows before. Smirnov obtains a lucky chance from her, such as bravery mental, nothing to lose and explicit woman. Smirnov wants Popova to become his wife.

D. Conclusion

Anthon Chekhov wants to tell that everyone has inferiority feeling and ways of compensating them. He writes The Bear, so well and the structural of elements of the drama is in a good unity and related to one another in building the story so that it easier to understand. He creates Grigory Stepanovitch Smirnov as major character in the drama. Besides that, Anthon Chekhov uses some minor character to support the major character. Luka and Elena Ivanovna Popova are the minor characters to support the major character in this drama. Grigory Smirnov is a bad performance person. He is an attractive person because
he is a man who has bad attitude act when he was collecting money from customers.

In other side, he is unlucky man about love. He feels so lonely to end his life, so he looks for a woman to accompany him based on his experience. Anthon Chekhov takes place in Popova’s house, estate of Russia and takes the time more than in 1888 during the Russian war as a setting of place and time. Setting place and time in this drama are not told specifically. The writer only takes a symbol to describe setting of time and setting of place. The setting of time can be seen the condition of the story, such as a war, social environment. Anthon Chekhov uses standard and non-standard language and also uses figurative language. It aims to make the story more interesting and easier to understand. Anthon Chekhov uses traditional plot in writing this drama. It consists of exposition, complication, climax and resolution. He uses this plot with aims to develop the imagination of the reader. Also, Anthon Chekhov uses first person omniscient point of view to make the reader easier understand from his messages.

Based on the psychological analysis, Anthon Chekhov wants to tell that inferiority feeling influences Smirnov’s personality in facing the real facts. The bear drama represents Grigory Smirnov who shows personality development value to become good person, starting from the man who has bad attitude to be a good man after he got real woman. Smirnov’s individual psychology is divided into six, namely inferiority feeling and compensation, striving for superiority, fictional finalism, style of life, social interest and creative self. Smirnov inferiors are when he was bored to be a man who had bad attitude. He knows if he has this inferiority feeling, at the same time he meets Popova that makes him become conscious to his act. He tries to strive his superiority. Smirnov fights hard to cover his weakness to be perfect and he wants Popova to be his wife as a wage.
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