REBELLION AGAINST FAMILY IN HARUKI MURAKAMI’S AFTER DARK (2004) : A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH

PUBLICATION ARTICLE

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education in English Department

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MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA
2015
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REBELLION AGAINST FAMILY IN HARUKI MURAKAMI’S AFTER DARK NOVEL (2004): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

This research paper aims to know the rebellion against family of the major characters reflected in Haruki Murakami’s After Dark novel. The objective of the research is to analyze the novel based on the structural elements and to reveal the rebel against family of the major characters by means in the Haruki Murakami’s After Dark novel (2004) by using Psychoanalytic approach. The type of this research is descriptive qualitative. The data of the research is the primary data of the research is The After Dark novel by Haruki Murakami. The secondary data of the research taken from any information related to the novel such as books, other source and website that related to the study. The technique of collecting data are reading novel, arranging the data into several part based on its classification, selecting the data by rejecting the irrelevant information which does not support the topic of the study, and drawing the conclusion. The method to analyze of this data is descriptive analysis. Based on structural elements of the novel, the writer delivers a moral message that “children rebellion in the family is one of the symbols of relationship dissatisfaction”. Based on the psychoanalytic approach, the author illustrates psychoanalytic phenomenon which Mari’s rebellion appears because her nature formed from the uncomfortable feeling at home. Based on her Id where she really needs care and love from her parent and her sister but she cannot get it. This kind of id finally forms her ego, where she makes decision to go out and leave the house without care about her family feelings.

Keywords: Rebellion, psychoanalytic approach, After Dark Novel.
A. Introduction

*After Dark* novel was written by Haruki Murakami. *After Dark* novel tells about before midnight in a Denny’s restaurant in downtown Tokyo. There, Mari Esai sits at the front window by herself, reading a textbook; she intends to wait out the night before taking the train back home. A lanky, amateur jazz trombonist named Takahashi soon enters the restaurant, passing Mari for a few steps until he remembers her face: two years earlier, they met; Takahashi knows her older sister, Eri. Mari consents to him sitting down with her but remains annoyed at his presence during their initial conversation. In discussing their previous encounter, the reader learns that Mari, shy and “different,” is antithetical in character to her older sister, who is sociable and “a real beauty.” “We live two different lives,” she says. Takahashi eventually leaves to join an all-night band practice. (*After Dark* novel, by Murakami, 2004).

Twenty minutes later, however, a large woman bursts into the restaurant and approaches Mari. Takahashi has told the woman, Kaoru, that Mari speaks fluent Chinese; Kaoru needs a Chinese speaker to deal with an injured patron at the Alphaville, a “love hotel” she manages. Once there, Mari finds that the woman, a prostitute, was beaten and robbed by a customer; broken furniture litters the room and blood is everywhere. After finding the correct footage on the hotel’s security cameras, Kaoru uncovers the perpetrator: a night office worker who works nearby. In different chapter the story tells about Mari’s older sister, Eri who falls in a very deep sleep in her room and seems someone is watching her. The point of view is told by second person, which happened to observe Eri from afar.

There are some reasons why the writer is interested in analyzing this novel. Firstly, *After Dark* novel is interesting to be read and make people curious about the stories. Secondly, differences in characteristics between siblings by Mari Asai and Eri Asai. Thirdly, this book shows us about the reality of the night life and the lifestyle in Japan. Last, rebellion against the family that the main issue of this novel is well reflected.
The first reason is *After Dark* novel is interesting to be read and makes people curious about the stories. Reading Murakami’s work always gives the impression of isolated and cut off from the outside world stimulus. The second reason is *After Dark* shows a characteristic difference between Mari Asai and Eri Asai. The difference between these brothers make the reader feel curious about what lies behind these differences. The third reason in this book shows us about the reality of the night life and lifestyle in Japan. This book also shows us that lifestyle of the youth in Japan gets so many influence from the Western culture, shown from the activities of the major and minor character such as hanging out to the cafe in the midnight, practicing band, and loving hotel as a common place to visit and having sex. The fourth reason is rebellion against family that becomes the main issue of this novel is reflected well. Rebellion against family is analyzed using psychoanalytic approach.

The problem statement of this research focused on the rebellion of the major character against family. Where the problem is “How is rebellion against family of the major characters reflected in Haruki Murakami’s “*After Dark*” novel?

The objectives of the study are mentioned as follows: first to analyze Haruki Murakami’s *After Dark* novel based on the structural elements of the novel, second to reveal how the rebel against family of the major characters by means in the Haruki Murakami’s *After Dark* novel (2004) by using Psychoanalytic approach.

There is some research that is used by the researcher as a guidance of this study, the first did by J.P.Dil concerned about the psychological relationship between of the author (Haruki Murakami) and his novels (including *After Dark*). Here, he believed that psychological condition will always influence every word produced into the novels, and if some common words inside the novels did not contain the common meaning, but it is used to represent deeper meaning.
The second research was conducted by Masayu Oda in 2011 entitled “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 created 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.

Psychoanalysis is three things—a theory of personality, a method of therapy, and a technique for research. It is important to keep these different aspects in mind, since comments and criticisms appropriate to one may not be relevant to the other. Included here are Freud’s concepts of the unconscious, the preconscious, and the conscious, as descriptive qualities of mental life. In fact, Freud claimed that “Psychoanalysis aims at and achieves nothing more than the discovery of the unconscious in mental life” (Freud, 1924: 397).

While according to Feist and Feist, (2009: 18), psychoanalytic is science which would be somewhat different from that held by most psychologist today. Freud relied more on deductive reasoning than on rigorous research methods, and he made observations subjectively and on a relatively small sample of patients, most of whom were from the upper-middle and upper classes. He did not quantify his data, nor did he make observations under controlled conditions. He utilized the case study approach almost exclusively, typically formulating hypothesis after the facts of the case were known.

Freud constructed a model of personality with three interlocking parts; the Id, the Ego and the Superego. The Id is home base for the instincts. It constantly strives to satisfy the wish impulses of the instinct by reducing tensions. The Id serves the pleasure principle, since its sole function is to seek satisfaction of pleasurable drives (Feist & Feist, 2006: 25). The Ego comes into existence because the needs of the organism require appropriate
transactions with the objective world of reality. The hungry person has to seek, find, and eat food before the tension of hunger can be eliminated (Hall and Lindzey, 1985: 33). The Superego is the internal representative of the traditional values and ideals of society as interpreted to the child by his parents and enforced by means of a system of rewards and punishments imposed upon the child (Hall and Lindzey, 1985: 34).

B. Research Method

The writer employs the descriptive qualitative research in form of words, spoken or written of people and analyzed attitudes (Moleong, 1995: 3). The object of the study is The After Dark novel by Haruki Murakami which is published in 2004. It is analyzed by using Psychoanalytic Approach. Type of the Data and Data Source are the primary data that is the After Dark novel by Haruki Murakami. The secondary data of the study are taken from any information related to the novel such as books, other source and website that related to the study. The technique of collecting data are reading novel, arranging the data into several part based on its classification, selecting the data by rejecting the irrelevant information which does not support the topic of the study, and drawing the conclusion. The method to analyze of this data is descriptive analysis.

C. Finding and Discussion

1. Finding

   The personality of the major character appears in a form of id, ego, and superego. The id of Mari (the major character) appears in the form of kind, upset, happy, curious and also sad. Her id perhaps influenced by her nature as a young girl, where she is a protagonist. Mari is a serious, somewhat reserved college student, mature for her years but not quite an adult. The other id of Mari also appears in a form of upset and angry because she really hates school. The id here is the form of upset when Mari throws up her breakfast. This is one of the unpredictable things when people get
angry or upset, sometimes they hide from the problem, sometimes they act crazy by hitting or throwing something, or sometimes they just cries, or sometimes they do not care about it. The ego of Mari appears when she makes decision to leave her house Mari chooses to leave her home without any reasons. Mari’s ego also appears where she tries to make herself comfortable with her situation and condition. Mari also has a hard wants, it can be seen when Mari always refuses help from others. Mari refuses it; the reason is because she still can manage her condition by herself. Mari also does not care anymore about her family, about her parent and her sister. The superego of Mari also appears when she finally makes decision to come back home. Mari finally realizes that she must make decision to go back home rather than staying outsider and do nothing. She does not care anymore about her care in Tatsuya (A garrulous young trombone player named). She is also realizes that her sister needs her and she is also needs her sister. She wants to solve the problem related with her sister’s sleeping beauty problem.

The last thing is the rebellion of Mari against her family. After Dark continues this trend indeed, it is almost a checklist of current Japanese social ills, touching on gangs, violence, illegal immigration, hikikomoris, overworked salarymen with no time for their families, the stagnant economy. After Dark novel also displays a modern form of this issue, as it shows that it is not only crime that results in panoptic fear, but also the mere fact that belong to a certain city, sex or state of mind. The rebellion within the After Dark novel appears because of the family problems where it is consists of the compulsion from parents to their children in education and the jealousy because of cares that imbalance among the children. Mari’s rebellion appears because her nature formed from the uncomfortable feeling at home. Based on her Id where she really needs care and love from her parent and her sister but she cannot get it. This kind of id finally forms her ego, where she makes decision to go out and leave the house without care about her family feelings. She is no
longer care about everything that is happen in the house, she does not care whether her parent is sad, sick, and happy or anything.

2. Discussion

After Dark is not so neatly didactic. There are shadows all around in the book, violence that erupts or lies latent, fears and self-doubts that blight and cripple the characters. The story focused on two sisters (Mari and Eri), where Mari’s encounters with the inhabitants of the night help her to understand herself and reconnect with her sister. She leaves the danger and quick comradery of the night and returns home to her daytime world. Mari embodying intellectualism and disenfranchisement, while Eri stands for more superficial mainstream values. The novel notes that their names are only separated by a syllable, and the rift between them is the central conflict of the novel.

Mari’s id perhaps influenced by her nature as a young girl, where she is a protagonist. Mari is a serious, somewhat reserved college student, mature for her years but not quite an adult. The ego of Mari appears when she makes decision to leave her house Mari chooses to leave her home without any reasons. Mari also has a hard wants, it can be seen when Mari always refuses help from others. The superego of Mari also appears when she finally makes decision to come back home. Mari finally realizes that she must make decision to go back home rather than staying outsider and do nothing.
D. Conclusion

The researcher found that there is structural element of the novel where the character and characterization within the novel appears where there is major and minor character. The major character is Mari and Eri (two sisters) with a different character. While the minor characters are that Takahashi and Kaoru as the owner of love hotel named ‘Alphaville’ hotel. The setting consists of setting of time and place, where the setting of time is in daily activity of the character from day and night. While most of the action in After Dark takes place in an unnamed entertainment district, one of those places like Shibuya that lend themselves to stereotypical images of modern Japan. The point of view appears coming from the writer, where Murakami wants to tell something inside his ambiguity story related with the relationship of two sisters with many subplots remaining unresolved. The theme of the story is that ‘children rebellion in the family is one of the symbols of relationship dissatisfaction’.

The personality of Mari in After Dark novel is that, the id of Mari (the major character) appears in the form of upset, happy, curious and also sad. Mari feels very upset and angry because she really hates school. The form of her happiness showed on her lips that is smile. Mari feels happy because she has companies to tell her story. While the curiosity of Mari appears after she heard the story from Takahashi. The ego of Mari appears when she makes decision to leave her house Mari chooses to leave her home without any reasons. The superego of Mari also appears when she finally makes decision to come back home.

Mari’s rebellion appears because her nature formed from the uncomfortable feeling at home. Based on her Id where she really needs care and love from her parent and her sister but she cannot get it. This kind of id finally forms her ego, where she makes decision to go out and leave the house without care about her family feelings.
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