MOTIVES OF MURDER REFLECTED IN PAULA HAWKINS’S
THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN NOVEL (2015): A PSYCHOANALYTIC
ANALYSIS

Submitted as a Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for Getting
Bachelor Degree of Education in English Education Department

by

KARLENA WIDY ATI

A 320 130 105

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH EDUCATION
SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH SURAKARTA

2017
APPROVAL

MOTIVES OF MURDER REFLECTED IN PAULA HAWKINS'S THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN NOVEL (2015): A PSYCHOANALYTIC ANALYSIS

PUBLICATION ARTICLE

by:

KARLENA WIDY ATI
A 320 130 195

Approved to be Examined by
The Consultant

Consultant,

TitisSetyabudi, M.Hum.
NIK. 948
ACCEPTANCE

MOTIVES OF MURDER REFLECTED IN PAULA HAWKINS’S
THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN NOVEL (2015): A PSYCHOANALYTIC
ANALYSIS

by
KARLENA WIDY ATI
A 320 130 105

Accepted by the Board of Examiner
School of Teacher Training and Education
Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta
in Surakarta, 6 May 2017

Team of Examiner:

1. Titis Setyabudi, M. Hum.
   (Chair Person)
2. Dr. Abdillah Nugroho, M. Hum.
   (Member I)
3. Dr. Phil. Dewi Candraningrum, M. Ed.
   (Member II)

Prof. Dr. Harun Joko Pratomo, M. Hum.
NIP. 196504121993031001
TESTIMONY

Herewith, I testify in this publication article there is no plagiarism of the previous literary work which has been raised to obtain Bachelor Degrees of university, nor there are options or masterpiece which have been written or published by others, except those which the writing are referred in the manuscript and mentioned in literary review and bibliography.

Hence, later, if it is proven that there are some untrue statements in this testimony, I will hold fully responsibility.

Surakarta, 5 May 2017

The Researcher

KARLENA WIDY ATI
A 320 130 105
THE MOTIVES OF MURDER REFLECTED IN PAULA HAWKINS’S
THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN NOVEL (2015): A PSYCHOANALYTIC
ANALYSIS

Abstract
This research is purposed to reveal the motives of murder in The Girl on the Train novel. The research describes how the psychological condition of the three main characters and to reveal the motives of murder reflected in the Girl on the Train novel. The type of this research is qualitative study. In analyzing this novel, the researcher uses Psychoanalytic analysis. The primary data source for this research is The Girl on the Train novel (2015) by Paula Hawkins. The secondary data of this research are taken from any information or all referential data related to the novel. The result of the research shows the different psychological condition of the three main characters, such as: (1). the psychological conditions of Rachel are a depression woman and psychological setback, (2). the psychological conditions of Megan are a traumatic woman and seducer, (3). the psychological conditions of Anna are a static and normal woman. Second, the researcher found the two case motives of murder in this novel such as: (1). Tom’s motives to murder Megan, and (2) Rachel and Anna’s motives to murder Tom.

Keywords: The Girl on the Train, Psychoanalytic Analysis, The motives of murder.

Abstrak

1. INTRODUCTION

This research is about the motives of murder reflected in Paula Hawkins’s novel *The Girl on the Train* (2015). *The Girl on the Train* is the best seller novel in 2015. This is an interesting and new novel. But, after the researcher has searched carefully through local and digital libraries still found none of it. However, the researcher takes some previous study which discusses the psychoanalytic theory and murder related the issue. The first research studies from Ardianto, Hermawan (2017) studied about *Doubt between Religion and Sexual Orientation reflected in Alex Sanchesz’s* novel *The God Box* (2007): Psychoanalytic Approach. The second research is from Nana Shabihah, Zahra B (2016) studied about *Murder reflected in Robert Galbraith’s The Cuckoo’s calling (2013): A Psychoanalytic Approach.*

This novel was written by Paula Hawkins, debuted at number one on the New York Times of Fiction Best Sellers of 2015 list. After that in January 2016, this novel became the number one bestseller again for two weeks. *The Girl on the Train* is a complex novel with several themes including of domestic violence, alcohol, drug abuse and murder. The main characters are Rachel, Anna Watson, and Megan Hipwell. Rachel is the protagonist of this story, thirty-two years old and an alcoholic woman. Megan Hipwell is the woman named Rachel as Jass. She is Scott’s wife and seemed as the perfect couple. However, sometimes she feels uncomfortable because her husband is overprotective. Anna Watson is beautiful and younger than Rachel. In this novel, Anna Watson is a terrible woman because she makes Rachel and Tom is divorced. Related to the explanation above, *The Girl on the Train* is one of the most global bestseller novels that tells about a woman’s mysteries which is related to murder.

Many people lose their life and one of the motives is murder. Murder happens when a person kills another because they have different motives for it. According to the United State Bureau of Census in Palermo (1994:206) murder “is social violence and expression of unbridled hostility outwardly directed and it has increased considerably in the United States.” Murder and
suicide are subdivided into several categories, such as familial, spousal, and extra-familial types. Rosenbaum in Palermo (1994:214) stated that in the fact of murder and suicides involving couples are perpetrated by a man over 90%. It means that a woman who kills her couple or her husband is less likely to commit suicide than a man.

1.1. The motives of murder

Model Pena Code 1985 in Law Reform Commission (2008:6) defines that kill or cause serious injury someone until death as a probable consequence of someone action. On the other hand, Dow (1985:71) divided murder case into three elements such as unlawfully, a creature in being, and malice aforethought. The first element of murder is unlawfully killed, it means if there has been a death of a person. The second element is a creature in being; it has been interpreted that mean every person born alive and still living just prior to the illegal behavior. The last is malice aforethought; it means that has caused the most difficulty.

Dow (1985:72) divided murder into various degrees based on three-quarters of the state jurisdictions. In the first degree of murder if one intentionally and wrongfully kills another in behavior in which great bodily harm is likely and death subsequently as results. However, in second degree means premeditated or applies any murder not deliberate. Murder is considered the most serious crime in human society. The three major types of murder based on Islamic punishment law, such as intentional, quasi-intentional, and once the error under the effect of mental condition. In the most countries; murder became a very important case to identify the motives of murder. The main reasons to murder included family conflict, quarrel, relationships, honor killing, and envy.

1.2. Psychoanalytic Analysis

In psychology, there are included of emotion, stress, motivation, personality, thinking and language. The 'Individual Psychologist' works with an individual as an equal to uncover his values and assumptions. Psychoanalysis focuses on the personality of human being. The theory of
psychoanalysis is known by Sigmund Freud who the first men introduce this theory in 1856. It is the one example theories of psychological study. Pervin (1984:70) added there are three things of psychoanalysis; they are the theory of personality, a technique of research, and method of the therapy. In the other case, Feist (1985:21) states that mental life is the basic assumptions of psychoanalysis that divided into two levels; they are the unconscious proper and unconscious. Freud in Liang (2011:43) states that based on the theory of psychoanalysis, it is divided into three components of personality; they are the id, the ego, and the superego.

2. METHOD

In writing this study, the writer applies a qualitative research because the study contains descriptive analysis. The object of the study is The Girl on the Train novel by Paula Hawkins which is published in 2015. In introducing this study, the researcher is going to analyze it by using Psychoanalytic theory. There are two types of data in this research, namely the primary data and the secondary data. The primary data source for the study is The Girl on the train novel (2015) by Paula Hawkins. The secondary data of the study are taken from any information or all referential data related to the novel. In the technique of Data Collection, the researcher uses two techniques. There are some steps of data collection: (1). Note taking, and (2). Library research, there are steps as follows: (a) reading the girl on the train novel repeatedly to get deep understanding, (b) determining the main characters that will be analyzed, (c) taking notes of important part in both primary and secondary data, (d) underlying the important word, phrases, and sentences which are related to the study, (e) arranging the data into several parts based on its classification, (f) selecting the data by rejecting the irrelevant information which does not support the topic of the study. In this research, the technique that is used to analyze the data is a descriptive analysis of contents; the steps of the technique of the data analysis are compiled as follows: (1) analyzing the psychological condition of the main characters reflected in Paula
Hawkins’s *The Girl on the Train*. The focus will be paid on the problem statement, (2) analyzing the motives of murder reflected in Paula Hawkins’s *The Girl on the Train*, (3) Trying to decide the psychoanalytic of the literary work. The focus will be paid to the meaning of the right to work, (4) Making the discussion of the finding, (5) making the conclusion of this result.

The researcher observed *The Girl on the Train* (2015) by using psychoanalysis. The Psychoanalytic analysis focuses on the personality of human being. It is used to analyze the psychological condition of three main characters. These three components have the function to organize human behavior:

**2.1 The *Id***

Freud in Liang (2011:46) states that excessive, impulsive, blind, non-social, irrational, selfish, and only think about the pleasure. The *id* work in accordance with the pleasure principle, it tends to avoid suffering and pursue the happiness. It is human’s nature and energy from personal psychological. As the first part of personality, it includes of the primitive impulses such as anger, hatred, and hunger.

**2.2 The *Superego***

Freud in Liang (2011:54) stated the *superego* is the part of the structure of personality to control both rewarding the good behavior and punishing the bad behavior. The *superego* will give rewarding for pride, self-love and it gives punishing guilt, inferiority, and accident. The *superego* focuses in moral values from personality to society that we have been taught by our parents. Jackson in Isaoglu (2015:507) defined the *superego* is ‘’partly unconscious, it issues a blind command, just the *id* blind desires, and produce feelings of guilt when its command are disobeyed. It means that the *superego* is the pitiful part of the personality since superego directs *ego* to base behavior on how the action can affect the whole of the community.
2.3 The Ego

According to Hoffman in Isaoglu (2015:511) the ego is ‘’both of conscious and unconscious for the conflict between instinctual pleasure and reality which takes place within it’’. The ego is located in the unconscious and depends on the reality. The ego means like ladder between the needs of the id and the realities offered by ego. The ego will make the instinct delayed until to meet the appropriate time contains negative result and minimal pain. So, the ego is able to separate the desire from the fantasy when the id chases after the pleasure and requirement of the superego pursuit of the perfect in reality principle.

3. THE FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1. The psychological condition

The psychological condition of the three main characters Rachel, Megan and Anna through the theory of psychoanalysis and the motives of murder are reflected in this novel.

3.1.1. Rachel’s psychological condition

The first character is Rachel. From the analysis, Rachel’s id is more dominant because her ego and superego are very small. Her ego is very small because she is an alcoholic; she was not the type of character to rationalize her actions, and she did not over think about her actions. Her superego is also very small because a normal person would listen to her conscious. The psychological conditions of Rachel are depression woman and psychological setback. Firstly, she has the traumatic life because she lost her lover figure since her father died. Secondly, her husband divorced her because he had an affair with another woman. She became depressed and lost control of her life. She became an alcoholic woman. She lost her job, poor, and homeless. She had a blackout and shoddy memory.
3.1.2. Megan’s psychological condition

The second character is Megan. From the analysis above, Megan’s id is very large. She only thinks about the pleasure. She had an affair with another woman’s husband. She always tried to have an affair with her therapist. Her ego and superego are small because she did not have good morals. The psychological conditions of Megan are a traumatic woman and seducer. She had a bad past; she lost her daughter because of her mistakes, and let her daughter Libby died. Her husband left her and she always felt guilty for Libby. Her new husband Scott is overprotective and rude. She became seducer because she felt did not happy with Scott and traumatic women because let her daughter Libby died.

3.1.3. Anna’s psychological condition

The third character is Anna. From the analysis, Anna’s ego and superego are very small, her ego is more dominant. She is a selfish and terrible woman. She had an affair with Rachel’s husband and she made them divorced. At least, Tom became her husband. Her ego and superego are small but she cares for her daughter Evie. The psychological conditions of Anna are the static and normal woman. Her character did not change from the beginning until the ending in this novel.

3.2. The Motives of Murder

3.2.1. Tom’s Motives to Murder Megan

Based on the data and analysis, the researcher found that Megan and Tom had an affair when Megan became a baby sister to Evie at Tom and Anna’s home. At first, they did an affair just for fun and satisfy their desires.

The first motive Tom had murder because he had an affair with Megan. When they started to had an affair, it was only for fun and just fucking. He could not let her go to their home and talk with Anna. The second motive Tom had murder Megan because he
wanted Megan to have an abortion, she did not want another baby from her. He felt annoyed with her because Megan refused to abortion. The third motive Tom had murder Megan because Megan got all upset, she was screaming, swearing, saying all short of shit at Tom. Tom only needed her mouth to stop. So, he picked up the rock, he did not mean for that but she was bleeding a lot, she was crying. There was nothing he could do, he had to finish Megan.

3.2.2. Rachel and Anna’s Motives to Murder Tom

Based on the data and analysis above, the researcher found that Tom was Rachel’s ex-husband; she knew that Tom was Megan’s murderer. She wanted to talk all the truth to Anna. Rachel came to Anna and Tom’s home. She told Anna to go away because Anna and her baby were never safe with Tom. Rachel knew everything about him. He was really afraid of that situation because Rachel would report him to police. Tom felt angry with Rachel; he dragged and gripped her along the floor into the kitchen. He would beat her into the floor. The pain felt by Rachel.

Rachel tried to bring herself out of that stupor. She had to be strong and she could not rely on anyone. She needed to call the police. She ran to the bottom of the garden and watched him come dragging her backward, pulling her hair, curses through blood. She said stupid bitch to her. Rachel tried to save herself because Tom wanted to kill her. She was jamming the vicious twist of the corkscrew into his neck. At least his eyes widen as he falls without a sound. His eyes on Rachel but she could not look any longer and turned her back on him. Anna was coming out of the house; she walked quickly towards them and put her hands on his throat. Rachel realized that Anna would be able to help him but she tried to twist the corkscrew in, further and further, ripping into his throat. Anna was talking to him softly and Tom died.
In Tom’s murder, Rachel concludes into the self-defense because she only wanted to save herself, she did not have another choice to defend herself. It is different with Anna, because Anna was angry with Tom and helped Rachel to murder Tom. The Model Penal code in Dow (1985:86) describes that Manslaughter as death resulting. In other reason be a murder is committed under the influence of extreme mental or emotional for which there is reasonable explanation or excuse. Based on the data and analysis above, the motives Anna had murder Tom concluded Manslaughter as death resulting. The motives Anna had murder Tom because she was angry with Tom and did not think reasonable before make her husband died. In that situation, Anna’s emotional is her reason to kill her husband.

3.3. Discussion

The Psychoanalytic analysis focuses on the personality of human being. It is used to analyze the psychological condition of three main characters. After analyzing the psychological conditions of three main characters of personality, the researcher uses three components of personality to explain the psychological condition of Rachel, Megan, and Anna consisting of their id, ego, and superego. The first character is Rachel; her id is more control herself than her ego and superego. She became an alcoholic because she had depression since divorced with her husband. She still loves Tom very much. She is not just the girl on the train but she is unemployed drunk with an overactive imagination. She is desperate, creepy, and stalker. It makes her how to find Megan because before Megan disappearance, she always observes Jess and Jason’s home. They are Rachel’s imagination as the perfect couple from Megan and Scott. Before Megan disappearance she knows that Megan kissed someone but not with her husband. At least she has to purpose how to find Megan.
The second character is Anna. Her ego and superego are very small, but her id is more dominant. She is a terrible woman she had an affair with Rachel’s husband and makes them divorced. She really hated with Rachel. She is Tom’s wife and she has one daughter, Evie. She has entrusted her daughter to Megan as a babysitter. She is selfish but she cares for her daughter.

The third character is Megan. Her id is controlling herself than her ego and superego. She is a seducer woman. She always tried to seduce her therapist. She became a seducer woman because she did not comfortable with her husband; she needs someone else to make her felt happy. Her husband was overprotective with her. She felt bored to stay at home and did not do anything. She had an affair with Rachel’s ex-husband and Anna’s ex-husband when she worked as a baby sister.

Related to the three of characters, Tom is a man who is manipulative, liar, and worst of all. She makes them fooled. He makes Rachel look like a crazy stalker and makes everything that happened is Rachel’s fault. He was afraid if Rachel knows why Megan disappearance. Based on the psychological condition of Rachel above, finally she knew that Tom is Megan’s murderer. He had an affair with Megan. When they started to had an affair, it was only for fun and just fucking. He could not let her go to their home and talk with Anna. The motives of Megan’s murder, they are: (a). Tom had an affair with Megan; he could not let her go to their home and talk with Anna. (b). Tom had murder Megan because he wanted her to have an abortion, she did not want another baby from her. He felt annoyed with her because Megan refused to abortion. (c). Tom had murder Megan because Megan got all upset, she was screaming, swearing, saying all short of shit at Tom. He only needed her mouth to stop.

Based on Megan’s case the researcher found that the motives Megan’s murder included into Voluntary manslaughter because in this case, Tom was very angry with Megan. He had to murder Megan and suddenly wanted to kill in anger time. The motive of Tom’s Murder, they are : (a).
Rachel wants to save Anna and her baby; she told everything the truth about Tom to Anna. (b). Rachel wanted to save her because Tom tried to kill her; there was no option to save her. (c). Anna helped Rachel to kill her husband Tom; she felt very angry because her husband treats her same as Rachel.

Based on the data and analysis above, the motives Anna had murder Tom concluded Manslaughter as death resulting. The motives Anna had murder Tom because she was angry with Tom and did not think reasonable before make her husband died. In that situation, Anna’s emotional is her reason to kill her husband. In Tom’s murder, Rachel concludes into the self-defense because she only wanted to save herself, she did not have another choice to defend herself.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on this study, the researcher found the psychological conditions of Rachel are depression woman and psychological setback. Rachel’s id is more dominant because her ego and superego are very small because a normal person would listen to her conscious. Her ego is very small because she is an alcoholic; she was not the type of character to rationalize her actions, and she did not over think about her actions.

The psychological conditions of Megan are a traumatic woman and seducer. Megan’s id is very large. She only thinks about the pleasure. She had an affair with another woman’s husband. She always tried to have an affair with her therapist. Her ego and superego are small because she did not have good morals. She had a bad past; she lost her daughter because of her mistakes, and let her daughter Libby died.

The psychological conditions of Anna are a static and normal woman. Her character did not change from the beginning until the end. Anna’s ego and superego are very small because her id is more dominant. She is a selfish and terrible woman. She had an affair with Rachel’s husband and makes them
divorced. At least, Tom became her husband. Her ego and superego are small but she cares for her daughter Libby.

So, the researcher found the motives of murder related to this theory because what has happened it was the consequence of someone action. The researcher found two cases the motive of murder in this novel. Firstly, the motives of Megan’s murder, they are: (1). Tom’s motives to murder Megan because he had an affair with Megan, he could not let her go to their home and talk with Anna, (2). Tom’s motives to murder Megan because he wanted her to have an abortion, and she did not want another baby from her. He felt annoyed with her because Megan refused to abortion, (3). Tom’s motives to murder Megan because Megan got all upset, she was screaming, swearing, saying all short of shit at Tom. He only needs her mouth to stop. Based on Megan’s case the researcher found that the motives Megan’s murder included into Voluntary manslaughter because in this case, Tom was very angry with Megan. He had to murder Megan and suddenly wanted to kill in anger time.

Secondly, Rachel and Anna’s motives to murder Tom as follow: (1). Rachel wants to save Anna and her baby; she told everything the truth about Tom to Anna. (2). Rachel wanted to save herself because Tom tried to kill her; there was no option to save her. (3). Anna helped Rachel to kill her husband Tom; she felt very angry because her husband treat her the same as Rachel. In Tom’s murder, Rachel concludes into the self-defense because she only wanted to save herself, she did not have another choice to defend herself. It is different with Anna, because Anna was angry with Tom and helped Rachel to murder Tom. The Model Penal code in Dow (1985:86) describes that Manslaughter as death resulting. In other reason be a murder is committed under the influence of extreme mental or emotional for which there is reasonable explanation or excuse. It is concluded the motives Anna had murder Tom because she was angry with Tom and did not think reasonable before make her husband died. In that situation, Anna’s emotional is her reason to kill her husband. In Tom’s murder, Rachel concludes into the self-
defense because she only wanted to save herself, she did not have another choice to defend herself.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


VIRTUAL REFFERENCE