THE RELATION BETWEEN DREAM AND REALITY REFLECTED IN 
THE ALCHEMIST NOVEL BY PAULO COELHO (1993) :
PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH.

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

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Abstract

This research focus on the analysis of Santiago’s personality on The Alchemist novel by Paulo Coelho (1993) based on psychoanalytical approach. The type of this research is qualitative research. Through Santiago’s personality, the researcher successfully reveals the relations between dreams and reality experienced by the major character. In this research, the researcher uses two of data sources. First source took from The Alchemist novel by Paulo Coelho (1993). Second source of the data is taken from the books, journal, biography, and internet which related to the study. The data which is taken from the library and internet, by the researcher analyzed the data using descriptive analysis. Problem statement of the research is how to reveal and explain the relations between dream and reality on the novel using psychoanalytical approach. Based on the result of the analysis, the researcher drawn two conclusions. Firstly based on structural element such as characterization, plot, theme, setting and language used. Based on psychoanalytical theory, Santiago’s personality affects his reality that make the dream comes true through many conflict face in along Santiago’s adventure. The collaborations among the id, ego, and superego are exposed from The Alchemist novel by Paulo Coelho (1993).

Keyword : Adventure, Psychoanalytic, dream, courage, and Strategy

1. INTRODUCTION

Reality is the condition which really occurs and can be seen by everyone, and known as the fact. Basically reality could not be avoids, but we have to face in.
Everybody dreams. That’s right, everybody dreams. Dream is an event that occurs when the unconscious during certain stages of sleep and the content of dreams are not definitively understood. There are many interpretations about the dreams and it is depends on who you are, and your situation in real life.

The Alchemist novel is an amazing novel to be read. This novel is the best one among the others with interesting theme. The issue of the relation between dream and reality are reflected well in the The Alchemist novel through Santiago’s struggle. Furthermore, The Alchemist novel contains many amazing content such as, religion, ethnic, tradition, and symbol of The God. There are many morals value found in this novel that can we learn to make our personality get better.

The reasons why the researcher is interested in analyzing this novel is; First reason is because the researcher is interested in the story of life strategy, adventure and spirituality that has been reflected in the story of this novel. In my opinion it is first point that makes this novel very interesting. . Second reason is because the main character is full of spirit who able gains his dream that the most people impossible to achieve. There are lots people in the world just dreaming without act. Third is because the researcher found an amazing fact that dream and reality are related based the beginning story to the end. That’s why the researcher was very interested about the novel and would to reveal the relation between dream and reality.

In The Alchemist novel, Paulo tell the story about Andalusian boy named Santiago. Believing his dream Santiago decides to travels in order to achieve his dream. Santiago begins his journey as a shepherd and travels all places in Andalusia, Spain. In the way of the story, Santiago meets many people who helps Santiago in his journey, that is; An old gipsy, the merchant, Melchizedek, Shopkeeper, Englishman, Fatima, and the Alchemist. All of characters have their own role in the story. At last of the story Santiano find his treasure as he find on his dream, and it's not in Egypt but in Andalusia where he begins his journey. But he got something that more important than the treasure as he get on his dream, that is knowledge and adventure.

Hogarth Press says (in Freud 1990) he explained dreams as manifestations of our deepest desires and anxieties, often relating to repressed childhood memories or obsessions. According to Aristotle (Freud 1900:5) dream is defined as the psychic activity of the sleeper, inasmuch as he is asleep. G. William Domhoff the author of “Finding Meaning in Dreams :1996” says that the dreams reflect the thoughts and concerns of a dreamer’s waking life. Based Domhoff statement, it means dream is a
reflection of waking life. Little or much, dreams can affect a person's life, which means the dreams have relation with reality such as the dream experienced by Santiago, he made dream comes true on Paulho Coelho’s novel. The researcher took title “The Relations Between Dreams and Reality Reflected The Alchemist novel by Paulo Coelho (1993) :Psychoanalytical Approach”. As the title above, the study is about how to reveal the relation between dream and reality.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This research belongs to qualitative research to analyze this novel because qualitative research does not need a statistics to explore the facts. Qualitative research is a type of research which does not include any calculation enumeration. The first step is determining the object study. The second is determining the source data. The third is determining the method of data collection. The fourth is determining the techniques of data analysis. The main data is The Alchemist novel, and secondary data source taken from another sources related the study such as internet, books of literary and psychoanalytic theory to analyze. In order to collecting the data, the writer took some steps. The steps of the collecting are as follows : (a) Reading the novel (b) Exploring and Develops the data from source of data (c) Going to the library to read some book as reference (d) Reading some ebooks and other references related to the study (e) Analyzing the references and make the comparison. The object of the study is the relation between dreams and reality reflected in the Alchemist novel (1993) by Paulo Coelho. The researcher uses psychoanalytic approach to analyze the novel.

3. RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In conducting the research, the researcher draws some result as follows. They are the structure of Santiago’s personality based on psychoanalytic theory. The second part discussed the relation between dream and reality. And the last part is discussion of the analysis.

3.1 Santiago’s Personality

Santiago is a shepherd boy who travels along Andalusia to Egypt to find the treasure based on his dream. Santiago able to gain his dream because he has good ability that control his id, ego, and superego along his way from Andalusia.
The first Id occurs when Santiago always spoken with peoples about the daughter of the merchant. It is basic characteristic of the boy to be interested toward the girl.

The second id occurs when Santiago meets the gipsy woman. Santiago met the Gipsy in order to reveal his dream. The next id come when the owner of bar serve a glass of tea that Santiago preferred wine than a glass of tea and Santiago’s id said that he want to drink beer. The last id occurs when Santiago on the way to his destination. Santiago said that he want to stay in oasis and live with Fatima because Santiago knows Fatima is better than the treasure.

The ego is the realistic part as the result of human desires of the id and superego. Without id or human desires, ego is impossible occurs. The ego operations is based on the reality and has no concept of right or wrong. The ego is affected by the reality and moral principle. The Ego negotiates with the id and often pleases the superego to considering the act that will we do. It makes decisions that dictate behavior. The ego considers social realities, rules, and moral value. The first ego occurs when Santiago met a young men. Santiago’s id said that he wants to keep his money safe, but the money has been taken by his new friend. Asking the money from his new friend is unfriendly act. So, Santiago does not ask his money because it is unfriendly act, so Santiago is decides to watch his new friend. The next ego occurs when Santiago’s friend has been separated. Santiago’s id said that he want to believe his friend does not abandon him. In this chase, Santiago believes his new friend. The last ego occurs when Santiago speaks with Fatima. Santiago’s id said that he love and want to be her husband.

Superego is moral value and deal with reality. Right or wrong of the ego depend on the superego works and supports by id. Superego acts as a mentor for the thoughts and actions of the ego later. The first Superego appears in the church. His id wants to read thicker books. Santiago’s superego said that the thicker books are lasted longer and more comfortable. The second superego occurs in the city after Santiago talks with the old man. The last superego occurs when Santiago meets the man in pyramid.

3.2 Relation Between Dream and Reality

Since long time ago, Dream is the most phenomenal things. Basically dream comes from human desire since they was born. Sometimes, in unconscious state dream may affect someone reality. But the case about someone who able
achieved their dream is not much. Most of people never believe about their dream because they think that the dream is illogic or not rational. In the Alchemist novel, character named Santiago successfully achieved his dream. The possibility to achieve the dream is very low if someone does not believe their dream.

In The Alchemist novel, Santiago had experienced the precognitive dreams. Precognitive dream is a dream that give some sign or information to someone about something that will occurs in the future. Santiago has a same dreams a few times when he sleep in abandon church. He dreaming that he finds the treasure in Egypt, exactly located near the pyramid.

Santiago don not know about his repeated dreams, so he decided to meet the gipsy woman to ask about his dream. In anyway Santiago do not believe his dream until he got the sign, that is when he meet the king of Salem who known as Melchizedek. From the beginning story until meet the Melchizedek, Santiago got some sign from the God that show there are relation between dream and reality. However , so far for now Santiago will not get the sign if Santiago did not believe his dream. Second sign that show the relation between dream and reality described in the story by the Alchemist who know the whole story of Santiago’s journey in his personal legends. It shows from the story that has been revealed by Santiago in the end of Santiago’s personal legends. Santiago’s dreams affect the reality and turn his dream into reality. Santiago’s desire is to travel the world that he achieved with his dreams. Santiago almost give up on his personal legend but he able to solve all of the problem along his way with strong desire and good collaboration between his id and superego that make him successfully achieved his dream, of course with helps from the God and some peoples he meet.

3.3 Discussion

After analyzing main character personality consist id, ego, and superego, we can know how these elements work and the collaboration by the example in the story. Each element related with each element and then builds the system of personality. Qualities of the personality depend on how the id and superego run in order to make ego.

In the alchemist novel, Santiago focuses on the dream and the sign that giving from the God. Based on psychoanalytic approach, desire or id determine about things that probably occurs in the future because id are basic source of
human ego. There are many conflict occurs as the result of compilation between id, ego, and superego.

In this discussion, there are many conflict faced by Santiago as the main character as long his way from Andalusia to pyramid in Egypt. Paulo shows Santiago’s id for the first time, the id is want to travel the world. Santiago refused his father advice to be a priest because priest is not the one who Santiago wants to be, it is different with the Santiago’s id that like to travel. Santiago decided to be a shepherd because it is the only way he can travel the world and this is the beginning of all story where Santiago believing his dream. Santiago have same dream as he dreamed before when he sleep in abandon church. Considering id and superego his ego took act to meet the gipsy woman who able to interpret the dream.

Another sign from the God, Santiago meet an old man named Melchizedek who known as king of Salem. Melchizedek told many things that affects Santiago’s mind and make Santiago believes his dream. Santiago believed that dream and follows the old man advice to find a way for his personal legend. The last sign from the God are meet the Alchemist. Alchemist shows the truth of Santiago’s desire and he knows the end of the story, so he teach and help Santiago. Thanks to the alchemist Santiago able to communicated with the nature such as, desert, wind, and the sun.

The last sign from the god come when Santiago meets some men near the pyramid. These men told Santiago that he also have same dream, but the location of the treasure are located in abandon church where Santiago got the dream. There are relation between dream and reality through the collaboration of id, ego, and superego.

Based on psychoanalytic approach, Santiago successfully solved the problem face in. first conflict occurs when Santiago meet the Melchizedec. Santiago did not believed his dream because it is illogic, but by Melchizedec advice Santiago’s superego said that the old man was right and the ego decides to follow his personal legends. From this conflict it can be seen that Santiago’s superego work well.

Second conflict occurs when Santiago losing all of his money in Tangier. Santiago does not have anything to living his life. Santiago’s id said that he need to eat, money and get back to Andalusia. Considering the way that he
should decided, Santiago remember the old man advice said “the worlds always helps if you believe and try”. Finally superego said that he have to looking for a job in order the get the money, and food, so he able to continuing his personal legends. And the ego took the act to work at crystal shop with the merchant. The conflict above shows that Santiago has great strategy to survive even very bad condition.

The next conflict occurs when Santiago have to make a decision, stay in oasis with Fatima or his personal legends. Santiago’s id said that he want to stay in oasis with his beloved girl named Fatima. Through the Alchemist advice, superego said that there is no achievement if he stays in the oasis and he will lose his personal legends. So, the ego of Santiago is choose to keep on his personal legends and back to Fatima after the achievement completed.

The last conflict occurs when Santiago reach the pyramid. Santiago saw the scarab beetle that known as the symbol of God. When Santiago digging the sand, three men appears and talks. Santiago did not answer because his id want to his treasure keep secret. Santiago worry if he told the truth, these men will rub his treasure. These men beat up Santiago, and Santiago have to make a choice. Remember about the Alchemist quote, Santiago’s superego said that if he told the truth about something high priced, nobody will believe it. Santiago’s ego told the truth and as he guest, nobody believes in him. Before these men left, one of them said that he also have same dream as Santiago dreams. Finally, Santiago safe and know the meaning of his personal legends, the greatest God, knowledge and the location of the treasure.

Based on the novel and psychoanalytic approach, Santiago’s personality is very good. Id, ego, and superego are work well. Strong desire contains dream, love, fantasy, and knowledge has been work well with the moral value and creates better result as Santiago’s ego did. The novel give much of moral value that can we learn. The greatest God always help the people who believe. Through the id, ego, and superego from Santiago, the relation between dream and reality could be comprehend.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis and discussion from previous chapter, the researcher drawn the conclusion as simple description to completing the study. The story begins when Santiago has a dream about to find the treasure. Curious
about the repeated dream, Santiago decides to meet the gipsy woman in order to interpretation the dream. Next scenes Santiago meet the old man named Melchizedek who told him many things. Believing Melchizedek advice, Santiago took the risk to find his personal legends. Next scene are in tangier, it is the place where Santiago losing all of his money and he had to decides to get a job in order to living his life. Next act Paulo focus on Santiago’s job and strategy in merchant crystal. After have enough money, Santiago continuing his journey and join with the caravan in the desert until caravan reach the Al-Fayoum oasis and meets Fatima. There are someone who important in helps Santiago in his personal legends, that is The Alchemist. The Alchemist teach many things to Santiago and how to make a good choice. With the Alchemist, Santiago are able to communicates with the nature and make the nature may helps him. With many story and incident, Santiago reach the pyramid where everything may as Santiago dreamed.

Based on the element, characters in the novel have a different consideration that connected each other. All characters have their own way that make Santiago have to considering between his id, ego, and superego. The setting of place is in Andalusia (Spain), and Egypt. There is no detail about setting of time, the researcher only know the setting of time is long time ago. The point of view, Paulo uses third-person point of view because Paulo uses pronoun and the name of the characters to indicate the characters. Language uses is very simple that make the novel easy to be comprehend by the reader. Furthermore, Paulo also uses traditional plot, so the story are easy to understand.

Based on psychoanalytic approach, Id is the original personality system out of which the ego, and superego develop. The ego is the self. The ego deals with the moral value and reality principle and Superego acts as a executor of the ego. Santiago as the main character describe as someone who have strong desire. From his id, Santiago’s dream affects his reality that makes him able to achieve his dreams and make the dream turn into reality trough the hard struggle on his journey. In many conflict faced in, Santiago successfully solve the problems with brilliant idea and strategy. All of these caused by his superego able to limited his id with moral and logical thinking. Additionally, Santiago always got the helps from the God and by the people he meets and sign from the God.
The relation between literature and psychoanalytic is literature can affect the feeling and personality of the readers. So, Paulo Coelho writes *The Alchemist* to give motivation to the readers to be a better person that never give up and always struggle although in difficult or bad condition. The Alchemist also gives a suggestion to always positive thinking solving the problem.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**


