

**THE INFERIORITY FEELING OF SUE BRIDEHEAD IN  
THOMAS HARDY'S *JUDE THE OBSCURE*: AN  
INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**



**Research Paper**

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## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

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

Every human life hopes for a satisfying life. Life satisfaction is linked to such factors such as a good education, job, and marriage. But to reach satisfaction, a person will face many challenges and problems. The problems are various. There are external factors such as environment and internal factors such as inferiority feeling, weakness and lack of knowledge or power to overcome the problem. If problems are resolved at earlier times of life, the last can be a time of pleasure. But people have failed to meet earlier goals sometimes become despondent and feeling inferior.

Inferior feeling is one aspect in an individual psychological approach. Inferiority means feeling weak and unskilled in facing of tasks that need to be completed. By this feeling every single man is forced to compensate it. Alder in Hjells and Ziegler (1992: 142) states “Striving for superiority was the prime motivation in life”. Humans are aware about their inferior and their goal. Human also has different ways of striving toward superiority and compensation. It depends on the goal that wants to be achieved. The complexities of the problems and its influence to people give inspiration for an author to make a literary work. Since literature is the exposition of man’s mental life, it can be said that literature has a tight relationship to psychology.

Literature and psychology have the same object of research that is human being (Wellek and Warren, 1956: 91).

There are many literary works that reflect inferiority feeling. One of these literary works is Thomas Hardy's *Jude the Obscure*. Thomas Hardy was born on June 2, 1840 in the village of Higher Brockhampton, near Dorchester, a market town in the county of Dorset. Hardy would spend much of his life in these parts, and he transformed these rural landscapes into his fictional Wessex. Hardy's mother, Jemima, taught her son to read at an early age. Hardy was disappointed because unable to pursue a higher education at Cambridge or Oxford and decided working for a prominent architect, Arthur Bloomfield in London. He also continued to study Greek, philosophy, history, literature and began to write. By 1874 his first commercially successful novel, *Far from the Madding Crowd*, appeared. Hardy moved into Max Gate, the home he and Emma, his wife had designed and built near the city of Dorchester. He spent his life there and wrote some of his greater novel such *The Mayor of Casterbridge* that was published in 1886, *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* in 1891 and *Jude the Obscure*, his last novel before he turned to poetry in 1895.

*Jude the Obscure* creates storms of scandal and protest for the author upon its publication. It meets with even stronger negative outcries from the Victorian public frank treatment of sex. *Jude the Obscure* is a novel which tells about love, sexual relationship and marriage between Jude Fawley, a stone-mason and Sue Bridehead who is his cousin. Jude meets Sue and is attracted to her after his marriage with Arabella Donn breaks up. Jude deeply falls in love with Sue, but Sue gets engaged to other man, Phillotson and

marries him. Jude is dejected at Sue's marriage. When Sue's marriage is in trouble, she asks Phillotson for her freedom and goes back to Jude. Sue finally agrees to live with Jude on intimate terms.

Sue Bridehead is one of the main characters who feels inferior. When they are both she and Jude divorced and are free to marry, they do not. They live together and have three children. Sue feels inferior because of gossip and social disapproval that forced them to live moving from one town to another. She also finds that her children hang themselves in despair. She realizes that her relationship with Jude only brings greater misery and suffering so that she decides to leave Jude and remarry with Phillotson.

Considering the explanation above, the writer is interested in analyzing Thomas Hardy's *Jude the Obscure* by using Individual Psychological Approach, entitled "**THE INFERIORITY FEELING OF SUE BRIDEHEAD IN THOMAS HARDY'S JUDE THE OBSCURE: AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**".

## **B. Literary Review**

There is one researcher who conducted study on Jude movie and it is different from the study on *Jude the Obscure* novel. The previous researcher is Supriyanto (2008) a student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta conducted his study entitled "*Anxiety of Jude Fawley in Michael Winterbottom's Jude Movie*". In his study, he analyzes anxiety on the major character Jude and the problems that cause the conflict in his mental condition.

In his study he states that anxiety rises because of drives from system of personality. It is caused by the conflict among *id*, *ego* and *superego*. According Freud's theory, he classifies anxiety into three types namely realistic anxiety, neurotic anxiety, and moral anxiety. Jude's realistic anxiety is reflected when he meets Sue at Melchester. He is afraid that Sue will leave him because he knows that Phillotson cares about Sue's future. While the neurotic anxiety occurs when Sue and Phillotson get married and move to Shaston. Jude feels anxious after knowing that Sue moves to Shaston. He fears his lover so far from him. So then, he follows her to Shaston. And the moral anxiety occurs when they meet for the last times. He still loves Sue and he wishes Sue go back to him but she decides to go away. And Jude still believes that they are man and wife of this world.

A person who suffers from anxiety, she or he will attempt to overcome the anxiety by ego. In *Jude*, the major character follows his ego about love which makes him anxious. After that, when anxiety cannot be covered, he gives a rational reason which makes him becomes a stonemason who loves his own cousin who has married. This decision he has taken by consider the sufferers decrease his anxious.

Based on the previous research, the writer is interested to analyze the inferior feeling of the major character in Thomas Hardy's *Jude the Obscure*. In the previous research, the writer analyzes anxiety on the major character in *Jude* movie by using Freud's theory. The differences between previous research is the present writer analyses *Jude the Obscure* novel based on an individual psychological approach that focuses on the inferior feeling of major character Sue Bridehead using Adler's theory.

### **C. Problem Statement**

Related to the title and the background of the study, the writer concludes the problem statement “How inferiority feeling is reflected on the major character in Thomas Hardy’s *Jude the Obscure* based on the individual psychological approach”

### **D. Limitation of the Study**

In this research, the writer limits the study on the inferior feeling of major character by an individual psychological approach.

### **E. Objective of the Study**

According to the problem statement above, the writer has some objectives on this study as follows:

1. To analyze the structural element of Thomas Hardy’s *Jude the Obscure*.
2. To discuss Sue’s inferiority feeling and reaction due to the pressure based on the individual psychological approach.

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

#### **a. Theoretical Benefit**

Theoretically, the study gives contribution to larger body of knowledge particularly literary study on Thomas Hardy’s *Jude the Obscure*.

#### **b. Practical Benefit**

To enrich the literary study, particularly among the students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta who have interest in literary study.

## **G. Research Method**

### 1. Type of the Research

In this research belongs to qualitative method because the object does not need calculation to prove the data.

### 2. Object of the Study

The object of this research is the inferiority feeling of the major character on Sue Bridehead in Thomas Hardy's *Jude the Obscure*.

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

The type of data source employed in this research is classified into two categories called primary data and secondary data.

#### a) Primary Data

The primary data source is the novel *Jude the Obscure*. The primary data consists of the sentences, narration and dialogues in the novel.

#### b) Secondary Data

The secondary data sources are the books about psychology theory, literary and also the other materials related to the analysis.

#### 4. Technique of the Data Collection

The methods used for collecting data are library research and documentation. There are six techniques of data collecting. There are as follow:

- a. Reading the novel *Jude the Obscure*.
- b. Reading some related references to observe the theory, data and information.
- c. Taking notes the important part of the novel.
- d. Arranging the data into several parts based on classification.
- e. Analyzing the data based on its structural element and Alfred Adler's theory.
- f. Drawing conclusion based on the analyzed data.

#### 5. Technique of the Data Analysis

In this research the technique that is used to analyze the data is descriptive analysis, in which the researcher identifies inferiority feeling of major character personality on Sue Bridehead, in *Jude the Obscure* using the individual psychological approach.

### **H. Research Paper Organization**

This study consists five chapters. First chapter is introduction includes: Background of the Study, Literary Review, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study, Objectives of the Study,

Benefit of the Study, and Research Method. Second chapter is Theoretical Approach consists:

Notion of Individual Psychological Approach, Basic Assumption of Individual Psychological Approach, and Structural Element of the Novel. Third chapter is Structural Analysis: Structural Element of the Novel and Discussion. Fourth chapter is Individual Psychological Analysis includes: Inferiority Feeling and Compensation, Striving for Superiority, Creative Power, Style of Life, Fictional Finalism, and Social of Interest. And the last chapter is closing that consists: Conclusion and Suggestion.