

**MA'S TRAUMA: A PHSYCHOANALYTIC STUDY ON EMMA DONOGHUE'S**

**NOVEL *ROOM* (2010)**



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

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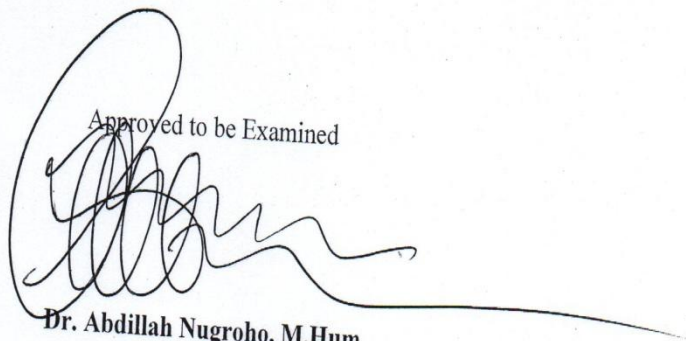
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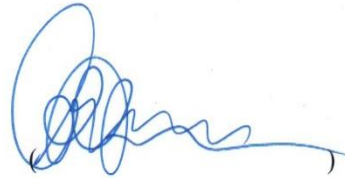
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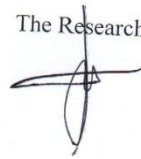
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## TESTIMONY

Herewith, I testify that in this research paper, there is no such thing as plagiarism of the previous literary work which has been raised to obtain bachelor degree, nor there are opinions or masterpiece which have been written or published by others, except those which are referred in the manuscript and mentioned in the literary review and bibliography. Therefore, if it is proved that there are some untrue statements in this testimony, I will hold full responsibility.

Surakarta, November 2017

The Researcher



Ardi Ridho Nugroho

# MA'S TRAUMA: A PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDY ON EMMA DONOGHUE'S NOVEL *ROOM* (2010)

## ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui factor – factor penyebab terjadinya trauma dalam diri Ma, yang menjadi salah satu tokoh utama dalam novel *Room* dan ciri - ciri yang terjadi setelah terjadinya trauma. Dalam menganalisis trauma yang ada pada tokoh Ma dalam novel *Room*, peneliti menggunakan metode diskriptif kualitatif. Penelitian menggunakan teori psychoanalytic milik Sigmund Freud. Berdasarkan analisis data, hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan adanya factor – factor yang mempengaruhi terjadinya trauma dalam diri Ma, dimana factor – factor tersebut ialah, adanya penyalahgunaan hak asasi manusia, adanya kekerasan secara verbal maupun fisik terhadap korban, dan kehilangan sesuatu yang sangat berarti dalam hidupnya. Selain itu juga terdapat adanya hal – hal yang mempengaruhi penderita setelah trauma terjadi seperti ingatan yang terganggu, pola tidur yang terganggu, merasa bersalah dan menghindari keramaian. Hal – hal tersebut yang terjadi dalam diri Ma saat trauma dan setelahnya yang dikarenakan oleh kekerasan yang dilakukan oleh Old Nick yang berakhir pada pelarian diri yang di bantu oleh putra Ma, Jack dan penangkapan Old Nick.

Kata kunci : Psychoanalytic, Sigmund Freud, trauma, Ma, Jack, Old Nick.

## ABSTRACT

This study aims to determine the factors that cause trauma in Ma, who became one of the main characters in the novel *Room* and the characteristic that occur after trauma. In analyzing the trauma that existed in Ma's character in *Room* novel, the researchers used descriptive qualitative methods. The study used Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory. Based on the data analysis, the results of this study indicate the factors that affect trauma in Ma, where the factors are, human rights abuses, the verbal and physical violence to the victims, and loss of something that is very meaningful in life. In addition there are also things that affect people after trauma such as memory disturbance, unstable sleep patterns, feel guilty and avoid crowds. Those things were happened in Ma during the trauma and aftermath caused by the violence that was taken care of by Old Nick who ended up in escape were assisted by the son of Ma, Jack and the arrest of Old Nick.

Keywords: Psychoanalytic, Sigmund Freud, trauma, Ma, Jack, Old Nick.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Trauma is extraordinary stressful event which attack security sense. Its cause feels defenseless in a dangerous environment. Traumatic tend to attack safety. It causes of betrayal, verbal abuse, or any serious loss. Those are mostly common causes of trauma. Trauma such a horrible event which makes victim unsafe from her environment. It'll felt always to be threaten and hard to move on from the situation.

In this research, the researcher discussed Ma's trauma where the one of the novel's character has suffered creepy moment on her past. The event was so hard for her because she was lived in a room as a private hooker for a man called Nick. Her trauma caused of violence, rape, and sex abuse. In the moment when she was suffered that horrible moment, she was in struggling to be able to escape from the place. Feel insecure in daily life in one of symptom of trauma. In this event, Ma was almost felt insecure in performing her daily life because the kidnapper called Nick always came as threat for her. In beside that, living in a room with her son for almost seven years remains psychological pressure that might be difficult to erase in sort time. The time is not that short because it was seven years lived inside the misery.

The other symptom of trauma is anxiety, where someone who suffer trauma will definitely get anxiety in their life. It can't be denied and mostly people will try their best to avoid or even ignore everything that will remind them about their worst moment. So it tends to be lonely and avoid crowd as what Ma actually doing when she was freed. She tend to avoid the crowd around her and the anxiety mostly came to her mind so she felt insecure in almost every time because the horrible moment that has been happened on her life was kind of haunted her in most of the time. Being alone is one of the ways to reduce the anxiety. But sometimes it couldn't help a lot when suddenly the memory of her past takes over her mind for a while. And this anxiety that come in most of the time will create trauma to the sufferer especially for Ma.

Some of reasons why the writer choose this novel to be analyzed are, first, this novel has different setting or almost in many events were happened in a room. 7 years Ma was lived in a room with Jack. It's something unique imagination where there's bad guy who want to have his own hooker and the way he treat Ma is quite different. Second, The treatment of kidnapper is unbelievable. Old Nick still give them necesities to continue their life but imprison them in a room. The struggle of their life to be able to escape from the room, especially for Jack who has pretend to be sick and dead which is not that easy to do for a kid.

And the last that, their effort to ignore or forget the past in their new life after succeeded in escaping from room. The media, pressure from the outside world, Jack's new world that necessary to adapt with new environment. It's hard to do for Ma, because in previous event, the only thing that be able to connect and have outside world's knowledge is only a television. Based on those datas and reasons, the writer proposes to

conduct a research entitled "MA'S TRAUMA; A PHSYCHOANALYTIC STUDY IN EMMA DONOGHUE'S NOVEL *ROOM* (2010)".

## **2. RESEARCH METHOD**

The research is qualitative, where the researcher is analyzing *room* novella written by Emma Donoghue. There are two data sources which are required to conduct this research. They are, the source of primary data is *Room* (2010) and the secondary data sources are taken from other resources which have relation to the research as websites, journals, book of philosophy, and etc. The technique of data collection uses two technique, they are: note taking and library research. In analyzing the data, the researcher applied a descriptive qualitative analysis. The first step is finding causes trauma that is raised in the novella. The second step is collecting the addition information that related with the issue. The next steps are identified, classify, analyze, and interpret the phenomena and find out the relation with an epistemology of conceptual psychoanalytic by Sigmund Freud.

## **3. RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

From the psychoanalytic analysis above, the researcher finds psychology disorder called trauma. It finds in major character Ma, proved by her causes of trauma and posts trauma that happen to herself. Some of elements which also affect to get Ma in trauma such as violence abuse, sex abuse and verbal abuse. The personal elements *id*, *ego*, and *superego* are also play roles in her trauma. Those three elements have relation to the trauma and the way Ma face trauma itself.

In *Room* novel, the researcher focus in one character named Ma. *Room* novel take setting of place in Cumberland. Ma was only a student that been kidnapped by Old Nick. It was so hard for Ma because she became private hooker for Old Nick for quite long time. In the time when Ma in a room, Ma was trying so hard to get way but what she got have become something that Ma didn't want at all, such as when she tried to kill Old Nick, Ma got worse violence and that makes Ma having serious trauma.

In *Room* novel, there're factors that affect Ma suffer trauma but most of factors that dominant is violence. Because Ma must say yes to whatever Old Nick ask and indirectly it's a coercion to Ma, beside that when Old Nick have no job anymore and almost six month Old Nick become unemployed. Since the moment, the necessities for Ma and Jack were decreased and the new problem appears. Three elements of personality

*id*, *ego*, and *superego* that Ma has in her personality, are affect Ma's personality in defend her pain when she lives in a room.

The three elements of personality *id*, *ego*, and *superego* which have biggest influence is ego. In this case her ego is controlling more often even for some moments. Her ego tend to protect Jack as her son and get rid of anything that have relation to her past after she finally be able to get away from room because of Jack. Hope and desire which makes Ma thinking out loud in finding the best way to escape. Beside that her superego also have role in her life especially after she escape. For Jack who never was in the outside room before, force Ma to do something to explain more about outside world to Jack. And also sometimes for Ma who has been for really long time didn't see the outside, need to adapt to the outside. It encouraged Ma to adapt and have explanation to Jack about outside world. In post trauma, Ma commonly got memory disturbance, fear and unstable psychology condition and this's become a problem to her. Her *superego* and *ego* keep her stand up in facing her post trauma and new world.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

Based on the analysis, the researcher finally is able to write down the conclusion. Firstly, based on structural analysis, Room novel characterization has major character there're Ma and Jack which is become the object of the study. Trauma itself can be proven through the major character of the novel cause Ma is the one of victim of human right abuse. The plot that been used in Room novel consists of exposition, complications, climax, and resolutions. Point of view in this novel is using first point of view and its Jack's perspective.

Secondly, in this part researcher use Sigmund Freud's theory, psychoanalytic approach to analysis the issue, trauma. In this case trauma appears because of violence and human right abuse where it creates bad emotion and memory that became trauma for Ma. The Ma's ego is the most plays role in defend her safety and her son Jack. There's also post trauma that attack Ma where Ma suffer sleep disturbance, memory and concentration disturbance.

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