

**AMIR'S PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT  
IN KHALED HOSSEINI *THE KITE RUNNER*  
A PSYCHOSOCIAL APPROACH**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

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by:

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

God created everything in couple, man and woman, good and bad, white and black. So does our personality, its traits come on opposites. We think of ourselves as optimistic or pessimistic, independent or dependent, emotional or unemotional, adventurous or cautious, aggressive or passive.

Discussing about personality means talking to the journey of life, from birth to death, what happened in childhood, young and adult, how can a baby (nobody) become old (somebody), how they can grow up and become what kind of people later, how Alice Walker can become a great Alice Walker and how Rian Jombang can become Rian killer, analyze what influences them to be like they are now.

From the explanation above, the writer tries to analyze the personality by using psychosocial theory, which analyzes personality by relating it to the external and internal factors, versus two different sides in the human self. In short, this theory said that development is marked by conflict.

The personality that will be analyzed is represented by the main character of the Khaled Hosseini's novel entitled *The Kite Runner* Amir. First, the writer will explain the reasons why choosing the novel entitled *The Kite Runner*.

In this research the writer choose *The Kite Runner* because it was one of many novels that give positive effect. It is very great, complicated, perfect novel, an American afghan novel, page by page full of unpredictable moment, and the most important one is *The Kite Runner* was worthy works that make the reader know how to became good again, how to delete the wrong past and replace it in future.

Anyway, there are some reasons why the writer choose this subject. First, the writer is influenced by the new east center phenomena that booming in Indonesia lately, beginning with novel *Ayat-Ayat cinta* by Habiburahman el Shirazi in Indonesia which tells much about east center costume, Moslem culture, that is followed by many appearance of novel with the same theme. It makes the writer thinks why not to analyze novel which has religion background especially Islamic which has relation with Muhamadiyah University of Surakarta and the writer's religion. By browsing information from internet and searching in library and book store the writer get some Islamic novels recommended such as *Burned Alive* by Sound, *Daughter of the Wind* or *Habiby* by Sahabanu. But the fact, it is too difficult to find out those novel in English version. After hard effort finally the writer find out the Islamic fiction, so different with *Ayat-Ayat Cinta* that tells amazing love, but the writer quite sure that *The Kite Runner* is as amazing, as worthy as *Ayat-Ayat Cinta*, as unique and not loss with those novel above.

*The Kite Runner* was published by Bloomsbury, London 2004, as a fresh novel and first book from afghan which describes great story. It's already is third best seller and published in many language edition. The novel consists of 340 pages and twenty five chapters. In library or in bookstore, it is categorized as religion novel or Islamic fiction. The novel describes how peaceful Islam is, how Afghanistan at that time, the richness of Afghanistan culture although in other chapter tells about culture in United States that is chosen be second setting. It presents the contradiction in culture, the way of life, point of view and education.

Second, the story pictures something different from other common novels. Most novels talk about the theme of love between men and women, discrimination, politics, war, even thriller or horror. *The Kite Runner* is different. It presents unique story, not about love story but about identity, loyalty, courage, deception, where friendship or brotherhood is precious, about the traumatic childhood that is faced by the main character Amir with his friend Hassan.

Third, it has social atmosphere, the story pictures the real social condition in Afghanistan. It makes the writer quite sure that anytime anywhere the social class always exist all over the world and it always declares the same right. *The Kite Runner* presents the real social condition; there is social stratification, in Afghanistan which leads to social distance among the citizens. There are Phastun and Hazara. Phastun is high class and Hazara is lower class.

Fourth, the writer also impressed with the author, Khaled Hosseini who was born in Kabul on March 4, 1965. After PDPA (The people's Democratic Party of Afghanistan) seized control of the government in 1978 and the Soviets occupied Afghanistan shortly thereafter, the Hosseini's family decided to seek political asylum in the United States instead of returning to Kabul. They moved to San Jose, California, where Hosseini graduated from high school. He attended Santa Clara University and earned a degree in biology. After college, Hoseini decided to become a physician. He attended the University of California-San Diego's School of Medicine, where he completed his M.D. in 1993. He served his medical residency at the well-respected Cedars-Sinai hospital of Los Angeles and became an internist. Hosseini started writing *The Kite Runner* in 2001 while he was a practicing physician. He is an afghan who is able to write *The Kite Runner* that told intertwined of personal conflict and tragedies against a historical background of national and cultural trauma. *The Kite Runner* is the third best seller novel in United States. It proves that United States that identically with a glamour, liberal, freedom is interested in a worthy noble novel by Moslem Afghanistan, *The Kite Runner*.

This novel has the main characters, they are Amir and Hassan. Amir is the story's narrator and protagonist. He is an Afghan man who had a privileged childhood in the Wazir Akbar Khan neighborhood of Kabul. The defining event in his life is his betrayal of his closest friend, Hassan. Amir lives in San Francisco from the age of eighteen. He returns to

Afghanistan at the age of thirty-eight and ends up adopting Hassan's orphaned son, Sohrab. And Hassan is Amir's most loyal and devoted servant, who is born with a cleft lip. He and Amir were nursed by the same woman and unbeknownst to them both, they are half-brothers. Hassan is illiterate but smart and stands up for others. He is also the best kite runner in Kabul. He dies at the hands of the Taliban, defending Baba's house from takeover.

*The Kite Runner* begins by introducing Amir, a writer living in San Francisco California who when receiving a phone call from Rahim Kahn an old family friend, is taken back to his childhood in Kabul Afghanistan. Here we meet Hassan who is Amir's childhood friend as well as a servant boy in Amir's house. Both Amir and Hassan enjoy flying kites and end up winning a kite fighting tournament. On that same day Amir witnesses Hassan being sexually assaulted by a group of bullies and this ultimately ends up fracturing the friendship permanently. As the film progresses, Amir is persuaded by Rahim to return to Afghanistan after all these years, and it is on his return that he finds out what the Taliban has done to his country and his friend.

And the last why the writer prefer choose Amir's personality to be analyzed is because it represents the dilemma in human life, where Amir in his childhood to the adulthood facing many thing that makes him make wisdom decisions. It also represents that the childhood very influence in adulthood. Where in his all development stage facing choices, some of

them choose the false and the other choose the right, why he feels traumatic and does fatal mistakes when he was child and how in his adult he can redeem his traumatic childhood in Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*.

## **B. Literature Review**

In this part, the writer gives some literary reviews that have been done toward in Khaled Hosseini's work "*The Kite Runner*". Hopefully, these studies are going to help the reader to understand the weakness and the greatness of Khaled's work from different point of view. At first the writer hopes to find some review from both book and internet, but the fact the writer can not find undergraduate paper that analyzes *The Kite Runner* in Muhamadiyah University of Surakarta and Sebelas Maret University of Surakarta. The next step the writer tries to get review by browsing many sites from electronical source or internet.

*The Kite Runner* has attracted many people to study about it. According to Willey, *The Kite Runner* is seemingly a simple novel, telling about implicit social stratification and social message. He explains that the subject matter is about a social class namely Phastun (high class) and Hazara (low class). It was the real social condition of Afghanistan that felt directly by the author, and about culture in United States that already felt too by the author. Indeed, according Willey, this novel focuses on stratification class between Phastun and Hazara, the contradiction between United States and Afghanistan culture implicitly (Willey, 2004: 1).

Andrew analyzes about extrinsic element of the novel, include the biography of author and how he creates this novel, Afghanistan at that time include society, government, politic, economy, etc. Andrew said “although I close my eyes with the intrinsic element, this novel still be the great one” (Andrew, 2002: 2).

Based on those thesis which have discussed Khaled Hosseini's work, the writer takes initiative to analyze the same work in different point of view, by using psychosocial theory. The researcher wants to analyze the personality development of main character Amir, entitled “ *Amir's Personality Development in Khaled Hosseini's The Kite Runner using psychosocial approach*”.

### **C. Problem Statement**

The major problem in this research is how Amir's personality development reflected in Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* using the analysis based on psychosocial approach.

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

To make the research clear and directed the writer going to limit objectives of this study to the two part, such as:

1. To describe Amir's personality development based on psychosocial theory.
2. To describe external factors that influenced Amir's personality development based on psychosocial theory.



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

The objective of the study on this paper is to analyze the personality development of the main Character “Amir” in Khaled Hosseini’s *The Kite Runner*.

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

Two kinds of benefits that can be gained from the study are as follows:

### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

To give additional information and contribute to the larger body of knowledge, particularly to the further study of Khaled Hosseini *The Kite Runner*, based on Psychosocial Approach of Amir’s Personality Development.

### **2. Practical Benefit**

To give deeper understanding and enrich the knowledge of the writer and the readers about Khaled Hosseini *The Kite Runner*, based on Psychosocial Approach of Amir’s Personality Development.

## **G. Research Method**

### **1. Object of the Study**

The object of this study is Khaled Hosseini’s *The Kite Runner*, published by Bloomsbury, London 2004.

### **2. Type of the Data and the Data source**

In doing this study, the writer uses two sources of data, there are:

- a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source is the novel *The Kite Runner* itself by Khaled Hosseini.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data source is taken from other sources, which are related to the primary data such as biography of the author, some books of psychological and so forth.

### **3. Technique of the Data Collection**

The technique of collecting data in this study is library research. The data from both primary and secondary sources are collected and recorded in a sort of document as evidence. The techniques of collecting data are as follows:

- a. Reading the novel
- b. Browsing to the internet to get several information and articles related to the object of the study.
- c. Taking notes of important data from both primary and secondary data.
- d. Arranging the data into several parts according to its classification.
- e. Drawing conclusion based on the data analysis.

### **4. Technique of the Data Analysis**

The technique employed in analyzing the data is describing analysis. It concerns with the relationship between the novel and the

psychosocial theory to show how the personal development is reflected in the character in this novel.

## **H. Research Paper Organization**

This research paper is classified into five chapters. The first chapter deals with The Background of the Study, Literature Review, Problem Statement, and Objective of the Study, Benefit of the Study, Research Method and Research Paper Organization. The second chapter covers the Underlying Theory of Psychosocial Approach in analyzing Khaled Hosseini's *the kite Runner*. The third chapter concerns with the Structural Analysis of the Novel and the Discussion, which includes the structural elements of Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*. The fourth chapter covers the Psychosocial Analysis of the Novel and the Discussion. The last chapter is the Conclusion and Suggestion.