

**THE PERSONALITY OF MISS PRYM IN
PAULO COELHO'S *THE DEVIL AND MISS PRYM* (2000):
A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**



Research Paper
Submitted as a partial fulfilment of the Requirements
For Getting Bachelor Degree of Education
In English Department

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2010**

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the study

People are created with different personalities. This difference makes life meaningful. Some people state that the differences in human personalities can be called as the art of life. They have their own concerns, priorities, hobbies, and ways of dealing conflict and frustration (McNeil and Rubin, 1977: 421). Personality can be related to some aspects in literary works, such as novel and drama. In a novel, the personality of the main characters is a good topic for the readers to analyze.

The function of literary works is for satisfaction and education. This statement means that the author has to think hard in making a literary work, like novel. The novel that he or she writes must give the readers additional values. The readers do not only get satisfaction in reading the novel, but also new things as knowledge. The knowledge is about life, human beings, culture, art and language (Anshori, 1987:35).

Personality in a novel is shown in many ways, like dialogues, attitudes, and behaviors through thinking, and characteristics that influence the personality. From this statement, it is clear that personality in a novel is closely related to personal psychological condition. Psychology of personality does not only learn about the personal thought or feeling but also learn

throughout life as contribution between physical and spiritual life (Suryabrata, 1982: 50).

Reading a literary work is one of a lot of inputs that is received by man in his life and it emerges mind, motivation, or even activates the man to do or not to do something. Literary can awake feeling, mind, and heart of its reader (Lubis, 1996: 18)

Rene Welek and Austen Warren (1956: 31) in *Theory of literature* state that literature has function as the duce and the utile. They said that the work of literature is successful; the two “notes” of pleasure and utility should not coexist but coalesce. The pleasure of literature need to maintain is not one of preferences among along list of possible pleasure but also a “higher-pleasure” because pleasure is higher kind of activity, i.e. non-acquisitive contemplation. The utility - seriousness of a duty which must be done or of a lesson to be learned but an aesthetic seriousness, a seriousness of perception.

One of interesting literary theories is Psychology. Psychology is a methodology of studying mental behavior and mental process. Psychology also learns about the function of physic of healthy people, the relation between people behavior and the other human. It comprises everything related to the feeling, thought, ideas, behavior, etc. related to the psychology, every person has a different character or personality but a person has a good personality not evil.

Psychoanalytic is a technique for investigating and individual unconscious thought a feeling (Hjella and Zeigler, 1992: 86). Psychoanalytic

theory also could be used as away to know more about the work of literature knowing the way out or over in the problem, the mental illness and self defense on facing the problem.

Clara Reeve in 1785 declared that the novel is a picture of real life and manners, and of the time in which it was written. In other words, Nathaniel Hawthorne, in his preface to *The House of Seven Gables* (1851), restricted the novel “not merely to the possible, but to the probable and ordinary course of man’s experience” (Kennedy, 1966: 227).

A smart author is able to create the personality of the characters that reflects the personality of human beings in the real life. This will make an imitation of life inside a novel. It is also a requirement to make a good novel. The novel *The Devil and Miss Prym* has successfully fulfilled this requirement. In Paulo Coelho’s *The Devil and Miss Prym*, the author displays how the character is and the factors influencing the main character. The character of Chantal Prym will be interesting to discuss by using psychological approach.

The Devil and Miss Prym is the conclusion to the trilogy *And on the Seventh Day* which began with *By the River Piedra, I Sat Down and Wept* and the hugely popular *Veronika Decides to Die*. Each of the three books focuses on a week in the life of ordinary people faced with a major life-changing force; be it love, death or power, it is Coelho's firm belief that "the profoundest changes take place within a very reduced time frame". *The Devil*

and Miss Prym was published by Harper Collins publisher New York in 2000.

The amount pages of this novel are consisting of 25 chapter and 205 pages.

The Devil and Miss Prym is written by Paulo Coelho. He was born on August 24, 1947 in Rio de Janeiro Brazil, where he attended law school, but in 1970 abandoned his studied to travel through Mexico, Peru, Bolivia, and Chile as well as Europe and North Africa. In 1986, he walked along the road of Santiago, an ancient Spanish pilgrimage and his book, he and his wife Christian live in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. In 1982, Coelho published his first book *hell Archive*, which failed to make any kinds of impact in 1985 he contributed to the “*Practical Manual of Vampires*”, although he later tried to take it off the selves since he considered it of bad quality and than Coelho published “*The Alchemist*” which is based on Jorge Luris Borge’s tale of two dreams. This in turn was based on tale from “*The Book of One Thousand and One Night?*”

Coelho has sold over 86 million in over 150 countries worldwide and his works had been translated into 66 languages. He has received numerous literary awards from a variety of country, including Le legion d ‘honneur (France), Grinzane Cavour (Italy), in addition he has written “*Maktub*”, which is a collection of his best columns published in Brazilian news paper Folka de Sao Paulo “*By The River I Sat Down and Wept*” and “*The Vakyries*” despite the popularity of Coelh’s works in Iran. He also adapted “*The Gift*” (HJenry Drummond) and “*Love Letters of a Prophet*” (Kahlil Gibran).

In May 2000, Paulo Coelho visited Iran and became the first non-Muslim writer to make an official visit to the country since 1979; He was invited by international center of dialogue among civilization. In September, “*The Devil and Miss Prym*” was published simultaneously in Italy, Portugal, and Brazil. Paulo caused a real sensation when he traveled to Russia where five of his books simultaneously are on the bestseller list. With “*The Devil and Miss Prym*” at number one, followed “*The Manual of the Warriors of the Light*”, “*Veronica Decides to Die*”, and “*The Fifth Mountain*”. In October 2002, Paulo received the club of Budapest Planetary Arts Awards 2002 in Frankfurt and the Best Fiction Awards in Munich.

The Devil and Miss Prym tries to answer the question that haunts ones minds and hearts whenever someone is in distress or sufferings. It is a question that arises in the human mind at times of distress, rejection or betrayal. Put simply, the question is “Are people bad?” or are we good or are we bad?

The novel is deep in meaning; it teaches one to believe in nature. It also makes man responsible for all actions happening around him. It makes one realize, most of what is already known, but never realized. It’s the age old fight between good and evil beautifully portrayed with references to Bible and religion including the last supper.

The story opens with Berta watching a stranger come into town. For almost fifteen years, old Berta had spent everyday sitting outside her front door, watching over the little, idyllic village Viscos, occasionally talking with

her deceased husband. She is waiting for the devil to come, as her husband has predicted to her. Then one day actually a stranger appeared with the intention of staying one week in the village.

Somewhere in the wood, he buries a treasure – 11 bars of gold. On the way back he meets Chantal Prym, a young and rather beautiful barmaid, who is bored of the idyllic scenery and slow pace of life. Regularly she takes a fancy to passing tourists and easily seduces them to her bed in the hope that one of them, just one of them will prove to be her escape route. Miss Prym has edges, she is not wholly likable, but the reader can also understand some of her frustrations. However, the stranger shows her the buried treasure and promises that it will belong to the villagers if they agree to kill someone before the week is over.

From this moment on, there is a ferocious battle within the young woman; a battle between her angel and her devil. She sees in the gold the ticket to finally escape this hell, which is a paradise to others. Still, something holds her back.

After some days of hard thinking, she decides to tell her fellow men what the stranger has proposed, trusting that they will refuse. The people's reaction to her the next day, however, plants the seed of doubt inside of Chantal. Now she fears for her own precious life. As an act of desperation, she plans to abandon Viscos with one of the stranger's bars. Destiny though seems to have other plans with her, and therefore sends a rogue wolf, which threatens Chantal's life. Luckily, the stranger arrives, and both manage to escape. There

they have a meaningful discussion, which is able to keep his devil at bay for a while.

Meanwhile the villagers assemble in the church to choose their victim, in order to get the promised bounty. Their selected scapegoat was old Berta, for she was already old and life had to be a burden for her, after all her husband died of a hunting accident long ago.

Shortly before the villagers execute the poor old lady, Chantal makes a stand and persuades the inhabitants of Viscos what a great stupidity they are about to make. She proves them wrong about all their foolish dreams about the gold and convinces them that under no circumstances murder are justified. This way she gave the stranger the answer to his question, as well. Every human being embodies some evil and some good; our conduct is a matter of control and choice.

There are many responses on *The Devil and Miss Prym* novel, in pros and contras. The data of reader responses show that most of the readers like this novel but many of the readers dislike this novel. It can be seen such as in amazon.com. There was some one suggests that *The Devil and Miss Prym* is interesting story because the writer uses a simple narrative technique to approach some very difficult question “are people bad?” Although one might think it would be impossible to explore good vs. evil without a certain amount of rhetoric, Coelho’s approach is fresh and does not resort to the usual clichés.

The book reads like a morality play in that the town of Viscos is every town and the stranger is every man (Rebecca M, August 11th 2006). K.

O'Grady, comments on June 17, 2007, said that *The Devil and Miss Prym* is the best book he has read in a while. The book made him reflect on human nature and will stick for years to come. He also said that the book explores whether people are naturally good or evil. He was drawn in from the beginning and stayed interested until the conclusion. The book is a quick and thought provoking read (K. O'Grady, 2007). The other comments were from Chris Lucas on August 28, 2006, who said that the story is overly contrived, but, more importantly, its character is lifeless. The character seems like apparitions of real character, and this is a weakness almost unknown for Coelho (Chris Lucas, 2006).

Not only the good comments, but also critics this novel. Nicole Del Sesto, comments on May 17, 2006, said that this latter Coelho fairly disappointing. He wishes Coelho would go back to the storytelling and allow the readers to derive their own message. What they learn through their own discovery is far more powerful than being conked on the head with the message (Nicole Del Sesto, 2006)

Based on the rating of this novel in www.amazon.com, this novel is popular enough. It is proven by the selling of this novel and being the bestseller book in the world. This novel is subtitled "A Novel of a temptation". This novel has been translated into 63 languages and published in 150 countries, including Indonesian languages and many people like Paulo Coelho's *The Devil and Miss Prym*.

The writers are interested and talented to conduct this thesis because of three reasons. First reason is because the writer attracted to analyze the human's personality that contains a lot of tragedy especially in novel *The Devil and Miss Prym*, in this novel containing many conflict about the personality of Miss Prym as a main character. It begins when the stranger comes to Viscos with 11 bars of gold and stay in a week to find the answer that haunts ones mind and hearts whenever someone is in distress or sufferings. It is a question that arises in the human mind at times of distress, rejection or betrayal. The question is "Are people bad?" or are we good or are we bad? He promises that it will belong to the villagers if they agree to kill someone before the week is over. In this section Miss Prym have a personalities conflict in her self, if she tell about the gold to the villagers and there is some one who killed in a week like the stranger's want she get one bars gold. She sees in the gold the ticket to finally escape this hell, which is a paradise to others. Still something hold her back.

Second reason is because Paulo Coelho the author of *The Devil and Miss Prym*, is a great and famous novelist. Most of his novels give new consideration and experiences to the readers. His books have also been translated into 56 other language to give contribution for development of the literary study. Coelho has sold over 86 million books in over 150 countries worldwide and his works have been translated into 66 language. He has received numerous literary awards from a variety of countries, including La Legion d'honneur (France), Grinzane Cavour (Italy). In addition, he has

written *Maktub*, which is a collection of his best columns published in the Brazilian newspaper Folha de Sao Paulo, *By the River Piedra I sat down and Wept*, and *the Valkyries*. Despite the popularity of Coelho's works in Iran, his 2005 novel *The Zahir* was banned there, with 1.000 copies being confiscated, but a week later, it appeared again in bookstores. His books have appeared on bestseller lists in countries not only in Brazil but in the UK, the USA, France, Germany, Iran, Canada, Italy, Israel, Finland, Serbia, Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Russia, Poland, and Lithuania. He is the all time best-selling Portuguese language author.

Moreover, *The Devil and Miss Prym*, as Paulo Coelho's novel, has become the bestseller lists in many countries. His books such as *The Alchemist*, *the Pilgrimage*, and *Veronica decide to die*, and *The Fifth Mountain*. Become the best seller too. It also met him got a lot of award, the two prestigious Italian Award in 1994, he was given The Prestigious Crystal Award and BAMBI 2001 The Oldest and Most Prestigious Award in Germany. In 1996, Paulo was also appointed special advisor to the UNESCO Programmed Spiritual Convergences and Intellectual Dialogues. Paulo constant attendance in the media can also be seen through articles and newspaper columns. He began writing a weekly column in Brazilian newspaper "O globo". Their columns have been published in "Corriero della serra" (Italy), El Semanal (Spain), Ta Nea (Greece), Weit and Sontag (Germany), Anna (Estonia), "The China Times Daily" (Taiwan), and many others.

The third reason, as far as the writer knows, this research has not ever been conducted yet by other students who take literature as their subject in English Education Study Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

Based on the previous reason the writer will observe *The Devill and Miss Prym* novel by using Psychoanalytic theory by Sigmund Freud. Therefore, the writer constructs the title **THE PERSONALITY OF MISS PRYM IN PAULO COELHO'S *THE DEVILL AND MISS PRYM* (2000): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**

B. Literature Review

The writer chooses *The Devil and Miss Prym* novel because it is very interesting to be analyzed. As long as the writer knows, there is no other researcher that analyze *The Devil and Miss Prym* novel, especially in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta and Sebelas Maret University, but after browsing in the internet, the writer found there is a research that conducted the study of *The Devil and Miss Prym* novel.

In Alfita Vaniastuti is Research Paper from Ahmad Dahlan University Jogja, the writer found that she discusses *The Devil and Miss Prym* novel with Sociological approach. The research paper of Alfita Vaniastuti has entitled “*A Hegemony study in Paulo Coelho's The Devil and Miss Prym: A Sociological Approach*”. (Alfita Faniastuti, 2008). It is a research done in order to find out the sociological aspects of the novel being researched, and

the research focused on character and characterization of the protagonist and the concept of hegemony.

Although the researcher used a similar source, there is the difference between of them. In this research, the writer focuses in personality of Miss Pym using Psychological approach especially using psychoanalytic theory. In this research writer discusses about the Id, Ego, and Super Ego.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the title and Background of the study, the writer proposed the problem as follows:

1. How is major character's personality reflected in Paulo Coelho's *The Devil and Miss Pym*?
2. What are the psychological factors that influence the personality of the major character?

D. Limitation of the Study

To carry out the study, the researches need to limit the study. The researcher is going to analyzed Chantal Pym as the major character in novel *The Devil and Miss Pym* based on Psychoanalytic approach.

E. Objective of the study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the structural element of the novel in order to identify the unity of the novel

2. To analyze the major character of the novel based on the psychoanalytic approach.
3. To analyze the psychological factors, which influence the characterization of the major character, Chantal Prym.

F. Benefit of the Study

The reason why someone makes a research is to get the benefit from it. By so doing, the writer expects some benefits are produced from this research, those are:

1. Theoretical benefit

The study is hoped to give new contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies on *The Devil and Miss Prym* novel.

2. Practical benefit

To enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and another students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another University who have interest with literary study on the novel from Psychoanalytic Approach.

G. Research Method

In this chapter, the writer divides into five subparts, namely; type of the study, object of the study, data and data source, technique of data collection, and technique of data analysis.

1. Type of the study

In this study, the writer uses a qualitative research. It is a library research while data source are using literary data. It purposes to analyze the novel using Psychoanalytic approach.

2. Object of the study

The object of the study is novel Paulo Coelho's *The Devil and Miss Prym* that was written in 2000, published by Harper Collins Publishers, 10 East 53rd street New York, contains 205 pages and 25 chapters.

3. Data and Data source

Dealing with research method, there are two points that need to be involved as follows;

a. Primary Data source

The primary data source of the study is the novel entitled *The Devil and Miss Prym*.

b. Secondary Data source

The secondary data are taken from other sources, which are related to the primary data that support the analysis. They are books and virtual references.

4. Technique of Data Collection

The method of data collection in this study uses the library research by selecting both primary data and secondary data. The writer will involve some required steps.

a. Reading *The Devil and Miss Prym* 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. Selecting particular parts that are considered important and relevant for the analysis
 - f. Drawing conclusion based on the analysis of the data.
5. Technique of Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, the writer employs descriptive qualitative analysis of content; the analysis is begun from the structural analysis of the work and finally the Psychoanalytic approach.

H. Research Paper Organization

This research paper is divided into five chapters. Chapter I is introduction, which contains the background of the study, literary review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, research paper organization. Chapter II presents underlying theory. It deals with notion of Psychoanalytic and theoretical application. Chapter III is structural analysis. In this chapter, the writer explains the structural elements, which included character and characterization, plot, setting, and theme. Chapter IV deals with the analysis of psychoanalytic. Finally, the writer presents conclusion and suggestion in the V chapter.