

A CRUEL CHILD REFLECTED IN AVATAR *THE LAST AIRBENDER* MOVIE : A PSYCHOANALITIC PERSPECTIVE



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

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi kejahatan dari tokoh Zhuko dalam film *Avatar The Last Airbender* dan mencari tau apa saja penyebab tokoh Zhukho menjadi tokoh jahat. Penelitian ini menggunakan jenis penelitian kualitatif yang memakai dua jenis data yaitu film *Avatar The Last Airbender* dan data kedua menggunakan teori, penelitian terdahulu dan sumber data yang berkaitan dengan penelitian ini. Hasil dari penelitian ini dengan menggunakan teori Psychoanalitic Perspective dari Sigmund Freud adalah penyebab dominan dalam sifat jahat Zhukho adalah Ayah dari Zhukho sendiri karena mengusir Zhukho dari kerajaan api dan di anggap lemah, dan syarat untuk agar Zhukho bias kembali adalah menangkap Avatar yang diramal akan membunuh Ayah Zhukho, karena itu Zhukho menggunakan segala cara untuk menemukan Avatar demi untuk bias kembali ke kerajaan api, dan Zhukho yang sebenarnya baik menjadi jahat karena itu.

Kata Kunci : *Avatar The Last Airbender* ,kejahatan ,Psychoanalitic Perspective, Sifat jahat.

Abstract

This study aims to identify the crimes of Zhuko's character in the film *Avatar The Last Airbender* and find out what causes Zhuko's character to become a bad character. This research uses qualitative research that uses two types of data, namely the film *Avatar The Last Airbender* and the second data uses theory, previous research and data sources related to this study. The results of this study using the Psychoanalytic Perspective theory of Sigmund Freud are the dominant cause for Zhukho's evil nature is the father of Zhukho himself because he expels Zhukho from the kingdom of fire and is considered weak, and the condition for Zhukho to return is to capture an Avatar who is predicted to kill Father. Zhukho, because of that Zhukho used all means to find the Avatar in order to bias back to the kingdom of fire, and Zhukho who was actually good became evil because of that.

Keywords: *Avatar The Last Airbender*, Crime , Psychoanalytic Perspective, Evil Traits.

1. INTRODUCTION

Everyone might have different characteristics or traits and that trait could be good, evil, shy, and many more Aristotle, the Greek philosopher, stated that good character is the practice of correct behavior (Lickona, 1991: 50). Correct behavior is seen from the side of others and the environment. Aristotle further said that life in modern times tends to forget the character including self-orientation, such as self-control, generous attitude, and social sense. Character

is a set of traits that determine a person's figure as an individual (Curtus, 2010). Character determines whether someone is achieving their desires using the right way according to their environment and obey the laws and rules of the group. So, character is a trait or character of someone who can be good and can not be good based on environmental assessment. And avatar is a fantasy movie genre, this movie was created by Michael Dante DiMartino and Bryan Konietzko. This movie tells an avatar who wants to unite or reconcile the world, because the world has been ruled by the fire country, and here there is a character named Zukho he is an evil character in this movie and he always pursues the avatar and wants to kill him and hand over the avatar to the country of fire which is led by his own father. This is one of my favorite films and here the researcher wants to examine the character of Zhukho who is one of the antagonists in the movie and wants to find out how he did his crime and why he could be like that, here the researcher uses the theory of psychoanalytic approach from Sigmund Freud because of the theory This is very suitable with what will be examined, namely the nature of a character or character because researchers look for any crime committed by Prince Zhukho and how he can become an evil character by using 3 aspects of Sigmund Freud believed Freud consists of a person's personality Freud believes that people "are only actors in their own mind drama, driven by desire, drawn by chance. Below the surface, our personalities represent a power struggle that takes place deep within us". With the theory, researchers tried to examine a Zhukho figure in this movie. According to Sigmund Freud, he argued that the soul has lifethree levels of consciousness, namely conscious, pre-conscious orpreconscious and unconscious. Topography or awareness mapThis is used to describe the awareness element in each eventmental like thinking and fantasizing. Until the 1920's, theoryabout mental conflict involves only the three elements of consciousness.It was only in 1923 that Freud introduced three other structural models,namely the *id*, *ego* and *superego*. In this study, researchers are interested in studying the movie *Avatar The Last Airbender* using Sigmund Freud's Psychoanalysis Approach by analyzing the psychology of Prince

Zhukho's character through his conversations with other characters or his treatment of other characters using *id*, *ego*, *superego*.

2. METHOD

In this study, researchers used a qualitative descriptive study. The researcher uses qualitative research and focuses on a character in the movie, namely Prince Zhukho, how he can be a bad character. This research is descriptive qualitative because the researcher describes the research findings in the form of text, not numbers. The researcher wants to describe the Zhukho character why he can be a bad character and what evil he does. The researcher concludes why he uses qualitative research because the data is in the form of words, this causes the researcher to want to describe the Zhukho character why he can be evil and what crimes he committed. The data for this study were obtained through several steps to get all the right data to be identified.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Finding

Based on this research, the data analyzed in this study about the Prince Zhukho personality by using a literary psychology approach. Theory which used to determine the psychology or personality of this character, namely theory Sigmund Freud said that there are 3 steps or structures personality that is done to determine a person's psychology, namely the *id*, *ego*, and *superego*.

In this section presents a discovery from the study and discussion of the discovery.

3.1.1 The *Id*

Here the prince Zhukho really really wants to bring an avatar to carry and hand it over to the Fire Nation.



Figure 1. Dialogue between Zhukho and avatar

“I will take you to the Fire Nation”

The words "I will take you to the Fire Nation" are clearly a crime because he will bring the avatar by force. When Zhukho was fighting with Katara he gave a reason why he wanted to take the Avatar away.



Figure 2. Dialogue between Zhukho and Katara

“I'm not allowed to go home without him”

And this is proof of Zhukho's reason for taking the avatar to the Fire Nation, and is the reason why he really wants to take it.

Zhukho *Id* has a great desire to bring the avatar to the Land of Fire, because it is an order from the request, the king of fire, and if not, prince Zhukho is not allowed to go home, Zhukho *id* appears naturally because of the pressure from his father so that character appears evil Zhukho.

3.1.2 The *Ego*

The *Ego* of Zhukho shows his treatment to try to get the Avatar in various ways.



Figure 3. Dialogue between Zhukho and Avatar

“if you don't want it, I will burn this village”

This is Zhukho's words to threaten Avatar to be able to obey his will to go with Zhukho to come on board his ship and take him to the Fire Nation



Figure 4. Dialogue between uncle Zhukho and Zhukho

“We don't have to continue this Zhuko”

Here uncle Zhukho intends to stop Zhukho's ambition because uncle Zhukho knows that Zhao is no longer sane and has crossed the line.



Figure 5. Dialogue between uncle Zhukho and Zhukho

“I’ll show you why we have to, uncle”

In the words of Zhukho shows he still wants to keep pursuing the avatar to get the throne and his pride back.

Zhukho *ego* he always insists on his will to bring the avatar back while dialogue while uncle Zhukho asks Zhukho to stop and finish chasing Avatar Zhukho ignores him and keeps trying to avatar. In the process of getting an Avatar this film also shows the crime he committed to capture the Avatar.

3.1.3 The Superego

In this case the *superego* acts to improve and foster people's behavior.

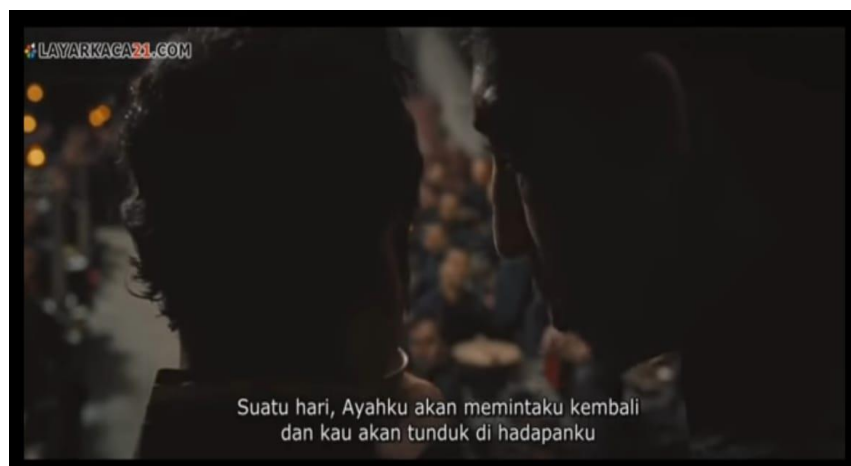


Figure 6. Dialogue between zhukho and fire country commander

"One day, my father will ask me to come back and you will bow before me."

In this section is Zhukho's ambitious dialogue to reclaim his throne and from his words he threatens Zhao not to belittle him.

Zhukho's ambition continues at the borders of the water country when Zhukho's uncle tells Zhukho that he is very determined to return to the land of fire and to regain his pride.

And the *superego* that prince Zhukho can show that is most visible is when he has to fight Agni Kai for pride because he is considered a weak child by his father, this story was told by uncle Iroh to his men who were also one ship with the prince Zhukho



Figure 7. This is the moment when uncle Zhukho told his men

"Then Zhukho's role model is declared to have to duel in Agni Kai"

But when Agni Kai took place Zhukho was shocked because what was in front of him was his father, and he could not fight against his father, then he was expelled and defeated in the Agni Kai duel.



Figure 8. This is the moment when uncle Zhukho told his men that the opponent of Zhukho in the duel Agni Kai was his own father

Here is the good side of a prince Zhukho because even though he is the son of an evil king and he is an evil character he still respects his father because he doesn't want to fight against his father.

3.1.4 Deviance

According to Comer, the assessment of deviations depends on the specifics cultural conditions and norms . This means that deviations are a the conditions under which a person's current behavior is not in accordance with the norm and environmental regulations.

when ouk Zhukho said "We don't have to continue this Zhuko" but Zhukho responded with "I'll show you why we have to, uncle" this already really shows Zhukho's ambitions and this is a deviant behavior because he wants to remain in crime to get an Avatar.

And also prince Zhukho did not hesitate to injure the inhabitants of the water country when prince Zhukho was looking for an avatar. The incident was at the beginning and end of the movie, and it became the crime of prince Zhukho that was the most prominent in the movie.

3.2 Discussion

In this part the researcher discussed the data analysis that had been found in *Avatar the Last Airbender* movie. The researcher describe the crimes

committed by the Zhukho, the factors made him commit these crimes, and the background that make Zhukho a bad character.

3.2.1 The Crimes Committed by the Zhukho

According to the data, what crimes committed by Prince Zhukho were when he started to be kicked out by his father when he was wandering around looking for an Avatar which was the last air bender in the movie shown where the Air Bender Temple had been destroyed by the Fire Nation



Figure 9. The dialogue by the commander Zhao denotes the expulsion of Zhukho

Figure 10. This is the scene when the avatar finds out that the air tribe shrine where he lives has been destroyed by the Fire Nation because they know that a new avatar will be born from that shrine.

Then Zhukho began his search in Southern water tribe, in the data shows Zhukho's id and ego appearing when he knows that the avatar is there he doesn't hesitate to injure the villagers to lure the Avatar out of hiding, and finally the avatar comes out and Zhukho threatens to destroy the village if he doesn't want to.



Figure 10. This is an example scene of Zhukho's crime

Went to the ship, then the avatar came for his safety, and the next crime was when in the northern water tribe according to the data that the avatar got back escaped and went to the northern water tribe where Zhukho went to get the avatar back but he was protected by a Katara figure and Zhukho did not hesitate to injure Katara even though she was a woman, n The northern waters of the north were attacked by the country of fire and there was the pinnacle of the evil Zhukho and the land of fire.



Figure 11. this is the scene when Zhukho manages to defeat Katara and after that manages to bring the avatar to the hideout

3.2.2 The Factors Zhuko makesa crime

Here in the data that has been taken, the role of prince Zhukho's ego dominates because of his pride and desire to return to the country of fire is

very great, shown when his uncle suggested ending the journey to find the avatar was over but Zhukho's *ego* was acting here he still wanted continue the journey to bring the Avatar to the country of fire and regain his pride.



Figure 12. This is the scene of the moment when uncle Zhukho wanted to invite Zhukho to stop chasing the avatar, but Zhukho still wanted to catch it

And Zhukho *id* which already underlies Zhukho's mind that if he will not be able to go home without bringing the Avatar to make Zhukho's ego more dominating.

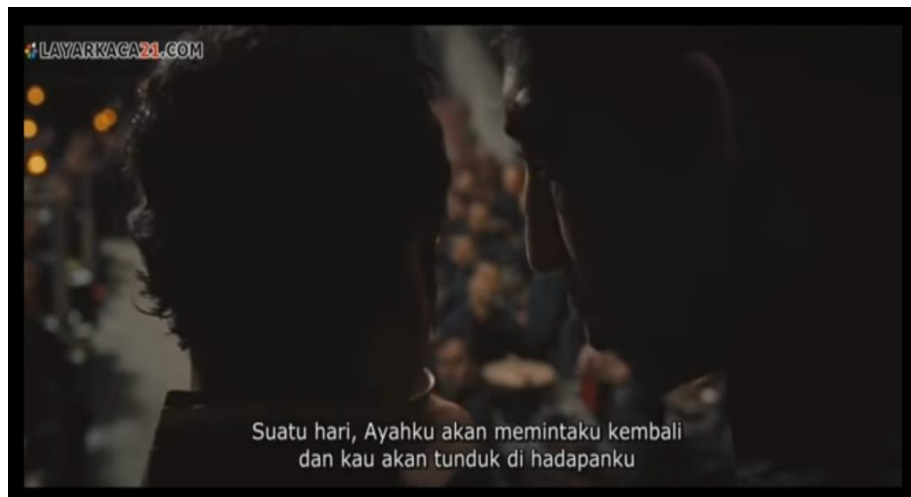


Figure 13. This is the scene when Zhukho wants to regain his pride and wants to prove that he will catch the avatar and make all to his knees.

3.2.3 The Background that makes Zhukho a bad character

There are three personality systems in humans, the system that regulates how people act, rightly or not, it depends on the three personal systems

working the *id* is an impulsive part of the soul that responds directly and there is still an *ego* and *super ego* to control the implusion of *id*, especially those that are prohibited , if the three of them do not work according to their rights and obligations, it will cause abnormalities when they do not act. here Zhukho had hatred and revenge because his expulsion was considered weak by his father and could not help to continue the throne of his father who was a king, when Zhukho in the duel Agni Kai Zhukho was confronted by his father and *superego* Zhukho acted not to fight his father he could not against his father and it caused him to be kicked out, Zhukho's mind *ego* couldn't accept it all and the words from his father he should not go home before taking Avatar to fire country it made *id* Zhukho function to have to bring Avatar and catch him *ego* function is to consider but Zhukho *ego* already round and Zhukho must still capture the avatar for the sake of his pride and this is the factor that makes Zhukho a bad character.



Figure 14. This is a scene where Zhukho has to think with thoughts in Agni Kai



Figure 15. This is a scene proving that Zhukho has been expelled from the country of fire

There has been no research that has conducted research on this Zhukho character, a cruel child reflected in the avatar of the last airbender movie is thesis by Muh Arief Widayanto (2020). the background that makes Zhukho a bad character and here Zhukho's *id* and *ego* are dominant in this case because of revenge and compulsion due to his expulsion by his own father because he was considered weak and had to take the avatar so that he could be recognized again by his father.

4. CLOSING

After conducting research using Sigmund Freud's theory, namely the psychoanalytic theory, the researcher got several points from this study. The first, crime committed by Prince Zhukho was to attack other countries and also did not hesitate to destroy it, he also did not hesitate to injure a woman named Katara who protected the Avatar from Zukho attacks. The second, factor that made him commit a crime was pride and necessity. In one scene it shows that Prince Zhukho will not be able to come home without an Avatar, and when Zhukho's uncle asked him to stop chasing the avatar he still wanted to catch him and prove that he could and not weak. The third, deviant behavior of the prince Zhukho was caused by the prince's expulsion because he was considered to be a weak man and could not do anything by his father, and to prove it

Zhukho was given a mission to capture the Avatar and bring it to the Fire Nation otherwise Zhukho is not allowed to go home and will lose his self-esteem, and that is why Zhukho colonized several countries and committed crimes in several countries to capture the Avatar.

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