ANXIETY IN BARBARA PARK’S *THE KID IN THE RED* 

*JACKET:*

A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH

---

RESEARCH PAPER

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of Requirement for Bachelor Degree of 

Educating in English Department 

by: 

PRIYONO DARMANTO 

A 320 030 358 

---

SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION 

MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA 

2010
A. Background of the Study

People are unique individually, with their problems and different experiences in their daily lives. Some of the problems exist and could make them uncomfortable, and also feel anxious. Their experience in daily lives can be happiness, sadness, normal, hesitation, or even anxiety. Commonly, people are capable to solve their problem rationally, but in such cases, they can not. The people have capability to create feeling and thought. The composition of their feeling and thought are not static but dynamic or changeable. One of the problems is angry. It is sensitive problem to the people, because it makes them feel unhappy and anxious.

Anxiety is a style closely related to fear and it has motivational consequence. Based on intense inner conflict, anxiety can be nightmare for some people. It may appear when they have problems and they are too hard to solve. Some people reduce it by escaping from the problem for a while. Anxiety is a felt, affective, unpleasant state, accompanied by a physical sensation that warns the person against impending danger. The unpleasantness is often vague and hard to pinpoint, but the anxiety itself is always felt. Only the ego can produce or feel anxiety. There are three kinds of anxiety such as realistic anxiety, neurotic anxiety, and moral anxiety. Realistic anxiety results from the ego’s dependence on the external world. Neurotic anxiety stamps from the ego’s dependence on the id.
Moral anxiety is resulted from the ego’s dependence on the superego. Anxiety itself is as one of psychoanalytic principles where it is the part of psychoanalytic study. The theory of psychoanalytic is originated by Sigmund Freud.

Freud was the originator of psychoanalytic theory in the early one of the best known figures in all of psychology in 1900s. Freud was born on May 6, 1856 in Frieberg, Moravia, which is now a part of Chech republic. He was the firstborn child of Jacob and Amelie Nathanson Freud, though his father had two grown sons, Emanuel and Philip, from a previous marriage. Jacob and Amelie Freud had seven other children within 10 years, but Sigmund remained the favorite of his young, indulgent mother, a fact that may have partially contributed to his lifelong optimism and self-confidence. At the age of three he moved with his family to Leipzig and a year later to Vienna. The Austrian capital remained his home for nearly 80 years, until 1938 when the Nazi invasion forced him emigrate to London. He made his home in England until his death on September 23, 1939. Freud greatest contribution to personality theory is his exploration levels of mental life.

In general, therefore, mental life can be divided into three levels, the unconsciousness, the preconscious, and the conscious. It exerts an extensive influence on one’s words, feeling, thought, actions etc. Unconscious process often enters into consciousness, but only in a disguised or distorted form. Once repressed, unconscious drives, it may reappear in consciousness after undergoing certain transformations. Whereas the preconscious level contains all
those mental elements which are not conscious but become so quite readily. Consciousness plays a relatively minor role in psychoanalytic theory. It can be defined as those mental elements in awareness at any given point in time. It is the only level of mental life directly available for us.

The structure of personality consists of three separated, but interacting art, there are: The id, ego, and superego. The id is home base for the instinct. It constantly strives to satisfy the wish impulses of the instincts by reducing tension. The id serves the pleasure principle, since its sole function is the seek satisfaction of pleasurable drives. Where as the ego is the region of the mind in contact with reality, it grows out of the id during infancy and throughout a person’s life of time, it remains the extension of the id which has communication with the external world. The ego is governed by the reality principle of the id. The ego becomes the decision making or executive branch of personality. The superego itself is the moral or ethical province of personality. It is guided by the idealistic principle as opposed to the pleasure principle of the id and the realistic principle of the ego.

The knowledge of psychology helps author to create his or her characters in the novel more real as well as a situation in a real life. The author describes situation and emotions. Howard Jeeter is one of the major characteristic in this story. He is living his worst nightmare. His parents have moved him across the country without even asking, and they do not care on a bit that they have ruined his life. The kids in Howard’s new town act as if he is totally invisible, except for his six year old neighbor, Molly Vera Thompson. Howard has a little
friend, she is an annoying little girl who talks nonstop and looks like a miniature of Bozo but he does not intend to this friendship.

Barbara Park is one of the funniest writers around and she has got over 20 children’s Awards to rove it, such as, Arizona Young Reader’s Award, Georgia Children’s Book Award, Great Stone Face Award, IRA-CBC Children Choice, IRA Young Adults’ Choice, Maud Hart Lovelace Award Minnesota, Milner Award Georgia, Nevada Children’s Book Award, OMAR Award Indiana, Rhode Island Children’s Book Award, Tennessee Children’s Choice Book Award, Texas Bluebonnet Award, Utah Children’s Book Award, Young Hoosier Book Award Indiana. These are some of the books for younger readers by Barbara Park: Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus 1, Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey Business 2, Junie B. Jones and Her Big Fat Mouth 3, Junie B. Jones and Some Sneakky Peeky Spying 4, Junie B. Jones and the Yucky Blucky Fruitcake 5, Junie B. Jones and That Meanie Jim’s Birthday 6, Junie B. Jones Loves handsome Warren 7, Junie B. Jones has a monster Under Her Bed 8, Junie B. Jones Is Not a Crook 9, Junie B. Jones Is a Party Animal 10. Barbara Park was born in April 21, 1947. She is an author of children’s book. Park is the daughter of merchant and a secretary, Dorries and Bookie Tids well. She grew up in mount Hally Township, New Jersey. From 1965 until 1967, she attended Rider College, later finishing her B. S. in 1969 at the University of Alabama. She married Richard A. Park in 1969. She has lived in Phoenix, Arizona for almost 30 years and has two sons, Steven and David, now they are both out of college.
Considering the explanation and the fact above, the writer tries to analyze the novel by using psychoanalytic approach. This novel is an expression of human internal battle in overcoming the anxiety. He has worst nightmare. His parents have moved him across the country without even asking, and they don not care on a bit that they have ruined his life. The kids in *Howard’s* new town act as if he is totally invisible, except for his six year old neighbor, Molly Vera Thompson. Howard has a little friend, she is an annoying little girl who talks nonstop and looks like a *miniature of Bozo* but he does not intend to this friendship. Here, the psychological aspect is very interesting for the authors to create the literary works. They depict the psychic condition of human being through their literary works.

**B. Previous Study**

As long as the researcher knows, this novel has not been studying yet in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, Sebelas Maret University of Surakarta and other university in Central Java, even in Indonesia.

**C. Problem Statement**

Based on the reality above, the researcher formulates the problem statement in this study as “How is the anxiety of major character reflected in Park’s, *The Kid in the Red Jacket*?”

**D. Limitation of the Study**

To clear out the study, the researcher limits the study. The researcher is going to analyze Howard Jeeter as one of the major character in Barbara Park’s novel *The Kid in the Red Jacket* based on psychoanalytic approach.
E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the novel based on its structural elements by finding character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, style and theme.

2. To analyze the novel based on the psychoanalytic approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

Here, the benefit of the study is divided into two, namely theoretical benefit and practical benefit.

1. Theoretical Benefit

By this study, the researcher hopes, it will be useful to add the knowledge, especially dealing with literary studies on Barbara Park’s *The Kid in the Red Jacket*.

2. Practical Benefit

By this study, the researcher hopes, it can develop the researcher’s ability in applying the psychological perspective, especially psychoanalytic perspective in Barbara Park’s *The Kid in the Red Jacket*.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In this research paper, the researcher uses descriptive qualitative method which focuses on the analysis of textual data.
2. Object of the Study

The object of the study of the research paper here is Barbara Park’s *The Kid in the Red Jacket*.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Sources

Type of the data in this study is a text that consists of words, sentences, paragraphs. Whereas the data sources in this study namely the primary data source and the secondary data source.

a. The Primary Data Source

The primary data source of the study is the novel *The Kid in the Red Jacket* by Barbara Park.

b. The Secondary Data Source

The secondary data sources consist of the other data besides the novel *The Kid in the Red Jacket* by Barbara Park which has relationship with the study, such as the biography of the author, the book of fiction, the book of psychoanalytic, dictionary, virtual references and the other relevant information that support this research.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The researcher uses the technique of the data collection in this study by library research which is conducted by collecting both the primary data and the secondary data. There are some steps of collecting data applied in this study are as follows:

a. Reading the novel comprehensively.

b. Identifying the topic of the novel.
c. Determining the major character that will be analyzed.

d. Reading some related books to find out theory, data, and information required.

e. Taking notes of information in both primary data and secondary data source.

f. Arranging the data into several parts based on classification.

g. Analyzing the data of the research on Sigmund Freud theory of psychoanalysis.

h. Drawing conclusion based on the analyzed data.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique of the data analysis used in this study is descriptive analysis. The structural elements of the novel and the collected data will be described and analyzed in detail through psychological approach, especially psychoanalytic approach.
H. Research Paper Organization

To make this study clear, understandable, and systematic, this study is divided into five chapters. Chapter I contains introduction that consists of background of the study, previous study, problem statement, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, benefits of the study, research method and research paper organization. Chapter II is about underlying theory that deals with psychoanalytic theory, system of personality, anxiety, structural elements of the novel and theoretical application. Chapter III covers the structural analysis that consists of structural elements of the novel that includes character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, style and theme of the novel and discussion. Beside that, this chapter also contains discussion of the structural elements of the novel. Chapter IV is about psychoanalytic toward the novel. Chapter V is divided into two parts namely conclusion and suggestion.