

**THE PERSONALITY TRAITS AND PREFERENCE OF CLAY JENSEN IN “13
REASON WHY” NOVEL: A PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY**



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Getting
Bachelor Degree of English Education School Teacher Training and Education**

By :

AISYAH ROMADHONI NAJIB

A320170211

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH EDUCATION
SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH SURAKARTA**

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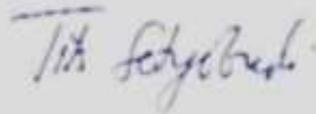
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Approved to be examined by consultant

School of Teacher Training and Education

Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta

Consultant,



Titis Setvabudi S.S., MA

NIDN. 0617047701

ACCEPTANCE

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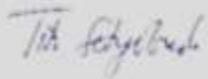
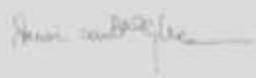
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The board Examiners:

1. Titis Setyabudi, S. S., M. A (Head of Examiner) ()
2. Fitri Kurniawan, M. Ed. Res (Member I of Examiner) ()
3. Dr. Phil. Dewi Candraningrum, M. Ed (Member II of Examiner) ()



Dekan


Dr. Sutama, M.Pd.

NIDN/IDN 0007016002

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The Researcher



AISYAH ROMADHONI NAJIB

A320170211

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis novel berjudul 13 Reason Why, untuk mengetahui karakter yang dilihat dari perspektif psikologis. Dan jenis dan bagaimana ciri-ciri kepribadian dan preferensi tercermin pada karakter. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dan menggunakan teori psikologi. Karakter dilihat dari perspektif psikologis memiliki kebutuhan psikologis, kebutuhan keamanan, kebutuhan cinta dan memiliki, kebutuhan harga diri, kebutuhan aktualisasi diri. Ada lima jenis sifat dan preferensi kepribadian seperti extraversion, agreeableness, neuroticism, openness, dan conscientiousness. Cara ciri dan preferensi kepribadian tercermin dalam tema, plot, karakter, setting, sudut pandang dan moral.

Kata kunci: Kepribadian, Clay Jensen, Thirteen Reason Why, Psikologi Sastra

Abstract

This study aims to analyze the novel entitled 13 Reason Why, to find out the character viewed from psychological perspective. And the kind and how the personality traits and preference are reflected on the character. This study applies the qualitative methods and use psychological theory. The character viewed on psychological perspective has psychological needs, safety needs, the love and belonging needs, esteem needs, self actualization needs. There are five kinds of personality traits and preference such as extraversion, agreeableness, neuroticism, openness, and conscientiousness. The way personality trait and preference are reflected there are theme, plot, character, setting, point of view and moral.

Keywords: Personality, Clay Jensen, Thirteen Reason Why, Psychology of literature

1. INTRODUCTION

Personality traits reflect the people characteristic patterns of the thoughts, the feelings and the behaviors. Personality traits are reflecting on basic dimensions on which the people differ. There are some criteria of character, personality traits, there are consistent, stability and individual differences. To have a personality trait, the individuals must be somewhat consistent across the situations in their behaviors to relate the trait. Personality type can be a commonality that readers relate to beyond individual preference, and an author can tap into this by focusing on what makes each character type tick not just what they do, but the ways they go about doing it. Personality type theory can help guiding, in a supportive way, elements of the creative process. It is not necessary to limit the actions of a character, because the type of personality categories including the category properties of fine was not related to the original.

Novel is a long narrative fragment in literary prose. Novel has many types, one of them is mystery. Novel fiction with a young adult story and some mystery can make everyone think it's interesting to read it. The booksellers based on the American teenager *13 Reason Why* novel written by Jay Asher in 2007. This novel tells about around high school student Clay Jensen and after the suicide of high school student Hannah Baker, leaves a cassette box in which she explains why she was choosing end her life. At first she was trying everything to reduce her thoughts of suicide. But the circumstances and support around her were not enough to make her last longer to life.

The reason why the researcher chose *13 Reason Why's* novel as the object of this study was because the researcher was interested in Clay Jensen's character. The character was sometimes feeling sad, happy, shy, scary, anxiety, embarrassing, love and angry along with facing some psychological problems. The researcher analyzed Clay Jensen's character and used Abraham Maslow's theory which are psychological needs, safety needs, the love and belonging needs, esteem needs, self actualization needs. Psychological knowledge is often done by using the assessment and treatment of mental health problems. It is also directed at understanding and solving problems of some human activities. With many considerations, psychology engage in a variety of therapeutic roles, which were usually practiced in clinical settings, counseling or school settings. This was according to Big Five factors consist of extraversion, agreeableness, neuroticism, openness and conscientiousness

2. METHOD

This research used qualitative research as the method. Matthew B. Miles, A. Michael Huberman, Johnny Saldana (2014) claimed that the qualitative research involves a pattern coding. There was explanatory or the inferential code, the ones that identify an emergent of the theme, and configuration or explanation. The method of collecting data is library research. The researcher analyzed the data by collecting the words, phrases and sentence from the Clay's character in *13 Reason Why's* novel. The data validity was a sequence of interaction between the humans derived and related to the problem of this research.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Based on the analysis the data which has been conducted by the researcher, the researcher found some findings.

3.1 Finding

3.1.1 The character viewed in Psychological Perspective

In the *13 Reason Why* novel by Jay Asher, the researcher could find out Clay Jensen's character viewed in psychological perspective. The psychological perspective which were viewed consisted of psychological needs, safety needs, the love and belonging needs, esteem needs and self actualization needs. Further explanations were shown below.

a. Psychological Needs.

Maslow believed that psychological needs are rather met for all the people in society. While that things met, the next hierarchy need emerges as the dominant force to control and direct behavior. This need refers to our body for food, drink and oxygen. This showed in the following dialogue:

"We're out of bread and I'm making sandwiches for tomorrow?" I exhale a tiny laugh and I smile. Whenever I'm out late she makes a sandwich for my school lunch. I always protest and tell her not to, saying I'll make my own when I get home. But she likes it. She says it reminds her of when I was younger and needed her. (13RW, 2007, P.137)

The conversation above happened in the Rosie's diner, when the character Clay was late going home. Then, his mom told him about sandwiches on phone. This moment made Clay thinking of the memories from his past, specifically when he was young. The human's body will be motivated to do something and it will need the nutritional foods and drinks.

b. Safety Needs

Safety Needs that the need to be free from harm and physical security with the understanding that psychological needs can be met. The feeling of secure is the feeling which people will get when their level of fears and anxieties are low. This showed in the following dialogue:

“See you tomorrow.” She say.

And that’s it. The conversation’s over. Part of me. I admit is relieved.

“See you later.” I say (13RW, 2007, P.105)

This conversation happened when Clay met Skye in the bus. For such a long time, he didn’t meet or talk to her. But this time, Clay had a conversation with her. Then he asked her where to go but Skye walked away, did not answer those question. After that, the bus arrived so Clay left and said goodbye to Skye. From the conversation, It could be that Clay felt relax because finally he could talk to her, eventhough it was just small and short conversation. This needs exist when someone had a morality for each other.

c. The love and Belonging Needs

These needs are met through satisfactory relationships. Relationships with family members, friends, peers, classmates, teachers, and other people whom individuals interact to. This showed in the following dialogue:

“Can I drive while you listen to the next tape?” “Tell me why she gave them to you.” “I’ll tell you,” he says, “if you’ll just listen to the next tape right now.” “Why?” “Clay. I’m not joking. Listen to the tape.? “Then answer my question.” “Because it’s about you. Clay.” He lets go of his keys. “The next tape is about you.” Nothing. (13RW, 2007, P.196)

Tony lays a hand on my shoulder. “Listen to it,” he says, “And don’t leave this car.” He turns the ignition. With tears falling, I roll my head to face him. But he’s starting straight ahead. (13RW, 2007, P.197)

Paragraph above shows the value of love and affection on friendship where Clay was listening to the tape about him. His friend, Tony was there with him. Tony was worried about Clay’s conditions. When people felt safer and tend to worry about the social group, there were people who could love and being loved on the society. Love and belonging were the needs of part in groups like family, friendship and the others social group. This needs can help others to make them feel more confidence in facing up the problems. Love is the word people can’t explain because people can’t measure love just by words. It happen by something to do, such as action, conversation and how they are feeling.

d. Esteem Needs

Esteem Needs is the need that can make people feel more confident, getting strength, feel more self-belief, getting personal and social acceptance, also getting respect from others. These needs are represented by achieving contentedness. The character use the esteem needs to have the self respect to the other people. The data contain this needs are as follows:

To be totally honest, there was never a point where I said to myself. Clay Jensen...he's the one. Just hearing my name, the pain in my head doubles. I feel an agonizing twist in my heart. (13RW, 2007, P. 198)

The setting was when the character Clay finally listened to the tapes about him. All the things that burdened him for a long time were like worry and anxiety for what he did. When we felt that we were in danger, there must be a value that we should believe ourselves. In life, there were always big enemies but poeple should have a self confidence and have a strenght to fight.

e. Self Actualization Needs

Talking about this need, all people need to have this. Self actualization is a desire to become everything the people are capable to. This need must be found on every living thing. The data contain this needs are as follows:

My breathing begins to slow. The tension in my muscles starts to relax. Then, a click in the headphones. A slow breath of air. I open my eyes to the bright moonlight. And Hannah, with warmth. Thankyou. (13RW, 2007, P. 281-282)

The setting was in the bars when Clay has already finished to listen over the seven tapes and the thirteen stories of Hannah's death. He closed his eyes, the light moon was gone. The wind in his skin, the pain in his faded fingers, the sound of the tapes which was played from one roller to the next, reminded Clay of everything he heard over the past few days. At this moment, Clay felt that everyhting was over. From the data above, the main character has already accepted the facts. He felt that the problem was solved and he learned a morality of life from things happen on Hannah.

3.1.2 Kinds of Personality Traits and Preference

The researcher found personality traits and preference occurs in the story with Clay Jensen as the main character. Kinds of personality traits and preference found in the story consist of extraversion, agreeableness, neuroticism, openness, conscientiousness.

a. Extraversion

This factor believes that the personality is the most important. This factor can also predict what people do on the social life. If someone have a high extraversion, it is easy for them to communicate with other people in the social life. This factor was easy going, fun loving, talkative. The data contain this needs are as follows:

“I’m sorry” Once again, those were the words. And now anytime someone says I’m sorry. I’m going to think of her. (13RW, 2007, P. 280)

The setting was in the bars. When Clay was listening to Hannah’s last word on the tapes, he was about to cry. The last word from Hannah reminded him about everything on life. If someone is able to remember what is happening in the social life, this means that they have a high extravertion.

b. Agreeableness

This factor can be described as indentifying someone friendly, avoiding the conflict, and having a tendency to follow others. If the people get a high score on this of this factor, they are described as a person who has a value which are helpful, loveable and forgiving. This showed in the following dialogue:

He truns the key, the engine starts, and he flips on the headlights. “Do you want me to take you somewhere?” (13RW, 2007, P. 238)

The conversation happened when Clay needed some rexaling moments while listening to tapes. His friend, Tony was there, offered a help to Clay. Tony’s action was described upon someone who is friendly to other people.

c. Neuroticism

Neuroticism decribes the people who have experienced some negative emotions such as feeling insecure and worried. If someone have a high score on this factor, they

might have an anxiety, feel angry and also depressed. The data contain this needs are as follows:

The point behind my eyebrow is throbbing so hard, but I don't touch it. I don't rub it. I let it pound. (13RW, 2007, P. 279)

The setting was in the Bars when Clay was listening to the end of the tapes. The end of the tapes told us about the last reason why Hannah chose to end her life. This part made Clay felt an emotion. He couldn't hold his tears from his eyes. He was listening to the part when Hannah said to Mr.Potter that he was letting her go. It made Clay was angry at the same time. He could feel what Hannah felt at that time.

d. Openness

Openness refers to how people willing to make adjustments to the new situation or idea. The characteristics of this factor are tolerance, capacity to absorb information, excellent focus and ability to be alerted to a variety of the feelings, thoughts and impulsive. This showed in the following dialogue:

"I would've been happier never hearing this." I say.

Tony shakes his head. "No. It would drive you crazy not knowing what happened to her." (13RW, 2007, P. 200)

The conversation happened when they were on the Tony's car. Clay was thinking, if he did not listen to the tapes, he might be happier. But, Tony gave a statement that Clay had to listen to it. The reason why Clay's was listening to the tapes was to know the truth. This is the example of having a capacity to hold the information and then focus on the emotionality.

e. Conscientiousness

This factor describes a control over of the social environment, thinking before acting, follows the rules, organizing and being ambitious. The data contain this needs are as follows:

Last night, on the bus. I left without talking to Skye. I wanted to talk with her. I tried to, but I let her slide out of the conversation. Over the

years, she's learned how to avoid people, Everyone. (13RW, 2007, P. 287)

The setting was between Clay and Skye, when Clay was thinking about what happened to Skye. He wanted to care of Skye. He seen Skye who reminded him about Hannah. This situation made Clay to think a lot upon what was his next treat to take care for his friend. This happened after he felt guilty about something bad happened to his friend, Hannah.

3.1.3 The Way Personality Traits and Preference is Reflected in the Novel

The elements that contained the way personality traits and preference was reflected in *13 Reason Why's* novel are themes, plots, characters, settings, points of view and morals. The themes and characters in this novel showed a Clay's personality reaction on Hannah's tapes.

a. Through theme

The theme of this novel is everything affects everything. This means whatever people do affects the live to others people. Like the people action, speaking, caring and loving were affecting to other people live.

b. Through plot

The data contain of audiotape are as follows:

I'm not saying which tape brings you into the story. But fear not, if you received this lovely little box, your name will pop up ... I promise. (13RW, 2007, P. 7)

The data contain of reason why are as follows:

You don't belong in the same way as the others. It's like taht song: One of these things is not the like the others. One of these things just doesn't belong.

And that's you, Clay. But you need to be here if I'm going to tell my story. To tell it more completely. (13RW, 2007, P. 200)

Intro to conflict starts with the box of Hannah's tapes which appear in front of Clay's house. Clay's is the boy who fell in love with Hannah. The cassettes containing the story about the thirteen person with the different reason why Hannah's kill herself. The next conflict before the climax occurs when Clay knows the reason why he was on the tapes. Hannah's was not blame on Clay, but insist that Hannah like Clay's. She was explained the first time they spoke to each other at the party. But after the kiss, Hannah was pushed Clay away. That night was a turning the point, a sense of self – esteem breaks and wants to open another. The climax of the story is when the last tapes of Hannah's voice. She said at the start of the tapes that she was ready to give it another chance. She would get help. She couldn't bear the pain of depression anymore, she said, but there might be a way to stop it that didn't involve her own life. The last person on the list is Mr.Potter. She was telling everything about her life also about Bryce. But for her, Mr.Potter's was not help her problem. Hannah's left from Mr.Potter's room, after making the decision to end the pain permanently.

c. Through the characters

The characters illustrate Hannah Baker's character as a msyterious girl, Clay Jensen who is a caring, intelligent and brutally honest.

d. Through setting

Setting in the novel are the maps of location that Hannah told on the tape and happened when in the school. This describe when the character find his friend walking alone in the school hallway.

e. Through point of view

The autor used a first person and second person point of view since the author references the character's name, as is seen in the above passage in Hannah's tapes and Clay's reaction to the Hannah's tapes.

f. Through moral

The moral that can be taken in this story is be aware about how we treat the others people.

3.2 Discussion

Based on the research study above, the researcher found the findings in the form of psychological value. The researcher found the existence of psychological value in *13 Reason Why's* novel. The researcher developed a focus on traits and preferences in the novel using psychological theory. The reason why the researcher discussed this problem was to identify the problem of traits and preference that has existed for long time by using psychological theory and qualitative research methods. Based on the psychological literature, the researcher found the psychological needs, safety needs, the love and belonging needs, esteem needs and self actualization needs on the Clay's character from *13 Reason Why's* novel. Five factors model of personality traits and preference from Clay's character were extraversion, agreeableness, neuroticism, openness, conscientious.

4.CLOSING

There are three things that can be concluded from this study. First is the Clay's character viewed from psychological perspective, second is the kinds of personality traits and preference reflected on Clay's character and third is the depiction of Clay's personality traits and preference. In the novel, Clay was always overthink upon Hannah's death. Her death affected on his life. Her voice on audio was really heartbreaking. Hannah tried to stay alive but its hard because her social group did not support her at all. At first, she felt that she must told her feeling to the right person. Eventhough at the end, she decided to kill herself. This study found personality traits and preferences, especially neuroticism. The individuals with neuroticism are easily being sensitive and anxious. People with the high neuroticism tend to have irrational ideas and easily feeling stressed. Here, Clay is an introvert person, but when some problems come to his life, he will change. He can help other people, or maybe he needed help from someone. What happened to Hannah made him realized that leaving someone alone was a thing that people must not do. The researcher concludes that what people do can affect what other people will do as well.

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