

Character Education in Celie's Personality Reflected in *The Color Purple* Novel (1982): Psychoanalytical Perspective

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ABSTRACT

This is an analysis of the personality of the character Celie in the novel *The Color Purple* (1982) using psychoanalytic theory according to Sigmund Freud. The aim of this study is to identify the personalities of Celie's character, describe how the personality of Celie's character, and reveal the reason why Celie has such a personality. This research type is qualitative descriptive. The type of data used in this study is in the form of words or narratives about the object of research. This study focuses on analyzing the psychological depiction of Celie's character in *The Color Purple* (1982) novel. Data sources used in this study are data that comes from information obtained from the original source that is form of media or objects that are being studied, namely the *The Color Purple* (1982) novel by Alice Walker and several previous studies, and journals related to the theory that the author uses as references. From the analysis conducted, the researcher found the personality system, namely the id, ego, and superego.

Keywords: *Personality, Psychoanalytical Perspective, The Color Purple (1982)*

1. INTRODUCTION

Humans naturally get a gift from God that cannot be opposed. This gift is embedded in humans from birth in the world until death. This gift is called personality. Personality is a very prominent behaviour in an individual. Personality is meant among other things, attitudes, traits, and daily behaviour. According to Patta (2013) Sigmund Freud stated that personality is an individual's behavior habits and is used to adjust.

The novel *The Color Purple* tells the story about the life of an African-American girl named Celie who during her life was full of struggles. This novel also tells about the difference in the degree of black people and white people. The setting chosen was around the 1930s. Celie is a female character who has black skin color. She is 14 years old and lives in a poor family. Celie also didn't go to school, so she was illiterate due to a lack of education. She has no mother because she died, and lives with her stepfather, along with Celie's sister, and Celie's children. Celie is a victim of rape by her own father and has been pregnant twice. In addition, this novel can also be said to be able to raise some of the problems that occur in women. Where, in this social environment, a woman is seen only as a woman who

must obey her husband and father. Celie also fights against gender inequality. In this novel, the character Celie is very striking with her behaviour and personality. Her life was filled with insults, injustice, and lack of affection. However, she still lives life happily and enjoys it.

With that said, it can be seen that Celie's personality is very interesting to analyze. This analysis is used to conclude the personality of the character Celie in the novel *The Color Purple* based on the theory of character psychoanalysis according to Sigmund Freud. Therefore, the authors decided to research under the research title *Celie's Personality Reflected in The Color Purple Novel (1982): Psychoanalytical Perspective*, with the problem statement:

1. What are the personalities of Celie's character in *The Color Purple* novel from Psychoanalysis Perspective?
2. How are the personalities of Celie's character depicted in the *The Color Purple* novel?
3. Why does Celie have such a personality?

To support this research, the author uses several studies as references. Here are some of them the research from Juidah (2019) in her research, she discusses six personality

theories according to Alfred Adler on the main character in a novel, among others; the struggle to be superior, subjective observations, social interests, a lifestyle, and the creative power of self. In addition, Qurratulain Sardar (2019) in their research, they discussed the self-achievement of Celie's character in the novel *The Color Purple*. They used a humanistic study according to Abraham Maslow as a guide during the research. In contrast to this study, which uses a psychoanalytical approach according to Sigmund Freud. They wrote that Celie's character had been distorted by circumstances and situations that made her a dilemma. Celie cannot meet the needs of life and affection by the closest people. And also, Yasemin AŞCI (2018) examines the feminist aspects of two novels, one of which is the same as the novel used in this study, namely *The Color Purple*. Another object she used was Grimke's novel, entitled *Letters on the Equality of the Sexes and the Condition of Woman*. She wrote that the two novels reveal the existence of gender inequality in a society where men will always be ahead of women. According to her, the difference in the place where men are located does not make it a different challenge and they are still just as dangerous

1.1. Significance of Study

1.1.1. Theoretical Significance

This study contributes to be used as a source of information in analyzing novels and become a reference or guide for students, especially literary studies on psychoanalytical perspective.

1.1.2. Practical Significance

This study adds to the authors' current knowledge of psychoanalytic perspectives and some of the factors that influence a person's personality development/change.

1.2. Limitation of the Study

This researcher focuses on the things related above that are contained in the novel *The Color Purple* (1982), which is related to the personality of Celie's character.

1.3. Underlying Theories

1.3.1. Character

A character is a fictional individual who has the attitude and role in a story. The character in a film that plays a certain character. According to Nurgiyantoro (2000) in the Hanziq (2019) the notion of a character can be interpreted as a person or group of people displayed in a narrative work where the reader can see a tendency expressed both through words and actions.

1.3.2. Personality

Personality comes from the Latin "*persona*", which the word has the meaning of a mask or face covering used by theater performers to describe a person's behavior, character and personality. According to Patta (2013) Sigmund Freud stated that personality is an individual's behavior habits and is used to adjust.

1.3.3. Sigmund Freud Psychoanalytical Perspectives

1.3.3.1. Id

The id is a personality system that is based on innate instincts. Then, channeled to other personality systems. So, with the smooth workings of the function of the Id, a good goal can be achieved.

1.3.3.2. Ego

The ego is a personality system that has the task of directing the individual to reality. The way the ego works is to channel instincts in the individual with the environment to meet needs or reduce stress.

1.3.3.3. Superego

Superego is a personality system that contains rules and values. Which, both are evaluative.

1.3.4. Factors Affecting Personality

1.3.4.1. Internal Factor

Internal factors are hereditary or congenital factors since the individual was born. The physical characteristics of the individual can be one of the factors that determine personality development. Which, the personality will be obtained according to how the individual can understand himself and also how society treats him.

1.3.4.2. External Factor

External factors are influences obtained from outside, such as; environment, experience, and education. From various sources that can influence the personality, there are opportunities for individual personality development. With the various actions or behaviors that individuals get from the environment, it will make individuals have different personalities as well.

2. METHODOLOGY

The type of this research is a qualitative descriptive study. The type of data used in this study is in the form of words or narratives about the object of research. This

study focuses on analyzing the psychological depiction of the character Celie in the novel *The Color Purple* (1982) using psychoanalytical theory according to Sigmund Freud. Data sources used in this study are data that comes from information obtained from the original source that is form of media or objects that are being studied, namely the novel by Alice Walker entitled *The Color Purple* (1982) and several previous studies, and journals related to the theory that the author uses as references.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Finding

3.1.1. The personalities of Celie's character based on Psychoanalytical Perspective according to Sigmund Freud

3.1.1.1. Id

In *The Color Purple* (1982), Celie is faced with the situation and condition of being sexually abused by her father which causes her to become pregnant and bear the child of her own father.

Pa call me. Celie, he say. Like wasn't nothing. Mr. _____ want another look at you.

(Walker, 1982) (*The Color Purple*, page 15)

The man's arrival was to marry one of his daughters, namely Celie.

Pa say, Your sister thinking bout marriage.

(Walker, 1982) (*The Color Purple*, page 15)

Then, Celie answered.

I say, Yeah.

(Walker, 1982) (*The Color Purple*, page 15)

Because Id's actions arise through reflex processes and under his consciousness, Celie here agrees without thinking to marry a man she does not recognize. In addition, there is also the act of id when Celie faced this very sad situation.

"you better not never tell nobody but God. It'd kill your mammy"

(Walker, 1982) (*The Color Purple*, page 8)

From the sentence above, it can be seen that there is a condition where Celie believes that she will be threatened if she tells what she is going through to others.

3.1.1.2. Ego

When facing a condition where Celie is being matched with Mr. _____, the ego in her gets impetus from the actions of the Id.

They only six and eight and they cry. They scream. They cuse me of murder. By ten o'clock I'm done. They cry theirselves to sleep. But I don't cry. I lay there thinking bout Nettie while he on top of me, wonder if she safe.

(Walker, 1982) (*The Color Purple*, page 16)

From the above article, it can be seen that Celie got an ego boost to plan something, namely she was willing to choose to marry a widower with 4 children and take care of all her children. Even though what she did to take care of Mr. _____'s children was very tiring and made her days hard. She wanted Nettie to have a better life. Then, it appears that there is an ego to continue to write letters to God.

I say, Write.

She say, What?

I say, Write.

She say, Nothing but death can keep me from it.

(Walker, 1982) (*The Color Purple*, page 19)

The quote above is what Nettie said that advised Celie to keep writing. These actions encourage Celie's ego to keep writing down what she feels in a letter to God. Celie also followed the advice given by Nettie. According to her, writing the letter can solve the problem.

3.1.1.3. Superego

Celie's superego is shown when she realizes that her decision to free herself from sexual violence from her father, then lives a happy life and can see her sister named Nettie become a successful woman after leaving her environment. They feel very happy even though they have to go through obstacles.

Oh, Nettie, us have a house! A house big enough for us and our children, for your husband and Shug. Now you can come home cause you have a home to come to!

(Walker, 1982) (*The Color Purple*, page 116)

The quote above is a reaction to something that Celie never imagined. After her father died, he left the field, house and horses for him. Besides herself feeling sad because of her fate

and her poor father, Celie is happy that she can finally live freely.

3.1.2. The Way Celie's personality depicted in the novel

On the problem of how the personality of Celie's character is described in the novel *The Color Purple* (1982), the researcher uses the intrinsic elements contained in the novel to analyze. The following are the intrinsic elements in the novel *The Color Purple* (1982) which describe the personality of Celie:

3.1.2.1. Theme

The Color Purple (1982) tells about discrimination and violence against black women.

"She say to Sofia, All your children so clean, she say, would you like to work for me, be my maid?"

Sofia say, Hell no.

She say, What you say? Sofia say, Hell no.

Mayor look at Sofia, push his wife out the way. Stick out his chest.

Girl, what you say to Miss Millie? Sofia say, I say, Hell no. He slap her."

(Walker, 1982) (The Color Purple, page 53)

From the sentence above, it can be seen that the mayor's wife was visiting Sofia and was arguing again. Sofia is approached by the mayor's wife and threatens her son to become a slave. The sentence is a form of injustice or discrimination committed by white people to black people and assumes that black people are below their level.

3.1.2.2. Plot

A plot is a series of depictions of events that make up a story. Flows are also used to logically organize information and events. The elements contained in the plot are the preface, the increasing stage, the climax, the anti-climax, and the resolution. The following is a plot description in the novel *The Color Purple* (1982) based on its elements.

- Preface

DEAR GOD,

I am fourteen years old. Maybe you can give me a sign letting me know what is happening to me.

(Walker, 1982) (The Color Purple, page 8)

The text quote above is a form of introduction which shows the introduction

of the characters in the novel. The character is Celie, she is a 14 years old teenager who is confused and full of questions about what is happening to her.

- Increasing stage

Mr. _____ finally come right out an ast for Nettie hand in marriage.

(Walker, 1982) (The Color Purple, page 13)

The quote from the letter above is when the incident occurred where Nettie began to be glimpsed by her father and then betrothed to the man of her father's choice. Nettie is Celie's sister who is younger than Celie. Because according to Mr. _____ Celie's sister was too young, then Mr. _____ refused and chose Celie to marry. Celie was overjoyed because she thought she could get out of the house. From here, the story starts to look interesting.

- Climax

Every day when Mr. _____ come from the mailbox I hope for news. But nothing come. She dead, I say.

(Walker, 1982) (The Color Purple, page 67)

The quote above is an incident when Celie was telling Shug how she was feeling. Celie was very confused about what happened to Nettie. Because, when Nettie left Celie, they promised to send letters to each other. However, in reality Celie never received a letter from Nettie. So, Nettie makes Celie sad and confused about her sister's condition. In fact, Celie had thought that Nettie had died.

- Anti-Climax

They in his trunk. Everything that mean something to Albert go in his trunk.

(Walker, 1982) (The Color Purple, page 70)

The quote above describes Celie's form of pleasure towards something that she worries about has been resolved. Celie finds Nettie's letters with Shug's help. Turns out, actually Nettie always sent Celie letters. However, the letter is always picked up sooner by Mr. _____ then hidden.

- Resolution

Everybody laugh and stuff her with one more piece. I feel a little peculiar round the children. For one thing, they grown. But I don't think us feel old at all. And us so

happy. Matter of fact, I think this the youngest us ever felt.

(Walker, 1982) (*The Color Purple*, page 131)

In the end, the conflict between them was defeated by peace within each other. They can come to terms with their problems and come together like a complete family. Celie felt very happy and she felt that she was still young.

3.1.2.3. Character and Characterization

Here are the characters and characterization in the *The Color Purple* (1982) novel who are related to the personality of Celie's character:

1. Lack of Education

Celie is a 14 years old teenager who doesn't get lessons like other women at her age. She felt neither beautiful nor smart. However, she actually had an interest in learning.

I know I'm not as pretty or as smart as Nettie, but she say I ain't dumb.

(Walker, 1982) (*The Color Purple*, page 15)

The quote was spoken by Celie while studying with Nettie. They are trying to be smart because they want to run away from home. The sentence above shows that Celie herself doesn't think she's smart. Not being smart here doesn't mean she hasn't learned anything at all. It's just that, in her environment, there are many women who quit school and get married and some are enslaved.

2. Fearful

One of the quotes that shows the existence of fear in Celie is when she wrote a letter to "God" and contained about herself who did not want to be visited by anyone because she had become a victim because of her father's despicable treatment.

*Don't nobody come see us.
She got sicker an sicker.
Finally she ast Where it is? I say God took it*

(Walker, 1982) (*The Color Purple*, page 9)

From the quote from the letter above, it can be seen that Celie looks worry and fear. Then make himself complain and hope to God that no one

is looking for her. Besides, Celie controlled her emotions and made Celie accept God's destiny and diverted the truth that her child was brought by God, not her father.

3. Trauma to man

With her experience of being tortured and abused by her father and her husband, it traumatizes Celie against men. Here is Celie's statement which shows that she is afraid of men.

He's a man. Yes he is. And I know how you feel about men. But I don't feel that way.

(Walker, 1982) (*The Color Purple*, page 118)

The quote above is the conversation between Celie and Shug during Shug. Celie doesn't want to leave Shug because Celie loves her so much. According to her, Celie strongly disagreed if Shug married another man. Celie was afraid that Shug would be hurt by men.

4. Never Giving Up

Celie's activities on the first day she moved to her husband's house were very busy and tiring. However, she had reasons for doing so. In the letter Celie said:

They cry theirselves to sleep. But I don't cry. I lay there thinking bout Nettie while he on top of me, wonder if she safe.

(Walker, 1982) (*The Color Purple*, page 16)

Based on Celie's writing above, it can be seen that Celie shows a sense of care that has not changed since childhood and wants to care for Mr._____'s family, home, and children who have been very neglected since his old wife died. Then, Celie treat her child's untidy hair, cook, clean the house, and draw water to lull her children sincerely without complaining of being tired and full of anger.

3.1.2.4. Setting

The setting in the novel *The Color Purple* (1982) is set in an American state in the 1930s. Which, in that year there was still slavery of black people.

They in the service right here in Georgia, I say.

(Walker, 1982) (*The Color Purple*, page 122)

The quote above is a sentence that Celie said when one of the employees at the police station. In his speech, there is the word "Georgia" which, Georgia is a United States state that is mentioned and used as a setting in the novel.

In addition, the form of treatment of men towards women who become slaves is when one of Mr.____'s children named Harpo is asked to help someone but he refuses.

Women work, he say

Women work. I'm a man.

(Walker, 1982) (*The Color Purple*, page 20)

The quote above is the sentence that Harpo said to Celie. From what he said, it was obvious that he was very selfish and stubborn. He does not want to be equated with women who work and obey men's orders.

3.1.2.5. Language Style

The language style used in this novel is non-standard language. Due to lack of education, there are many errors in spelling and grammar.

"My father never had kine word spoken to me"

(Walker, 1982) (*The Color Purple*, page 8)

And the last letter written that Celie, Nattie, Shug, Albert, Samuel, Harpo, Sofia, Jack, and Odessa are happy.

"and us so happy"

(Walker, 1982) (*The Color Purple*, page 131)

In some of the letters Celie wrote to "God" there were many mistakes in writing and structuring the correct sentence. The accent Celie uses is not up to standard and is not correct English.

3.1.2.6. Point of View

Point of view in the novel *The Color Purple* (1982) every incident is shown from the main character's point of view. So, it can be said that the point of view in this novel is the first-person point of view.

DEAR GOD,

For over a month I have trouble sleeping. I stay up late as I can before Mr. _____ start complaining bout the price of kerosene.

(Walker, 1982) (*The Color Purple*, page 31)

From one of the letters above, it can be seen that the letter contains feelings and stories about what she was going through at that time. In addition, this point of view can allow readers to be able to position and feel what Celie was feeling at that time.

3.1.3 The factor that causes Celie to have such a personality

3.1.3.1. Internal Factor

The first internal factor that is seen in Celie is her physical form. Judging from the sentence spoken by Nettie.

"I start to wonder why us need love. Why us suffer. Why us black. Why us men and women."

(Walker, 1982) (*The Color Purple*, page 129)

The sentence above is Nettie's question about the injustice she feels with her physical form. From her words it can be seen that she explained about her black physical form. Because Nettie is Celie's sibling, it is possible and it can be interpreted that Celie also has the same skin color and physical shape as Nettie.

3.1.3.2. External Factor

There are the external factors that causes Celie's personality:

1. Family

Since she was a teenager, Celie was in a family that was not harmonious. She and her mother were abused by her stepfather.

Can't you see I'm already half dead, an all of these chilren.

(Walker, 1982) (*The Color Purple*, page 8)

The quote above describes Celie's condition as an orphan girl who struggles with her father's mistreatment. This condition is very important for Celie to behave.

2. Environment

In this novel, Celie is in an environment that is very much surrounded by humans with a rude attitude and despise a woman.

"There is a way that the men speak to women that reminds me too much of Pa. they listen just long enough to issue instruction. They don't even look at women when women are speaking."

(Walker, 1982) (*The Color Purple*, page 85)

The sentence that Nettie said above is a statement that confirms that her father always speaks impolitely. According to her, Tashi's and Pa's fathers both have a bad way of talking to women, namely that they never see the face of the woman they are talking to. Which, her father's attitude meant that he had no respect for women.

3. Education

Since Celie was little, she actually got an education and school with her sister, Nettie.

The first time I got big Pa took me out of school. He never care that I love it. Nettie stood there at the gate holding tight to my hand. I was all dress for first day. You too dumb to keep going to school, Pa say.

(Walker, 1982) (*The Color Purple*, page 15)

The quote above shows that Celie actually went to school with Nettie when she was a child. However, when she was a teenager she was forced out of school by her father. Her father thinks that Celie is a stupid child and according to him only Nettie is smart and deserves to continue her education.

3.2. Discussion

Alice Walker novel entitled *The Color Purple* (1982) is a novel that tells the life of African-American women who face discrimination, violence, and slavery from black men and white people. Based on the analysis conducted by the researcher regarding the personality of Celie's character in *The Color Purple* (1982), how the personality of Celie's character is depicted in *The Color Purple* can be seen through its intrinsic elements. Starting from the theme, the overall theme in this novel is the theme of discrimination and violence against black women. Then, the plot contained in this novel is divided into five parts, namely preface, increasing stage, climax, anti-climax, and resolution. Then, the character and characterization contained in Celie's character in the novel *The Color Purple* (1982) is lack of education, fearful, trauma to man, and never give up. The setting in this novel is in an American state in the 1930s. Next is the style of language used in this novel is non-standard English. In addition, the point of view in this novel is the first point of view. The factor is divided into two, include:

internal factor that contains Celie's physical form and external factor are disharmonious family, an environment surrounded by people who behave rudely, and lack of education. In the formation of personality, education is very influential based on a lot or little knowledge gained. In addition, the existence of education will also show the quality of a person. From the analysis of the personality of Celie's character, this analysis can also be used as a medium of learning in character education.

4. CONCLUSION

There are three personality systems, namely the id, ego, and superego. Based on the results of the analysis, the three have their respective functions and are interrelated. The researcher found the personality system of Celie's character, the intrinsic elements contained in the novel, and also the factors that influence the emergence of the personality.

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