

**THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PAULINE IN SHAPING PECOLA'S
PERSONALITY IN TONI MORISON'S *THE BLUEST EYE***

AN UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of *Sarjana Sastra*
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By

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2008**

A Sarjana Sastra Undergraduate Thesis

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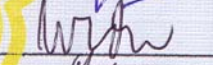
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(Bayu Aribowo)

“Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. But today is a gift, and that is why
it's called the present”

Somebody in Kungfu Panda

This thesis is dedicated to god,
from which the wars, chaoses, and hipocrisies come from,
for which some people would die for,
which is too scared to come down to earth and taste the world itself,
which i did mock when i wrote god without the capital g.
So what are you gonna do?
Put me in your hell?
Don't make me laugh...
A concept can't do nothing but shit
Even though you exist, there is always a time when even god must die.

PERNYATAAN KEASLIAN KARYA

Saya menyatakan dengan sesungguhnya bahwa skripsi yang saya tulis ini tidak memuat karya atau bagian yang lain kecuali yang telah disebutkan dalam kutipan dan daftar pustaka sebagai layaknya karya ilmiah.

Yogyakarta 21 November 2008

Bayu Aribowo

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ABSTRACT

BAYU ARIBOWO. **The Significance of Pauline in Shaping Pecola's Personality in Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye***. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University, 2008.

The Bluest Eye tells about Pecola, a girl who has a dream of being white and having blue eyes. She admires Shirley Temple and Mary Jane as the model of beauty at that time. Instead of being beautiful, she wants to be like them in order to be liked by the society and her family. As a little girl, she does not have a happy childhood like any other children. Her parents often fights and her schoolmates often mock her. She believes all of that are caused by her ugly appearance. Since then, she starts to pursue her dream of being white and having blue eyes. On the other hand, her mother, Pauline, has the characteristics that support her to have an obsessive personality which creates her into an obsessive person too. Therefore, Pauline has taken part to form Pecola's personality.

The objectives of the study are to answer the three main problems. First, it is meant to identify Pauline's characteristics described in the novel. Second is to find Pecola's personality. The third one is to relate the previous two problem formulations which is to find out the significance of Pauline's characteristics in shaping Pecola's personality.

This study applies library research to collect the data related to the topic of the study. This study also applies some appropriate theories to answer the questions stated in the problem formulation. They are the theory on character and characterization and the theory on personality. The writer also uses psychological approach because the focus of the study is analyzing the character's personality.

The analysis results in how the characteristics of a mother can affect her daughter's personality growth. Pauline, as a mother, even though has mostly bad characteristics, such as irresponsible, violent, and selfish, tough she is religious, can also affect Pecola's personality into an obsessive person. Her characteristics establish behaviors that make her ignorant to Pecola and then make Pecola wan to find a perfect form in front of her mother and finally create her a person with the obsessive personality.

ABSTRAK

BAYU ARIBOWO. **The Significance of Pauline in Shaping Pecola's Personality in Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye***. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University, 2008.

The Bluest Eye menceritakan tentang Pecola, seorang gadis yang mempunyai keinginan untuk menjadi putih dan bermata biru. Dia mengagumi Shirley Temple dan Mary Jane sebagai sebuah sosok idola pada masanya. Disamping ingin menjadi cantik, dia ingin seperti mereka juga agar dia disukai oleh masyarakat dan keluarganya. Sebagai seorang gadis, dia tidak mempunyai masa kecil yang bahagia seperti anak-anak yang lain. Orang tuanya sering bertengkar dan teman-teman sekolahnya sering mencemoohnya. Dia meyakini bahwa semua itu berasal dari penampilan fisiknya yang buruk. Selain itu, ibunya, Pauline, mempunyai karakteristik yang membentuk kepribadian Pecola menjadi obsesif sehingga membuatnya menjadi seseorang yang obsesif pula. Dengan begitu, Pauline mempunyai peran dalam membentuk kepribadian Pecola.

Tujuan dari studi ini adalah untuk menjawab tiga permasalahan utama. Pertama, studi ini dimaksudkan untuk menggambarkan tokoh Pauline. Kedua adalah untuk mengetahui kepribadian Pecola. Ketiga adalah menghubungkan kedua rumusan masalah itu yakni untuk mengetahui pengaruh dari karakteristik Pauline terhadap pembentukan kepribadian Pecola.

Studi ini menggunakan metode studi pustaka untuk mengumpulkan data yang berhubungan dengan topik dari studi ini. Studi ini juga menggunakan beberapa teori yang digunakan untuk menjawab pertanyaan-pertanyaan yang ada di rumusan masalah. Teori-teori yang digunakan adalah teori tentang tokoh dan penokohan dan teori tentang kepribadian. Penulis juga menggunakan pendekatan psikologis karena fokus dari studi ini adalah untuk menganalisa kepribadian dari seorang tokoh.

Hasil analisa menunjukkan bagaimana karakteristik dari seorang ibu dapat mempengaruhi pertumbuhan kepribadian putrinya. Sebagai ibu, Pauline, walaupun mempunyai karakteristik yang kebanyakan buruk seperti tidak bertanggung jawab, kasar, dan egois, walaupun dia religius, dapat membuat Pecola menjadi obsesif. Karakteristik Pauline mengendalikan sikapnya menjadi tidak peduli dan mendorong Pecola untuk menemukan sebuah bentuk yang sempurna di mata ibunya dan akhirnya menciptakan sebuah sosok yang berkepribadian obsesif.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literature doesn't have any exact meaning. Literature is sometimes defined as anything written. It is taken from Latin word *littera* which means letter. This root meaning of literature refers primarily to written works. But it is too broad that we can distinguish between literature in the sense of any writing and literature in the sense of verbal work of art and too narrow because it excludes oral literature.

In *Literary Criticism*, Charles E. Bressler's does not mention exactly the definition of literature but he offers a way to understand what literature is by conducting an examination of a text's total artistic situation to decide what constitutes literatures (1999: 12). This then requires the literary competence of the readers themselves to help determining whether a work should be considered literature or else.

Knowing that the readers have different competence that may lead people to have different definition about literature, so it can be concluded that the term literature is subjective. However, there are some standards to define that a work is considered literature. Barnett (1963: 3-5) explains that there are three theories to guide the readers to it. The first one is the imitative theory. Also known as mimetic theory established by Aristotle, this theory holds that art is an imitation of something. It emphasizes that the art gives us not only pleasure but knowledge,

insight into the nature of reality. Imitative theory considers literature as an imitation of life. The second one is the expressive theory. This theory underlines that the artist is not essentially an imitator but a man who expresses his feelings. In another word, a literary work is the output of the expression of the author. The affective theory, as the last theory, gives emphasis to literature as an emotional touch so that literature will induce an emotional state that will lead to action. Literature then becomes a stimulant for the readers to react.

Based on those theories there are some forms of artwork that can be included into literature. They are poems, novels, and plays. Although the term 'literature' doesn't have an exact definition and no one has come up with satisfactory answer about what literature is, those forms are generally accepted by literary society, critics, and public as the common form of literature. One that becomes the writer's object of study is a novel entitled *The Bluest Eye* written by Toni Morrison. This novel is the representation of the first theory that is mentioned before, it is imitative theory. There are some objects that become the form of life imitation in this novel. The one that can be seen clearly is about racial issue that overwhelms, mostly in America, greatly. This novel also carries the affective theory because there are many individuals, especially African-American, inspired by this novel and encourage them to tell their own story such as women like Alice Walker, Gloria Naylor, and Toni Cade Bambara.

Considering that there are many topics can be aroused through the racial issue in this novel, the writer tries to see from another angle. In this undergraduate thesis, the writer will examine how a mother's role shapes her daughter's

personality. In general, mother is the most important person, in this case, who can shape a child's, either boy or girl, personality. Mothers help children grow and develop in a family. Mothers have the unique knack for creating and using comforting and affirming words to help their children develop self confidence, learn more about themselves, and increase their self esteem (http://www.mytreasuringchest.com/parenting/mother_and_child/.html).

In mother and daughter relationship, a special relationship between them is mostly formed. The main reason, whether it is realized or not, is the same sex. The same sex supports them to become closely intimate with each other. This can be seen from the early age when the imitating process begins. Kalish in his book *The Psychology of Human Behavior* explains how children learn through imitation. Being able to imitate someone would be rewarding in and of itself (1973: 95). The daughter imitates her mother starting from using lipstick, dressing up, and other woman thing and her mother often teaches her properly. The continuity of this activity then creates a form of idol in the child's mind which is her mother. She always regards her mother a standard for herself to act and to behave. That is what makes the daughter-mother relationship different from the closeness of mother and son, father and son, or father and daughter.

In this novel, such relationship doesn't occur. Pecola, the daughter, experiences the lack of affection by her parents especially from her mother. Apparently, her mother, Pauline, who had been ignorant to her family, also did not provide sufficient support needed by Pecola who had been an adolescent who had many problems at her age.

Pecola is very obsessed in having white skin, blonde hair, and especially blue eyes as the form of beautiful woman. She has a dream of being like Shirley Temple or Mary Jane who becomes idols at that time but she both consciously and unconsciously does not realize that her physical appearance does not support her to be so. Not only her physical appearance, does her environment also not support her either. Starting from her closest relative, family, her brother never puts a serious look into his parents who always fought at home. He never tries to become a good brother and a good friend at once for Pecola. Her father is a drunkard who always harasses his wife both verbally and physical and does not care whether his children are present or not.

Having a limited peer environment, she only has several friends who want to go along with her. Besides, her white friends always treat her unfairly. This creates an unhealthy personality inside Pecola. But instead of her environment, her mother had the most important role. Realized or not, Pauline also has a buried dream like Pecola and it affects Pecola's personality too.

After knowing all those facts, it is obvious that the role of the mother, Pauline, is not much for Pecola. But through this study, the writer wants to comes up to the surface with an attention to this and later it will be observed that Pauline's ignorance to her daughter Pecola actually plays an important role in shaping Pecola's personality.

B. Problem Formulation

The writer formulates three problems as follows:

1. How is Pauline characterized in the novel?
2. How is Pecola's personality described?
3. What is the significance of Pauline's characteristics in shaping Pecola's personality?

C. Objectives of the Study

In this study, firstly the writer tries to find out how Pauline's personality is described in the novel and then continues on describing Pecola's personality. After that, the writer will relate those two personalities to discover the significance of Pauline's personality in shaping Pecola's personality

D. Definition of Terms

1. Personality

According to Lazarus, personality is the whole integrated pattern of behavior which distinguishes one man from another as uniquely as fingerprints and as distinctively as photograph (Lazarus, 1967: 9). This definition is also strengthened by Kimball Young who states that personality is imagined to be a particular possession which certain persons have in abundance but which others do not possess or at best have only in small abundant (Young, 1940: 3).

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL REVIEW

A. Review of Related Studies

The Bluest Eye was the first novel written by Toni Morrison, originally Chloe Anthony Wofford, an African American writer who received noble prize in literature in 1993. As an African American writer, she wrote this novel explaining the true situation of the environment where and at the time when she lived. The writer talks about the racial issue and the discrimination happened to the black people in this novel. That arouses many critics and studies about it as well. There are plenty studies that have a discussion about this topic.

One of them is the study of the black society portrayed in the novel by Lita Ambarwati in her thesis *The Portrayal of Black Society in the United States from the Late 1930s to the Beginning of 1940s in the Setting of Toni Morrison's The Bluest Eye*. In this undergraduate thesis, she explains how the setting in the novel becomes a mirror of the situation of the reality in the real place. She concludes that the novel reveals two important events: the end of the great depression and the beginning of the Second World War. The great depression, as the fall of American economy, turns the black from poor to even poorer. On the other hand, the Second World War creates a big difference in income between black and white in the United States in 1940s. This is what the novel describes about. The setting of the novel also brings up the problem occur between blacks and whites, precisely social discrimination, and also the problem among blacks. This

description in the novel also becomes the representation of what happened in the entire United States about black and white in 1940s (2003: vii).

The character inside the novel, mainly Pecola, also becomes an interesting point to be observed. There are many studies which has examined this character. One of them is *The Influence of Society toward Identity Crisis in Toni Morrison's The Bluest Eye*, a thesis by Rini Susilowati. This thesis reveals how the main character, Pecola, is influenced by society. She explains how family and the people in the society give significant influence to the identity crisis that is experienced by Pecola. Pecola's family lives in a bad condition. Moreover, her father and mother never concern about her life. They do not care about Pecola's mental development. They even show rejection toward Pecola. Therefore, inside Pecola, there is a feeling arising about low self-confidence. She concludes that they reject her because she is ugly and unworthy. The people around her also show the act of rejection. She always receives humiliation and mockery. This makes her trapped deeper more in the feeling of low self-confidence which then leads her to suffer the crisis of identity. In her depressed mind, she experiences role confusion about herself. She wants to change herself in order to get acceptance from others (2005: viii).

There is a similarity between the thesis above and the writer's thesis which is how something can affect someone's personality. The difference is that the writer's topic will focus more specifically in the relation between mother's characteristics and the daughter's personality. Rini Susilowati has already concluded Pecola's personality that is shaped by the identity crisis she suffers. In

the writer's later analysis, an examination through the Pecola's characterization will result in the different output of the personality from what Rini has analyzed.

The writer's study will explain how the personality of Pecola is influenced much by her mother, Pauline. This study is meant to give an understanding of how the characteristic of mother gives significant influence to her daughter. Even though the mother is still always around her daughter, she doesn't take much part in taking care the daughter. Although so, the mother figure still has a large contribution in the growth of Pecola's personality.

B. Review of Related Theories

1. Theory on Character and Characterization

Stanton states that characters are the individuals who appear in the story, but in order to understand characters, he also mentions that there is also a mixture of interests, desires, emotions, and principles that makes up each of these individuals so that readers can understand the characters (Stanton, 1965: 17). M.H. Abrams in his book *A Glossary of Literary Terms* explained characters as the persons presented in a dramatic or narrative work who is interpreted by the readers as being endowed with a moral and disposition quality that are expressed in what they say from their dialogues and by what they do through their actions (1981:23). Based on this definition, the character's dialogue and the character's action can give the writer supportive ideas and evidence to explain the character's nature because it is the way of the author to give some understanding about a character to the readers.

Abrams also separates character into two kinds. Firstly is major character and secondly is minor character. A major character is the center of the story. This character becomes the most important character in the story. Usually the acts of the story are focused on this character from the beginning to the ending part. On the other hand, a minor character appears in a certain setting, just necessarily to become the background for the major character (1981: 23).

Richard M. Eastman explains in his book entitled *A Guide to the Novel* that characterization is divided into three elements, which are the selective development, the moral stature and the psychology. In selective development, characters are distinguished into round, or complex, character and flat, or simple, character. Round characters often appear as the center of the story. They look like real human beings with their complex aspects such as temperaments and sometimes they surprise the readers with unexpected behavior. They are dynamic because they are in tension as the author develops round characters fully. The roundness of the character aims to gain the readers sympathy because they illustrate the uncertainty, the sufferings, and the needs they face (1965: 17).

Flat characters are represented by the author's view in one side. Flat character may typify a social or economic class, a virtue or a folly, a basic temperament or outlook. Because the flat character is a type, his traits are highly selected and consistent. The author usually does not develop them as fully as the major character. On the other hand, they are not likely to engage in inner conflicts, unlikely to change, static, and their responses are predictable (1965: 18).

Moral stature is the element within the characters that involve the readers' attentions. The goodness and the badness of the characters are measured by the readers through popular morality as a reference. It depends on the tendency towards such virtues and vices and the powers or the properties that the characters can bring to bear in doing good or evil (1965: 20).

Psychology is the element of the character in which a character must be described to have a mental life from which his choices are generated in some connected way. The traits of the character's mental life have much to do with his vitality and authenticity, and it affects the reader's engagement with him. In analyzing the character's mental life, the precise questions to rise refer to the main desires or traits that move him and the opposing traits that put him under strain (1965: 23).

Each author has his own style to present the character in the novel. They can use either direct presentation or indirect presentation. Laurence Perrine explains how those presentations are used in his book *Literature: Structure, Sound, and Sense*. Direct presentation is used when the author tells the readers straight out, by exposition or by analysis, what a character is like, or someone else in the story tells what he is like. In indirect presentation, the author shows us the character in action. The readers infer what he is like from what he thinks or what he says (1974:71).

Roger B. Henkle said that characterization is central to the fictional experience. And the principal objective of the creation of characters in novel is to understand and to experience people (1977: 86). This means that characterization is the way of how people understand the characters.

There are some ways to understand the characters in a novel. M.J. Murphy, in his book *Understanding Unseen: An Introduction to English Poetry and Novel for Overseas Students* proposes some methods of how the author describes the characters and personalities of the characters in a novel and makes his characters more understandable, and come alive, for readers, so that the readers know and understand what sort of people they are (1972:161-173).

The first is personal description. The author attempts to describe a person's physical appearance and his personal attributes directly. Physical appearance includes face, skin color, eyes, etc. while personal attribute includes clothes, shoes, guns, hat, etc. Through those two things, a description of a certain character then springs immediately into focus in reader's mind and eyes.

The second is character as seen by another. The author can describe him through the eyes and opinions of other characters in the novel. In this way, the author describes the character indirectly. The reader gets, as it were, a reflected image.

The third one is from the character's speech. The author can give the reader an insight into the character of one of the person in the book through what the person says. Whenever a person speaks or is in conversation with another or

puts forward an opinion, he is giving the reader some leads to understand his character.

The fourth is from the character's past life. By letting the reader learn about a person's past life, the author can give the reader a clue to events that have helped to shape a person's character. This can be done by direct comment by the author, through the person's thoughts, through his conversation or by the medium of another person.

The fifth is through the conversation of other characters. Here the other characters play an important role as a guide to describe the character being spoken by doing conversation. The author can give the reader clues to a person's character through the conversation of other people and the things that they say about the character.

The sixth is from the reactions. The reader can also get the person's character by knowing how that person reacts to various situations and events. Direct comment becomes the next way to understand a character. The author can describe or comment on a person's character directly.

The eighth is thoughts. The author can give the reader the direct knowledge of what person is thinking of. In this aspect he is able to do what the reader can not do in real life which is he can tell the reader what different people are thinking. In the novel, this is acceptable. The reader then is in privileged position; he has, as it were, a secret listening device plugged in to the inmost thoughts of a person in the novel.

The last is mannerisms. The author can describe the character through a series of action, such as mannerisms or habits. This may also tell us something about his character.

2. Theory on the Relation between Psychology and Literature

Rene Wellek and Austin Warren in their book *Theory of Literature* define the psychology of literature as the psychological study of the writer as a type of individual, or the study of the psychological types and laws presented within the works of literature, or finally, the effects of literature upon its readers (1956: 81). They also state that the psychology can enlighten the creative process of a work of literature. Characters in novels and plays are judged to be 'psychologically' true.

In *The Psychology of Human Behavior*, Kalish states that literature holds the mirror up to the man. An author makes the characters seem more life-like than the real people whose behavior the psychologist attempt to describe. The authors can use the understanding provided by psychologist to enrich the characteristics of the characters and psychologist can gain their understanding of human behavior by drawing from the deep sensitivity from good author (1973: 8).

Those theorists explain that psychology and literature have closeness in relationship. Supporting Barnet's theory about imitative theory, any theory that can be used to study human can also be applied to analyze characters in a novel too since those characters also have similarity to human in common and this includes psychology. There are many psychological theories to analyze a

character in the novel. Even though so, the writer will limit the theories only about personalities and psychoanalytic theory.

3. Theories of Psychology

Morris defines psychology as the science of behavior and mental processes (1990: 2). There are some ways to look psychology on the kinds of interests and concerns that psychologists have. This part consists of several psychological theories that will be used in discussing the topic.

i. Theory of personality

Many theorists have their own perceptions about personality and present it into various definitions. Guilford defines personality as an individual's unique pattern of traits (1959: 5). Walter Mischel defines personality as the distinctive patterns of behavior (including thoughts and emotions) that characterize each individual's adaptation to the situations of his or her life (1976: 2).

Allport defines personality as the dynamic organization within the individual of those psychophysical systems that determine his unique adjustment to his environment. In that definition, there are several terms that need to be understood. *Dynamic organization* is regarded as a constant evolvment and changing as well as constant motivational and as a self-regulating of the character. *Psychological systems* are habits, specific and general attitudes, sentiment and dispositions of other orders. The term *system* refers to traits or group of trait in a latent or active condition (1970: 7).

Determine is a natural consequence of their biographical view. Personality is something and does something and lies behind specific acts and within the individual. *Unique* is strictly speaking every adjustment of every person. Every person is unique in time and place and quality.

Jersild explains in his book *Child Psychology* that individual is considered as a social being from the time when his/her life begins. The individual's complete dependence upon others has become the powerful influences as long as he/she lives (1954: 177). Since an individual is dependant upon others, that individual will either bring influence to or receive influence from other people. As a result, the behavior of an individual will be very much influenced by the social environment and that includes family especially parents.

According to Freud, he proposed that personality is composed of three major systems which are id, ego, and superego. Each system has its own function. Even though so, in mentally healthy person, those three interact to govern behavior. By working together cooperatively, they enable individual to carry on efficient and satisfying transaction with his/her environment. The purpose of those transactions is the fulfillment of human's basic needs and desires. When these three systems of personality are at odds one with another, a person can be said to be maladjusted. He is dissatisfied with himself and with the world, and his efficiency is reduced (Hall, 1954: 22). These three are not physical entities but labels for three aspects of personality functioning.

a. Id

Freud characterizes the id as a reservoir of psychic energy that can be neither increased nor decreased (1983: 414). Id is the most primitive part of the personality which is present in the newborn infant and from which the ego and superego later develop. The sole function of the id is to provide for the immediate discharge of quantities of excitation that are released in the organism by internal or external stimulation. The id operates according to the pleasure principle. It tries to obtain immediate gratification and thus to pursue pleasure and avoid pain.

Since the id is not in contact to the real world, it never considers value, norm, ethic, or morality. It is only driven by one consideration, which is to seek satisfaction for instinctual needs accordance to the pleasure principle. Although so, the id can be brought to the reality with the link of ego.

b. Ego

Ego is the part of one's personality that controls all thinking and reasoning activities. It develops from the need of organism to make transaction with the world. Through the senses, the ego learns about the external world.

It is noted earlier that in seeking to replace discomfort with comfort, the id acts according to pleasure principle. In contrast, the ego is governed by the reality principle because it has contact with outer world beside self. It means that to fulfill the needs, the ego will use the reality principle to find an actual object that exists in the real world to satisfy the needs. The ego tries to delay satisfying the id's desires until it can do so safely and successfully.

In the reality principle, the ego uses a process called reality testing. The reality testing involves a plan of action developed through thought and reason. Ordinarily, this process is known as problem solving or thinking. The ego is largely a product of an introduction with the environment. Also its lines of development are laid down by heredity and guided by natural growth process/maturation. This means that every person has inborn potentialities to think and to reason. The realization of these potentialities is brought about by experience, training and education.

The rational function of the ego is to be successful in obtaining more and more of the energy from the reservoir in the id and in the end to satisfy the id itself. The ego is often called the executive agency of personality because it controls the individual's action and manipulates the environment. Through this basic ego function of finding realistic means to satisfy the id, the mind develops and refines its higher cognitive functions: perception, learning, discrimination, memory, judgment, and planning.

However, the ego can fail its task, which is to satisfy the id. A person who wants something to be true very much will fool himself into thinking that it is true. A person with a strong ego will have weak id and superego (Hall, 1954: 45). In overall, not only its relation to the id, the ego mediates between the id, the super-ego and the external world. Its task is thus to find a balance between primitive drives, morals and reality.

c. *Superego*

Superego is the last part of human's personality that appears after id and ego. Superego is the internalized representation of the values and morals of society as taught to the child by parents and society itself. Superego also becomes the compensation of the human's connection to the reality. It represents the ideal rather than the real and it strives for perfection rather than for reality or pleasure. This superego then becomes a person's moral code.

The superego is made up of two subsystems. The first one is ego ideal. The ego ideal corresponds to the child's conceptions of what his parents consider to be morality good. The parents convey their standards virtue to the child by rewarding him for conduct which is in line with these standards. The conscience corresponds to the child's conception of what his parents feel morally bad is, and this process establishes through the punishment. Ego ideal and conscience are opposite sides of the same moral coin (Hall, 1954: 31).

In relation with id and ego, it seems that the superego, as the moral guardian of a self, should always oppose the id because the id, allies with ego, fulfills the purpose of gratifying the instinct. But the superego can also be manipulated by the id in gaining satisfaction for the instincts. That is, the superego can act as the agent of the id both in relation to the external world and to the ego (Hall, 1954: 48).

There are no sharp boundaries between those three systems. Just because they have different names doesn't mean that they are separate entities. The names id, ego, and superego actually signify nothing in them. They are merely a

shorthand way of designating different processes, function, mechanism, and dynamism within the total personality.

Ideally, in a normal personality person, the id, ego, and superego work in harmony. The ego is formed out of the id, the superego from the ego, and those two interact to serve id. The ego satisfies the demands of the id in a reasonable moral manner approved by the superego. The imbalance role of each part will result in imbalance in personality, for example the personality consisted of only ego and id would be completely selfish (Morris, 1990: 452).

Generally, there are plenty definitions of personality and each theorist has different definition about personality but all those definitions refer to the same basic idea which is unique and enduring on the way a person behaves, thinks, interacts, and responds toward a variety of situations.

ii. Theory of Agression

Agression, as stated by Baron, is the intentional infliction of some of harm on others (1997: 392). It is one part of psychology called social psychology. Social psychology concerns on the influence of people on one another. Because this thesis is mainly about the relationship between mother and daughter, the writer will limit this theory only about the influence of the aggression from family especially parents.

In *Social Psychology*, Baron and Byrne state that the basic aspects of the self concept develop within the family through the social interactions that occur there. The family's role in molding one's self concept is very important

(1997: 273). Early social development, as said by Ross Vasta in *Child Psychology*, is very much influenced by parent's child-rearing attitudes and practices. Parents' belief regarding the degree to which their behavior determines the child's success in life affects how they approach the task of socializing the child.

In social psychology, there are two important forms of aggression in long-term relationship which are child abuse and workplace violent (1997: 416). Child abuse, or can be called, child maltreatment involves sociocultural variable factor such as poverty, crowded living conditions, frequent moves, and isolation from others (1997: 417). Those are the important aspects of how a child's personality can change according to their social relationship and environmental condition

Knowing that people influence each other and a child's growth is dependant on family as the first social interaction, this theory is appropriate since Pecola is known as a girl who lacks of affection and often receives aggressive behavior from her part of the family which is her mother. It becomes a basic theory to understand how a child's personality is formed through the influence of mother's behavior especially the aggressive one.

C. Theoretical Framework

In the analysis, the writer will answer the problem formulation by applying the theories mentioned above. The theory of character and characterization will be useful in explaining both characters Pecola and Pauline. Then it becomes a significant theory to answer the first, about how Pauline is characterized in the

story, and the second problem formulation, about how Pecola's personality is described.

The theory on the relation between psychology and literature is used when the topic about psychology is raised in analyzing literature. It is then automatically included in this study since this study also talk about the psychological issue about the characters in the novel. The theory of psychology will be used to explain some part about Pauline's characteristic and Pecola's personality as well.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

A. Object of the Study

The novel that becomes the object of the study of this undergraduate thesis is *The Bluest Eye* written by Toni Morrison. This is the first novel of this African-American Nobel-prize-winner writer. This novel tells a story about the life of an African-American adolescent girl named Pecola. In the novel, she is storied to be a girl who wants to be a beautiful girl by having blonde hair, white skin, and especially blue eyes. She is very obsessed by those things that make her willing to do everything that will make her to be beautiful even though it is irrational and only satisfies her mind. As an example, she likes to drink milk which has picture of Shirley Temple, as the figure of an idol at that time, on it and the way she drinks it is very slow and little by little so that she will become white like Shirley Temple.

Not only regarded as an ugly girl by both herself and society, she also gets less even no affection especially by her family. She has a tragic life by having an ignorant family. Her father is a drunker and likes to have fight with her mother especially when drunk. Her mother is a housemaid of a white family and has an important role in that family, that makes her give not enough affection to her own daughter, Pecola. She also has an older brother. He is also not different far from the other family members. He doesn't give a good example to his sister by heating up situation every time their parents have a quarrel. He also likes to leave the

house when they fight. Pecola then only counts on her friends to hang along and play everyday.

This novel is divided into four parts which each part is named with a season. Although concerning on the character Pecola and the narrator is not Pecola herself, the third person, or the author, each part doesn't only talk about Pecola but also the other family member and it is explained in details, such as how Pauline meets Cholly, makes love with him, until she delivers her first child. Cholly is also storied in detail here from the time he is caught making love by the white guys when he was still a child until how he becomes a drunker.

B. Approach of the Study

When analyzing a literary work, a certain approach needs to be applied because the way the writer analyze will be based on that approach. To answer the problem formulations stated, the writer has concluded that the most appropriate approach to explore them is psychological approach. Rohrberger and Woods give the definition of psychological approach which is an approach to literature which involves the effort to locate and demonstrate certain recurrent patterns and which refers to a different body of knowledge, that is psychology (1971: 13). The psychological approach also brings us to analyze the novel as a work of literature from the psychological point of view of human being.

Mary Rohrberger and Samuel H. Woods in *Reading and Writing about Literature* states that psychological approach is the effort to locate and demonstrate certain recurrent patterns, but a different body of knowledge that is

psychology. This approach uses the psychological theories to explain human motivation, personality, and behavior patterns in literary objects (1971: 65)

The psychological approach also becomes the most suitable approach since the writer examines the psychological side of both characters. The writer counts on this approach to analyze both characters as the representation of the answer of the first two problem formulations thoroughly and also can be used to answer the third problem formulation as well since the relation between mother and daughter can also be possibly studied with the psychological approach.

C. Method of the Study

To answer the problem formulation in the analysis as the main objective of this study, the writer needs to collect various valid data required. Therefore, the writer took library research to collect data relating to the topic of the study. The library research is the most important way mainly in literary research to analyze a literary work. The writer separated the sources to support this thesis into two parts, they were the primary data and secondary data.

The primary data that the writer used was the novel Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*. Other than that, the writer also used the secondary data from various theory books. Those books are Abrams' *A Glossary of Literary Terms*, Bressler's *Literary Criticism*, Barnett's *Literature for Composition*, Kalish's *The Psychology of Human Behavior*, Eastman's *A Guide to the Novel*, Perrine's *Literature: Structure, Sound, and Sense*, Woods' *Reading and Writing about Literature*, M.J. Murphy's *Understanding Unseen: An Introduction to English Poetry and Novel*

for Overseas Students, Wellek and Warren's *Theory of Literature*, Jersild's *Child Psychology*, and Morris' *Psychology Today*. Besides the written form, the writer also used online source to provide some information related to the novel.

First of all, reading the novel written by Toni Morrison entitled *The Bluest Eyes* was done several times deeply and thoroughly to help the writer get the complete understanding about it. The writer then formulated the problems into questions. After that, the writer focused more to the characters that become the main concern of this study, which are Pauline and Pecola.

Secondly, the writer applied the theory on character and characterization and the theory of psychology to answer the problem formulations. The theories were used firstly to analyze Pauline characteristic as the mother and secondly Pecola's personality as the daughter. After that, the writer used those two findings to relate how Pecola's personality is affected by her mother, Pauline, also with the theory of psychology. For the last part, the writer drew the conclusion based on the analysis.

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the writer will reveal the topic by answering the problem formulations in sequence. In the first part, the writer will analyze the characterization of Pauline in the novel. Secondly, the personality of the character Pecola will be described. Finally, the answer of those two problem formulations will become the significant point to lead the writer to answer the last problem formulation which is how Pauline's characteristic can give a major influence toward Pecola's personality shaping.

1. The Characteristics of Pauline

In this part, the writer wants to give a detailed explanation about her characteristics. The first characteristic of Pauline which is easily observed is her being an irresponsible mother. This can be proved from her affection she gives to her family, both as a wife and as a mother. Her irresponsibility as a wife begins when she finally lost her patience after her husband, Cholly, does not change his behavior. In the first time in her early marriage, she could accept his husband's being drunk because she believed that he could change it and it is not his habit to be a drunkard. In fact, she even chose her husband when she was faced to the options she had to choose between keep working and leave Cholly or stop working and go with Cholly as explained in the quotation below:

He come there wanting some money. When that white woman see him, she turned red. She tried to act strong-like, but she was scared bad. Anyway, she told Cholly to get out or she would call the police. He cussed her and started pulling on me. I would of gone upside his head, but I don't want no dealing with the police. So I taken my things and left. I tried to get back, but she didn't want me no more if I was going to stay with Cholly. She said she would left me stay if I left him. I thought about that. But later on it didn't seem none too bright for a black woman to leave a black man for a white woman (p 120).

She even does it after knowing that Cholly is a drunker and he often does violation to her. But when he knows that she was carrying their first baby, he starts to change and drops off his drinking behavior. But then he betrays his wife's trust by committing a crime by burning a house that makes him being put to jail and when he comes out, he still comes up with his old drinking behavior. This makes Pauline's patience runs out and she never takes care of him anymore since he is out of jail as the form of his ignorance.

This however makes Pauline a selfish person too. Actually, she wants to leave him knowing the fact that he is no longer a good husband to her anymore and he cannot fulfill her criteria about the man of her dream. She sometimes dreads her life with him and she often dreams of leaving him and creates another new life. But there is one and the only thing that insists her to maintain her marriage with him. It is his sexual appeal that holds her from breaking them apart. Cholly has a masculine body and a good love making skill that keep Pauline attached to him. On the other hand, Pauline also enjoys her sexual life with him although their relationship is not in a good harmony. In the novel, Pauline also explains how she makes love with Cholly from the foreplay until they reach

climax in details and that creates an understanding that Pauline takes very much pleasure from it and she cannot stand leaving it.

Pauline is proved to be an egoistic woman seen from the way she follows her pursuit of happiness. At first, she follows Cholly as the representation of her dream having a romantic relationship with a man. Then, when Cholly cannot give her what she has dreamt of anymore, she turns her affection to the white family who has given her a new job as a housemaid and baby sitter. This family represents her dream about the beauty concept she found in the movies she often watched. Although she is not the part of the family, she can do what she likes and she used to do there such as how she likes to arrange things in order.

Here she could arrange things, clean things, line things up in neat rows. Here her foot flopped around on deep pile carpets, and there was no uneven sound. Here she found beauty, order, cleanliness, and praise (p. 127).

This however makes the Fishers, the white family where she works for, love her because it makes her a good and hard worker. As the matter of fact, the family even gives her a nickname, a thing which she could never have since she was a little girl, which cannot make her happier. In the novel, she is storied to own the power, praise, and luxury in the Fishers' house (p. 128). It makes her very comfortable and feel like home there.

She seems to enjoy it and be very happy when she is working with the family. But in the other hand, her comfortable feeling working in the family reveals the egoist side of her. How she becomes an egoist person is indicated when she finds another thing that provides happiness, she would come to it and

she does not care about the previous thing which has given her happiness before because she has found a new place to be happy and regards that the happiness in the previous thing is not sufficient anymore.

She always puts the things which always give her happiness into priority and abandons everything other than that behind, including her family. Since she works in the Fishers, she finds happiness that she cannot find in her own house. This can be seen through her ignorance to her family. She never takes care of her family anymore. She neglects her husband and it is even worst to Pecola, she even chooses to calm the Fisher's little girl rather than take care of her own painful daughter when she accidentally spoils the blueberry juice. She even spans her.

It may have been nervousness, awkwardness, but the pan tilted under Pecola's fingers and fell to the floor, splattering blackish blueberry everywhere. Most of the juice splashed on Pecola's legs, and the burn must have been painful, for she cried out and began hopping about just as Mrs. Breedlove entered with a tightly packed laundry bag. In one gallop she was on Pecola, and with the back of her hand knocked her to the floor. Pecola slid in the pie juice, one leg folding under her. Mrs. Breedlove yanked her up by the arm, slapped her again, and in a voice thin with anger, abused Pecola directly and Frieda and me by implication (p. 109).

This also proves that Pauline is a violent woman. Not only to Pecola, she also often fights with her husband, Cholly. Not only by speech, they also fight physically. They often use household utensils to hurt each other.

Cholly and Mrs. Breedlove fought each other with a darkly brutal formalism that was paralleled only by their lovemaking. Tacitly, they had agreed not to kill each other. He fought her the way a coward fights a man –with feet, the palm of his hands, and teeth. She, in turn, fought back in purely feminine way –with frying pans and pokers, and occasionally a flatiron would sail toward his head (p. 43).

They also do not care if their children are there, caught in the middle on their fight even though they have tried to stop the fight, showing how Pauline becomes an ignorant woman to the children. The quotations above show how Pauline has become a violent, rude and harsh woman, different from when she was still virgin or had no children yet.

The other thing that becomes the proof of her being violent is her treatment toward her first child, Sammy Breedlove. He often neglects him by not giving much attention to him instead of fighting with her husband. As the result, Sammy often runs away from the house because he does not feel comfortable at home knowing the fact that Pauline and Cholly often fight at home and they have their own world, Pauline with her job as a servant in the Fishers family and Cholly with his drinking habit, as explained by Claudia when she tells a story about Pauline

She had long ago given up the new idea of running away to see new pictures, new faces, as Sammy had so often done. He never took her, and he never thought about his going ahead of time, so it was never planned (p. 45).

To her daughter, Pecola, Pauline has even done worst. Even from the first time she came out from her belly, she has stated her rejection toward her by giving a direct comment that she is an ugly person right after she delivered her. She is different from what Pauline has expected before.

Anyways, the baby come. Big old healthy thing. She looked different from what I thought. Reckon I talked to it so much before I conjured up a mind's eye view of it. So when I seed it, it was like looking at a picture of your mama when she was a girl. You know who she is, but she don't look the same..... Eyes all soft and wet. A cross between a puppy and a dying man. But I knowed she was ugly. Head full of pretty hair, but Lord she was ugly (p. 125-126).

Actually, this kind of rejection originates from her experience after moving to the North with Cholly. She learns from the movies she often watches that being beauty means being white.

Along with the idea of romantic love, she was introduced to another – physical beauty. Probably the most destructive ideas in the history of human thought. Both originated in envy, thrived in insecurity, and ended in disillusion ... She was never able, after her education in the movies, to look at a face and not assign it some category in the scale of absolute beauty, and the scale was one she absorbed in full from the silver screen (p. 122).

Whiteness is the standard of beauty that transforms Pauline into product of hatred and ignorance including the hatred and the ignorance to her own daughter because she does not meet the criteria she wants as her daughter. It is not the matter of being white that becomes a problem with Pecola but it is the beauty and the ugliness that matter. This is the early reason why she abandons Pecola.

All of those bad characteristics of a woman are firstly caused by her imperfect physical appearance. She is storied as a limp person. She has a wound which made her walk like a crippled person. It makes her distinctly different from her other brother and sisters.

Although she was the ninth of eleven children and lived on a ridge of red Alabama clay seven miles from the nearest road, the complete indifference with which a rusty nail was met when it punched clear through her foot during her second year of life saved Pauline Williams from total anonymity. The wound left her with a crooked, archless foot that flopped when she walked-not a limp that would have eventually twisted her spine, but a way of lifting the bad foot as though she was extracting it from little whirlpool that threatened to pull it under (p. 110).

Knowing that she is flawed, she started to have a dream about the thing mentioned above such as being with a man with romantic life, having a concept of beauty strengthened by watching movies that starred by the white people, creating a quiet personality and a dreamer person whom she is obsessed with. It then reveals her own real characteristics as being violent, becoming an ignorant woman because she cannot stand the things that do not give her like what she thought, and later becomes irresponsible to those things.

Although it seems that Pauline is a bad person either as a mother or a wife, she still has a positive side even though she uses it for a negative and incorrect purpose. She is shown as a religious woman. She has her own idea of who Jesus, her god, is.

Mrs. Breedlove considered herself an upright and Christian woman, burdened with a no count man, whom god wanted her to punish. (Cholly was beyond redemption, of course, and redemption was hardly the point – Mrs Breedlove was not interested in Christ the redeemer, but rather Christ the judge) (p 42).

She often prays to god but mostly only to get rid of her husband. It is the representation of what the writer meant about the negative and incorrect purpose.

Often she could be heard discoursing with Jesus about Cholly, pleading with him to help her “strike the bastard down from his pea-knuckle of pride” and once when a drunken gesture catapulted Cholly into the red-hot stove, she screamed “Get, him, Jesus! Get him!” (p. 42)

2. Pecola’s Personality

Pecola is the daughter of Pauline. As a child, she wants to be a person who is completely different from what she is right now. She wants to have white skin, blonde hair, and mostly blue eyes while her condition as an Afro American shows the opposite situation from what she wants to be, which is surely black both skin and eyes color and also curly black hair.

She is obsessed with having those three things in order to be a beautiful woman. As the impact of racial issue, the African-American is regarded as the lower class in America and that makes the standard of the beauty is in the highest class which is the American. The American sets the standard of a beautiful woman as having white skin, blonde hair, and blue eyes just like what Pecola wants. This then makes her struggle to change her appearance so that she can be what she wants to be. But his way of getting those things is quite irrational. From this starting point, the writer can come to an early conclusion that Pecola is having a personality which is affected by her obsession to be a white girl as the standard of beauty in the society so that she can be accepted in both family and society.

She becomes a girl whose behavior is controlled by her obsession. According to Davison and Neale, obsessions are intrusive and recurring thoughts, impulses, and images that come unbidden to the mind and appear irrational and uncontrollable to the individual experiencing them (1980: 134). There is a very

disturbing mind in Pecola that she wants to be beautiful by being white and having blue eyes. This becomes irrational because a girl at her age should be aware of the condition of her physical appearance while Pecola still believes that she can be like Shirley Temple. How she wants to be a white girl is shown by her excessive admiration to Shirley Temple as the form of her obsession, she drinks so much milk so that she can see the face of Shirley Temple in the milk's cup.

“Three quarts of milk. That’s what was *in* that icebox yesterday. Three whole quarts. Now they ain’t none.....What the devil does *anybody* need with *three* quarts of milk?”.....We knew she was fond of the Shirley Temple cup and took every opportunity to drink milk out of it just to handle and see sweet Shirley’s face. My mother knew that Frieda and I hated milk and assumed Pecola drank it out of greediness. (p.23)

How she is truly obsessed is also portrayed by Frieda in the first chapter, Autumn. She often sees Pecola eating Mary Jane candy. She can tell how meaningful it is to Pecola.

Each pale yellow wrapper has a picture on it. A picture of little Mary Jane, for whom the candy is named. Smiling white face. Blond hair in gently disarray, blue eyes looking at her out of a world of clean comfort. The eyes are petulant, mischievous. To Pecola, they are simply pretty. She eats the candy, and its sweetness is good. To eat the candy is somehow to eat the eyes, eat Mary Jane. Love Mary Jane. Be Mary Jane (p. 50).

In Frieda’s eyes, Pecola looks very obsessed with being white and beautiful like Mary Jane, a child artist who becomes the model in the milk cup who is admired by Pecola. How Frieda stories Pecola’s excessive obsession is explained in the very last of the quotation above. Pecola really wants to be like Mary Jane that makes her have a different sensation when she eats the candy. It is

like when she eats the candy she can be just like Mary Jane. Her passion is so enormous that lets Frieda can also understand how it feels without asking Pecola about it. Even though so, she is proved to be a religious girl. It can be seen from how she prays every night in order to get blue eyes that she always dreams of.

Each night, without fail, she prayed for blue eyes. Fervently, for a year she had prayed. Although somewhat discouraged, she was not without hope. To have something as wonderful as that happen would take a long, long time (p.46)

How she becomes a girl with a strong belief to god is seen when she prays every night for a year like explained in the quotation. That shows how she understands the key concept of praying, which is patience. She gets the point that the bigger wish she wants god to fulfill, the more time it takes. Not only for blue eyes, she also prays when her parents fight because she could not stand of it and even though her brother is there too, he does not do what a brother should do in such situation such as calming her down or taking her away from there. She then says her pray to make herself disappear from the situation. But because of her obsession, she then cannot differentiate between religious and superstitious anymore. In the novel, she is storied to have gone to Soaphead Church, a psychologically rather disturbed religious West Indian. She comes to him in order to change her eyes into blue.

“What can I do for you, my Child?”

She stood there, her hands folded across her stomach, a little protruding pot of tummy. “Maybe. Maybe you can do it for me.”

“Do what for you?”

“I can’t go to school no more. And I thought maybe you could help me.”

“Help you how? Tell me. Don’t be frightened.”

“My eyes.”

“What about your eyes?”

“I want them blue” (p.173-174)

Pecola has been told before that he is rather insane but she still comes to him to get her eyes blue. Her obsession here strikes her mind badly so that she desperately comes to Soaphead Church and worst, she obeys what she is ordered to that is quite irrational. Soaphead Church tells her to make an offering so that she can get what she wishes for. He told her to poison the dog.

“We must make, ah, some offering, that is, some contact with nature. Perhaps some simple creature might be the vehicle through which He will speak. Let us see.” (p. 175)

This irrational order is even done by Pecola. This becomes one of the proofs that Pecola is influenced strongly by her own obsessive mind. Based from those facts mentioned above, there is a strong indication that Pecola has been affected by her obsessive thought.

Davison and Neale, quoting the investigation of Akhter about the content of obsessive compulsive disorder, identify 5 distinguishable forms of obsession, they are obsessive doubts, obsessive thinking, obsessive impulses, obsessive fears, and obsessive images (1980: 134). From those five identifications, Pecola is diagnosed to be a person having obsessive thinking. Obsessive thinking is seemingly endless chains of thoughts, usually focusing on future events. Pecola has a thought if only she is different from what she is right now, everything would be different too.

If those eyes of hers were different, that is to say, beautiful, she herself would be different, that is to say, beautiful, she herself would be different. Her teeth were good, and at least her nose was not big and flat like some of those who were thought so cute. If she looked different, beautiful, maybe Cholly would be different, and Mrs. Breedlove too. Maybe they would say, "Why, look at pretty-eyed Pecola. We musn't do bad things in front of those pretty eyes." (p. 46)

Actually, instead of being ugly, she also lacks of self confidence. Since the first time she goes to school, her schoolmates often mock her for being ugly. She cannot deny that but she is not confident enough to accept that and regards it as a flaw rather than a fact and it makes her feel degraded. She also thinks that it is her ugliness that makes Cholly always drunk, her parents fight, and her mother always ignore her as how she comprehends her ugliness as quoted below:

As long as she looked the way she did, as long as she was ugly, she would have to stay with these people. Somehow she belonged to them. Long hours she sat looking in the mirror, trying to discover the secret of her ugliness, the ugliness that made her ignored or despised at school, by teachers and classmates alike (p. 45).

The quotation shows how Pecola always connects her ugliness as the source of how people treat her. Whereas in fact, the setting of time of the novel is the time when racism toward the black people is a common issue in almost the entire United States. Black people is considered as the second and lower class while the white people is regarded as the first and highest class in American society. No wonder if the treatment of society always makes her feel low but she does not recognize the situation as mentioned. As stated in the first statement of the quotation above, as long as she looked the way she did, it implies that she

becomes ugly because she thinks she is ugly, but in fact she is just like other black people in appearance.

From the psychological side, the writer tries to explain Pecola's personality's anomaly by applying Freud's theory about personality. As explained in the chapter two, there are three elements proposed by Freud that build a personality. They are id, ego, and superego.

Id is the source of primitive desire of a person. After reading the novel thoroughly, the writer finds that the main part of Pecola's id which is mostly shown and exposed by the novel's author is about the beauty. The need of beauty becomes the main desire of Pecola. Her thought, that her ugliness that creates people's dislikeness toward her, is the biggest contribution to the existence of such desire. The need of affection also pushes the need of beauty to appear and dominate her mind. She thinks that if she were beautiful, all of her problems could be solved. If she were beautiful, her parents would not fight anymore and her friends in the school would like her instead of mock her.

The structure of id, ego, and superego has connection to each other and it reacts to build a behavior. Both id and superego affect ego and then superego affects the human's behavior. Those thoughts make her ego surely want to fulfill this basic need of hers. As mentioned before about the chain reaction, ego makes the superego reacts as the ego wants. There are several reactions by the superego as the impact of the existence of the need of beauty in the id. For instance, it can be seen by the way she drinks milk and how she enjoys eating Mary Jane candy.

These attitudes become the indication of the failure of superego and show how her ego becomes dominant.

Superego as the center of the self norms doesn't have enough power to limit her action because her ego seems to be bigger because of the environment pressures. These pressures appear in the form of family condition that does not support her when it should become the major influence of someone's personality growth. The other thing is her peer environment that also does not give her much support as the second major influence of someone's healthy personality shaping. Those two important aspects lead to one and the only cause which is always in Pecola's thought, which is beauty, and that becomes the reason of why she does such thing as going to Soaphead Church which is regarded as an irrational attitude.

This form of ego domination and the failure of superego can also be proved in the last chapter of the novel, Summer, when Pecola has become insane because of her incest pregnancy. This mental breakdown is the result of the need of beauty as her obsession which cannot be fulfilled when she was still sane. After she was raped by her father, she becomes psychotic. The writer concludes that her psychotic condition is caused more by her obsession of being beautiful rather than by the rape. The rape is just the trigger of her lost contact from the reality. It also becomes the event that creates imbalance in her mind in the form of the loss of superego and complete replacement of superego by the ego that result in insanity.

In *Psychology: An Introduction*, Charles G. Morris said that a personality that contains only id and ego will be completely selfish. That happens to Pecola. It

can be seen from her condition in her insane state. In the last chapter, it is explained how Pecola has found an imaginary friend by her side. They have a conversation about the blue eyes that Pecola now has and talks about how her eyes are the prettiest eyes there. She believes that every time she looks at people, they look away from her because they feel jealous and can't stand of her beautiful blue eyes as informed in the quotation below,

Mrs. Breedlove look dropped eyed at you?

Yes. Now she does. Ever since I got my blue eyes, she look away from me all the time. Do you suppose she's jealous too?

Could be. They are pretty, you know

I know. He really did a good job. Everybody's jealous. Every time I look at somebody, they look off (p. 195).

She does not and cannot admit that people's ignorance to her is caused by social punishment because she has become the mother of her father's baby. Even she always makes sure to herself that they do it because of their envy to her because she now has blue eyes. This explains which part of ego that dominates her mind. The psychological explanation starting from the time when she is still sane until she becomes insane clarifies that there is one thing that becomes the significant aspect which occupies an important role in Pecola's personality development which is obsession. Her obsession has a vital part in affecting her behavior in the daily life. This also becomes the one thing that leads her to have an obsessive personality.

3. The Significance of Pauline's Characteristics to Pecola's Personality

In this last part, the writer will reveal the connection between Pauline's characteristics and Pecola's personality. It will be found later that the mother's characteristics have enormous impact in shaping the daughter's personality. The first characteristic of Pauline which becomes the initial way of shaping Pecola's obsessive personality is her irresponsibility toward her family especially to her children mainly Pecola as the youngest child.

As explained in the first part of this chapter, Pauline has shown a rejection toward Pecola by saying that she is ugly. Although not explained in the novel, it is believed that Pauline's early treatment toward Pecola affects the relationship between them. Ross Vasta in *Child Psychology* states that the interaction between mothers and babies clearly affects the quality of the relationship that develops, and this relationship, in turn, affects the child's later social, emotional, and cognitive development (1995: 482). According to Jay Braun in his book *Psychology Today*, quoting from Bandura, some behavioral psychologists argue that the more complex forms of social behavior and the enduring characteristics of personality are probably based on learning by modeling or imitation. He shows that imitating parents and peers allows a child to develop complex patterns of behavior without the necessity of direct reinforcement of the behavior. According to this theory, gender role identity is acquired, at least in part, by imitating the parent of the same sex. (1975: 224)

From those psychological theories, there are some findings that can be observed. The writer learns that the quality of their relationship does not develop

ever since when Pecola was still a baby. Their relation is not like a normal relationship between mother and daughter that should be close and full of affection as the result of the imitative process or at least there is some kind of emotional attachment between them which is not present in the novel. Here the lack of affection then plays its role. Pauline's irresponsibility as a parent to Pecola is shown by her ignorance to her. She often leaves the house to work as a housemaid in the white family which she prefers to take care of. When Pecola was younger and Cholly was still in jail, Pecola was even taken care by the social service.

These several facts then prove how Pauline's presence is lost to Pecola. This then leaves Pecola nobody to imitate as the process of acquiring the gender role identity. As the consequence, it creates a failure for Pecola to accept some practices or rehearses the behavior that will become appropriate as she becomes mature. This creates the negative effects on her emotional development. She becomes emotionally unattached with her mother. It also happens to her social development. Her peer environment becomes very limited. In the novel, she is storied as a girl who doesn't have many friends. This also shows that her peer environment does not give much opportunity to commit the imitation process. The story also supports the fact of how Pecola cannot imitate her peer environment because she does not show some similarities with her peer as the result of the imitating process. It guides her to find some learning about life outside the family and the peer environment. She then gets the education about it from her daily life,

how she faces her problem, how she thinks about something, and people's treatment toward her.

Since Pecola is alone without the guidance from her mother, every time she experiences something, she always has her own perception about what has happened to her without consulting to anyone whether her opinion about it is right or wrong knowing the fact that she does not have anyone to ask. For example, she always has a thought that it is her ugliness that makes the people around her, including her parents, ignore and despise her.

As explained in the novel, she spends so much time in front of the mirror trying to discover the secret of her ugliness that makes her ignored and despised at school both by the teacher and classmates. She always blames her ugliness for she always sitting alone at a double desk in class while the others don't. Not only in class, she also blames herself for being ugly as the cause of her parents often fighting. This thought is proven first when her friends always mock her for her ugliness as a direct thought and later when she thinks that her parents would not fight anymore if she is beautiful as an indirect thought. She keeps those thought for herself because there is nobody available to share about it including her mother as the main role model of the imitating process of the daughter. This means no one can encourage her so that she can stop blaming herself and start collecting her confidence.

This guilty feeling makes her want to find something to erase the guilt from her heart and mind. From her daily experience, she finally finds out that being beautiful is the only way for her to avoid everything which is caused by her

ugly experience. She believes that when she is beautiful, her parents will change from ignorance to loving her, her friends will like her instead of mocking her, and the most important is she will not have an ugly appearance anymore so that people everywhere will accept her in the first time they look at her. In order to do that, she starts to find a way to get the beauty she is dreaming of. Again, because she does not have the proper figure to understand her condition, in this case her mother, she finds an improper source to understand something which relates with being beautiful. She finds an inappropriate peer environment which she hangs along very well with. It is a group of prostitutes who lives in the Breedloves' storefront. The good thing is they become another friends to Pecola besides the peer who do not despise her. But the bad thing is, with them, she get a wrong perception about what love is, a thing which Pecola searches and is lack of. After having the conversation with Miss Marie about her relationship with Dewey Prince, she asks herself about love and finally finds that love is as explained in the quotation below,

What did love feel like? She wondered. How do grown ups act when they love each other? Eat fish together? Into her eyes came the picture of Cholly and Mrs. Breedlove in bed. He making sounds as though he were in pain, as though something had him by the throat and wouldn't let go..... Maybe that was love. Choking sounds and silence (p. 57)

In short, what Pecola understands about love is only physical relationship. Pecola's understanding about love is important to be included here because it relates to the concept of beauty she has. Both have similarity and connection each other for her. She believes love and beauty are in physical form only. Her

friendship with the prostitutes leads her to have an understanding about love while her daily life experiences lead her to have an understanding that to be loved means to be beautiful. In order to be loved, she must be beautiful. To achieve that she starts doing irrational manners such as drinking milk in the cup with Shirley Temple's picture on it, eating Mary Jane candy in a peculiar way, and the most illogical thing is going to the Soaphead Church because she believes that he can turn her eyes into blue. In short, all of these events caused by the lost figure of a mother finally create Pecola's obsessive personality.

Pauline's selfishness becomes the next characteristic that creates Pecola's obsessive personality. Her selfishness is also one cause of her ignorance toward Pecola. Pauline puts her private life into priority because she feels that her family does not give her any satisfaction to her personal life anymore. From the novel, it can be seen that Pauline doesn't like being at home because all of her dream about having a happy family cannot be fulfilled. Her family has become a broken home family which does not support her to find love that she always dreamt of before. How her husband, Cholly, treats her in her house creates an uncomfortable feeling for her when she is at home. It is in the contrary with her wish about having a romantic relationship with a man.

She then chooses to spend most of her time working in the Fisher family because she is regarded as an important part of the family there although she is only a housemaid. This makes her often leave her house and also leave her responsibility and affection on Pecola. Pecola is aware of this situation and she starts to find out what actually makes her mother leave her. Starting from her

findings from her daily life experience about the concept of beauty, she realizes that her mother leaves her because she has found the thing that makes her happy. She believes that her mother prefers to be around the white people like the Fishers. It then creates a thought that if only she were white and had blue eyes like the Fishers, she could be attractive and her mother would turn her attention on her and did not leave her anymore.

From there, she starts pursuing her dream of being white and having blue eyes to achieve her purpose, to be loved and to be attractive. But her mother's selfishness makes her alone and lack of love, it then leaves her mind controlled by her obsession to be a beautiful girl so that she can be loved. Since nobody guides her to reach her dream, she does it in the wrong way. She believes that drinking Shirley Temple milk can make her skin white like the color of the milk, eating Mary Jane candy can make her like Mary Jane, and the last, as her desperate move, going to Soaphead Church to get her blue eyes instantly.

Pauline's violence is the third characteristic that matters in shaping Pecola's obsessive personality. Her being violent is obviously seen when Pecola accidentally spills the blueberry to the floor. She spans Pecola that makes her fall to the ground. Not enough with that, Pauline then grabs her up in the arm and then spans her for the second time. She then says the words which, as explained by Claudia, are hotter and darker than the smoking berries, leaving Pecola an abusive treatment not only physically but also mentally. If seen from the reaction of both Pecola and Pauline, a treatment like this is not for the first time done by Pauline and faced by Pecola. The writer considers this action is often done by Pauline.

This child abuse by the mother matches with the theory on child abuse by Karen Huffman. She proposes several contributing factors which parental substance abuse is the most important one. She also states that child maltreatment is also highly likely in home where the wife is abused (1997: 318). This is the similar circumstance with the Breedlove family. It has been explained that not only Pecola that receives the violent action from Pauline but Pauline herself also receive violence from her husband, Cholly. How they fight explains such situation.

Another similar condition that makes a child abused is also stated by Hoffman. She says that economic stress and poverty characterize many abusive homes. When parents are unemployed or work in low-paying job, are single parent, or face serious child-care problems, their frustration or lack of parenting skill may explode into child abuse. The explanations from Hoffman clarify all the situation in the Breedloves such as how Cholly does not have a job to support the family's financial, how Pauline here can be regarded as a single parent because she is the only one who takes care the family herself knowing the fact that Cholly is unemployed and never takes part in taking care the children or the family, and the last one is how Pauline has a child-care problem. Knowing that she wants a beautiful child but in fact she can only have Pecola, she then abuses Pecola when she finds a new environment that provides the opposite condition from Pecola and regards her nobody but she has to take care of.

From this violent and abusive treatment, Pecola then compares herself, who receives violence from Pecola, to the Fishers, whom Pauline likes to be with.

She discovers that there is a clear difference between her and the Fishers which is black and white. It creates an attempt for her to be like the figure her mother likes. Pecola ever said that if she had blue eyes, her parents would not fight anymore and her friends would like her. She then tries to be that figure that leads her to do irrational things which she believes they can help her to be the person she wants to be. It proves how her obsession controls her mind and behavior.

The last characteristic that is proved to give effect in Pecola's obsessive personality is Pauline's religiousness. Pauline is a religious woman. This can be seen from how she considers herself an upright Christian woman and how she has her own idea about Christ the Judge. She thinks that god will payback for what people will do to her. Her idea about that is considered wrong because she applies that in a wrong way. She always prays that god will get Cholly for what he has done to her. It proves that although she is a religious woman, she applies her religiousness in a wrong way. Pecola is also a religious girl. She, like her mother, also often prays for what she wants such as when she needs to get away from her parents' fight and for the blue eyes which makes her pray every night for a year. It shows that she has a strong belief in god. From here, there is a similarity between Pauline and Pecola. Both are religious but also have the purpose of using their religiousness in the improper way.

Kalish explains that sex-role behavior is learned from observing the parent of the same sex as a model and behaving as (s)he does (1974: 364). Looking at this fact, the writer has a conclusion that there is an imitation process here. It can be seen how Pecola can imitate her mother in the religious side since family is the

first major influence on personality development (2000: 342) and her mother is the only one she often meets. But since what she imitates is flawed, the result of the imitation process becomes flawed too. It shows how Pauline's spiritual side has an effect on Pecola's personality. She does not have enough religious knowledge to be taught to Pecola. Pecola herself also learns how to be religious from her mother indirectly. She is never educated orally by her mother but only from what her mother does. Pecola then makes her religiosity a tool to pursue her dreams. This is proved when she dares herself to go to Soaphead Church to ask for blue eyes. She believes him as an agent of God who can make her wish come true. Otherwise, she has been told that he is a psychologically rather disturbed. Not only that, she believes that she can get blue eyes after she gives the poison to the dog.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

The Bluest Eyes is the novel which tells a story about the black family who lives in the poor and broken home condition. There are several characters in the family which become the center of the story. The writer takes Pecola, the daughter, as the main concern of this study. As the major character, she is described as dynamic character whose behavior is controlled by her obsessive personality. This obsessive personality itself is influenced by her mother's, Pauline, characteristics.

From the novel, Pauline is characterized as an irresponsible mother. This can be seen from her ignorance to the family especially to Pecola who still needs more attention from her. The second is a selfish person. She always puts the things which always give her happiness into priority and abandons everything other than that behind, including her family. She is also a violent woman. She often fights with her husband and is not hesitated to hit Pecola whenever she does a mistake. The last one is she is a religious woman. She believes in god, likes to go to the church, and prays often.

Pecola's personality can be observed from her daily behavior. She often drinks milk with Shirley Temple picture on its cup. She believes it can make her skin white. Also she likes to eat Mary Jane candy believing that she can be like Mary Jane if she eats the candy. Like her mother, Pecola is also religious. But she believes that going to Soaphead Church, whom she knows as a priest and believes as an agent of god, and says a wish to him can instantly make her eyes blue. From

those facts, all she is doing is driven by her obsession of having white skin and blue eyes which she regards as the form of beauty. It creates her a person with obsessive personality.

Pecola's obsessive personality is identified as having influenced from her mother's characteristics. Since Pecola was a baby, Pauline has shown rejection behavior manner toward her. This makes Pecola always searches the correct form that her mother wants. Knowing that Pauline prefers to work in the white family, Pecola is aware that being white is what her mother likes. Then she starts drinking a lot of milk and eating candy in peculiar way so that she can get what she wants.

Pauline's selfishness is caused by the condition of her family that cannot provide her love that she always dreams of when she was still single. She then often leaves her house and her affection to Pecola. It also becomes one of the reasons why she chooses to spend her time working at The Fishers rather than taking care the house. As the result, Pecola finds out that her mother leaves her because she has found the love she cannot find in the house. That love comes from The Fishers which she regards filled by beauty because they are white. It makes her pursue her dream of being white in some irrational ways.

The last characteristic that affects Pecola to be obsessive is Pauline's religiosity. Her religiosity affects Pecola when she goes to the Soaphead Church. It is not the way of how people pray and ask something to god. This behavior comes from Pauline which also being religious in the wrong way too. She often prays in order to punish someone whom she thinks deserved to be punished like her husband. Pecola copies her mother's religiosity because it is the result of the

imitation progress that happens in a family by the child toward the parents because her mother is the only parent she often meets in the house.

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