



**PSYCHOLOGICAL CONFLICT OF DORIAN GRAY IN THE
NOVEL ENTITLED *THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY* BY
OSCAR WILDE**

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PRONOUNCEMENT

I states truthfully this project is compiled by me without taking the results from other research in any universities, in S-1, S-2 and S-3 degree and in diploma. In addition, I ascertain that I do not take the material from other publications or someone's work except for the references mentioned in bibliography.

Semarang, 5 October 2015

Aisya Rizka Naratri

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“Of course it’s hard. It’s supposed to be hard. If it was easy, everyone would do it.
Hard what makes it great”. - *anonymous*

“It is our choices that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities” - *J.K*

Rowling

“Man Jadda Wa Jada, whoever strives shall succeed”. – *Negeri 5 Menara*

This thesis is dedicated to my beloved family

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, the writer would like to analyze a novel entitled "*The Picture of Dorian Gray*" by Oscar Wilde. The purpose of this writing is to analyze the psychological conflict of the main character. The writer uses psychoanalysis theory to analyze the psychological conflict of the main character in the novel and use library research. In this theory, the writer will discover the changes behavior of Dorian Gray. The main themes in this novel are youth, beauty and homosexuality; it becomes the reason why the writer entitles "Psychological Conflict Dorian Gray in The Novel Entitled "*The Picture of Dorian Gray*" by Oscar Wilde".

Keywords: psychological conflict, youth, beauty, homosexuality.

Dalam tesis ini penulis akan menganalisis sebuah novel berjudul "The Picture of Dorian Gray" karya Oscar Wilde. Tujuan dari penulisan ini adalah menganalisis konflik psikologis dari karakter utama dalam novel. Penulis menggunakan psikoanalisis teori untuk menganalisis konflik psikologis karakter utama dan menggunakan studi kepustakaan. Tema utama dalam novel ini adalah tentang kemudaan, kecantikan dan homoseksual, hal tersebut menjadi alasan mengapa penulis memberikan judul 'Psychological Conflict of Dorian Gray in The Novel Entitled "*The Picture of Dorian Gray*" by Oscar Wilde' dalam tesis ini.

Kata kunci: konflik psikologis, masa muda, keindahan, homoseksual.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Literature is a creative work in the form of poetry, prose, and drama. The appearance of literature is usually influenced by the social environment of the author. According to *Webster Dictionary*, literature is a “production of writings, especially of imaginative prose, verse, etc.” (1979: 1056)

Novel is one kind of literature. Novel is a fictional narrative prose connected with sequence of events that involve some characters in a specific setting. In this paper, the writer analyses classic fictional novel. A classic novel still exists until the present time. The content of classic novel is universal. Besides, it has a unique artistic quality and a great storyline.

The writer would like to analyze the novel entitled *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde. Oscar Wilde is well-known as a British novelist in Victorian era. The main theme of this novel is beauty and youth indicated by the character of Dorian Gray who wants his beauty and his youth to be everlasting.

In this novel, there is psychological conflict in the character of Dorian Gray. An ambitious nature appears when Lord Henry flatters and tells Dorian that youth is everything. It needs to be maintained by someone who already has a physical perfection. Then Dorian changes his mind toward social life. He makes a wish to replace his soul with the perfect portrait of him to make him look ageless.

1.2 Research Problems

In this paper, the writer would like to discuss the research problems as follows:

1. How is the psychoanalysis theory applied in the novel?
2. What are the factors that make the psychological nature of the main character change?
3. Why does Dorian Gray want to replace his soul with the portrait of his?

1.3 Method of Study

The writer uses library research and contextual method to analyze the novel entitled *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde. Library research is a method of collecting data by reading relevant books, journals, articles and some internet sources. It helps the writer solve the problems related to the discussion.

Contextual method is the combination between intrinsic and extrinsic theories. According to Nurgiyantoro, Intrinsic aspect helps to build the elements of a literary work which includes the event, story, plot, character, theme, setting, point of view, language, style (1995: 23). The extrinsic aspect used by the writer is psychoanalysis theory. This theory is used to reveal the problems inside the character's psyche. According to Wellek, psychology in literary works can be used to give evaluation psychologically to the elements of literary works, such as character, plot and theme (1989: 106).

CHAPTER 2

SUMMARY

Dorian Gray was a handsome, rich and innocent young man. He made friends with a famous portraitist named Basil Hallward. Basil really adored Dorian's innocent personality, so he painted a portrait for him. One day, a friend of Basil named Lord Henry came to visit, he insisted Basil to exhibit his best work that he always hid. Basil refused his offer because he did not want his work of art to be seen by public because he did not want the public to know that there were connections between him and Dorian in his portrait. Lord Henry asked Basil to introduce him with Dorian. Eventually, Henry met Dorian and flattered him about his beauty. Dorian wanted to be forever young and could do anything with his beauty. Dorian made a wish to change his soul with the perfect portrait of him painted by Basil.

Dorian's wish came true right away. He was 20th at that time and he fell in love with an opera girl named Sybil Vane. He really loved how Sybil played all the characters. Sybil's brother, James Vane, did not like Dorian when Sybil told his brother about her relationship with Dorian. Dorian asked Henry and Basil to see her girl acting in a beautiful character at the opera. However, Sybil made him disappointed. She did not play good and Dorian hated her immediately. He decided to break up with her. The next day, there was news that Sybil was found dead in her room. Dorian did not even regret of what he did to her. One day, Dorian opened his portraits and there was something wrong with it. There were hatred in the corner of his eyes and his hand bleed.

After the death of Sybil Vane, Basil came to visit Dorian to support him. Basil knew that Dorian did not regret of what he had already done. Basil confessed that actually he loved Dorian. After Basil's confession, the relationship between them was no longer good and they did not meet for months. Hedonistic lifestyle of Dorian also affected to his close friends. There was some negative energy given by Dorian and causes some of his friends suffer from psychiatric disorders and commit suicide. As time went by, the portrait of him got worse and reflected his bad true nature. Meanwhile, in a real life, Dorian remained handsome.

After months, Basil decided to visit Dorian in his house. Dorian showed his portrait painted by Basil, Basil got shocked and did not believe what he saw. Dorian was covered by anger. Then, he stabbed Basil behind his back. The next day, Dorian insisted one of his friends to remove the dead body of Basil with chemical fluid so that no one knew who murdered him. After the death of Basil, Dorian was always overshadowed by guilt. One day, he went to the East to have some opium and accidentally met James. At that time, James already wanted to kill Dorian, but he did not kill him when he saw the innocence face of Dorian's. That incident made Dorian feel so insecure. One day when James stalked Dorian hunting hare, accidentally, Dorian's friend shot a wrong object. He shot a man behind a tree. Dorian checked the dead body by himself. Then, he got shocked when he saw the dead man was James. He felt safe.

Dorian wanted to have a new life after meeting a girl in countryside. Dorian thought that she could change his life. However, when he was already at

home, he did not care about his past and what he had done all this time. He thought by leaving the girl in a good way, it would change his portrait. He went to the upstairs room where he kept his secret. Then when he opened it, he saw no change at all. He got so frustrated and finally he tore his portrait. His assistant heard a hard scream of Dorian. When he came to see Dorian, he found a dead old man in front of the perfect portrait of Dorian.

CHAPTER 3

THEORIES AND METHOD

3.1 Intrinsic Theories

3.1.1 Theme

Theme is the subject matter of story, the central idea, or the basic story. According to Perrine, “usually theme is delivered implicitly so that a theme can be found through process; it covers intrinsic aspects of the story, including plot, setting, character, etc.” (Perrine, 1988:90). Inside the theme, there is moral value that can be delivered to the readers. There are two types of theme. They are major theme and minor theme.

3.1.2 Character

Character is a figure contained in the literature works. It has personality, moral and mental values. Meyer states, “Character is important in a fine fictional work because a character helps to develop the plot” (1990:61).

Based on the function of the characters in the story, characters can be divided into protagonist, antagonist, deuteragonist and tritagonist. Subhan states that, character in the novel can be divided into two groups: (1) major or main characters, and (2) minor characters. The major characters can further analyze into three groups: (1) the protagonist, the very central character; (2) the antagonist or the enemy; and (3) the companion(s) (Subhan, 2003:8). The definition of deuteragonist character is taken from https://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/lit_terms_D.html accessed on October 15th, 2015: “Deuteragonist is a sidekick who accompanies the main protagonist, the main

character or hero, in a narrative. The deuteragonist may be either round or flat as a character, and he often serves as a foil to the protagonist as well” (https://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/lit_terms_D.html: 2015).

3.1.3 Plot

Plot is series of events that form a story in the novel. There are five stages of plot. They are: situation, conflicts, rising action, climax and denouement. Perrine said, Plot is the sequence of incident or events which the story is composed and it may conclude what character says or thinks as well as what he does, but it leaves out the description and analysis and concentrate ordinarily on major happening (Perrine, 1974:41).

3.2 Extrinsic Theory

The writer uses Psychoanalysis theory by Sigmund Freud as the extrinsic aspects in this paper. The writer is focusses on the aspects of id, ego, superego and sexual aspect.

Psychoanalysis is a theory of personality. It is a form of psychology that has a lot of influence in psychological world. Hall said,

The total personality as conceived by Freud consists of three major systems. These are called the id, the ego and the super ego. In the mentally healthy person these three systems form a unified and harmonious organization. By working together co-operatively they enable the individual to carry on efficient and satisfying transactions with his environment. The purpose of these transactions is the fulfillment of man’s basic needs and desires (Hall, 1956:22).

3.2.1 Id

Id is driven by the pleasure principle, which strives for immediate gratification of all desires, struggle of life, wants and needs. The impulse pleasure

of Id makes the behavior of a person become avoiding things that are not pleasant.

According to Hall,

The sole function of the id is to provide the immediate of discharge of quantities of excitation (energy or tension) that are released by organism by internal or external stimulation. This function of id fulfills the primordial or initial principle of life which Freud called the pleasure principle (Hall, 1956:15).

For example, when a man cannot discharge his sexual desire, it makes him feel anxious and then he fantasizing about doing something fun related with it.

3.2.2 Ego

Ego is operated based on the reality principle. Hall said, Instead of the pleasure principle the ego is governed by the reality principle. Reality means that which exist. The aim of the reality principle is to postpone the discharge of energy until the actual object will satisfy the need that has been discovered or produced (Hall, 1956: 22).

Ego is the personality that can be studied. The energy of ego can be used to support or even defeated some instinct purposes that comes from Id. The ego also discharges tension created by unmet impulses through the secondary process.

3.2.3 Superego

Superego is the aspect of personality related with moral value and norms. Superego is a set of personality system, good or bad and right or wrong, that can be studied. Thus, superego named as morality principal. According to Freud, the superego begins to emerge at the age of five.

Hall also added:

The superego is the moral or judicial branch of personality. It represents the ideal rather than the real, and it strives for perfection rather than for

reality or pleasure. The superego is the person's moral code. It develops out of the ego as a consequence of the child's assimilation of his parents' standard regarding what is good and virtuous and what is bad and sinful (Hall, 1956:31).

There is a difference between the id, the ego and the super ego. The Id and the superego are different because the process of Id fulfills the basic human need which is pleasure whereas superego has moral awareness. The ego can hold and control the conflict between id and superego, because the ego works based on reality principle. If those needs are not satisfied immediately, the result will be a state of anxiety or tension.

3.2.4 Sexual Aspect

Explanation about sex according to Feist is as follows,

The purpose of the sexual impulse is pleasure, but, this pleasure is not limited to the genital aspects. Sex can be formed into narcissism, love, sadism and masochism. There is a connection between love and narcissism. Narcissism involves self-love, while love often relates with narcissi tendencies (Feist, 2007:30).

The writer focuses on narcissism aspect to analyze sexual impulse of the main character in the novel. The beginning of all human sexual orientation is heterosexual. Homosexual tendency is difficult to cure unless it is supported by internal factors such as family and close friends. Hall said, if the factor of narcissism is very strong, a person may derive satisfaction only from choosing a love object which resembles himself. This is the reason why a person may choose homosexuality in preference to heterosexuality, or why a man may marry a masculine woman or a woman marries a feminine man (Hall, 1956:75).

CHAPTER 4

ANALYSIS

4.1 Intrinsic Analysis

4.1.1 Theme

A novel entitled *The Picture of Dorian Gray* has major and minor theme. The major theme is beauty and youth. The minor theme is a homosexual triangle love.

The major theme tells that Dorian wants his beauty and his youth to be everlasting. He really wants to enjoy his youth as long as he can, no matter how old he is. When Dorian and Lord Henry have a short talk about the male beauty, Dorian changes his mind about life and how the society would treat them if he can keep his physical perfection. The youth reflects in the sentence, “Because you have now the most marvelous youth, and youth is the one thing worth having” (2003: 28) and beauty in the sentence, “You have wonderfully beautiful face, Mr. Gray” (2003: 29).

The minor theme is homosexual triangle love among Dorian, Basil and Lord Henry. It starts when Basil tells Lord Henry that he loves and adores Dorian and paints the portrait of Dorian. Henry admires Dorian’s innocence and his handsome face. This admiration is so unnatural because a man is not supposed to express the details of the beauty of the same sex. It is reflected in the sentence “Lord Henry looked at him. Yes, he looked certainly wonderfully handsome, with his finely-curved scarlet lips, his frank blue eyes, his crisp gold hair” (Wilde, 2003:21).

4.1.2 Characters

Protagonist Character

Dorian Gray

Dorian Gray is the main character and defined as the protagonist character in this novel. As the protagonist character, Dorian is described as having a perfection of male beauty and youth. He makes friends with a painter, Basil Hallward and a nobleman, Lord Henry. Basil adores the physical appearance of Dorian by painting a portrait of him while Henry adores Dorian's innocence mind toward life. His goal of life is just for achieving pleasure. Dorian gets all what he wants and fall down because his own behavior. His true nature is reflected in his portrait painted by Basil. The first change of his portrait is when he broke Sybil's heart and led her to suicide. He even does not regret of what he does after the incident. "I was brutal, Harry, perfectly brutal. But it is all right now. I am not sorry for anything that has happened. It has taught me to know myself better" (Wilde, 2003:89). The portrait of him became worse every time he did evil things.

Deuteragonist Character

Lord Henry Wotton

Lord Henry Wotton is a deuteragonist character in this novel. He is a good talker and an intellectual. Henry is the main cause of the behavior changes of Dorian Gray. He gives inappropriate philosophy of life to Dorian's mind. Henry always supports Dorian to do evil things, even he knows what Dorian does is wrong. It can be proven after Dorian breaks up with Sybil Vane. It reflects on the sentence, "Dorian you mustn't let this thing get on your nerves. You must come

and dine with me, and afterwards we will look in that Opera” (Wilde, 2013:98). He always changes Dorian’s way of thinking and takes control of bad nature of Dorian’s life.

Antagonist Character

Dorian’s Evil Soul

Dorian Gray has two different roles in the novel: protagonist and antagonist. On the antagonist character Dorian’s soul plays against the real positive sides of him. Henry gives The Yellow Book to Dorian. Dorian gets obsessed with his beauty and youth and he wants to try all of the things that played by the main character in The Yellow Book. “The hero, the wonderful young Parisian, in whom the romantic temperament and the scientific temperament were so strangely blended, became to him a kind of prefiguring type of himself” (Wilde, 2003:127). The Yellow Book had a big influence in changing Dorian true nature.

Tritagonist Character

Basil Hallward

Basil Hallward is defined as the tritagonist character. Basil is the cause of Dorian’s suffering of mind, “I worshipped you too much. I am punished for it” (Wilde, 2013:163). Basil defends Dorian when the society spread the bad rumor about him. Basil was a well-known portraitist at that era. He adores Dorian by painting his beauty and perfection through a portrait. When Basil knows that Sybil died, he visits Dorian immediately to give a support and sympathy. Basil cannot believe that Dorian does not feel sad at all, “you went to the opera while Sybil

Vane was lying dead in some sordid lodging? You can talk to me of other women being charming and Patti singing divinely, before the girl you loved has even the quiet of a grave to sleep in?" (Wilde, 2013:103).

4.1.3 Plot

Exposition

Basil introduces Henry to Dorian Gray in his studio. When Basil saw how Henry talks to Dorian, he knows that Henry will give a negative influence to Dorian's mind. It is depicted on the sentence, "Don't try to influence him. Your influence would be bad" (Wilde, 2013: 18)

Conflicts

Dorian gets compliments about his physical perfection from Basil and Henry. He feels that the compliment from Basil makes him realize that he already has the beauty perfection. The compliment from Henry leads him to change his soul with his portrait paints by Basil. It is depicted on the sentence, "Then had come Lord Henry, with his strange panegyric on youth, his terrible warning of its brevity" (Wilde, 2013: 33).

Rising Action

Dorian falls in love with Sybil Vane. The problem is that Sybil does not live up Dorian's expectation, he ignores her. Later, Sybil kills herself, and instead of mourning her, Dorian reads the mysterious yellow book and gets everything he wants. It is depicted on the sentence, "that book you sent me so fascinated me that I forgot what time was" (Wilde, 2013:126).

Climax

It is revealed that Sybil Vane's death is caused by Dorian. James Vane wants to take a revenge for his sister. He spies on Dorian. Dorian knows that he is being stalked by James, "as he takes a short cut through a den archway, someone suddenly grabs him from behind and shoves him against a wall, his hand choking Dorian, who hears the click of a revolver" (Wilde, 2013: 151).

Denouement

Dorian feels relieved when knowing that he is not being stalked by James anymore. The girl he meets in the countryside makes him enthusiastic to start a new life. It is depicted on the sentence, "No, Harry, I have done too many dreadful things in my life. I'm not going to do anymore. I began my good actions yesterday" (Wilde, 2013:186).

Resolution/ Catastrophe

Dorian sees no change at all in his picture. He does not care anymore about what he has done all this time. Being angry knowing that his picture does not change at all, Dorian finally tore his portrait. It is reflected in the sentence, "Its mere memory had marred many moments of joy. It had been like conscience to him. He would destroy it" (Wilde, 2013:197).

4.2 Extrinsic Analysis

Psychological conflict of Dorian Gray is the basic study of this paper. The writer uses Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis theory that relates to the id, the ego and the super ego.

4.2.1 The Id Conflict between Dorian and Basil

The id aspect is a pleasure principle only looks for pleasure and does not care about morality. In this novel, the id of Dorian is the libidinal and the destructive impulse toward Basil. The libidinal impulse in Dorian is showed when he is having a close relationship with Basil. Dorian also loves how Basil paints his physical perfection. It reflects on the sentences, “The sense of his own beauty came on him like a revelation. Basil’s compliments had seemed to him to be merely the charming of the exaggerations of friendship” (Wilde, 2013: 33). The destructive impulse in Dorian is Basil’s murder because Dorian thinks that Basil makes him become a dreadful man obsessed with his own portrait. It is reflected in the sentence, “You met me, devoted yourself to me, flattered me, and taught me to be vain of my good looks. One day, --- In a mad moment, that I don’t know, even now, whether I regret or not, I made a wish” (Wilde, 2013:163).

4.2.2 The Ego Conflict between Dorian and Society

Ego is the opposite of Id. It is based on reality and is influenced by society. Dorian’s reality is on his portrait paint by Basil. The portrait reflects the real soul of Dorian. It is getting worse day by day every time he does the evil things. The behavior and attitude of Dorian is getting worse after he read the yellow book which contents big influence to Dorian hedonistic lifestyle. It reflected in the sentences, “For years, Dorian Gray could not free himself from the memory of this book. Or perhaps it would be more accurate to say that he never sought to free himself from it” (2003: 127). At first, the society admires and even

supports Dorian, but his attitude becomes more deviant and the society annoys and cannot accept it.

4.2.3 The Superego Conflict between Dorian and Henry

Superego represents a moral aspect. Morality of a person is formed by the neighborhood. In this novel, Dorian's morality is formed by Lord Henry. The superego in Dorian affects by Basil, formerly. Basil only enjoys Dorian's physical beauty so it does not affect to Dorian's mind. Later, superego in Dorian is influenced by Lord Henry for he always justifies what Dorian's doing, whether it is right or wrong and good or bad. It is reflected in the sentence "It is dreadful, from one point of view, but it is not your fault". In another case, Henry justifies and supports Dorian when he left Sybil until there is news that Sybil suicide. "Dorian you mustn't let this thing get on your nerves. You must come and dine with me, and afterwards we will look in that Opera" (2013:98). Henry does not blame or warn Dorian when he regrets his evil deeds. He always distracts Dorian's anxiety of feeling guilty to another thing. The influence of Henry is so deep into Dorian's mind and life. He can accept the good and bad sides of Dorian.

The psychological conflict of Dorian Gray is in the super ego aspect. He is trapped in super ego's mind influenced by Basil, that is, physical beauty which does not affect the negative side of Dorian. Meanwhile, the super ego influenced by Lord Henry has stronger affects in Dorian, that is, the beauty of mind. Henry takes advantage of the innocence of Dorian's mind by giving the negative things to Dorian. It affects the moral values in Dorian-self. Dorian chooses to live a

hedonistic lifestyle with Henry. In the end, in his deepest heart and mind, Dorian decides to end his problems by tearing down his portrait.

4.2.4 Sexual Aspect

In this novel, sexual orientation of Dorian is bisexual. He dates Sybil, but he also has a close relationship with Basil and Henry. Dorian is always followed by Lord Henry that makes him become a homosexual. Dorian indicates as a homosexual disorder when Basil introduces him to Henry, “When he caught sight of Lord Henry, a faint blush colored his cheeks for a moment” (Wilde, 2013:20). Then, Dorian falls in love with a girl, Henry always interrupts his relationship by saying that all women will lead to a distress, “Never marry at all, Dorian. Men marry because they are tired; women, because they are curious: both are disappointed” (Wilde, 2013:44). Henry tries to influence Dorian’s mind because he wants to have an ideal figure partner as he is expected. A homosexual disorder is seldom to get a pleasure from his heterosexual partner. It is depicted on Dorian when he has a relationship with Sybil and he gets so disappointed and cannot forgive Sybil just because she does not act well as usual. Heterosexual relationship between Dorian and Sybil ends with the death of Sybil. The unreasonable alibi of Dorian to break up with Sybil can be confirmed that Dorian is homosexual. The relationship between Henry and Victoria is just for his camouflage, he does not really love her because he thinks that women are only for covering the ideal of norms in society. It is depicted when Henry humiliates women, “My dear boy, no woman is a genius: women are decorative sex. They never have anything to say, but they say it charmingly.” (2003: 45

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

“The Picture of Dorian Gray” is the only work of novel by Oscar Wilde which becomes the controversial subject at that era. The male beauty worship and homosexuality at that era deem as taboo because it is not permitted and if someone indicated as homosexual they should get punishment from the law court. The content of the book tells about the psychological conflict of Dorian Gray. It has implicit story about homosexual between Dorian Gray, Basil Hallward and Lord Henry Wotton. The book entitled, *“The Picture of Dorian Gray”*, has two different meaning. The word “Picture” in the book title describes Dorian’s personality from two different points of view. Basil portrays ‘the picture’ to enjoy the physical beauty of Dorian, while Henry portrays ‘the picture’ in Dorian’s soul through his mislead life philosophy and tries to make an experiment toward life to Dorian.

The behavior and personality of Dorian Gray can be studied with three psychology personality aspects by Sigmund Freud. They are Id, Ego and Superego. The id is libidinal and destructive impulse while the ego is love and hate. The superego is the nature of perfection affects by Lord Henry.

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