PERSISTENCE REFLECTED IN DAN BROWN’S *THE DA VINCI CODE* NOVEL (2003): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

The main issue of this research is persistence. Everyone has persistence to reach or reveal something. The purpose of this research paper is to analyze persistence reflected in Dan Brown’s *The Da Vinci Code* novel especially on the main character of the novel, Robert Langdon based on psychological approach. The researcher used qualitative method. The researcher used two data sources: primer and secondary. The primer data was *The Da Vinci Code* novel by Dan Brown. The sources of secondary data are taken from other sources related to the study, such as: website, dictionary, and some books which support the research. For data analysis, the researcher used descriptive qualitative research. Based on analysis, the researcher took some conclusions. This study that to reveal some problems must with persistence, so there is no misunderstanding. Robert Langdon helped by Sophie reveal Sauniere’s decease with his persistence.


1. INTRODUCTION

*The Da Vinci Code* novel was written by Dan Brown published in 2003. Imagination and the reality of the author can make an attractive literary work. This novel contain about persistence which are able to drain the readers. The novel is telling about how Robert Langdon reveals Sauniere’s decease helped by Sophie. They must be persevering to solve it.

*The Da Vinci Code* novel is an interesting novel. There are some reasons why the writer is interested to study this novel. The first, the story is interesting because it has mysterious stories, especially about the code in the
story given by the author. The second one is the main character who has persevering character in solving the code in the novel. Langdon is very intelligence to solve the codes and the instructions from Sauniere. He analyzes them with Sophie who trusts Sauniere to help analyzing the symbolism, the code riddles and a row of letters on a message from Sauniere. Setting of the novel is the third reason. The reader does not feel bored to read the novel because the author of the novel tells the story not in one place but also a lot of places. The last reason is the writer is interested with Langdon and Sophie’s adventure in solving the code.

The researcher proposes the problem statements in this study. The problem statements are: “How is the personality of main character from psychoanalytic perspective?” and “How is the persistence reflected in The Da Vinci Code novel?”

According to Renzulli (1978) and many other studies, persistence is how someone tried to make wishes and aspirations can be achieved and is not easily discouraged. He will try and keep trying to cool them what could be fulfilled even have to face the trouble he will keep trying. Persistence is an essential component of greatness. Exceptional skill may look effortless, the spectacular putt or pirouette, but getting there takes relentless dedication, years of practice and humility.

Persistence, what she calls the “rage to master”, “must have an inborn, biological component” argued by psychologist Ellen Winner in Von Karolyi & Winner (1996: 379), and that exceptional performers are “intrinsically motivated to acquire skill” in the areas in which they are innately gifted because they find it easier to learn those skill.

Based on the definition above, the researcher uses psychological approach. As psychological approach focuses on the character of Langdon in The Da Vinci Code novel to identify about his persistence.

2. **RESEARCH METHOD**

In analyzing The Da Vinci Code novel by Dan Brown (2003) the researcher uses qualitative research. The type of data in this study is textual data. It including narrations, monologues and dialogues. There are two data sources which are needed to conduct this research. There are primary data sources and
secondary data sources. The sources of primary data is Dan Brown’s *The Da Vinci Code* novel. The secondary data sources are taken from the other sources which are related to the primary data that support the analysis including books and virtual references as documentation. The technique of collecting data the researcher read *The Da Vinci Code* novel to get better understanding and identifying the problem, searching some related references to observe the theory, information, and data, taking the important note of important data, and then arranging the data into several parts according to its classification. The object of the study is to analyze the persistence reflected in Dan Brown’s *The Da Vinci Code* novel especially of the main character of the novel, Robert Langdon based on psychoanalytic approach. Analyzing the data based on the psychoanalytic analysis.

3. RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The second *id* shows after Langdon and Fache go along around the museum to reveal about the curator’s decease. Langdon farther downed the darkened corridor. When they approached, Langdon saw the entrance was blocked by an enormous steel grate that looked like something used by medieval castles to keep out marauding armies. Langdon was suspicious after he farther downed the darkened corridor.

Langdon sighed. Placing his palms flat on the polished parquet, he lay on his stomach and pulled himself forward. As he slid underneath, the nape of his Harris tweed snagged on the bottom of the grate, and he cracked the back of his head on the iron. *Very suave, Robert,* he taught, fumbling and then finally pulling himself through. As he stood up, Langdon was beginning to suspect it was going to be a very long night.

(*The Da Vinci Code*: 23)

The third *id* is when Langdon felt a deep chill as they approached the body. In front of him was one of the strangest images he had ever seen. Just below Sauniere’s breastbone, there is a bloody marked the spot where the gunshot had pierced his skin. Langdon felt a deepening awkwardness.

*He did this to himself.* “Mr. Langdon?” Langdon offered, his voice feeling hollow in the huge space. “One of the oldest symbols on
earth. Used over four thousand years before Christ.” “And what does it mean?” Langdon always hesitated when he got this question. Telling someone what a symbol “mean” was like telling them how a song should make them feel—it was different for all people.

(The Da Vinci Code: 30)

Fifth id occurs when Langdon was not sure what issue Fache had in mind, but he was starting to suspect that Draco and Fache would have gotten along well.

“Draconian?” Fache’s tone came with a tinge of impatience now. “Saunière’s choice of vocabulary hardly seems the primary issue here.” “Saunière was a Frenchman,” Fache said flatly. “He lived in Paris. And yet he chose to write this message…” “In English,” Langdon said, now realizing the captain’s meaning. Langdon knew Saunière spoke impeccable English, and yet the reason he had chosen English as the language in which to write his final words escaped Langdon.

(The Da Vinci Code: 37)

Sixth id presents when Langdon surprised by Fache’s knowledge of Da Vinci, and it certainly went a long way toward explaining the captain’s suspicious about devil worship.

“Mr. Langdon,” Fache said, “certainly a man like yourself is aware that Leonarde da Vinci had a tendency toward the darker arts”

(The Da Vinci Code: 38)

Eighth id occurs when Langdon reacted with surprise and excitement. His excitement over the code giving way to a sudden ripple of concern. He is afraid because Neveu asked to contact the U.S Embassy.

“I’ve deciphered the numeric code,” she said flatly.

Langdon felt a pulse of excitement. She broke the
“Before I explain,” Sophie said, “I have an urgent message for Mr. Langdon.” Fache’s expression turned to one of deepening concern. “For Mr. Langdon?” She nodded, turning back to Langdon. “You need to contact the U.S Embassy, Mr. Langdon. The have a message for you from the States”

(Ninth Langdon’s id occurs when Sophie put outsides a photo which uploaded to the Cryptology Department by Fache from her sweater then Langdon observed that printout of photo. Langdon was confused, there is a complete message.

Bewildered, Langdon looked at the image. The close-up photo revealed the glowing message on the parquet floor. The final line hit Langdon like a kick in the gut.

13-3-2-21-1-1-8-5
O, Draconian devil!
Oh, lame saint!
P.S. Find Robert Langdon

(The Da Vinci Code: 57)

First superego occurs after Langdon contacted with U.S Embassy and he needs a rest room but he hesitates and confuse looking for the rest room in the end of corridor. Fache accompanied Langdon but he denied it. Langdon’s id wants to accept Fache’s offer but he tries to hold it because he thinks he will find something if he goes to rest room without Fache.

Langdon nodded absently and took a few steps towards the bench. He paused, looking more
confused with every moment. “Actually, I think I’d like to use the rest room.” Fache frowned inwardly at the delay. “The rest room. Of course. Let’s take a break for a few minutes.” He motioned back down the long hallway in the direction they had come from. “The rest rooms are back toward the curator’s office.” Langdon hesitated, pointing the other direction toward the far end of the Grand Gallery corridor. “I believe there’s a much closer rest room at the end.” Fache realized Langdon was right. They were two thirds of the way down, and the Gallery dead-ended at a pair of rest rooms. “Shall I accompany you?” Langdon shook his head, already moving deeper into the gallery. “Not necessary. I think I’d like a few minutes alone.”

_(The Da Vinci Code: 53)_

The second superego presents when Langdon knew that his left pocket there is GPS tracking dot put by Fache. Sophie Neveu told him the purpose Fache put GPS tracking dot in Langdon’s left pocket. Langdon was angry with it and he will have been throwing the GPS to the trash but Sophie was forbidding it. Langdon wants to throw it but he realizes that it would be bad if he did not follow Sophie’s suggestion.

Angrily, Langdon stalked toward the trash receptacle to dispose of the racking dot. “No!” Sophie grabbed his arm and stopped him. “Leave it in your pocket. If you throw it out, the signal will stop moving, and they’ll know you found the dot.

_(The Da Vinci Code: 56)_

Third superego presents when Sophie explained to Langdon that he gets trap as the murderer of Sauniere. Sophie
asked to Langdon for escapes from Fache and he was shocked with Sophie’s suggestion. Langdon’s id wants to stay in the museum but he knows it as a bad idea if he denies her suggestion.

“Bezu Fache will be taking you into custody at any minute. I can get you out of this museum. But we need to act now.” Langdon’s eyes went wide. “You want me to run?”

(The Da Vinci Code: 66)

Fourth superego occurs when Langdon will go to the embassy with Sophie’s car and Sophie must visited the Mona Lisa but Langdon want to following her. Then Sophie denied it and suggests to Langdon for leave the Louvre as soon as possible before Fache find him. Langdon’s id wants to follow but he holds it because it would be accepted Sophie’s idea to leave the Louvre.

“I think he wats me to get to the Mona Lisa before anyone else does.” “I’ll come.” “No! We don’t know how long the Grand Gallery will stay empty. You have to go.” Langdon seemed hesitant, as if his own academic curiousity were threatening to override sound judgment and drag him back into Fache’s hands.

(The Da Vinci Code: 86)

Firth superego shows when Langdon confused because he thinks that Sophie can solving the case without himself. Sophie finds the Fibonacci sequence but Langdon was confuse why his name had written on the floor when Sauniere had died. Langdon’s id wants to over the case to Sophie but his superego hold it because he confused why his name written on the Sauniere’s decease place.
As plausible an interpretation as this seemed, Langdon felt haunted now by a troubling paradox. P.S. *Find Robert Langdon.* Sauniere had written Langdon’s name on the floor, commanding Sophie to find him. But why? Merely so Langdon could help her break an anagram. More important, Sophie had stated flat out she should have broken the anagram on her own. It had been Sophie spotted the Fibonacci sequence, and, no doubt, Sophie who, if given a little more time, would have deciphered the message with no help from Langdon.

(*The Da Vinci Code:* 87)

This discussion is based on psychoanalytic theory by Sigmund Freud. Langdon has persistence to break the case of Sauniere’s decease. Robert Langdon gives attention in the personality of the elements. Brown shows the conflict between *id, ego* and *superego* in Robert Langdon’s personality with correlated with personality of human being.

The *id* is the principal of human feeling. *Id* is the part of human that is not fully recognized. Langdon’s personality conflict begin when Langdon was shocked and angry because an agent gives him a bizarre image about Jacques Sauniere, a revered curator. Langdon is a symbologist who is written on the floor when Sauniere has died. Langdon felt a deep chill as they approached the body. In front of him was one of the strangest images he had ever seen. Just below Sauniere’s breastbone, there is a bloody marked the spot where the gunshot had pierced his skin. Langdon also felt a deepening awkwardness. Langdon was shocked because he looked down. There is something abnormal glowing in front of him.

Second, based on ego. Ego works based on the principle of reality, trying to satisfy the desires of the *id* in ways that are realistic and socially appropriate. There are some egos, first is Langdon dazed when he gets a visitor in the midnight. Second when Langdon followed Fache used the
elevator but he is more interested to take the escalator. The next is when Langdon could not tear his eyes from the glowing purple text scrawled across the parquet floor. Langdon did not know what the meaning of Jacques Sauniere’s final communication.

The last, based on superego. Superego is an aspect of the personality that accommodates all standard internalization of morals. There are some superego, first is when after Langdon contacted with U.S Embassy and he needs a rest room but he hesitates and confused looking for the rest room in the end of corridor. Fache accompanied Langdon but he denied it. Second occurs when Langdon was angry and will throw the GPS tracking dot but Sophie forbids it. Next superego occurs when Sophie explained to Langdon that he gets trapped as the murderer of Sauniere. Sophie asked to Langdon for escaping from Fache and he was shocked with Sophie’s suggestion.

Langdon has persistence to finish that case. Generally, the persistence of Robert Langdon is in the optimistic ways. The persistence of Langdon performs his id and his ego. From those explanations the researcher knows that Langdon’s id, ego, and superego are balance.

4. CONCLUSION

After analyzing psychoanalytic analysis of the *The Da Vinci Code* novel, the researcher draws conclusion. Based on Sigmund Freud, the structure of personality consist of *id*, *ego*, and *superego*.

Firstly, the *id* of the main character occurs when Robert Langdon was shocked and angry because an agent gives him a bizarre image about Jacques Sauniere, a revered curator. Langdon goes along around the museum to reveal about the curator decease and he was suspicious after he farther downed the darkened corridor. Langdon felt a deepening awkwardness when in front of him was one of the strangest images he had ever seen. He was confused when Sophie put outside a photo which was uploaded to the Cryptology Department by Fache from her sweater then Langdon observed that printout of the photo. Secondly, the Langdon’s *ego* shows when he is dazed because the telephone
was ringing in midnight from the hotel concierge who will say that Langdon gets a visitor. Langdon was always frustrated when he saw that symbol. He knows that Fache preferred the idea of devil worship but he must explain its meaning by that symbol. Langdon asked to look Sauniere’s left hand and his eyes traced the length of the curator’s pale arm to his left hand but saw nothing. The gallery plunged into darkness because Fache turned off the spotlight and Langdon resembled with carrying a portable light.

Thirdly, *superego* of the main character presents when Langdon contacted with U.S Embassy and he needs a rest room but he hesitates and confuse looking for the rest room in the end of corridor. Fache accompanied Langdon but he denied it. Langdon knew that his left pocket there is GPS tracking dot put by Fache. Sophie Neveu told him the purpose Fache put GPS tracking dot in Langdon’s left pocket. Langdon was angry with it and he will have been throwing the GPS to the trash but Sophie was forbidding it. Langdon wants to throw it but he realizes that it would be bad if he did not follow Sophie’s suggestion. Sophie explained to Langdon that he gets trap as the murderer of Sauniere. Sophie asked to Langdon for escapes from Fache and he was shocked with Sophie’s suggestion. Langdon will go to the embassy with Sophie’s car and Sophie must visited the Mona Lisa but Langdon want to following her. Then Sophie denied it and suggests to Langdon for leave the Louvre as soon as possible before Fache find him. Langdon confused because he thinks that Sophie can solving the case without himself. Sophie finds the Fibonacci sequence but Langdon was confuse why his name had written on the floor when Sauniere had died.

Fourthly, the persistence. *The Da Vinci Code* novel tells about persistence. In the novel, the persistence of Langdon shows when Langdon feels dizzy because Sophie appears unexpectedly and requirements to contribute for solving problem of the Sauniere’s decease. Sophie also gave a phone message to him. Langdon knows that he has been framed by Fache. Sophie told him that in his sweater there is a GPS tracking dot set by Fache to enactive Langdon not escape from the Louvre. Then Sophie want to make him
escape from that place without the GPS dot. The GPS stick on the bar of soap and threw toward the truck in front of Louvre.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


