

Ayesha Dean's Bravery in Seville: Fearless as a Path to Maturity

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Abstract:

This research analyzes the psychoanalytic characterization that focuses on the decisions made by Ayesha Dean when handling cases in Melati Lum's novel *Ayesha Dean and the Seville Secret* (2019). This study uses a descriptive qualitative method and applies Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis theory (1923), which covers the id, ego, and superego. This study finds how Ayesha Dean copes and makes quick decisions while navigating as a detective handling a major case. This research highlights three main points, namely the unconscious desire (id), rational actions (ego), and how morality and conscience work (superego). The author concludes that the actions taken by the main character cannot be separated from the role of the people around her and her strong faith in God. Ayesha's intelligence and courage support how her character is developed through each case she solves. The author hopes that future research will provide a more in-depth analysis and explore more about the character of Muslim girls who have extraordinary abilities in solving these criminal cases.

Keywords: *Psychoanalysis theory; bravery; friendships; emotions*

Abstrak:

Penelitian ini menganalisis pembagian karakter psychoanalysis yang berfokus pada keputusan yang diambil oleh Ayesha Dean setiap menangani kasus dalam novel *Ayesha Dean and the Seville Secret* karya Melati Lum (2019). Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif dan menerapkan teori psychoanalysis Sigmund Freud yang memiliki cakupan pada id, ego, dan superego (1923). Penelitian ini menemukan bagaimana Ayesha Dean mengatasi dan membuat keputusan cepat saat melakukan navigasi sebagai seorang detektif yang tengah menangani kasus besar. Penelitian ini menyoroti tiga hal utama, yaitu keinginan bawah sadar (id), tindakan rasional yang dipilih (ego), dan cara moral dan suara hati bekerja (superego). Penulis menyimpulkan bahwa aksi yang dilakukan tokoh utama sendiri tak lepas dari peran orang-orang disekitarnya dan kepercayaan tinggi kepada Tuhan, kecerdasan dan keberanian Ayesha menjadi penopang bagaimana karakternya dibuat selalu mengalami pengembangan dari setiap kasus yang diselesaikannya. Penulis berharap penelitian selanjutnya dapat memberikan analisa yang lebih mendalam dan dapat mengeksplor lebih tentang karakter gadis muslim yang memiliki kemampuan luar biasa dalam setiap menyelesaikan kasus kriminalitas ini.

Kata kunci: *Teori psikoanalisis; keberanian; pertemanan; perasaan*

INTRODUCTION

Representation of a character with a sense of uncertainty and fear is a transition from adolescence to adulthood in literary works. The novel by Melati Lum, *Ayesha Dean and the Seville Secret*, presents a narrative that places its main character in a position that emphasizes the transformative power of courage. This novel narrates the character of Ayesha Dean as a Muslim girl with independence, self-awareness, and resilience, in her mysterious adventures on the outskirts of Spain. Her courageous actions are shown when Ayesha begins to solve more complex mysteries and even faces a foreign cultural context, ultimately shaping her maturity and identity.

This study focuses on analyzing main characters using psychoanalysis theory based on Sigmund Freud. This analysis examines how Ayesha Dean makes decisions when facing difficulties in her mission. This will be categorized in an exploration of the results of interactions between the Id (instinctual drives), Ego (realistic control), and Superego (moral values). The core of this theory reveals that human behavior is greatly influenced by the subconscious mind, the part of the soul that stores desires, impulses, and unconscious experiences. Ayesha's character demonstrates courage, which is referred to as a defense mechanism, where she overcomes fear by transforming it into positive energy for action. In this way, Ayesha's courage is a psychological strategy that helps her to develop more maturely, rather than just a trait.

Several previous studies with the same topic, such as (Mutyarani et al., 2024), examined the novel *The Tragedy Paper* with the aim of analyzing each character using data obtained from dialogues and sentences that describe each character's personality using the id, ego, and superego theories. Whereas the previous study examined each character in the novel, (Sari et al., 2019) focused more on the id, ego, and superego created by the main character in the novel *Mata di Tanah Melus* through analysis of the sentences and dialogues in the novel. In the third study, the researcher added a theory on the influence of human personality. The analysis of the novel *The Death Cure* by (Mawuntu et al., 2023) shows that the representation of the main character is divided into two phases due to the influence of the social and physical environment experienced, namely the id and ego in the first phase, and the emergence of the superego in the second phase based on the plot of the novel.

This study focuses on the development of Ayesha's character in making decisions using psychoanalysis theory. The researcher encountered difficulties in finding previous

journals using the same novel title. Therefore, the researcher chose journals with a similar focus, namely using psychological analysis of the main character in the novel. The development of Ayesha's character cannot be separated from the influence of her friends and family, such as the support system she received from her two friends and her uncle. Thus, this study is expected to produce results that can provide new information in the psychological analysis of characters in making bold decisions that can be related to real life.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In exploring Ayesha's attitude when facing obstacles in "Ayesha Dean and The Seville Secret," the concept of psychoanalysis theory proposed by Sigmund Freud provides an understanding of the classification of a person's attitude. Freud (1923) stated three things in this psychoanalysis theory:

Id

The id is the most basic component of personality structure that has existed since humans were born. The id contains instinctual or natural drives. Freud himself explained that the basis of the id is the pleasure principle. That is, the id always seeks instant gratification and tries to avoid discomfort without considering logic, realism, or morality. The id is entirely subconscious and is the source of psychic energy that drives all human behavior.

Ego

The ego develops by acting as a mediator between desires (id) and realistic demands. As explained, the ego works based on the reality principle. That is, it considers the consequences and actual conditions before fulfilling impulses (id). The ego is located in the conscious and preconscious realm, as it is directly involved in the processes of evaluating, thinking, and making rational decisions. Thus, the ego plays an important role in maintaining self-balance so that individuals can behave in accordance with social norms.

Superego

The superego is the ethical and moral aspect of the personality that develops through the process of rules, values, and social norms acquired from the surrounding people and environment. The superego works based on the principle of morality, which functions to assess whether an action is good or bad, right or wrong. The superego operates at the

subconscious and conscious levels, with the role of controlling behavior to conform to social ethics and norms. The superego consists of two parts: the conscience, which gives rise to feelings of guilt when moral values are violated, and the ideal ego, which is an ideal self-image that serves as a standard for a person's moral perfection.

By applying Freud's theory, this paper aims to reveal Ayesha's attitude in making bold decisions by categorizing them into the id, ego, and superego in each clue she obtained during her investigation.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a descriptive qualitative method with a psychoanalytic approach by Freud to analyze the decisions made by Ayesha Dean in the novel *Ayesha Dean and the Seville Secret*. Secondary data comes from relevant literature such as *The Ego and the Mechanisms of Defense* (A. Freud, 1936), *The Interpretation of Dreams* (Freud, 1900), and *The Ego and the Id* (Freud, 1923). Meanwhile, the primary data for this study is the novel *Ayesha Dean and the Seville Secret*.

Data was collected by carefully reading the entire text of the novel to identify narratives, quotations, and dialogues that show fear, inner conflict, courage, and moments of maturity of the main character. The analysis was conducted by classifying the findings based on the concepts of Id, Ego, and Superego, then interpreting the meaning of Ayesha's courage as a path to maturity. This method allowed the researcher to reveal that Ayesha's courage in making decisions was not only described as a heroic act, but also as a psychological process in shaping her maturity.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This study aims to analyze Ayesha's courageous actions, focusing on a deeper psychoanalytic examination of Ayesha's actions as a detective. This study was designed to answer the following question: How do Ayesha's decisions influence her character development?

The results of this study are divided into three main points, namely: (1) Ayesha's behavior based on instinctual drives (id), personality that functions based on reality (ego), thinking based on moral values (superego).

Id

Ayesha's decision to follow her curiosity about the four men she met reflects an *instinctive* behavior that is consistent with the concept of the id. Ayesha is highly observant,

and she quickly sensed something strange about the actions of the four men, so she impulsively decided to investigate on her own without the help of her friends. This is evident in the narrative, "She walked through the display room and headed towards the long corridor where she'd earlier observed the men." (Lum, 2019: 52). This moment shows Ayesha's instinctive urge to satisfy her curiosity and desire for the truth, even though it puts her in danger. Because she acts on spontaneous desires without careful consideration, her actions show the dominance of instinct over morality and logic. Ayesha's behavior reflects the work of the id in seeking immediate gratification without rational control or regard for danger.

Ego

Ayesha demonstrates her *rational judgment* thinking skills when she tries to calm her friends down after finding a mysterious diary that could be the key to her investigation. This is evident in the following dialogue: "Okay, if you're sure about it. I guess we're not doing anything wrong by keeping it safe, are we?" "Yeah, well, we're not doing anything wrong." (Lum, 2019: 28). This statement shows how Ayesha assesses the situation realistically and considers their actions with balanced logic. Ayesha's attitude in assessing the situation and making reasonable decisions illustrates the active role of the ego, as a mediator between moral responsibility and curiosity. She does not rush to act on her id's impulses, but also does not simply follow ideal moral values like the superego.

In a tense and curious search situation, Ayesha shows *caution and rationality* as she and Sara try to understand what they are actually looking for. Ayesha herself is not sure what they are looking for when Sara asks, but she assumes that it has something to do with the notebook they found. This can be seen in the following narrative: "What are we looking for, Ayesha?" Sara whispered. "I'm not too sure," Ayesha whispered back. "But it could be something related to the items on that note..." (Lum, 2019: 77). This statement shows how Ayesha balances her awareness and curiosity about the risks around them. Ayesha's rational and calm attitude reflects the role of the ego in her, namely that she does not act rashly, but tries to think logically before making decisions. Through realistic and rational thinking, Ayesha pays attention to her ability to adjust her actions to the real situation in a balanced manner.

Superego

Ayesha's sincere offer to help a stranger like Kareem shows her strong *moral values and empathy*. After hearing about Kareem's grandfather who had been missing for four

days, Ayesha quickly showed her concern and willingness to help him. Even though it meant sacrificing her vacation, this is evident in the following dialogue. “But I can't ask you to give up your holiday to help some random person on a plane. I'd be happy with just a bit of advice.” “I'd be really happy to help out as much as I can while we're in Seville.” (Lum, 2019: 15). Ayesha's response illustrates a moral impulse that stems from empathy for others. She is driven by a conscience that emphasizes caring and kindness, not personal desires such as the id. This attitude is a reflection of the superego function in Ayesha's personality, which acts as the enforcer of ethical, humanitarian, and moral values. Through her selfless actions, Ayesha shows that she is capable of prioritizing helping others based on sincere empathy.

CONCLUSION(S)

Ayesha's journey to a new place taught her many more lessons that contributed to her character development as a young Muslim detective. By exploring the behavior of the main character in Melati Lum's *Ayesha Dean The Seville Secret*, it is revealed that human behavior is essentially controlled by the subconscious mind. This proves how a person can choose what actions to take for momentary satisfaction or even survival. Through the identification of the id, ego, and superego, human personalities can be grouped according to their actions. Researchers hope that in the future there will be studies that can further analyze this work of youth literature, especially in the context of psychoanalysis of human actions.

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