

THE NARRATOR'S DEFENSE MECHANISMS ON H.G. WELLS'S *THE WAR OF THE WORLDS*

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ABSTRAK

*Skripsi ini menganalisis tentang novel dari H.G. Wells berjudul *The War of the Worlds*. Tujuan-tujuan dari skripsi ini adalah untuk menjelaskan dan menganalisis mekanisme pertahanan ego dan efek-efeknya terhadap kehidupan sang Narrator, tokoh utama dalam novel ini. Teori-teori yang digunakan di skripsi ini adalah teori pertahanan ego yang dikemukakan oleh Sigmund Freud dan berbagai bentuk-bentuk mekanisme pertahanan diri yang lebih modern dari berbagai pakar psikologi modern. Metode-metode yang digunakan di skripsi ini adalah penelitian pustaka dan sumber-sumber internet yang terpercaya. Analisis di skripsi ini menunjukkan bahwa sang Narrator dalam novel ini melakukan berbagai mekanisme pertahanan diri seperti intelektualisasi (intellectualization), regresi (regression), acting-out, rasionalisasi (rationalization), dan represi (repression) agar dapat bertahan hidup dan dapat bersatu lagi dengan istrinya.*

Kata kunci: mekanisme pertahanan ego, ketakutan, kecemasan, sains fiksi.

ABSTRACT

This thesis analyses a novel by H.G. Wells entitled *The War of the Worlds*. The aims of the thesis are to explain and to analyze the defense mechanisms of the ego and their effects to the Narrator's life, the main character in this novel. The theories that underly this thesis are the self defense mechanisms of the ego proposed by Sigmund Freud and the more modern defense mechanisms forms from various modern psychologists. The methods used in this study are library research and internet sources. The analysis shows the Narrator on this novel performs various self defense mechanisms such as intellectualization, regression, acting-out, rationalization, and repression in order to stay alive and to be reunited with his wife again.

Keywords: ego defense mechanism, fear, anxiety, science fiction.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The literary arts can also be connected with psychology, if the author of a literary art successfully manages to include the psychological concepts into the story. The work itself receives more artistic value for the use of psychological concepts in the eyes of the readers.

The use of psychology in the literature especially in the novel can be focused on the study of its character's personality. The reason for the study of the character's personality to become the subject of psychological study is because of the interesting aspects on the character's self. His/her characteristics on the novel are having dynamic characteristics similar with human characteristics which are also the main study in psychology.

The writer of the thesis is interested to explore the psychological perspective of the novel's character centred on the Narrator's defense mechanisms. The writer finds that the Narrator in the story is showing interesting changes in personality when facing those changes, like the use of his defense mechanisms. From here, it makes the analysis of the Narrator's defense mechanisms more interesting. Based on the background above the writer is interested in exploring this literary work and the Narrator's psychological values centred on his defense mechanisms against any dangers. Exploring more on this subject, the writer chose the title: "THE NARRATOR'S SELF DEFENSE MECHANISMS ON H.G. WELLS'S *THE WAR OF THE WORLDS*. "

1.2 Research Problems

There are problems in this novel that are interesting to be analyzed. The writer of this thesis chooses to analyze the Narrator since he has to face certain conflicts and needs some adjustment to protect himself.

1. How are the Narrator's personalities described in the novel?
2. How are the Narrator's defense mechanisms described in the novel?
3. How are the Narrator's defense mechanisms affect his life in the novel?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

In order to write this study, the writer chooses several objectives that need to be accomplished to finish the study. The objectives of this study are :

1. To analyze Narrator's personalities in H.G. Wells's *The War of the Worlds*.
2. To analyze Narrator's defense mechanisms in the novel.
3. To study the Narrator's defense mechanisms and their effects to his life.

1.4. Methods of the Study

This study uses library research to explain the problems. The books from library research provide important data and information for the object of the study. The data, information, and theories gained from the library research help this study in analyzing the problems and solve them.

Since the writer of the thesis intends to analyze the Narrator's defense mechanism, which is a psychology's field of study. Then the correct way to analyze it is by using psychological approach. The psychological approach is trying to uncover more meanings, thoughts, and motives behind the words.

In this study, the writer narrows the subject into more specific field of Freud's defense mechanisms to analyze the research problems on this study.

CHAPTER 2

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1. Intrinsic Aspects

The intrinsic elements of literature deal with the character, theme, setting, plot, diction, and point of view analysis. The points that will be described in this study will focus on from character, setting, and conflict.

2.1.1. Character

The character can be a person, an animal or even a non-organic material which exists in the story. They are the main players in the story. It is impossible for the readers to be unable to find a character in a story. The character has certain qualities like moral and intellectual qualities that differentiate one from another.

The developing character changes into completely different personality according to their conflicts in story. While the static character, even he experiences a conflict, he still has the same personality as at the beginning of the story (Perrine, 1988: 69).

3.1.2. Setting

In order for the story to be more plausible and make sense for the readers, the characters of the story need supporting backgrounds. These backgrounds can be in the form of where, when, and the surrounding environment of the story. The setting of time can be defined as the time when the story happens. The setting of place is related to the sites where the conversation or the events are taking place in the story. Social setting is the background when the story takes place containing various aspects of society. It can be in the form of culture or social norms.

3.1.3. Conflict

In order to make the story more interesting, conflict is mandatory in a story. It is a battle between different sides, and it is building the plot of the story. It takes the story into

other changes. Meyer mentions that the conflicts can be divided into two categories, which are external conflicts and internal conflicts. External conflicts place the character against another individual, social, or nature (Meyer, 1976: 45). While for internal conflicts, internal conflicts are conflicts that come within the character itself, where the character experiences a conflict in his own mind. It can be in the forms of a dilemma or guilty feeling.

2.2 Extrinsic Aspects

2.2.1 The Organization of Personality

According to Freud, the personality of a person consists of three parts of personality, they are unconscious, pre-conscious, and conscious.

Unconscious part is the bulk of human thought, it consists of human basic desires and memories, while conscious part is awareness in human psychology, and the bridge between these parts are pre-conscious part, where the thought and memories from the unconscious can be taken at will into consciousness.

According to Freud, the personality also consists of three major systems, they are *id*, ego, and superego these systems of personality are connected to each other and they are creating the main sources on human personality.

2.2.1.1. The Id

Id is the source for human basic desires especially in the field of human survival. These survival instincts can be in the forms of hunger, thirst or passion for sex.

The nature of *id* is it only looks for happiness or pleasure, the nature of *id* is not caring for social norm and moral in its way to obtain pleasure, and the *id* is operating on the principle of pleasure. The pleasure principle is the principle to avoid danger and to maintain the safety at all times in all living things like humans or animals.

3.2.1.2. The Ego

The ego can be defined as a system that executes the *id*'s desire, and also controls the

id if *id*'s desire cannot be fulfilled right away.

Myers explains the nature of ego is following the principle of reality, the ego can be considered as logic in human life, this is the source where we try to find a way in order to fulfil the *id*'s desire.

2.2.1.3. The Superego

Superego is a totally different personality system from ego and *id*. The superego can be defined as norm or social code, and based on the definition above, the superego also has two other functions such as ego ideal and conscience.

2.2.2. Self Defense Mechanism

The defense mechanism is coming from the ego and it plays important role to deal with the anxiety. The ego uses various methods like falsifying the reality or distorting it in order to make the person more comfortable.

The self defense mechanism is ego's way to deal with anxiety. So, it can be concluded that the self defense mechanism will be performed by the ego if the ego produces anxiety which comes from fears against *id* or superego's pressures (Hall, 1956: 96). There are numbers of self defense mechanism represented by Freud, they are repression, projection, regression, reaction formation, and fixation. On the next following decades, the forms of defense mechanisms are increased, and George EmannVaillant has categorized all of known self defense mechanisms.

The writer in this study will only use intellectualization, rationalization, acting-out, regression, and repression.

2.2.2.1. Intellectualization

The intellectualization is trying to negate the anxiety which is caused by an event by using excessive rational thinking into calmer state.

2.2.2.2. Rationalization

The rationalization makes the person's anxiety which is caused by a shocking event, such as a person who commits a crime, into more forgivable or acceptable state by performing something such as presenting excuses that can eradicate the person's anxiety and the crime is forgiven.

3.2.2.3. Acting-Out

The acting-out deals with the source of anxiety immediately.

3.2.2.4. Repression

This defense mechanism works by calming the anxiety and repressing it into calmer state.

3.2.2.5. Regression

The regression will make the person goes back into previous psychological development stage.

CHAPTER 4

THE ANALYSIS OF THE NARRATOR'S DEFENSE MECHANISMS ON H.G. WELLS'S *THE WAR OF THE WORLDS*

3.1. Intrinsic Analysis

3.1.1. Character

The main character in Well's *The War of the Worlds* is the Narrator. The Narrator is a dynamic character because he undergoes extreme actions throughout the story in order to remain alive.

3.1.1.1. Narrator's Traits

The Narrator and his wife are educated young couple of middle-class citizens in nineteenth century England. Before the Martian's attack, the Narrator's job is a writer on philosophical theme. They live a decent and common life just like any other England's middle-class citizens.

The Narrator has great curiosity over some recent matters, one of them is the astronomical matter. He spends a great deal of time in reading scientific papers and theories from various astronomers regarding recent astronomical event.

The Narrator is also a brave man, he dares to face the danger in order to satisfy his curiosity. His bravery also make him to witness directly the form of one of many Mars's creatures in their strange machine, although the shape of the creature is quite terrifying for him.

The Narrator is a loving husband to his wife, he cares so much about her and worries her safety all the time.

The Narrator's intelligence is also showed when the Narrator and a mysterious religious preacher trapped together, known only as the Curate by the Narrator, the Narrator rations the food they found on the house for ten days.

3.1.2. Setting

The War of the Worlds is set during the late nineteenth century before the First World War. The story starts at August 2, 1894 during the close opposition of Mars to Earth

The reason for why the event of the story takes place in 1894 or before 20th century is because of the real astronomical event of Mars's opposition to planet earth really happens in the same year. This astronomical event is so rare and draws earth's population's attention. Misinterpretations of Mars's surface by several astronomers rise questions among the earth's general population, such as the life support on Mars's surface and the Mars's biosphere. After the closest opposition of earth and Mars, the story in the novel jumps 6 years later to around 1900 with unknown date. The total time length from the beginning of Martians invasion until their destruction and the Narrator's reunion with his wife again are taking around 4 weeks or a month. During these 4 weeks

The setting of place of *The War of the Worlds* is revolved around southern part of England, United Kingdoms. The reason for why the United Kingdom becomes the site of the event is possibly because of the political disturbance taking place in Europe and the southern part of the England is the author's actual home location in reality. In the novel, the Narrator experiences major events on various places and towns, such as Maybury Hills, Horsell Common, Leatherhead, Weybridge, Sheen and the streets of London.

The social environment of the story is centred on the Great Britain around the late 19th century and the beginning of 20th century, in the late Victorian era and during the Industrial Revolution. In this era, the Great Britain is in its Golden Age with the vast colonies all over the earth.

In this era, the technological discoveries and scientific theories are flourishing. These numerous discoveries in science and technology help the flow of information faster and wider to reach the society. This fast widespread of theories also contribute in developing the Narrator's intelligence about the Martians.

Furthermore, in the spirit of great colonization, science and technology also bring the influence to the Britain's society. The citizens of Britain feel the pride of their nation's achievement, they regard themselves the most powerful nation on earth and can overcome any challenges and difficulties the world will give to them. The pride for being the most powerful nation in the world also influences the Narrator's characteristics. The Narrator feels brave and confident that the British Army will decimate the Martians into ashes. This pride also contributes to the Narrator's bravery when facing the Martian invaders.

3.1.3. Conflicts

3.1.3.1. Internal Conflicts

The Narrator experiences internal conflicts mainly because of his love for his wife and his struggle to survive. One of the Narrator's forms of internal conflicts is when he is separated from his wife in Leatherhead, a small town which his cousin live. This separation costs him the uneasy feelings, such as dilemma and desperation

3.1.3.2. External Conflicts

The Narrator's external conflicts are divided into two parts, the external conflicts against the Martians and against the unknown preacher named only as the Curate. One of the conflicts with the Martians is in the attack of Weybridge, a river crossing town in the banks of Thames river. The Narrator regards the Martians invader as a powerful outer space invaders coming from planet Mars that kill anyone and no one can stop them from destroying everything.

The next Narrator's external conflict is against the Curate, a selfish religious preacher whom he met after the destruction of Weybridge. The Narrator dislikes the Curate because of his pessimistic view and selfishness. The Narrator views the Curate as a pessimistic person and not helping anything in the time of danger. He also views the Curate as a selfish person by refusing to maintain the food rations when they really need supply in the time of need. On the other hand, the Narrator views himself as an optimistic person since he tries to remain alive and to unite again with his wife. He is also a reasonable person who understands when to eat and when to save the food.

3.2. External Analysis

3.2.1. Narrator's Personality

3.2.1.1. Narrator's View in Relation to the Martians

The Narrator regards the Martians as his true source of fear and death, then he tries with all of his might and intelligence to avoid them.

I felt the first inkling of a thing that presently grew quite clear in my mind that oppressed me for many days, a sense of dethronement, a persuasion that I was no longer a master, but an animal among the animals, under the Martian heel. With us it would be as with them, to lurk and watch, to run and hide; the fear and empire of man had passed away (Wells, 1980: 232-233).

With the Martians lurking everywhere, the Narrator is trying to keep his safety all the times. Sometimes, he uses his defense mechanisms to regain his safety back.

3.2.1.2. Narrator's View in Relation to the Curate

The Narrator thinks the Curate share the opposite views from him, the Narrator wants to stay alive and maintain their safety while the Curate does not care for their safety. This Curate's view certainly becomes the source of threat for Narrator's life, until the Narrator has to perform his ego's self defense mechanism to resolve the situation.

3.2.1.3. Narrator's View in Relation to His Wife

fear and the anxiety, the Narrator's ego takes control and performs self defense mechanisms. The Narrator's struggles to survive is also partly influenced by the desire to secure his wife and just to remain alive. The Narrator is willing to do any action necessary as long as it will get him to survive and to get closer to his wife. The Narrator often performs self defense mechanisms in order to secure his safety until he can meet with his wife again.

3.2.2. Narrator's Self-Defense Mechanisms

3.2.2.1. Intellectualization

The Narrator performs intellectualization by reassuring himself with scientific explanation against the fear of Martian's power and capabilities on earth. The Narrator performs this defense mechanism after the first landing of a Martian's cylinder in Horsell common, a wide light forest area that surrounds the Narrator's home town. The trigger for the Narrator to perform this defense mechanism is because the Narrator has witnessed the Martian's capabilities in killing the people. The Narrator performs intellectualization by giving the scientific theoretical explanation regarding the earth characteristics that will affect the Martians. He gets this information from his astronomer friend named Ogilvy. He says the

Martians are suffering gravitational difficulties due to different gravity on Mars and earth, thus it is preventing them to move freely on earth's ground. The effects of the Narrator's intellectualization are his wife and his anxieties quickly diminished and vanished.

4.2.2.2. Regression

The Narrator performs regression by crying in an empty room inside the abandoned house not far from Sheen, a small deserted town near London. The trigger for the Narrator's regression is because he feels anxiety for his wife that he left in Leatherhead, a town where the Narrator's cousin live. He feels powerless and clueless of how to reach his wife. The Narrator is afraid that if he cannot reach her, he will be no longer receive the love of his wife and becomes lonely man. The effect of the regression to the Narrator is enabling the Narrator to go back to his senses. He is able to think rational again for what possibilities that his wife will receive.

3.2.2.3. Acting-Out

The Narrator performs acting-out by performing murderous act to the Curate, a religious preacher with unknown name and only known as the Curate. The Narrator is performing this act when both of them trapped on an abandoned house in Sheen, a deserted town near London. The trigger for the Narrator to perform this action is because the Curate threatening the Narrator's life by praying in high voices. The Narrator believes that the Curate's voices reach Martian's camp outside their hideout.

For the effect of acting-out, the Narrator only receives a light examination from the Martians for the noise. The Narrator hides pretty well from this examination and he survives. If the Narrator does not perform acting-out, the Martians surely will be fully attracted by the Curate's voice. Then, the Narrator will be definitely caught by the Martians.

4.2.2.4. Rationalization

The Narrator perform rationalization by justifying his action in murdering the Curate, the religious preacher with unknown name. The trigger for the Narrator to perform this defense mechanism is the guilty feeling and punishment for breaking the superego's conscience.

The effect of this rationalization for the Narrator is the Narrator has a reason to go on and continue the journey. He avoids the guilty feeling from his action. The rationalization helps the Narrator to focus in his main objectives to find his wife and to avoid Martians detection.

3.2.2.5. Repression

The Narrator performs repression by repressing the memory of killing the Curate, a religious preacher who accompanied the Narrator in his journey. The trigger for repression is the memory of displeasure concerning the killing of the Curate. The Narrator's action by killing the Curate is definitely a crime and it is breaking the superego's conscience. The result of this action is the Narrator haunted by the memory of that event.

The repression's effect gives the Narrator more concentration on the next important matters, like finding his wife and the whereabouts of the Martians. If the Narrator's ego does not perform repression, the memory of displeasure concerning the killing of the Curate will come out into Narrator's consciousness. The Narrator is surely disturbed by the vision if the memory really unrepressed.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

Based from the intrinsic and extrinsic analyses centred on the Narrator as the main character in H.G. Wells's *The War of the Worlds*, it can be concluded that the Narrator is the dynamic character and undergoes extreme actions in order to remain alive. He is a civilized person who loves his wife pretty much, he is also a brave man who dares to face any danger. The Narrator possesses a great sense of curiosity in scientific matters. He is also a smart person in assessing the situations and overcome them. The setting of time in this novel is revolved during the Industrial Revolution around the late 19th century or late Victorian era. The late 19th century era is marked with the flourishing discoveries on the field of science or technology, which in the end will influence the Narrator's knowledge with these discoveries. While in reality, the rare astronomical event of the Mars's closest opposition against earth takes place at that same time. The Britain becomes the scene of the story because it is merely the home of the novel's author in reality, and major political events really take place in this nation around the late 19th century, especially against the foreign threat like Germany. The Britain as the most powerful, advanced, civilized, and influenced nation in the world brings the bravery, faithful husband, and intelligence characteristics to the Narrator's traits. In the end, these traits influence the Narrator in performing his defense mechanisms.

The Narrator experiences internal and external conflicts. Internally, he feels the conflicts in the forms of dilemma and worry for his wife's safety because he gets separated by the Men from Mars's invasion in the story. Externally, he is in conflict against the powerful Martians and an unnamed selfish and reckless preacher known as the Curate.

In the story, the Narrator views the Martians as his main source of death who will take his life anytime and anywhere. The Narrator views the Curate as his threat for his survival.

He thinks the Curate too selfish, reckless, and unreasonable which needs to be eradicated if the Narrator still want to live. The Narrator views his wife as his hope and safety. The loss of his wife is unacceptable choice for the Narrator. These three subjects are the main subjects who triggers the Narrator's defense mechanisms, his defense mechanisms are struggling for his safety and comfort state of mind.

The Narrator performs intellectualization by providing a scientific theory of Martian's difficulty in standing against heavier earth's gravity. The Narrator second defense mechanism is regression. He begins to perform regression by crying out loud in an empty room on an abandoned house outside a little town called Sheen. The result, the crying for the Narrator is successfully relieved his anxiety, the Narrator remains focus in his objective and optimistic. The Narrator performs acting-out against the Curate, his acting-out is in the form of murdering the Curate. The Narrator performs rationalization after he commits the crime of killing the Curate. He avoids the guilty feeling and the punishment by reasoning that his action is justifiable and rational one. The last defense mechanism the Narrator perform is repression. He performs repression by repressing back the unpleasant memory from the killing of the Curate's

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