

**SEXUAL SADISM AND MASOCHISM IN CHARACTER KEVIN
MORANO
IN NOVEL *SEDUCTION IN DEATH*
BY J.D ROBB**

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ABSTRAK

Final project ini menganalisis novel yang berjudul *Seduction in Death* karya J.D Robb. Tujuan penulisan final project ini adalah untuk mengetahui kelainan seksual yang dimiliki oleh karakter utama dalam novel *Seduction in Death*, yaitu Kevin Morano. Kelainan seksual yang dimiliki oleh Kevin Morano adalah *sadism and masochism*. Pada analisis novel ini penulis menggunakan metode penelitian sastra dan teori psikoanalisis oleh *Sigmund Freud*. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa adanya kebutuhan seksual yang tidak terpenuhi oleh Kevin Morano yang pada akhirnya ia melakukan tindakan *sadism and masochism*.

Kata kunci : psikoanalisis, Sigmund Freud, kelainan seksual, sadism and masochism.

ABSTRACT

This final project is to analyze novel, *Seduction in Death* by J.D Robb. The purpose of this final project is to know sexual disorder owned by the character in the novel *Seduction in Death*. The sexual disorder is *sadism and masochism*. In analysis this novel, the writer uses a literary research method and Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis theory. The Result shows that there are sexual needs unfulfilled by Kevin Morano that ultimately he commits *sadism and masochism*.

Key words: psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud, sexual disorder, sadism and masochism.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background of Study

Literary work is based on imagination and not necessarily on fact. It is based partly on phenomena of life which are written as fictions. Imagination of the author creates the story as a life reflection. The author needs intrinsic elements to make story more realistic. One of the ways, the author creates characters like real figures in reality. There are many personalities of characters that are made by the author. One of personalities is a bad character as seen in imagination of real life, such as character that has a sexual disorder. Sexual disorder is abnormality that occurs in a person in sex. According to Alhtrocchi:

“there is a great deal of disagreement, among the general public as well as among the mental health and legal professions, about what a sexual practices are acceptable and what practices are distasteful, immoral, deviant, or abnormal.” (Alhtrocchi, 1980 : 466).

The author creates character who has sexual disorder to make the readers hate the character as well as personalities in real life.

Seduction in Death is a novel written by J.D.Robb, where the character has sexual disorder. Kevin Morano give narcotic to his partner and the effect of the narcotic gives the target a passion for sex. Kevin uses narcotics in order to make the target wild and it gives him satisfaction before he starts having sex without being known by his partner sex.

In this paper, the writer analyzes intrinsic elements, namely characters and settings. The writer also analyzes personality and sexual disorder of Kevin as extrinsic elements in this novel. This study entitled **“Sexual Disorder in Character Kevin Morano in Novel *Seduction in Death* by J.D.Robb”**.

1.2 Objective of the Study

There are two objectives in this study. The first objective is to explain intrinsic elements in the story, such as main characters and settings. The second objective is to analyze action of sexual disorder experienced by Kevin in the novel *Seduction in Death*.

1.3 Scope of Study

The writer analyzes one of J.D Robb's great works *Seductions in Death* in this final project. Scope of study is needed in order to limit the discussion of the paper. The limitation has a purpose to get a specific result. The writer focuses on the sexual disorder in the character of Kevin Morano in the novel.

1.4 Methods of the Study

This project uses a psychological approach. Sigmund Freud's theory of psychoanalysis is used to analyze the characterization of Kevin in this novel *Seduction in Death*. In this final project, the writer uses a literary research method to analyze this novel. The writer finds the material by reading sources that relate to the topic. Library research begins when researcher gets information from books, journals and then internet sources to support the analysis of the subject.

2. Biography & Summary

2.1 Biography of J.D.Robb

Eleanor Robertson Marlie is the original name of J.D.robb. She was born on October 10, 1950 in Silver Spring, Maryland, United States. She was the youngest of five siblings.

Robert used the pseudonym Nora Roberts in her first novel in 1981. It is shortened form of her birth name Eleanor Marie Robertson. She used J.D Robb as her pseudonym. The initials "J.D." were taken from her sons, Jason and Dan, and "Robb" is a shortened form of Roberts. Her romantic suspense novel was published in 1995. The first futuristic suspense J.D. Robb's book is *Naked in Death* published in Paperback. The *in Death* series novel make J.D Robb became The New York Bestseller on 1999 on Halloween.

The novel written by J.D.Robb and as follows *Glory in Death, Immortal in Death, Rapture in Death, Caremony in Death, Vangeance in Death, Holliday in Death, Conspiracy in Death* and the others series of *In Death* books. J.D.Robb has been made about 100 books and has been published.

2.2 Summary of Novel

Dante is a pseudonym of Kevin. He uses the name of Dante in cyberspace to cover his real identity. He makes a fake name as the tool to captivate the woman he is seeking. Through the chat room he finds the target woman that he wants. Kevin approaches and dates her. It is a common thing that people do to get a pair. Kevin is different, he has other plans of his intentions behind the approached women in cyberspace and then asks her out.

Kevin takes one of his victims who had previously held a date. On his first date, he is successful. He gives drugs to woman's drink. Drugs are not something that everyone can get because the price is very expensive. He is a wealthy young

man so he can afford to buy the drugs. Effects of drugs will make the victim very horny. Kevin gives high doses to the woman so she could satisfy him.

Kevin and his friend, Lucias Dunwood, consider it all as a game. All of the games are planned by Lucias Dunwood. Kevin is the first person who starts the game. Kevin is approaching a woman in a virtual world, giving seduction to make his victim obsessed and then he dates with his victim. Kevin already prepares all plans of date. After he made date, he invites his victim to go to hotel. Kevin gives a romantic touch on the room. In that room, there is a bed with sprinkling rose, romantic song, and a bottle of wine to complete the atmosphere. It is all of seduction to make the victim dazzled. After that, he starts the plan to have sex after giving drugs for the victim before.

As the police, Lentan Ave investigates the case after there are reports the discovery of the victim falls from the hotel. Kevin who unintentionally kill the victim with giving doses that are too high immediately throw the victim's body out of the hotel window. Kevin makes the victim seem like committing suicide by jumping from the top floor. Ave and the team investigate the case and look for other victims that are still alive to be witnesses. The case is difficult to be solved because Kevin uses fake account and he puts the makeup on to cover his identity. Finally, Kevin is traced from data of drug deals and also from the music community with Ave's husband, Roarke's helps. Roarke tries to search an information based on Kevin's favorite songs which are always played while he is having sex. Lentan Ave disguises as new victim of Kevin for investigation. She catches Kevin and he becomes suspect.

At the end of story Kevin is killed by Lucias. Lucian kills Kevin because Kevin tells the police about their games. Luicas committs suicide finally.

3. Literary Review

3.1 Intrinsic Elements

The intrinsic elements that will be discussed in novel *Seduction in Death* consist of Characters and Settings because they are elements that participate in forming the story in novel *Seduction in Death*.

3.1.1 Characters

Characters are actors in a literary work. Character is one of the most important elements to build the story. According to Abrams:

Characters are the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it the dialogue and from what they do the action. (Abrams, 1999 : 32)

In literature, character becomes an important part of the story. Characters are created to present the story. Characters make the readers figure out the story from an action of characters. There are many kind of main characters, namely protagonist and antagonist character. According to Perrien, Protagonis is the main characters in the story. Protagonist is main character and as central to make plot in the story. On the other hand, antagonist is the contrary of the protagonist. The antagonist always has conflict with the protagonist (Perrien, 1988: 42).

3.1.2 Settings

Settings is something or the situation surrounding in a story. Settings is used by the author to make the story become more realistic. It means that settings makes situation dramatic and real. According to Meyers:

“Setting is the context in which the action of the story occurs. The major elements of setting are time, place and the social environment that frames characters, these elements establish the world in which the characters act. In most stories they also serve as more than backgrounds and furnishings (Mayers, 2011: 115)”

There are three elements of setting, namely setting of place, setting of time and setting of social environment. According to Hugh the elements relate to each other to make perfect story. Setting of Place becomes location where the story occurs. Story can take place in all of places that the author created and correspond with background of story, such as in city, in country, at home, in the room. Setting of time is the timing when the story happens. Setting of time is very important to make plot of story. The author usually uses hour, day, or year, in the morning for the setting of time. Explanation of time is used to describe occasion in the story. Setting of social Environment is the social situation of factor that exists around of the character in the story. Social class that the character has is an example of setting of social environment. (Hugh, 1939: 453).

3.2 Extrinsic Elements

Beside using intrinsic elements, the extrinsic elements are used to analyze the story. Psychoanalysis theory of Sigmund Freud is used as the extrinsic elements.

3.2.1 Sexual disorder

Before talking about the psychoanalysis theory by Freud, one must understand sexual disorder in character Kevin Morano. Sexual disorder which is in character Kevin is Sexual Sadism and Masochism. According to Layer, Sexual sadism is practice of receiving sexual pleasure from inflicting pain on other. Sexual masochism is the condition in which receiving pain is sexually exciting (Lahey, 1983: 516).

Sexual sadism and masochism is enjoy the satisfaction by making a sexual partner feel ill. The satisfaction is gained by doing things sadistic to other. The pain is received by partner becomes part of the satisfaction. The action is still limited to normal such as, mild spanking and pinching and then the pair enjoy each other. However a lot of things that exceed the limit including violence even kill to get satisfaction.

“S&M may be considered normal if care is taken avoid accidental harm and one’s partner is truly willing. In other case, however S&M involves intense pain (such as whipping, burning, and kicking) that is inflicted on unwilling participant. In rare cases, the sadist mutilates or even murder the victim to receive pleasure. Such practices are unquestionably abnormal.” (Lahey: 1983: 517).

Sexual disorder can occur in a person because there are several factors, one of which is the trauma of the past. The impact of trauma or past experience may form a person's sexuality in the future.

sexuality can seem the best available way to protect oneself from real or perceived harm at any given time or in any given set of circumstances. Usually, the threat is not external but internal and relates to how a person experiences self and others, and how he or she perceived dangers or vulnerabilities in varied situations. Perceptions and experiences of vulnerability are not entirely objective; rather they are significantly determined by the individual’s

psychological makeup. Such perceptions are strongly influenced by past experiences and developmental history. (Giugliano, 2003: 276)

3.2.2 Psychoanalysis theory of Sigmund Freud

There are three elements of psychoanalysis theory by Freud. They are id, ego and superego.

Id is side of human's mind that contain needs, hope, and wish. Id works to follow instincts of what body needs from biological and psychological needs such as food, emotion, and sex.

The life instincts give rise to motives the sustain and promote life, such as hunger, self-protection, and sexual desire. To Freud, the sexual and aggressive urges are by far the most important of these motifs” (Lahey, 1983: 427).

Id does not care about everything that body need, expects pleasure and satisfaction. Freud calls the id as primary process of thinking. Ego is in the middle of the id and the superego. Ego helps the id to satisfy its needs.

“The ego is formed because the id has to develop realistic ways of meeting its needs and avoiding trouble caused by selfish and aggressive behavior. The ego operates according to the reality principle” (Lahey, 1983: 428).

Ego takes control the demands of the instincts. Ego is acting in accordance with reality between internal (id) and (superego). Ego controls instincts in attitude on ethics and norms to avoid the negative things in society. It is said that ego is called executive of personality. Superego is part of mind that makes instincts are not satisfied but also adjust reality in moral society.

“Society places restriction on the actions of the id and ego by creating the superego, the part of the mind that opposes the desire of the id by enforcing moral restriction and by striving to attain a goal of “ideal” perfection” (Lahey, 1983: 429).

The values and rules appear in society. Values in society have an impact on the ego to limit the demands of the id. Superego became morality judgement as needed to everyone to keep the peace of society. According to Freud: Superego is the society judge (Freud, 1922: 69).

4. Analysis

4.1 Intrinsic Elements

This thesis uses some data and theory as presented in theoretical framework. Intrinsic element consists of characters and settings.

4.1.1 Characters

There are two type of main characters, namely protagonist characters and antagonist characters which are will analyze in this project.

4.1.1.1 Protagonist Character

In this novel, the protagonist character is Lieutenant Eve. Lieutenant Eve is Head of NYSP in novel. She and her Team of Police are the team who is investigating Antagonist characters’s case in this novel. The antagonist characters are Kevin Morano and Lucias Donwood. They both have sexual disorder and being murders in the novel *Seduction in Death*.

4.1.1.2 Antagonist characters

The first antagonist character in the novel is Kevin Marano. Kevin is 22 years old rich man and he gets all of wealth from his parents. He is good of taking care of himself.

“Kavin Morano, a tall, trim young man of twenty-two, threw himself down, drummed his well-manicured fingers on the buttery leather arm of a wingback chair. His face was unlined, his eyes a quite, unremarkable blue, his hair a medium brown of medium length (Robb, 2000; 33).

Kevin is not satisfied with women that affection him. He follows the game that he plays with Lucias so that he can get a woman that he wants. He wants to get what he hopes for the women.

“in any case, back to the point. Women. If they were interested in either of us, they were usually dull intellectuals or brainless money-grubbers. We deserve better. We deserve exactly the women we want, as many as we want, in precisely the way we want them” (Robb, 2000: 34).

Kevin has best friend, Lucias who has been befriended since childhood. They are having a same goal in life and grow up in the same way so that they match each other. This is quote in the novel “they’d grown up almost like brothers. In a very real sense, as they’d been created in much the same way, for much the same purpose, they considered themselves even more than brothers” (Robb, 2000: 33).

The second antagonist character in this novel is Lucias Dunwood, Kevin's friend. He always gets special treatment from people around because he is very confident in his intelligence but he is crafty. This is quote to show characteration of Lucias "as a child he'd been considered a prodigy, a pretty boy with red curls and sparkling eyes with stunning talent for math and science (Robb, 2000 : 33).

Lucias is also a rich young man. He gets his wealth like Kevin's way because he is not thinking about work and the wealth is spent just for his pleasure to make his life full of fun things.

"neither worked for a living, nor needed to. They found the idea of contributing to society they disdained laughable. In the town house they'd bought together, they'd created their own world, their own rules.(Robb, 2000: 34).

4.1.2 Settings

4.1.2.1 Setting of Place

New York is setting of place of this novel. Setting of places is mostly in the scenes of crime, police office, and the house of Kevin and Lucias. All of those places are in New York. The story is case of murder so those places are interconnected each other. These are the place that have related one another. First, the scene of crime is the place that Kevin is having sex and kills his victims. The second place is house of Kevin and Lucias which they use their house as drugs dispencing. Kevin and Lucias's house is also the place that the both plan their action. The last place is police office which the place that NYSP do investigating

Kevin's case. This is quote that show New York is background of setting of place in novel "The New York City sidewalk was cordoned off, the sensors and block squaring around the pavement and the cheerful tubs of petunias used to spruce up the building's entrance." (Robb, 2000: 3)

4.1.2.2 Setting of Time

Setting of time in this novel begins on Tuesday in June. The day is the first day Kevin did his crime where he dated his victim and then he killed her. This is quote to show setting of time in this novel "Eve stood over it now, in the balmy early morning air of a Tuesday in June" (Robb, 2000: 3).

In Spring 2059, the police receives a report about discovery of corpse which is killed by Kevin. "In the gorgeous spring of 2059, death continued to draw an audience from the living, and those who know to make a quick buck of the deal" (Robb, 2000: 4).

4.1.2.3 Setting of Social Environment

Kevin is a young rich man, all of his wealth he gets from his parents. His parents give luxury without taking care on Kevin's growth so Kevin exploits his wealth to get everything that he wants. "and both had been smothered with excesses, indulged in every whim, directed to excel and taught to expect nothing less than anything" (Robb, 2000: 34).

Kevin is educated by those way so that he grow up to be an individual who see everything just from material values. The wealth leads Kevin to think that everything can be achieved by his wealth.

4.2 Extrinsic Elements

Seduction in Death novel tells about sexuality and Psychoanalysis theory by Freud is used to analyze this novel. According to Freud there are three elements of Psychoanalysis theory, *Id*, *Ego* and *Superego*. *Id* is basic instincts in body and sexuality is one of them. The natural desire of Kevin is part of *id* in himself, including his sexual desire. However, Kevin has sexual disorder. His sexual desire (*id*) is not to fulfilled if he commits sex normally. He feels satisfied if he get satisfaction of feeling pain from the victim that he does to her till the victim die. It is an abnormality in his sexual desire.

“Think of it Kevin. You will know, the whole time when you’re toucing her naked body, while you bury yourself in her, that you will be the last one to do so. That your dick pumping inside her is the last thing she’ll ever know.”

Kevin went hard thinking of it. “i suppose there’s something to be said for the fact she’ll die happy”. (Robb, 2000: 49)

The form of sexuality of Kevin is the effect of the past. Hetred againts his mother is one of factors that Kevin hates women and assume that women are like her mother. He never get love from her mother. “Kevin’s mother had birthed him, then turned him over to paid tenders so that se could pursue her own ambition” (Robb, 2000: 34).

That things makes Kevin grow up into a person who does not care about love and the impact of his hatred on his mother built himself find satisfaction in a way playing with women. “Women have never been what we wanted them to be for us. Christ, look at our mother. Mine’s spineless and yours is bloodless” (Robb, 2000: 34).

The impact of the pain of his mother forms Kevin’s id. Kevin’s sexual satisfaction is different from the others. Sex is not only to vent his desire but also the way to release his disappointment toward women unconsciously. “Pain could be sexual, it could be a kind of seduction. But it wasn’t romantic. Yet he’d still set the stage with roses petals and candlelight, with wine and music” (Robb, 2000: 42).

Ego helps id to get what id needs. Id pushes ego to satisfy his needs so he does sex to fulfill his sexual desire. Having sex is a form of ego. Therefore having sex is the way to satisfy his sexual desire (id). On the other hand Kevin’s id wants more satisfaction. Kevin uses narcotics to succeed his action to get satisfied. The narcotics is used to make his victim out of control. Kevin deliberately gives doses to make the victims being wilder and then died. Kevin become excited and get satisfaction after doing that. The action of Kevin is called sexual sadism and masochism. “and she died. The ultimate experiences. She died much the same way as we were conceived. From a frantic coupling induced by chemical. One a experiment with a superior result.” (Robb, 2000: 35)

Sexual sadism and masochism receives pleasure from torturing partner and take a partner's pain by doing sadistic actions to get satisfaction. By having sex like that, Kevin can satisfy his desire (id). Sexual sadism and masochism in Kevin are the form of seed of his ego which is pushed from id. Ego acts to fulfill id's needs. Sexual sadism and masochism is the way ego to satisfy id to get pleasure. Kevin creates all of it as the games that he play with Lucias. "Planning and execution. When we started we considered this a bit of recreation, a kind of interlude where we'd expand our sexual experience. And at a dollar point, a kind of casual competition to keep us entertained" (Robb, 2000: 35)

Sacrificing the lives of women to satisfy himself is sexual disorder that he has. Sexual sadism and masochism that he has is killing the women by using narcotics to fulfill sexual desire. Kevin feels satisfied if he succeed doing mission his action. "it (the narcotic) was working. She let me do whatever i wanted" (Robb, 2000: 34)

Kevin realizes what he does is wrong because he breaks the law and superego gives signs about it. When Lucias invites him to make the game for both, Kevin is in doubt and surprised because he knows that he should not do that. Superego makes Kevin does not let Lucias create their action as a game. Kevin realizes that the games can help him to fulfill his sexual needs (id) but the action that he did is crime and it break the law and norm in society. All of Kevin's action in committing crime makes him sought by police.

"Fuck her to death? I don't know that he planned that going in, but that's how it worked out. Could be we get him on Murder one, using the illegals

as the murder weapon. More likely, it's going to Second Degree. And down blow your context, Peabody, we wrap him on that, add in the sexual assault and his attempt to dispose of the evidence, he's not going to see daylight again" (Robb, 2000: 17).

5. Conclusion

Seduction in Death tells about murder that committed by Kevin Morano and his Friend, Lucias Downwood. The murder motive is Kevin seduces the victims just for sex. Kevin uses narcotics as a tool to help him kills the victims. The narcotics is used to make the victim being out of control and the victim will die because the effect of the narcotics. Kevin does that action to get satisfaction of his sexual desire. The action that Kevin did is one of sexual disorders which is sexual sadism and masochism.

In this thesis the writer uses psychoanalysis theory by Sigmund Freud to analyze Kevin's motive action. There are three element in Freud's theory id, ego and superego. Id is unconsciuous part of body and all desire is one of parts of id including sexual desire. On this case Kevin has sexual disorder which he will get saticfaction if he does sexual sadism and masochism. Kevin's sexual disorder is the impact of past experience that relete to his mother. Kevin hates his mother and it become one of factors that influence his sexuality. The sexual sadism and masochism are a form of ego to fulfill his desire (id). In this case Kevin uses narcotics to help his sexual sadism and masochism or his ego. He realizes that what he does is a crime and breaks the existing laws in the society and that is a moral judgment given by the superego.

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