

***PSYCHOLOGICAL CONFLICTS OF ANNIE CHARACTER
IN THE HORSE WHISPERER NOVEL WRITTEN BY NICHOLAS
EVANS***

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ABSTRACT

The purposes of this thesis are to analyze the intrinsic and extrinsic elements contained in *The Horse Whisperer* novel written by Nicholas Evans and to analyze the novel deeply using Psychological Theory of Id, Ego, and Superego by Sigmund Freud. The method used in the writing of this thesis is library research through internet browsing and reading books. Nicholas Evans's *The Horse Whisperer* tells about the story of a woman who tries to heal her child and her horse suffering from trauma after having an accident. They both have burden of life and trauma that they face until they find a horse whisperer who does not only heal their horses but also their lives. From the analysis, the writer can conclude that Annie has Id, Ego and Superego in herself and she has to control it to get balance psychological life. The author shows several psychological aspects which make this novel become attractive.

Keys words: Nicholas Evans, The Horse Whisperer, intrinsic elements, extrinsic element, psychoanalytic theory

1. Introduction

Literature is a form of creative art using language as the medium and the object of its work is human and his life. Language used in literature is art language. Rene' Welleck and Austin Warren in their book *Theory of Literature* said, "*Language is the material of literature as stone or bronze is of sculpture, paints of pictures, or sound of music*" (1977:22). There are many kinds of literary form and novel is one example of it. The art of language used in a novel shows that every author has his own characterization as their way in writing a novel. Novel can be analyzed in some point of views like the moral value and social life. Every novel has different meaning and message that the author wants to deliver to the reader. "*The novel is a picture of real life and manners, and of the time in which is written*" (1977: 216).

The author delivers that message by the story happening with characters shown in the novel. The characters can play the role of moral and psychological values in the novel.

In the novel there are many aspects such as intrinsic and extrinsic elements that help the reader to get the meaning and the storyline. Conflict is one of the intrinsic elements that a novel has. Conflict builds the story of the novel. Everyone meets problem in the learning process to deal with self and others. Everyone has conflict. Sometimes people make a disagreement with other and sometimes have to make decisions about how to act in certain situation. The way they deal with their life depends on their self characterization of their personality. "*Personality includes something about you, including your basic disposition, your emotion, your behavior, and everything you learn that becomes part of you*" (Riker, 1982:23). Psychology, as we know is study about soul, and through this we can learn about personality of someone. To learn about some people personalities, we need to know and learn about their characterization deeply.

In the novel entitled *The Horse Whisperer* written by Nicholas Evans, the writer wants to find the way how the characters show their role to give the reader the meaning of the novel, how the story goes. This novel shows us that a woman as the major character in this novel faces many conflicts in her life that affected her characterization. A man, called a horse whisperer, succeeds in healing the characters in this novel by closely learn about their characterization. Through the psychological way he helped them. He learns about their life problem so that he could help to solve it.

This novel illustrates a good motivation of life to its readers. It teaches that people have to struggle in their lives and to be brave to face the real life that people have. That is the main reason why the writer wants to analyze this novel. The writer wants to know how the psychological analysis of the characters in the novel gives effects to the story of this novel, so that the writer chooses the title *Psychological Conflicts of Annie Character in The Horse*

Whisperer Novel Written by Nicholas Evans become the title of this thesis. The writer hopes this thesis can be useful and give the reader more information about life and *The Horse Whisperer* novel especially.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Intrinsic Elements

Intrinsic elements are the elements that build up the literary works. “*Analytical criticism of the novel has customarily distinguished three constituents, plot, characterization, and setting: the last, sp readily symbolic, becomes, in some modern theories...*” (1977:216).

Related to this thesis, the writer will discuss theme, character, plot and conflict, and setting.

2.2 Extrinsic Elements

The writer wants to analyze the main character in *The Horse Whisperer* novel written by Nicholas Evans using Psychoanalysis Theory. The relationship between literature and psychology is quite close, as both have the same source of the problem, human, as material of studies. In this novel the writer will use the Psychoanalysis Theory about the Province of Mind, Id, Ego, and Superego by Sigmund Freud.

2.2.1 Id

The Id comes from our unconscious side in our mind. We can call it instinct that naturally shows in our mind. “*Id is the inborn part of the unconscious mind that uses primary process to satisfy its needs and that acts according to the pleasure principle*” (Lahey, 1983:427). We can say that Id is the only component of personality that presents from birth. It is the aspect of personality that is fully aware of and including instinctive and primitive behavior. Id is the source of all psychical energy, making it as a major component of personality. We do not manage it, because it appears naturally from our mind. The id is driven by the pleasure principle, which strives for immediate gratification of all desires, wants, and needs. If these needs are not satisfied immediately, the result is a state anxiety or tension.

2.2.2 Ego

According to Benjamin H. Lahey, *“Ego is part of the mind that uses the reality principle to satisfy the id”* (1983:428). The ego operates based on the reality principle which is strived to satisfy the id’s desires in realistic and socially appropriate ways. *“The ego can be thought of as the executive of the personality because it uses its cognitive abilities to manage and control the id and balance its desires against the restrictions of reality and the superego”* (1983:428). The ego is the realization of the mind that the person is chosen what to do with the id. *“As the sole region of the mind in contact with the external world, the ego become the decision- making or executive branch of personality ... the ego can make decisions on each of this three levels”*(2009:29). The ego can control the powerful, pleasure- seeking id, but at other times it loses control. The ego sometimes comes closer to gain complete control, for instance, during the prime of life of a psychologically mature person.

2.2.3 Superego

The superego is the part of our mind that consists of morality value. The norm that our parents bring. Superego is the aspect of personality that holds all of the internalization of moral standards and ideals that we acquire from both parents and society about our sense of right and wrong. The value about something becomes good and bad. Every person has the different point of view about it. *“...that part of the mind that opposes the desires of the id by enforcing moral restriction by striving to attain a goal of perfection”*(1983:429). The superego provides a guideline for making judgement. The superego acts to perfect and civilize our behavior

3. Discussion

3.1 Intrinsic Elements

3.1.1 Theme

This novel discusses about the main themes, such as, relationship of human with animal, parenthood and career, and love. It pulls all of these from a melodramatic storyline into something to be applauded and revered.

3.1.2 Character

In *The Horse Whisperer* novel, the author creates a lot of characters that help to tell the story and also the actors who are involved in the story with different characteristics. The round character is defined as the main character that develops through the story in the novel so the characterization of this round character is dynamic. In this novel the main characters that will be discussed are Annie Graves, Grace Maclean, and Tom Booker. These three characters have the main roles to build the storyline and the characterization changes. The flat character is the minor character whose characterization does not develop. In this novel there are many flat characters that help to develop the story and add some effect to the major character's life story. There are Robert Maclean, Judith, Wayne P. Tanner, and Diane Booker. The flat character does not change in their characterization.

3.1.3 Conflict

Conflict is used by the author to attract the reader and gives tension in the story of the novel. In this thesis, there will be two kinds of conflicts, they are internal and external conflict. The internal conflict is about Annie's internal conflict that happens in herself about her Id, Ego, and Superego which sometimes trouble her. The external conflict will discuss about conflict between Annie as the major character with the other character in the novel. The internal and external conflict will be analyzed using Psychoanalytic Theory of Id, Ego, and Superego in the next chapter, External Conflict.

3.1.4 Settings

Setting of places in this novel mostly take place in Chatham where the family of Annie live and also in Montana where, Tom Booker, the horse whisperer, and his family live. This novel has social environment background that exists within the novel. The social environment depicts a different life style between urban communities and rural communities. Urban communities are already very busy with their activity, career or job. In the novel we can imagine the differences between the two social environments. In the urban life, such

Annie has in New York, she lives in an apartment separated with her family because of her work.

3.2 Extrinsic Elements

3.2.1 Annie's Id

The previous chapter explains that Id is based on the pleasure principle which comes from the unconscious mind. The Annie's Id comes when she meets Senegal man and she lost her virginity. "*Annie lost her virginity to a beautiful Senegalese man called Xavier to whose amorous advances she remembered to say yes, loudly, and mean it*" (Evans, 1995:35). It is the example of Id that she has to seek for pleasure principle. The Id's life in Annie's psychology troubles her marriage. The separated life that she has with her husband because of her career makes her Id cannot be satisfied. Many miscarriages after the born of Grace also affect the marriage. Annie does not want to have children anymore. "*There had never been a next time. Both of them had wanted another child but Annie had miscarried four times,...*" (Evans, 1995:57). Annie does not want to get pregnant anymore. She stops trying and makes her sex with her husband just a duty for her because of her status as Robert's wife. It is different with Tom because Tom has aroused Annie's Id. Their togetherness and the way that Tom reacts to Annie makes her Id satisfied and she loves it. Her satisfied Id put her in complicated situation because she is already married with Robert.

3.2.2 Annie's Ego

Annie's Ego actually appears when her daughter had an accident, she is worried and scared. Annie still has affection for her daughter although, her ego sometimes chooses to cover it. When she stays beside Grace in hospital, she straines her hair and massages her body. Suddenly, Grace's finger moves and makes her surprised. Annie calls Robert and tells him what happened. Robert tells her that it means Grace respons her. He asks Annie to talk to her but suddenly she feels awkward. "*Annie swallowed. For a moment, stupidly, she was lost*

for word” (Evans, 1995:76). She still wants to take care of Grace but she is afraid. The relationship between Annie and Grace is so beautiful as the proper relationship between a mother with her only daughter. However everything starts to change when there is a statement that makes Annie starts to leave her habit to stay with Grace or bring Grace everywhere she goes. The statement that said being single is better for her career. Annie chooses to become executive. “*Executive life was different.... Annie had at first refused to acknowledge the toll it was taking at home.*” (Evans, 1995:40) As a wife, although she loves her career so much, she still cares about her husband. When she stays in the apartment, she phones her husband to wake up and tells everything that she will do then. However she seems to arrange everything as she wants. It is a kind of ego that Annie has that shows her life as a wife. The answering machine in their house is also made with her voice.

Annie called her husband in Chatham and got her own voice on the answering machine. She left a message telling Robert it was time he was up, that she would be catching the later train and not to go to the supermarket before she got there (Evans,1995:15).

Annie who is a workaholic woman has a particular reason why she cannot be near her daughter. She has to live separatedly with her daughter. She is worried about her daughter so much that she refuses to be picked up by her husband. She wants Robert to stay with Grace. That is the night before Christmas when Grace will be back home tommorow. Annie and Robert are decorating the christmast tree. It is such a habit of them that Grace will decorate the Christmas tree. Annie thinks that how she can do with just one leg. She decides that she will do it with Robert. Her decision brings some consequences to her. Annie and Grace seldom have their “quality time” together and Grace trusts her father more than her mother. Annie is helped by Elsa, a maid that takes care of her family. Annie gets jealous when Grace always chooses Elsa over her. When Grace’s dress has a fraying holes on the knee, Grace wants Elsa to do that and Annie is jealous because her daughter chooses another person rather than her mother. Annie still wants to do that but Grace refuses it. “*She remembered how she*

had offered to do it and how hurt she had been when Grace said nonchalantly that she'd rather Elsa do it" (Evans, 1995:61).

Many events when Grace's and Annie's Ego crash each other become such an individual conflict for Annie's psychology. She is a mother but she cannot do what she should do as a mother because the effect of Ego that Annie chooses to follow, to choose her job over her family. It becomes some consequences that trouble herself. When it happens superego will do its part. Annie feels again her intimacy with Grace when Grace is still in her coma. Annie stays beside her and takes care of her. "*it was oddly sensual this new intimacy she had with her daughter*", (Evans, 1995:74). She loves Grace so much than what she can show to Grace. Her Ego is still working to take care of Grace. When Annie decides to bring her and Pilgrim to Montana, Grace refuses and blames her.

She had reacted to her mother's plan much as Annie had predicted. She had screamed and shouted and said she wasn't going, they couldn't make her and that was that. She got up from the dinner table, went to her room and slammed the door (Evans, 1995:164).

In Montana everything is starting to change. Grace is more cheerful and talkative to other people but not her mother. Tom helps her so much, builds her confidence again and makes her believe that nothing has changed after the accident. She should continue her life. There is an accident that makes them reunite. It is a dinner that Annie prepares for Grace and also the Booker family. In the middle of eating, Frank's little son reveals the embarrassing moment of Grace tries to ride a horse with her leg but she fails. Grace is ashamed and she becomes quiet. Annie comes to her and hold her. Grace said that she starts her period that night. "*Annie reached down and put a hand on Grace's shoulder and Grace turned. There was no anger in her face now...*" (Evans, 1995:295).

3.2.3 Annie's Superego

The news about Grace's accident suddenly makes Annie worried so much. Grace is Annie's daughter that places her into the reality that she is a mother. She also feels guilty

because she is not there to prevent Grace to go riding. She feels so bad. *“Yes I could. I could have stopped her going. “What was Robert thinking of, letting her go out riding on a like this?”* (Evans, 1995:38-39). She should have gone up with them last night. She chooses to stay in her apartment because of her work. It becomes a guilt when she thinks about the thirteen years her daughter has been alive. She decides to bring Grace and Pilgrim to Montana where Tom Booker lives. On the way to Tom Booker’s place, Grace makes her so irritated and she starts to feel guilty. She stooped her car and ran away leaving Grace alone in the car, crying, and depressing with what happens to her because of her ego.

What on earth did she think she was doing, dragging these two wounded souls across a continent, in some gruesome reprise of pioneer madness? Grace’s silence and the remorseless emptiness of the spaces they had crossed made Annie feel suddenly, terribly alone (Evans, 1995: 173).

It is all of the effect that she can be near Grace in every time she has. *“having lost all connection with herself, she had lost it too with her child and, for this, she was consumed with guilt”* (Evans, 1995:178). Story goes and Annie has done many things. The biggest guilt that she feels is in the end of story that Tom dies and she is pregnant because of her affair with Tom. It is the Superego becomes the winner in her psychological life.

4. Conclusion

The Horse Whisperer novel is written by Nicholas Evans. It was published in 1995. This novel tells about a woman named Annie Graves. She is a workaholic woman so she chooses her job over her family. She has a daughter named Grace Macleans who gets accident when she goes riding with her horse. She has to lose one of her legs and it makes her character change. Her horse gets a terrible wound so that people want to put him down. Because of that accident Annie’s motherhood feeling comes back. She needs to take care of her daughter and also the horse. She finds a horse whisperer, named Tom Booker who successfully helps her. He also makes her relationship with her daughter better. But, she also falls in love with him and becomes one of the conflicts that the novel has. Many conflicts in this novel show the

reader how the major character in this novel gets so much trouble in the psychological side. So that is the reason why the writer wants to analyse this novel using Psychoanalysis Theory.

The writer divides the problems into two. There are Intrinsic and Extrinsic elements that being analyzed and discussed in this thesis. In the Intrinsic side the writer analyzes Theme, Conflict, Character and Setting that build the novel so that the reader knows about the intrinsic elements that the novel has. In the extrinsic side, the writer analyzes the major character psychological conflict both internal and external conflict using Sigmund Freud's Theory the Id, Ego, and Superego that the character faces. The main character, Annie, gets some trouble in her life. She chooses everything depends on what she wants so that she gets trouble with the other characters in this novel. She gets psychological conflict in herself and also with the others. But here, the horse whisperer, Tom Booker finally helps her and changes her life. Here, the writer analyzes that the Annie's Id in this novel is satisfied by Tom. Conflicts that happen in Annie's internal psychology bring her into the external conflict with the other characters. The writer can conclude that conflicts that happen in Annie's psychological life chooses what she wants to do is contrasted with the real situation surrounds her. Annie finds out that her Id is satisfied when she stays beside Tom so that that it has conflict with Robert as her husband. Her husband shows that she is in the wrong position to have relationship with Tom. When Annie's Ego wants to satisfy the Id and does not think anymore about her marriage with Robert, here the author makes the Superego Robert as the winner, Tom dies. Annie has to go back in her life and put superego controlling her mind. The conflicts that Annie has become the point of story and become a learning material for the reader. This novel can deliver the message how people should balance their life.

5. References

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