An analysis of Kevin's ego in "Split" movie (A psychoanalysis study)

Deni Pratama[1,a], Merry Rullyanti[1,b]

Affiliation
1. Dehasen University of Bengkulu

Correspondence
a. zs.denipratama@gmail.com
b. merri.sasing@unived.ac.id

Abstract

Split movie is an interesting psycholinguistically analyzed movie in the last decade. The movie criticizes a bad psychological relationship between the main character and his community. Through this study, the researcher analyzed the multiple personality of main character on Split movie and used the theory of Sigmund Freud within the title "An Analysis of Kevin's Ego in "Split" Movie (a Psychoanalysis Study)". The purpose of this study are to find out Kevin's ego based on the Sigmund Freud's defence mechanism in the movie and to find out Kevin's most frequently emerging ego based on the Sigmund Freud's defence mechanism. In this study the researcher used a qualitative descriptive method by collecting data on all character conversations in "Split" movie. The data were analyzed based on Frued's theory of defence mechanism. Furthermore, the data were also anaylized by using Spradley's theory. There are three steps that must be taken in using this theory, namely domain analysis, taxonomic analysis and component analysis. The researcher found 8 Kevin's egos that got involved in real dialogues in Split movie. They are childish, firm man, mother-like, effeminate person, firm and effeminate, cruel, cool man, and weak lady. The highest val ue of frequently emerging ego goes to childish. Whereas, the lowest frequently emerging ego is a weak lady. Hopefully, the results of this study will increase the knowledge in English letters, especially in psychoanalysis study about various egos of movie characters or even real persons and the defence mechanism based on Sigmund Freud's and Spradley's theories.

Keyword: Psychoanalysis, Split movie, Kevin's ego, defence mechanism, MPD.

How to cite this article

Pratama, Deni. Rullyanti, Merry. (2020). An analysis of Kevin's ego in "Split" movie (A psychoanalysis study). *Literary Criticism, 06(02),* 60-65.

A. Introduction

Psychoanalysis is a branch of science developed by Sigmund Freud in 1856-1939. It studies human personality or psychological behavior. It can be applied into a method of treating psychological or emotional illness (Yorke, 2015). It is also a form of therapy based on the understanding that humans are generally unaware of the mental processes associated with their thoughts, feelings and behavior. Freud described the human personality as an iceberg with the part above sea level as the area of consciousness and the part below the sea level as the area of the unconsciousness. Between the two regions there is an area of preconsciuousness. The topological model was then transformed into a structural model. Freud developed the structure of personality as a dynamic relationship between its elements. In this structure, the human personality consists of three elements, namely the id, ego, and superego.

Of those three elements above, the ego is an important part of the defence mechanism. According to Freud, the defence mechanism is a strategy used by individuals to prevent the open emergence of id urges and to deal with superego pressure on id, with the aim of reducing or alleviating the anxiety experienced by individuals (Kuntojo, 2015: 46). The defence mechanism can occur in the real life as well as in literature. In the world of literature, there are much literary work that discuss or display the diversity of the ego. One of the literary work that is successful in presenting a defence mechanism by bringing out various characters of the ego is the movie discussed in this study.

In this study, the researcher analyzed the multiple personality of main character on Split movie and use the theory of Sigmund Freud (psychoanalysis). Split is a United States film released in 2017. The movie was directed by M. Night Shyamalan. The movie, especially the actor, successfully exposed the multiple personality that the character, namely Kevin, has in his life. This psychological condition was analyzed by the reseacher of this study through a descriptive method of research.

Starting the study, the researcher has observed some of previous researches. The first previous research was conducted by Sudrazat (2016) and entitled "Id, Ego, and Superego Represented by the Main Character of Fifty Shades of Grey Movie Christian Grey". It was found that Christian Grey's personality is leaning on his id which is BDSM, i.e. involving bondage and discipline, dominance and submission, sadism and masochism. Then, the ego and superego work to restrict the id into non-destructive ways.

The second previous research is from Astuti (2015). The research was entitled "The Personality Structure and Defence Mechanism of the Main Character in The House at the End of the Street Film". This research focuses on Ryan Jacobson as the main character in the movie. The findings show that Ryan Jacobson has abnormal obsession to have his sister named Carrie Anne alive. Due to a traumatic experience, Ryan has unbalanced personality structure caused by disturbance in his childhood. His ego is dominated by the id when it is about his secret and trauma in the past. Although Ryan has done some defence mechanism, it is not enough for him to remove his trauma and anxiety.

The next reviewed study is about "Anxiety and Defence Mechanism of Will Hunting in Good Will Hunting Movie" conducted by Masykuroh (2017). The analysis of data led to the conclusion that through the story, Will Hunting has three kinds of anxiety; realistic anxiety, neurotic anxiety, and moral anxiety. Will Hunting suffers from the realistic anxiety because of Sean and the difficult situation around him. He also has the neurotic anxiety because of his imagination that something dreadful will happen to him. Therefore, he also suffers from moral anxiety because he breaks a moral value. Will Hunting tries to deal with his anxieties by doing defence mechanism.

The fourth previous research was done by Ria Anita (2017) written in her thesis entitled "Sybil's Dissociative Identity Disorder (A Psychoanalysis Study in Sybil Novel by Flora Rheta Schreiber, 1973)". Based on the finding, Sybil is the main character and she is a woman who always experiences nervousness. There are 15 individuals who are Sybil's personalities as minor figures. They are Vicky, Peggy Lou, Peggy Ann, Marcia, Vanessa, Mary, Sybil Ann, Marjorie, Helen, Clara, Nancy, Mike and Sid, Ruthie and the Blonde. Among all minor personalities, Vicky and Peggy Lou are the strongest individuals who often appear and control Sybil's body. Vicky is a jolly woman who knows many things, she is an observer. Whereas Peggy Lou is an emotional female personality and she endures the anger that can't be expressed by Sybil. The dissociative identity disorder in Sybil's characters is physical and sexual abuse during childhood done by her mother.

The Last but not the least research previewed was done by Mutmainnah (2017). The title of the research is "Psychopathic by the main character in the Movie Maniac". The result shows that there are

five characteristics of psychophat that were found in Frank's character. They are glib and superficial, lack of remorse or guilt, impulsive, poor behavior control, and lack of empathy. The researcher also found that the factor that made frank be a psychophat is his id which became the dominant one over his ego and superego.

All of the above researchers used descriptive and qualitative method and focused on various kinds of psychological condition in literary work. The results found are general. The observations by the researchers towards previous studies were done by analyzing the forms of human psyche based on Sigmund Freud's theory. In the previous researches, there apparently is no specific discussion about the ego and the defence mechanism of the main character that is also analyzed by Spradley's theory. Thus, the researcher focused on the ego and the defence mechanism of the main character in a movie that was also analyzed by Spradley's theory. Furthermore, the character has multiple personality as well shown on "Split" movie which is an interesting psycholinguistically analyzed movie in the last decade. For those reasons the researcher took the title "An Analysis of Kevin's Ego in "Split" Movie (a Psychoanalysis Study)". The researcher of this study analyzed all utterances of main character in the movie. The discussion is about the use of words in the nature of psychological situation. Hopefully, the results of this study will increase the knowledge in English letters, especially in psycholinguist ic study about various egos of movie characters or even real persons and the defence mechanism based on Sigmund Freud's and Spradley's theories.

B. Methods

This research is a qualitative descriptive study. A qualitative descriptive study discusses the phenomenon of what is experienced by the subject of research such as behavior, perceptions, motivations, actions, etc., holistically, and in a descriptive way (Moleong, 2007). The researcher collected data from "Split" movie. They were then analyzed and reported by fulfilling the systematics of scientific writing from Chapter I, together with the cover, to Appendices. The data found were analyzed by using Spradley's theory (Spradley, 1979).

C. Result

All of Kevin's utterances in *Split* movie are the data of this research. This chapter presents the research findings and discussion of the utterances based on Sigmund Freud's theory of defence mechanism and Spradley's theory of analysing descriptive-qualiative data.

1. Kevin's Ego

The researcher found 8 Kevin's egos that got involved in real dialogues in *Split* movie. They are explained in the following table.

Table 1. Domain Analysis of Kevin's Ego

Data	First Utterance and Expression	Character	Ego
1.	I choose you first	Dennis	Firm man
2.	Hey! I was inspired	Barry	Effeminate person
3.	Dennis, admit what you've done.	Patricia	Mother-like
4.	My name's Hedwig. I have red socks.	Hedwig	Childish
5.	Thank you for helping us till now.	The Beast	Brutal
6.	Wait, no! Don't do that!	Jade	Weak lady
7.	Have I done something?	Barry (Dennis)	Effeminate-Firm
8.	Thank you, Dennis.	Kevin	Cool man

The above table shows the domain of Kevin's egos. They are the first words uttered by the characters. The ego of Dennis was found as a defense mechanism emerging in the situation that Kevin was trying to be a firm man. It was shown in his character that is firm and uses *to the point* words. In stead of saying more polite utterance like "I'd like to choose you, first, OK?", he used a more firm utterance "I choose you first" as he is acting in the situation. Moreover, in the scene, the character is showing a firm expression.

Meanwhile, the ego of Barry was found as a defense mechanism emerging in the situation that Kevin was trying to be an effeminate person. It was shown in his character that is feminine and uses tender words. In stead of saying firmer utterance like "Wow! That's cool", he used more feminine utterance "Hey! I was inspired" as he is acting in the situation. Moreover, in the scene, the character is showing an effeminate expression.

Whereas the ego of Patricia was found as a defense mechanism emerging in the situation that Kevin was trying to be a mother. It was shown in his character that is motherly and uses words often said by a mother. In stead of saying more tender utterance like "Dennis, please, say the truth about what you've done.", he used words often said by a mother "Dennis, admit what you've done." as he is acting in the situation. Moreover, in the scene, the character is showing a motherly expression.

In the meantime, there is a nine year old child was found to be the characteristic of Kevin's ego as Hedwig. It was shown in his character that is childish and uses words often said by a child. In stead of saying more common utterances spoken by an adult man like "I'm Hedwig and has these socks", he used a more childish utterance "My name's Hedwig. I have red socks" as he is acting in the situation. Moreover, in the scene, the character is showing a childish expression.

In addition, monster-like character was found in Kevin's ego as The Beast. It was shown in his character that is brutal and uses tones of voice produced by a monster or even words uttered by a monster or in a critical situation. In stead of using more common tone of voice of a man in this utterance "Thank you for helping us till now", he produced a monster-like tone of voice as he is acting in the situation.

Next, Kevin also became a woman who suffered from diabetes who named Jade. It was shown in his character that is suffering and uses words often said by unhealthy or powerless person. In stead of saying more powerful utterance like "No way! (while doing evading action)", he used begging words "Wait, no! Don't do that!" as he is acting in the situation. Moreover, in the scene, the character is showing a powerless expression and attitude.

At last but not the least, Kevin is the real character in this movie. It was shown when his mother got so angry and yelled at him by saying his name so loudly "Keviiin...!". Beside that, Kevin is also a silent and cool man. In stead of saying more feminine and longer utterance as Barry said "Wow, it's so touching, thank you so much, Babe", Kevin used less words in a cool way "Thank you, Dennis" as he is acting in the situation. Moreover, in the scene, the character is showing a cool expression.

2. Kevin's Most Frequently Emerging Ego

After finding the eight Kevin's egos, the researcher analyzed the taxonomy of the egos. The following is the taxonomy analysis of the egos with the number of 151 data.

Table 2. Taxonomy Analysis of Kevin's Ego

Number of Data	Character – Ego	Percentages
47	Hedwig – Childish	31.13 %
38	Dennis – Firm man	25.16 %
19	Patricia – Mother-like	12.58 %
18	Barry – Effeminate person	11.92 %
15	Dennis as Barry – Effeminate-Firm	9.93 %
7	The Beast – Cruel	4.64 %
6	Kevin – Cool man	3.97 %
1	Jade – Weak lady	0.66 %

Table 2 above shows the taxonomy analysis of Kevin's ego. Each ego has its own value. Based on the table, the ego of Hedwig i.e. childish was more often found in the movie for about 47 times. This data answers the second question of this research which is about what Kevin's most frequently emerging ego is based on the Sigmund Freud's defence mechanism in "*Split*" movie. Whereas, the ego of jade i.e. weak lady was only found once. It is the least ego shown in the movie.

The last part is doing the componential analysis. The percentages shown in the last column of Table 2 were concluded based on the values. The highest and the lowest values determined the result of the research. Below is the analysis table.

Table 3. Componential Analysis

Component		Number of Data	Percentage
Ego	Maximum: Hedwig – Childish	47	31.13 %
	Minimum: Jade – Weak lady	1	0.66 %

The above table shows a componential analysis where the maximum level of emerging ego is for Hedwig (Childish) i.e. 13.31 % and the minimum level of emerging ego is for Jade (Weak lady) i.e. 0.66 %. Based on Freud's theory of defence mechanism, 8 egos were found in *Split* movie. Among the egos, the defence mechanism used most frequently is in the egos of childish shown by Hedwig. The value indicate that the movie tends to use the ego that shows an abused childhood memory. The movie was made for telling the audience about something serious and memorable happened in Kevin's childhood moment. Through flashbacks, it is known that Kevin's mother was abusive and suffered from diabetes. After Kevin's father mysteriously disappeared on a train one day, the young boy grew up suffering from abuse at the hands of his mother which caused Kevin to retreat into other personalities to protect himself. This condition in psychoanalysis is known as defence mechanism and MPD.

The appearance of Hedwig which characterized a nine year old child is intensive in the movie. Poor Hedwig, he lost his normal and happy childhood. The love of a normal mother and father could not be got during his childhood. His sick mother and missing father made him thirsty for his parents' caresses. Behaving like a child is the way he defends himself from the feeling of losing his happy childhood, from wanting to be loved by both parents, father and mother. This kind of analysis is not found in the previous literary work and analyses on *Split* movie and on other researches that the researcher of this study has reviewed before.

Beside for entertainment, the movie itself criticizes a bad psychological relationship between someone and his community. The movie shows the audience about the effects of abusive treatment to a child in his future. One of the effects is multiple personality disorder as the defence mechanism. By using the issue of MPD and defence mechanism, the movie makes the audience realize that an abused child needs help. Their bad characters are something that can be learnt and solved.

D. Conclusion

According to the analysis, it can be concluded that the highest value of frequently emerging ego goes to the character of Hedwig i.e. childish. It was mostly used because the writer wants the character to be cared more seriously. Whereas, the lowest frequently emerging ego is a weak lady that is Jade. This ego is exposed so to show that Kevin has a touching memory about an old woman. All egos relate to what the writer needs to tell. The movie was produced to show a unique character of a person. Not all human beings are commonly the same.

Meanwhile, based on the results of reviewing the previous studies, it can be concluded that Kevin's ego i.e. childish is indeed the character that the writer wants to emerge frequently. It means that the movie is really a movie of a person who has a bad childhood memory

E. References

Anita. (2017). Sybil's Dissociative Identity Disorder (A Psychoanalysis Study in Sybil Novel by Flora Rheta Schreiber, 1973). Thesis not published. Bengkulu UNIVED Bengkulu graduated program.

Astuti, EW. (2015). The Personality Structure And Defense Mechanism Of The Main Character In The House At The End Of The Street Film. Thesis not published. Faculty of letters and humanities state islamic university syarif hidayatullah.

Bertens. (2006). Psikoanalisis Segmund Freud. Jakarta: PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama. Endraswara. (2008). Metode Penelitian Psikologi Sastra. Yogyakarta: Media Pressindo. Halosehat.com. (2018). About penyakit gangguan jiwa. Retrieved from https://.halosehat.com/penyakit/gangguan-jiwa-mental/jenis-jenis-penyakit-sakit-jiwa

Kuntojo. (2015). Psikologi perkembangan. Yogyakarta: Diction

Masykuroh, NL. (2017). Anxiety and Defence Mechanism of Will Hunting in Good Will Hunting Movie. English Department Faculty of Adab and Cultural Sciences State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta.

McLeod, S. A. (2019, September 25). Id, ego and superego. Simply Psychology. https://www.simplypsychology.org/psyche.html

Minderop. (2011). Psikologi Sastra. Jakarta: Yayasan Pustaka Obor Indonesia.

Moleong, L.J. (2007). Metode Penelitian Kualitatif: Edisi Revisi. Bandung, Indonesia. PT Remaja Rosdakarya.

Mutmainnah. (2017). Psychopathic by the Main Character in the Movie "Maniac". English and Literature Department a Faculty of Adab and Humanities Alauddin State Islamic University of Makassar.

Republika.co.id (2017). About: Film Split. Retrieved from: https: // www. republika.co.id/film/Split.

Semiun, Y. (2006). Teori Kepribadian dan Terapi Psikoanalitik Freud. Yogyakarta: Kanisius. Siswantoro. (2010). Metode Penelitian Sastra. Surakarta: Pusat Pelajar.

Spradley, J.P. (1979). The Ethnograpic Interview. Florida, USA: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich College Publishers.

Sudrazat, RA. (2017). Id, Ego, and Superego Represented by the Main Character of Fifty Shades of Grey Movie Christian Grey. Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University Semarang

Sugiyono. (2012). Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif Kualitatif dan R&D. Bandung: Alfabeta.

Syah, Muhibbin, (2001), Psikologi Pendidikan dengan Pendekatan Baru, Bandung: Remaja Rosdakarya.

Yorke, C. (2015). Freud, Sigmund (1856-1939). International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences (Second Edition). 413-419. Retrieved from https:.//www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/B978008097086861036X?via%3Dihub

Yule, G. (2010). The Study of Language. [e-book]. Retrieved from: https: // fac. ksu. edu.sa/sites/default/files/cambridge.the_.study_.of_.language.4th.edition.apr_.2010.ebook-elohim.pdf