

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

II.1 Theoretical Framework

The focus of the analysis is to find out how is the work of Grenouille's id, ego and superego, why the id dominates Grenouille's personality. Furthermore the writer also intends to know what happen if the id dominates Grenouille's personality. In order to answer those questions, the writer of the study will apply intrinsic approach. One of intrinsic elements is character, and the main character that going to be analyzed is Jean-Baptiste Grenouille. To understand deeper about Grenouille's behavior, the writer will also apply Psychoanalysis theory especially about the structure of personality to support the analysis and to answer the questions that have been explained above. Freud's structure of personality includes three aspects, the id, the ego, and the superego. First, the writer will explain the term of intrinsic and intrinsic element which is character and second, the structure of personality by Sigmund Freud.

II.1.1 Character and Characterization

Roberts in *Literature: an Introduction to Reading and Writing* say that character in literature generally, and in fiction especially, is an extended verbal representation of a human being, the inner-self that determines thought, speech and behavior. Through dialogue, action, and commentary, the author captures some of the interactions of character and circumstances (143).

According to Roberts, a round character is one of the major figures in literature who profits from experiences and undergoes a change or development. They are complex and many sided. It is also commonly called protagonist, which implies that the character is become the center of attention. It has many realistic traits and is relatively fully developed. Round character is individual and unpredictable human trait, also because of the changes or growth they undergo as the result of their experiences, therefore can be considered as dynamic character.

While flat character is contrast with round character. Flat characters are characterized by one or two traits. They are undistinguishable from other persons in particular group and class. They tend to stay the same throughout a story. Flat character has only one outstanding trait or feature, or at most a few distinguishing marks. Therefore the flat character is not individual, but representative. Flat characters are usually minor, although not all minor characters are flat. Since they do not change or grow, they are static not dynamic (145).

II.1.2 The Structure of Personality

II.1.2.1 The Id, The Ego, and The Superego

According to Barry in his book *Beginning Theory*, Freud suggested three part model of the psyche, dividing into the id, the ego, and the superego (97). The id exists from the moment when someone is born and is the part of human mind which responsible for all energy needed to operate the system of all other structure of personality. During the early stages of human life, the id consists of instincts, impulses, drives, and become the reservoir of psychic energy that moves the ego and the superego (Suryabrata 125).

The id is present at birth and is the part of personality that accounts for all the energy needed to run the psyche. It consists of the basic urges for food, water, warmth, affection and sex. The id seeks immediate gratification and operates on the pleasure principle. When the id is not satisfied, tension is produced, and the id strives to eliminate this tension as quickly as possible (Davison and Neale 34).

The id functions closely tied to instinctual biological urges (to eat, to sleep, to defecate, and to copulate) that energize our behavior. Freud believed that it is raw, animalistic, and chaotic, knows no law, obeys no rules, and remains basic to the individual throughout life. The id obeys pleasure principle, manifesting itself in an impulsive, irrational, and narcissistic manner, regardless of the consequences of its action for others or its own self-preservation. The id takes no precautions in expressing its purposes—a fact which Freud felt may result in danger for the individual and society. The id operates by the pleasure principle which is to get pleasure and to avoid pain. For the id, pleasure means state of relative inactivity, or low energy level; pain means the tension increases in energy. When stimuli create tension, the id tries to reduce or eliminate the tension and to return the individual to a low energy level (Hjelle and Ziegler 88-89).

The id has two mechanisms to free the personality of tension, reflex action and primary process. The example of reflex action is coughing in response to a tickling throat. When reflex action can not alleviate the tension, a second id function, called primary process, takes over. Primary process is done by imagine, or create an image, basically fantasy of what is desired. The id forms a mental image of an object associated with satisfaction of a basic need. Primary process only works in short period; it used to delay the real fulfillment of the desire. In

long term period, using only primary process to reduce tension is very fatal. Other examples of primary process thinking are found in dreams, and in the hallucinations. Primary process is an illogical, irrational, and fantasy-oriented form of human thought characterized by the inability to inhibit impulses and to discriminate between the real and the unreal. The consequence is the individual can not differentiate between the actual object that will gratify a need and a mental image of the object. Learning to delay satisfaction emerge when baby learn that there is an external world apart from their own needs and desires. As this realization develops, the ego appears (89).

According to Vernon in *Introductory Psychology*, when an individual is dominated by the id, he or she functions according to the pleasure principle. An id-dominant person is definitely unable to delay or control impulses. As person grows toward adulthood, this impulsive person stays emotionally immature and frequently gets into trouble with the law in society (430).

The ego is decision-making component of the personality that seeks to express and satisfy the desire of the id. The ego acquires its structure and functions from the id. The id is always works on the mind level, while the ego works in the reality level. One of the ego functions is to connect the id with the reality world. The ego operates by the reality principle. The aim of reality principle is to search the right object to reduce the tension in the id. So, basically, the ego works as the mediator between the id and the superego, and still dealing with the reality at the same time. It seeks for the best and the most realistic way to satisfy the id's desires without offending the superego.

The ego acquires its structure and functions from the id, having evolved from it, and proceeds to borrow some of id's energy for its own use in response to the demands of social reality. If the ego failed to satisfy the id's desire, the id will take back its energy. The ego helps ensure the safety and self-preservation of the individual. In its battle for survival against both the external world and the desire of id, the ego must differentiate between things in the mind and things in the reality (Hjelle and Ziegler 89-90).

The superego is the last component of personality to be developed and represents an internalized version of society's norms and standards of behavior. The children must acquire the superego through interactions with parents, teachers and other "formative" figure. The superego divided into two subsystems, the conscience and the ego ideal. Conscience is acquired through the use of punishment by the parents. The ego ideal is derived from whatever the parents approve or value and leads the individual to pursue standard of excellent and generate self esteem and pride (90-91).

While in *Abnormal Psychology*, the superego is the carrier of society's moral standards as interpreted by the child's parents. When the id pressures the ego to satisfy its needs, the ego must cope not only with reality but also with the right wrong judgments of the superego (Davison and Neale 34).

Freud viewed the id, the ego, and the superego as being in competition and believed that emotional problem could develop as a result. A strong sense of morality (overdeveloped superego) which conflicts with the biological (id) impulses may cause serious difficulty in coordinating values and social patterns.

Even though three of them have their own function, characteristic, work's principle, and dynamic, but still three of them connects each other and it is very impossible to separate their effect to human's attitude because human's attitude is the result of three of them. In normal situation, three of them cooperates each other under supervision of the ego. Tyson state in his book *Critical Theory Today* that in the structure of personality, three of them are defined by their relationship: none of them acts independently of the others, a change in one always involves changes in the other two (97)

II.1.3 The Development of Personality

Freud argues that the personality develops through five psychosexual stages, the oral stage, the anal stage, the phallic stage, the latency stage, and the genital stage. The writer will only emphasize on the anal stage because the anal stage is a place for toilet training. Toilet training is the beginning step for learning to satisfy the id and the superego simultaneously. Toilet training also becomes the important events to connect the id with the reality world. Basically the anal stage becomes the place to express and satisfy the id's desire in accordance with the superego and the reality.

The failure in this stage will create anal expulsive and anal retentive character. Traits associated with the anal expulsive character include resists society's rules, limit when someone touch personal habits and activities, destructiveness, disorderliness, impulsiveness, and sadistic cruelty. The other traits are megalomania, and very ambitious person. The cause of this failure is because the parents or adults insist the child to have immediate proper toilet

training. If the child passes the urine in pants or in bed the parents or adults will give punishment to the child. The punishment and the way the parents or adults treated the child as unlovable during toilet training will create frustration toward the child (Hjelle and Ziegler 97-98)

A person with the anal retentive character becomes a “saver”. When feels stress and insecure, this person will collect something in order to feel emotional security. The cause of it is the parents are rigid and demanding to do toilet training, insisting the child to do immediate defecation. In response, the child refuses to pass his or her feces and become constipated. If this tendency of “hold back” becomes excessive, the consequence of it the child becomes the anal retentive character (Vernon 439).

II.1.3.1 Normal Personality Functioning.

In Freud’s view, both the sane and the insane are motivated by the irrational id, with its reckless drives. People are more capable of controlling drives depend on their psychosexual development. In the normal personality will have produced a healthy balance among the id, the ego and the superego (Alloy and Riskind 111). The ego is capable of solving the conflicts that develops between the id and the superego by choosing alternatives acceptable to both (Vernon 431).

II.1.3.2 Abnormal Personality Functioning.

Like normal functioning, abnormal functioning is motivated primarily by irrational drives. The difference between them is in ego strength (The ego is capable of solving the conflicts that develops between the id and the superego by

choosing alternatives acceptable to both). In extreme cases, the ego's strength may be severely depleted or severely underdeveloped from the start. Defenses break down, flooding the psyche with id impulses. This condition of ego collapse, known as psychosis, is the furthest of the structural imbalance (Alloy and Riskind 111).

II.2 Related Studies

Jeffrey Adams in his critical essay entitled *Narcissism and Creativity in the Postmodern Era: The Case of Patrick Süskind's Perfume* (2000) says that Grenouille's experiences in childhood are abandonment and abuse. Those things become significant factors that can cause criminal action in his future life. Abandonment and abuse in early life block the healthy internalizations which are needed to build a stable self. Furthermore, Grenouille does not have superego. Guilt is not an aspect of his personality, he murders to obtain the materials to make his own art.

The feature that distinguishes this study from the critical essay above is the cause of internalization of the superego. The writer says that the superego exists in his mind. Unfortunately, the internalization of superego is not well developed because the absent of parents. As mentioned above that the parents have important roles to teach the superego to the child. Madame Gailard as the adults does not give proper information to Grenouille about the superego. He does not have an opportunity to get education where superego is taught by the help of teachers. Because the superego is not well developed, the concept to differentiate the right and the wrong things is unclear in Grenouille's superego.

Flavie Pommies in his essay entitled *Perfume by Patrick Süskind: a Freudian Reading of the Story of a Murderer* (2006) says that Grenouille's childhood is extremely sad and difficult for him. He isolates himself from his environment. No one wants to get close with him. Afterward, murders that have been done by Grenouille are the results of his inside crisis such as his anger, his sense of isolation, his hate for people and humankind. Pommies also says that Grenouille become a murderer because he reproduces his mother's crimes and weaknesses.

The feature that distinguishes this study from the essay above is Grenouille kills the virgin girls not because his inside crisis. The writer of the study says that Grenouille kills his victims because his ego can not find the right way to satisfy the id's desire but still in accordance with superego. Because the ego can not do its function, the id takes back its energy and flooded his personality with the id. The id wants to have the aromas and the way to achieve it is through kills the virgin girls.