

**PERSONALITY OF AISHE  
IN *THE BOY AND THE SWAN***

A GRADUATING PAPER

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining the Bachelor  
Degree in English Literature



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I certify that this graduating paper is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this graduating paper. Other writer's opinions or findings include in the graduating paper are quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

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Atas perhatiannya, kami ucapkan terima kasih.

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## **Personality of The Main Character in *The Boy And The Swan***

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The Boy and The Swan*, a children literature, tells about an isolated boy named Aishe who is left by his mother and adopted by his grandma. He always feels lonely in his times. So, he always looks for his happiness until he finds his lost someone (his mother). The central point of this analysis is the personality of Aishe who faces his life without his parents as the usual condition of children. This condition makes him becomes an introvert boy and he cannot make a good relation between each other in the social environment. This research aims to understand how the main character's id which relates to the nature, ego, and superego which relates to the nurture influences the main character's personality. The method used in this research is qualitative research, especially library research. This research applies psychonalysis theory by Freud. This research concludes that through this story, the nature of the main character are in the form of the good heredity from his grandma and his mother. It is love towards his grandma and animals. While the nurture that influences Aishe's personality comes from his surrounding. The ego often gets trouble to choose because between the id and the superego are often in conflicts. The ego works to win the stronger influence between id and superego.

**Keywords:** personality, nature and nurture, id, ego, and superego.

## **Kepribadian Tokoh Utama Dalam *The Boy and The Swan***

Imamah Isfarotul Munawaroh

### **ABSTRAK**

*The Boy and The Swan*, sebuah sastra anak yang menceritakan tentang seorang anak yang terisolasi bernama Aishe yang ditinggal oleh ibunya dan diadopsi oleh neneknya. Dia selalu merasa kesepian. Jadi, dia selalu mencari kebahagiaan hingga dia menemukan ibunya. Inti utama dari analisis ini adalah kepribadian Aishe yang hidup tanpa orang tuanya sebagaimana anak-anak pada umumnya. Kondisi ini membuatnya menjadi anak yang tertutup dan tidak bisa bersosialisasi dengan baik dengan lingkungan sosialnya. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk memahami bagaimana id yang berhubungan dengan pengaruh bawaan, ego, dan superego yang berhubungan dengan pengaruh lingkungan mempengaruhi kepribadian tokoh utama. Metode yang digunakan adalah metode qualitative, khususnya studi pustaka. Penelitian ini menerapkan teori Psikoanalisis dari Freud. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa, melalui cerita ini, faktor bawaan yang baik dari tokoh utama adalah dalam bentuk sifat keturunan dari nenek dan ibunya, yaitu kasih sayangnya terhadap nenek dan binatang. Sedangkan faktor lingkungan yang mempengaruhi kepribadian Aishe datang dari lingkungan sekitarnya. Ego-nya sering mendapatkan kesulitan untuk memilih karena antara id dan superegonya sering bertentangan. Ego-nya memenangkan yang lebih kuat antara id atau superegonya.

**Kata kunci:** Kepribadian, nature (faktor bawaan) dan nurture (faktor lingkungan), id, ego, dan superego.

## MOTTO

✚ The Biggest Laziness Comes from Ourselves, and The Greatest Spirit is  
Our Will

✚ Do The Best to Get The Best

✚ Be A Good Person for Others



## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate with honor, love and affection my little work to:

1. All of My Beloved Lecturers of State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga
2. The Students of English Department of State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga especially to my beloved friends (Mbak Asri and Mbak Fajar)
3. The Alumnus of English Department Chapter 2009
4. My Beloved Parents (Budi Suryono & Suharnik)
5. My Beloved Brother and Sister (Ahmad Arifuddin Ma'aly & Urfi Ummul Mahmudah)
6. My beloved one
7. And All of My Friends in An- Najah (Wahid Hasyim)



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Yogyakarta, 21 Mei 2014

The Writer

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background of Study

There are many kinds of literary works. They are novel, short story, drama, movie, and so on including children literature. According to Lynch-Brown and Tomlinson, “children literature is good quality trade books for children from birth to adolescence, covering topics of relevance and interests to children of those ages, through prose and poetry, fiction and nonfiction” (Chen, 2005:3). It means that children literature is created specially for children which tells about children’s experiences. Furthermore, Obi in her writing, *Children’s Literature* states that,

“Children's literature refers to literature exclusively for children. It refers to stories, poetry, rhymes, folk tales, drama to mention but these specially created for children as target audience. The criteria that define literature as children's literature are that: first the heroes are children and two the theme comprising the ideas, relationship and language are simple and not complex. Finally, they aim at teaching moral lessons” (2010: 5).

Every children literature has its own topic that can be got by readers as the moral lesson. Usually, children behavior becomes the topic of children literature. Children literature also becomes the chosen material for parents when they want to tell a story for their children.

The reasons of choosing children literature as the object of this research are because it is very important especially for children. Besides, it gives great

positive impacts to children. Mostly, children like to read story books because they have some special characteristics which can make them interested, for example, they contain some pictures and many simple words that can make them easy to understand. By reading children literature especially for Indonesian children, children can increase their languages because they can get some vocabularies. Hence, they can understand the information in the literary works they read.

Children literature can influence the development of children mindset. By reading or listening story from parents or others, children can have big imaginations in describing the story which is told. The main purpose of children literature is not only for amusement, but also for education. Through the story, people can get some lessons, for example, when the story tells about the miracle of honesty, friendship, loving parents, and other themes; they can know about all of them.

Hence, in a story, there are some important aspects that make the story become interesting. They are plot, characters, and other aspects, for example; setting, style, and point of view. According to Stanton, plot is the chronological events in which they have cause and effect relation in every event (as cited in Nurgiyantoro, 2010: 113). On the other hand, character plays an important role in a story. They are the central point in the story.

Other aspects, for example; setting, style, and point of view give their roles to make the story become interesting. They relate one another in making a

good order. Setting gives clear and concrete events in a story, so the readers can feel that the story is realistic and really happens. In addition, all of the aspects of a story give another information needed by the readers.

Therefore, in this research the writer analyzes the main character in *The Boy and The Swan*. It is very interesting to be analyzed because it tells about the personality of an isolated boy as the main character. *The Boy and The Swan* is one of children literary works written by Catherine Storr, a writer who believes that protecting children from the frightening and unpleasant condition is wrong decision (Disqus, Inc: 2001). The main character of this story is Aishe. The story tells about the absence of parental care in the life of Aishe. However, parents' education is very important for a child's development. The affection of the parents towards their children cannot be realized by only providing foods, clothes, and shelters. More, children need attention and understanding to grow and to build their personalities.

In the story, it has been told that Aishe loses the parental moment for several years. So, he cannot be a normal child. He is an introvert boy who never close to anyone else except his grandma and his cygnet which becomes his only friend. For him, his cygnet is his happiness. It is very different with the condition which is needed by children where parents have to present to give their protection, care and also attention, so they can know their children's development, they can teach how to make a good relation in social environment, etc. The basic foundation of children's personality is in a family. Family is the first environment that will shape their personality.

The most important thing in a family is the parent- child relationship. Children have the right towards their parents. It is the obligation of their parents. They have the right to be protected, cared, fed, and also educated. According to Dawson and Ashman, "early parent-child relationships have powerful effects on children's emotional well-being" (2000). A small children need to be hugged, kissed and loved, and also understood, so they can control their emotions, but it is not happened to Aishe.

Then, the absence of parental time influences Aishe's personality including his character, behavior, and manner. According to the writer, the healthy personality of children is based on the conducive condition of family environment which becomes the basic social unit in human's life. It means that the personality of children is based on their parents treatments, for example, the way their parents educate them, communicate to them and also their parents' acts.

According to Plomin and Schalkwyk, "heredity and environment interact in complex ways. Genes influence the kinds of environment we seek, what we attend to, and how much we learn (as cited in Cradell, 2009: 57). From the quotation above, human's personality generally is built by the nature (biological factors) and nurture (environment). No one can be free from the environment. The environment can influence more than the biological factors. A good environment can build a good personality while a bad environment can give a bad impact for the human's personality.

In addition, the researcher uses Freud's psychoanalytic theory in analyzing the main character's personality. To limit the analysis, the writer focuses on



analyzing the main character's personality and some factors that influence his personality; they are the id that relates to the nature, ego, and superego that relates to the nurture. For the addition, the writer also analyze about anxiety which also relates to the id, ego, and superego.

## **1.2. Problem Statements**

This analysis aims to answer the question: How does the nature and nurture influence Aishe's personality?

## **1.3. Objectives of Study**

Related to the problem statements above, the objectives of this research are to explain how is Aishe's personality and what factors that influence his personality.

## **1.4. Significances of Study**

There are two significances in this research:

### **1.4.1. Theoretical Significances**

Theoretically, this research can be used as an additional source or reference for people who are studying literature especially about Abrams' objective approach and Freud psychoanalytic theory.

### **1.4.2. Practical Significances**

For students and the other researchers, this research can be used as an additional reference in some analysis related to Abrams' objective approach and Freud psychoanalytic theory.

For the readers, this research hopefully can be a discourse as their material to increase their understanding of human personalities. In addition, this analysis can also become a reference in learning the difference of human personality and its cause.

## **1.5. Literature Review**

Related to this research, the writer does not find other researches that concern about children literature *The Boy and The Swan*. Thus, this research is the first research which analyzes the character development, that is the personality of Aishe as the main character based on Freud's psychoanalytic theory.

## **1.6. Theoretical Approach**

### **1.6.1. Objective Approach**

This paper applies an objective approach by Abrams. This approach focuses on the fully literary work. According to Abrams, the approach is seen from the existence of the literary work itself based on the valid convention, for example; diction, theme, plot, setting, character, etc (Presetyo Adi, 2011).

### **1.6.2. The Theory of Psychoanalysis**

In this research, the writer uses Freud's psychoanalytic theory. This theory is the first of the modern theory of personality that is developed by Freud. In *Literary Theory* under his work *The Corner Stones of Psychoanalytic Theory*, Freud states, "the assumption is that there are unconscious mental processes, the recognition of the theory resistance and repression, the appreciation of the importance of sexuality and of the Oedipus complex—these constitute the

principal subject—matter of psychoanalysis and the foundation of its theory” (Carter, 2006: 70).

However, the psychoanalysis theory is complex. From the quotation above, it can be concluded that psychoanalysis is one of theory which focuses on the human psychologically. It includes human unconscious, the relation of sexuality to human’s life, and so on.

There are three basic principles of personality. They are id, ego, and superego. According to Freud, “the id is the innermost core of the personality, the only structure present at birth, and the source of all psychic energy. It exist totally within the unconscious mind” (Passer, 2007: 444). Furthermore, Freud states “the id wants to satisfy its basic motivational urges but the superego or conscience is opposed to that, and the ego tries to resolve the conflict” (Eysenck, 2009: 9).

From the statement above, id is someone’s primary desire which wants to be fulfilled while the ego is the effort in getting the id, and the superego relates to someone’s personality. It is the outer control from the unconscious mind.

According to Freud, “superego has two subsystems; they are conscience relates to the question what is forbidden to do which punish someone by making him or her feeling guilty, and ego-ideal relates to the question what have to be done which prides someone by making him or her feeling proud” (Semiun, 2006: 67).

Freud also assumed that the mind exists at three levels: the conscious; the preconscious; and the unconscious. The conscious consists of those thoughts that are currently the focus of attention. The preconscious consists of information and ideas that could be retrieved easily from

memory and brought into consciousness. The unconscious consists of information that is either very difficult or almost impossible to bring into conscious awareness” (Eysenck, 2009: 9).

The writer focuses on Freud’s id, ego and superego. However, the writer explains the personalities of the main character relating to the nature and nurture first. Nature comes from an inherited genetic while nurture comes from environmental influences. According to Patterson, “the term nature usually refers to our inherited characteristics while the term nurture usually means the external or environmental condition of children’s lives” (2008: 8). However, both nature and nurture very influence human’s personality, so they are very important to be analyzed.

According to Freud, “adult personality is the product of innate drives (nature) and childhood experiences (nurture). These innate drives include the structures of the personality (id,ego and superego), as well as the psychosexual stages that every child passes through. In each of these stages, frustration or overindulgence may lead to a fixation on that stage and predictable adult personality characteristics. Freud’s theory therefore considers the influence of nature (things we are born with) and nurture (things that develop through experience). The interactionist nature of this approach is a key strength” (Hartnoll, Flanagan, and Murray, 2009: 38).

From the quotation above, it can be concluded that there is no one who lives without environmental influences (nurture). The environment will always present to build one’s personality as well as the nature.

In addition, those both theories also relate to the Freud's defense of mechanism. It happens when the id, ego, and superego are in the conflict so that they emerge the anxious feeling. Here, the defense of mechanism plays its role to reduce the anxiety. Therefore, the writer will also explain the defense of mechanism used by the main character because in some parts of the story, the main character gets some conflicts that make him feel anxious.

## **1.7. Method of Research**

### **1.7.1. Type of Research**

The type of research used in this research is qualitative method in which the writer uses library research. Here, it means that the writer's analysis based on the text or the analyzed object of this paper is a text. It is *The Boy and The Swan* text.

### **1.7.2. Data Sources**

The data are divided into two:

#### **1. The Main Data**

The main data of this research is the book of *The Boy and The Swan* written by Chaterine Storr. From the book, the writer takes the analyzed data. They are the dialogues and the character described in *The Boy and The Swan*.

#### **2. The Second Data**

The secondary data of this research are the data which support this analysis. They are got via library research by reading some books about psychoanalysis and other references about the objective approach.

### 1.7.3. Data Collection Technique

The writer does some steps to make the analysis systematic. First of all, the writer reads the book of *The Boy and The Swan* for several times. Then, the writer marks some information of the book relate to the main character which will be analyzed in this paper as the primary data. Then, the writer writes the marked data.

### 1.7.4. Data Analysis Technique

In analyzing the data about psychoanalysis from the main character in *The Boy and The Swan*, the writer uses descriptive qualitative. Descriptive qualitative research focuses on the analysis of the collecting data to find the answer of the problem statements. According to McMillan and Wergin in *Understanding and Evaluating Educational Research*, “qualitative research’s purpose is to obtain an understanding of the phenomenon under study.....” (Mcmillan and Wergin, :96).

The steps of data analysis technique used by the writer are:

1. After the data are collected, the writer analyzes the main character’s personality.
2. After analyzing the main character’s personality, the writer classifies the analysis relates to the aspect that influence the personality.
3. Finally, the writer makes the conclusion of the analysis.

## 1.8. Paper Organization

This paper is divided into four chapters. The first chapter is an introduction which explains the base of the research including background of the study, problem statements, objectives of the study, significances of the study, theoretical approaches, method of research, and also paper organization.

The second chapter explains the intrinsic elements of *The Boy and The Swan*. It consists of theme, plot, character and characterization, setting, point of view.

The third chapter is the analysis of the main character's personality in *The Boy and The Swan*. The first analysis is about the nature and the nurture of the main character which influence the main character's personality while the second analysis is about the main character's personalities based on Freud's id, ego and superego.

The last chapter is a conclusion that gives brief overview of the whole discussion and also the moral value and the writer's suggestion.

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 4.1. Conclusion

From the discussion above, the writer can conclude that the personalities of the main character in *The Boy and The Swan* are influenced by some factors. They are id which relates to the nature, ego, and superego which relates to the nurture. His love nature is the heredity of his grandma and his mother who love him. He also loves animals, and helping his grandma in doing some chores.

The personalities of the main character are also influenced by the nurture. First, it is his mother's decision to leave him which makes him become lonely boy. Second, it is his grandma's treatment. His grandma's treatment is good. She cares about him and it makes him care about her also. He likes to help his grandma in doing some chores, but they hard to talk because they share their loves through their actions. So, this condition makes him become an introvert boy. Next, it is his friends. He is not close to people including his friends. He likes to stay away from them.

The nurture that influences his personality also relates to his surrounding through the superego. It can be seen in the complexity among id, ego, and superego. Then, the id, ego and superego of the main character are very complex. The main character's personalities are more dominated by the id than the superego. Actually, the main character of this story is lonely, but he never shows his loneliness to others. He wants to get out from his loneliness by looking for



some pleasure of his id. The main character's id is stronger than the superego so that it does not care about the role of the superego.

The complexity among id, ego, and superego happens in some acts. First, it is when his friends give him a question which means to mock him. Here, the nature very influence his personality, so the ego wins the id by hitting his friends of his dislikeness. Second, it is when he finds some bones. He leaves the bones because he is afraid of the misterious bones' story. Next, it is when he catches a movement on the grass. The ego acts by following the movement and forgetting his weekly supplies. Then, it is when he feels very hungry. He steals an egg from its shed to satisfy his id. Last, it is when he wants to keep the egg, he lies to his grandma of his illness, so he can be absence of going school.

Fifth, when he finds the female swan will die. The ego wins the superego which wants to protect the egg even his id refuses it because he feels afraid to go near the nest. Sixth, it is when when his mother gets sick. The ego decides to follow the superego by recieving the law to follow the social worker to the Children's Home. Next, it is when he wants to bring his cygnet as a pet. The id cannot be got because the superego more influences him to leave the cygnet with its couple. Last, it is when his mother wants to meet and take him. Finally, he recieves his mother even though he also angry with his mother leaving.

In addition, the ego lets him satisfy the id to get the pleasure, but it is not always directly. The ego sometimes gets some difficulties whether to satisfy the id or to satisfy the superego. It means that both nature and nurture influence his

personality. The ego sometimes retains the id's will to get the pleasure when the id's will is opposed to the superego or when the id's will threatens the main character himself.

#### 4.2. The Islamic Value of Parents' Responsibility toward Their Children

From the story of *The Boy and The Swan*, it has been told that Aishe's mother leaves him with his grandma. In Islam, parents have to be responsible for their families. God has created human being as a leader. It can be seen in a household where parents are the leader of their children. Rasulullah SAW has ever said in Shahih al- Bukhari,

حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو الْيَمَانِ، أَخْبَرَنَا شُعَيْبٌ، عَنِ الزُّهْرِيِّ، قَالَ أَخْبَرَنِي سَالِمُ بْنُ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ، عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عُمَرَ - رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا - أَنَّهُ سَمِعَ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ " كُلُّكُمْ رَاعٍ وَمَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ، فَالْإِمَامُ رَاعٍ وَمَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ، وَالرَّجُلُ فِي أَهْلِهِ رَاعٍ وَهُوَ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ، وَالْمَرْأَةُ فِي بَيْتِ زَوْجِهَا رَاعِيَةٌ وَهِيَ مَسْئُولَةٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهَا، وَالْخَادِمُ فِي مَالِ سَيِّدِهِ رَاعٍ وَهُوَ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ ". قَالَ فَسَمِعْتُ هَؤُلَاءِ مِنَ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَأَحْسِبُ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ " وَالرَّجُلُ فِي مَالِ أَبِيهِ رَاعٍ وَمَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ، فَكُلُّكُمْ رَاعٍ وَكُلُّكُمْ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ ".

*“Narrated `Abdullah bin `Umar: That he heard Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) saying, “Everyone of you is a guardian and is responsible for his charge; the ruler is a guardian and is responsible for his subjects; the man is a guardian in his family and responsible for his charges; a woman is a guardian of her husband's house and responsible for her charges; and the servant is a guardian of his master's property and is responsible for his charge.” I definitely heard the above from the Prophet (ﷺ) and think that the Prophet (ﷺ) also said, “A man is a guardian of his father's property and responsible for his charges; so everyone of you is a guardian and responsible for his charges”” (Khan in sunnah.com).*

Aishe's mother has become a leader for him with her own way. Even, she leaves him with his grandma. She also fulfills her obligations as a parent with her own way. In a hadith, parents have some obligations over his children, for example, give the child a good name, educate the child well, and place (residence) the child in the good place/ pious.

From the story, Aishe's mother has done her obligations as a parent even she does not provides all Aishe's needs because of her condition. She gives him a good name. Although she does not educate him directly, but Aishe has got many experiences through living with his grandma. It also means that his mother places him in the good place. she trusts her mother to educate him. Aishe also studies in a school.

#### **4.3. Critics and Suggestions**

The writer realizes that this paper is still far from the perfection. This paper only explains two cases. The first case is about the main character's nature and nurture while the second case is about the main character's personalities. Therefore, the writer expects some critics and suggestions from the readers to improve this paper.

The writer also suggests to the next researchers who want to analyze *The Boy and The Swan* to make a new research, for example; analyzing about the type of child's parental care.

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