

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This first chapter presents a background of the study, and a number of underlying reasons for conducting this study. This chapter also elaborates the statements of the problem which guide the study. Following the statements of the problem are aims of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, research methodology, and classification of terms. Finally, organization of the paper presents a general description of the contents of each chapter.

1.1 Background

Nowadays, there are lots of literary works published in Indonesia. Some of them reflect Indonesian society. Many aspects of life are revealed through the creative mind of the authors. It makes us, the readers, interested in reading them. The interesting point for me is that some of books reflect the marginal society. One of them that has become a phenomenon is *Laskar Pelangi*.

Laskar Pelangi is one of the novels written by Andrea Hirata. It is a quality novel bringing the theme of life and education. This novel generally tells us about ten children struggling for life and education in Belitong Island. They studied at an Elementary school named SD Muhammadiyah; a very old school with dilapidated condition. The school was just about to be closed by the government because the number of its students was less than ten children as the

minimal requirement. Fortunately, before being closed, there was one child who registered himself as one of the students there. So, the school could continue its program to educate Belitong's children.

The author intends to analyze the character of Lintang and his conflicts. Lintang is the smartest but poorest child in the novel who faces the conflict of choosing between getting education and handling his family's life after the death of his father. Lintang is chosen as the main focus of the research because he is the central character that affects the others and the story a lot. As the study from psychoanalytical point of view, it approaches the theory of Sigmund Freud which consists of id, ego, and superego as the method of research.

Klarer (1999, p. 92) said that psychological approach can be used to analyze characters psychologically, as if they were real people. In other words, analyzing characters in the novel can be the same as analyzing people in the real world. By analyzing characters in the novel, a reader is able to observe characters' psyche. Psyche is someone's mind, or their basic nature, which controls their attitudes and behavior (Longman, 2001 as stated on Yuliannisa, 2008). The psychological theory of Sigmund Freud which consists of id, ego, and superego will be used to analyze character of Lintang and his conflicts, and derive interpretation from the analysis.

It is easy to see how conflict may arise between the id, ego, and superego. Freud uses the term ego strength to refer to the ego's ability to function despite these dueling forces. A person with good ego strength is able to effectively manage these pressures, while those with too much or too little ego strength can become too unyielding or too disrupting. Doble (2009, p. 53) states that the key to a healthy personality is a balance between the id, the ego, and the superego.

Therefore, by applying the Freudian psychological theory which has been mentioned above, this study attempts to reveal the portrayal of Lintang, the conflicts he faces, and the interpretation derived from the analysis.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

The research is conducted to find the answers to the following questions:

1. how is character of Lintang portrayed in the Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytical perspective?
2. according to Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytical perspective, what kind of conflicts is Lintang faced in *Laskar Pelangi* novel?
3. what interpretation can be derived from analysis of Lintang in *Laskar Pelangi* novel?

1.3 Aims of the Study

Based on the statement and formulation of the problems, the aims of this study are:

1. to find out how character of Lintang is portrayed in the Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytical perspective
2. to find out kind of conflicts faced by Lintang in *Laskar Pelangi* novel according to Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytical perspective

3. to find out the interpretation that can be derived from analysis of Lintang in *Laskar Pelangi* novel.

1.4 Scope of the Study

This study focuses on analyzing Lintang's character in *Laskar Pelangi* novel in terms of how he is portrayed, the conflicts he faces; and also the interpretation that can be derived from the analysis.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to give significance to the development in terms of theory, profession, and practice. Dealing with theory, the result of this study is expected to enrich theories on novel analysis in terms of portrayal of character, conflicts, and interpretation of the analysis. Furthermore, this study will be a reference of study which investigates similar variables.

Since the writer comes from English educational background, I believe that English teachers can motivate their students to read between the lines of text. This is worthwhile because teaching and learning not only consider the extrinsic factors, such as, lesson plan and teaching method, but also the intrinsic value that comes from the heart leading the students to realize their goal of learning, that is, to reach their dream. If this intrinsic value, such as, motivation, has been gained by students, they will learn independently and seriously because they realize the importance of learning.

Through this study, the author gains meaningful experiences on both conducting a qualitative descriptive study and also writing an academic report. Those experiences will be important for his further study and career.

1.6 Research Methodology

The author applies qualitative method in conducting this research. It attempts to critically investigate events or phenomena (Alwasilah, 2006, p. 91). Qualitative research is conducted to understand the phenomena experienced by research subject, such as behavior, perception, motivation, action, and so on, holistically in descriptive way-in the form of words and language-in a particular naturalistic context using several naturalistic methods (Moleong, 2007). In this context, therefore, the qualitative approach is the most appropriate approach to investigate the portrayal of Lintang, reveal his conflicts, and derive interpretation from the analysis.

In this research, the writer uses textual analysis as research method. It focuses on the content of the novel. The content is textual evidences embedded in the text. The writer collects and analyzes the content of the text that is usually in the form of words, phrases, sentences, paragraphs, pictures, symbols, or ideas ("Qualitative Social Science Research Methodology," n.d.). In the structure of textual analysis, it attempts to reveal the character of Lintang; the conflicts he face; and the interpretation derived from the analysis. The writer tries to describe and interpret the meanings of phenomena exist in the novel. This will be done through several stages, such as, doing close reading of the script; taking notes to find textual evidences; classifying and listing textual evidences; analyzing the data; and drawing conclusion (Barker, 2000 as stated in Kartikawati, 2008).

1.6.1 Data Collection

The data of the research are collected from texts of novel itself. Reading the novel *Laskar Pelangi* closely is the first process of collecting data. Close reading skill is essential for interpreting literature (McClennen, 2001). It means one should deeply understand and accurately interpret the text, mainly on the words themselves. It also involves a thought process that moves from small details to larger issues. The author reads several times in order to deeply understand the text and content; to reveal the character of Lintang; to analyze his conflicts; and to derive the interpretation. The next step is taking notes of events experienced by Lintang. These events are used as the textual evidences for the data presentation.

Furthermore, descriptive analysis is used in analyzing the data. It includes reviewing the information, identifying links, patterns, and common themes, and arranging the facts in order (Almedom et al, 1997). Those data are presented as they are, without any additional comments on their significance.

Subsequently, the author conducts library research to obtain relevant theories about novel, character, and Freud's psychoanalysis theory. The theories are collected from books and thesis. Additional information are taken from articles and journals downloaded from the internet.

1.6.2 Data Analysis

Close reading was the beginning of analyzing the data. Its skill is essential for interpreting literature (McLennen, 2001). In accordance with that, one has to deeply understand and accurately interpret the text, mainly on the words themselves. It also a thought process that moves from small details to larger issues. The first step in the process of close reading is observing facts and details about the text (Kain, 1998). It focuses either on a specific passage or on the text as a whole.

The next step is interpreting the observation through inductive analysis which moves from the observation of particular facts and details to a conclusion or interpretation. Furthermore, descriptive analysis is used in analyzing data. It includes reviewing the information, identifying links, patterns, and common themes, and arranging the facts in order. Those data are presented as they are, without any additional comments on their significance.

This study focuses on textual analysis. It focuses on the content of the novel. The content is textual evidences embedded in the text. In the structure of textual analysis, it attempts to reveal the character of Lintang; the conflicts he face; and the interpretation derived from the analysis. In line with the definitions of qualitative method described above, the author tries to describe and interpret the meanings of phenomena exist in the novel. In brief, qualitative method is suitable for this research.

Every sentence, paragraph, and passage was read intensively to be classified which one belonged to the group of the id, ego, and superego. They were also exclusively analyzed to determine conflicts arise between them. Factually, there was no obvious event can be categorized into the conflict between the id and the superego, or the ego and superego. The conflict arise frontally was the conflict between the id and the ego.

1.7 Clarification of Terms

There are some definitions of terms used in this study, such as:

- a. Character: the personality or part which an actor recreates (Merriam Webster).

In this study, character is defined as personality of Lintang in the perspective of Freudian psychology of Id, Ego, and Superego.

- b. Conflict: the opposition of persons or forces that gives rise to the dramatic action in a drama or fiction (Merriam Webster).

In this study, conflict is defined as problem which is faced by Lintang in the perspective of Freudian psychology of Id, Ego, and Superego.

- c. Portrayal: the act or process or an instance of portraying (Merriam Webster).

In this study, portrayal is defined as process of portraying Lintang in the perspective of Freudian psychology of Id, Ego, and Superego.

- d. Psychoanalysis: a tool relates to these three things: a theory of personality, a method of therapy, and a technique for research (Hall and Lindzey, 1957).

In this study, psychoanalysis is defined as a tool used to portray Lintang's character, conflict he faces, and the interpretation of him.

- e. Id: the first component of human psyche that presents from birth, and operates based on pleasure principle (Ewen, 2003).

In this study, id is defined as the first component of Lintang's psyche that motivates him to search for knowledge to fulfill his need of pleasure of studying.

f. Ego: the second component of human psyche that operates based on reality principle (Hall and Lindzey, 1957).

In this study, ego is defined as the second component of Lintang's psyche that adjusts Lintang's id to the conditions existis in reality.

g. Superego: the third component of human psyche that operates based on moral principle and ideals of society (Cloninger, 2004).

In this study, superego is defined as moral principle and ideals of society that have become internalized by Lintang that give an image to him of what he should be in his life.

1.8 Organization of the Paper

This paper will be presented in five chapters as follows:

Chapter I (Introduction)

It presents background, statements of problem, aims of the study, the scope of the study, significance of the study, research methodology, data collection and data analysis of the paper.

Chapter II (Theoretical Foundation)

It presents the theories and literatures review to support the analysis of the study. It will also provide definitions of the term literature, novel, psychology, character, and characterization. Furthermore, it also explores about character and conflict faced by character. It will discuss about psychoanalytical theory of Sigmund Freud which consists of *id*, *ego*, and *superego*.

Chapter III (Research Methodology)

It explains the methodology used in the research, research design, research method, steps of research, sources of research, data collection, and data analysis.

Chapter IV (Data Presentation and Discussion)

It provides analysis of the *id*, the *ego*, and the *superego* found in Lintang's personality to portray his character. Also, it discusses the conflicts faced by him and the interpretation derived from the analysis.

Chapter V (Conclusions and Suggestions)

It presents the conclusions and the suggestions of the research findings. Finally, the paper will end with references.