

## **Reflection of Psychological Analysis in the Main Character of Emil Scherbe's Nameless Monster**

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### **Abstract**

Short story is one of fictional prose forms that typically focus on a single event and limited character development. This research aims to analyze psychological aspects through languages experienced by the main character in the short story "Nameless Monster" by Emil Scherbe. The data were employed from the words, phrases, or sentences containing the psychological representation in the story. The theory used in this research was Sigmund Freud's psychological theory of personality. In conducting this research, the methodology was qualitative and presented descriptively. The results of this research revealed that two stages namely id and ego briefly and strongly performed by the main character, while the superego is almost completely absent from the story. Finally, even though the subject is a non-human creature, analyzing psychological features in the short story contributes to criticize how language is used to express ideas and feelings, also to create certain effects including emotion.

**Keywords:** *Nameless Monster, Psychology, Short Story, Sigmund Freud*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Literature can be both as a source of knowledge and as an entertainment to spend the spare time. The desire to know ourselves and others, to explore the unknown mysteries of existence, to make sense out of chaos, and to connect with the own kind are all primary reasons for engaging in the process of literary analysis. Moreover, some benefits to self and society that result from this interaction include a sense of wonder at the glory of humanity's imagination, a sense of excitement at the prospect of intellectual challenge, and a sense of connection with the universe.

Literary works can be analyzed based on various perspectives. One of them is psychological point of view. A study of psychology in literary works explores the intersection of literature and psychology. The authors wrote their ideas, opinion, or experiences through literary works. Moreover, a research that focuses on the phenomenon of psychiatric role in the literary works can be called as literary psychology. Literary works as psychological phenomenon is a condition of psychiatric role (Afkarina & Wardhani, 2019).

In addition, both literature and psychology are two branches of knowledge that study the human soul. Psychology conducts researches

on human behaviors and their causes, while literature depicts human behavior through fiction. Furthermore, there will be mutual relationship between literature and psychology, in the form of evaluation of a literary work with the resources of psychology and obtaining psychological truths from a literary work (Yimer, 2019). Other researchers also supported that literature psychology studies certain psychological phenomena experienced by the main character in a literary work when the character encounters the environment and him with the psychological signs (Siswantoro, cited in Setianingrum, 2018).

Literary psychology can be used to analyze fictional literature forms. Aras (2015) revealed that the thoughts and mental states of humans in which psychology is a strongly correlated discipline with literature. One of fictional literary works is short story which tells a small part of the most important and most interesting life of the actor. In a short story there may be conflict or dispute, but it does not cause a change in the fate of the actor. For instance, it refers to written or spoken language that tells an imagination or invented story, typically in a narrative form within 1000 words. In this research, the researchers employ a short story entitled "Nameless Monster". It is a captivating short story that explores themes of identity, self-discovery, and the power of embracing one's true nature. Written by Emil Scherbe, this thought-provoking narrative takes readers on a journey through the inner struggles and triumphs of its main character, highlighting the complexities of human emotions. Through vivid imagery and thought-provoking narratives, Scherbe explores themes of identity, fear, and the power of self-acceptance. Furthermore, the story present an impressive moral value which is to embrace one's true self, despite societal judgment and rejection, in order to find personal growth and happiness.

One of studies that concerns on the combination of psychology and linguistics is psycholinguistics. Psycholinguistics provides a robust framework for understanding the mental processes reflected in written text. It is supported by Slobin's psycholinguistic model which describes that the production of language is determined by the limitation of mental process (Rosmanti & Rukiyah, 2023). In addition, psycholinguistics is the study of the psychological and neurological elements that enable human to acquire, comprehend, and produce language. So, in this research, the analysis does not completely examine the data based on psycholinguistics. It is because the research is absent for observing the cognitive and neural mechanisms in language process. Moreover, the relationship between literature and psychology are both forming the evaluation of literary works with psychology and gaining psychological correctness from literary works (Yimer, 2019), also literary psychology examines the activities done by the characters in the story (Citra, 2020), (Wiyatmi, 2011), and (Nuryatin, 2017).

By analyzing the language used in narrative text, researchers can gain insights into the cognitive and emotional states of the characters, particularly the main character such as a non-human character that interacts with others in the story. Risyal et al. (2023) argue that the narrative text such presents mental or psychological phenomena in overcoming the internal conflicts including character anxiety that closely

connected to several stronghold mechanisms by Freud. The urgency of psychology literature is to know psychological factors containing in literary works (Devilito & Wardani, 2016).

Literature, especially in the form of dark fairy tales or allegories like "Nameless Monster," often serves as a rich source for exploring complex human emotions and motivations. These narratives encode patterns that help readers understand abstract concepts like identity, fear, and morality through concrete linguistic choices. Hence, Zebua (2021) is inferred that three aspects of personality hold crucial roles of the main character of the text. In the other hand, the story's explicit exploration of an identity crisis and existential void makes it particularly suitable for applying classic psychoanalytic theories, such as Freud's Id, Ego, and Superego. Analyzing how these constructs are linguistically represented allows for a deeper understanding of the character's internal conflicts and their communication strategies.

In addition, the research also contributes to the understanding of how readers process and interpret narratives that use simple, repetitive, yet profound language to evoke a sense of horror and melancholy. This relates to language perception and how specific linguistic features influence a reader's cognitive and emotional response. Furthermore, this research integrates the literary work namely short story with the psychological issues reflected in "Nameless Monster". This combination helps the readers of literature for assessing and reviewing the problems showed in literature work psychologically. Consequently, in order to gain deep understanding related to the psychoanalysis in the story, the researchers used psychological theory proposed by Sigmund Freud (1984). It consists of three elements namely ide, ego, and superego.

## **METHODS**

In conducting the research, qualitative descriptive is used as a research method that focuses on providing a detailed description and interpretation of phenomena or experiences. Creswell (2018) argued that a descriptive qualitative refers to a way to thoroughly examine data such as texts using comprehensive description. The research activities were preparation, data collection, and data analysis. In the preparation stage, the researchers formulated the problem of the topic and review relevant books and articles with literature psychology that became the principle theory. The data collection were done by reading the short story thoroughly and repeatedly, identifying the linguistics features relevant to psychology aspects proposed by Sigmund Freud (1984) namely id, ego, and superego, and organizing the words, phrases, or sentences that show psychological processes.

In addition, this research was analyzed with flow sequence model analysis. The stages of the analysis method, based on Miles and Harmen (2014) are namely: (1) collecting the data in forms of words and sentences in the short story based on the investigated problems; (2) presenting the data by describing and explaining the characters' personalities with Sigmund Freud's psychology theory: Id, ego, and superego; and (3) concluding data by resuming the aims of the research, discussion and the results.

## **FINDING AND DISCUSSIONS**

In this section, the researchers analyze psychological condition through languages experienced by the main character based on three classifications namely id, ego, and superego. They were proposed by Sigmund Freud functions to form individual personality. Even though, the main character is a monster, but in the short story, the activities done by the monster reflect some interesting phenomenon of human personality. Moreover, the data are discussed in the following paragraphs:

### **The Character Personality Aspect: the Id in the short story**

The id is the part of the personality that stores basic biological drives or basic necessity, such as the sexual drive and the aggressive drives. The id operates on the pleasure principle, seeking to immediately satisfy needs and desires. Moreover, the id refers to the original personality existing since an individual is born, in which id consists of all inherited psychological aspects including instincts, impulses, and motivations. The following sentence shows the main source of id experienced by main character that is an ambition to have a name. The principle data below indicates id personality which tends to be aggressive and focus on fulfilling the physical needs, as follows:

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*"Once upon a time, in a land far away, there lived a nameless monster.  
The monster **was dying to have a name.**  
So the monster made up his mind, and set out on a journey to look for one.*

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The first datum above presents the id aspect of the main character who wants to satisfy his needs to have a name by travelling around the world. This desire appeared due to Id's encouragement that includes to the basic necessity to reach something higher, better, and more. In the short story, the monster's desire reflects human personality which wants to have something that one does not have yet. This matter also corresponds to the title of this story, a nameless monster. Therefore, the monster's id indicates the intense and pressing desire for having identity. This desire ensues without rational consideration or consequence.

In the story, the monster does some steps to get a name from human. All of his actions have similar patterns namely, meeting a person, asking to get a name, offering the advantage, entering onto the body, eating the body, and becoming a monster without a name again. Some people who become his targets are: firstly, he meets a blacksmith who lives at the village. Secondly, he goes to a shoe maker. Thirdly, he comes upon a sick boy who lived in the castle. Unfortunately, the monster that lives inside the boy body eats

the king and all servants in the castle because he cannot detain his hunger to eat people. Finally, the boy also attacks the monster that goes to west. At last, the monster has found a name, but there is no anyone to call him by its name. Moreover, the monster's id operates on the pleasure principle that uses deception to satisfy the basic need without considering the morality of the actions.

### **The Character's Personality Aspect: the Ego in the short story**

The ego is the part of the personality that acts as a mediator between the needs of the id and the realistic and rational demands of the outside world. For instance, it becomes the principle of reality that maintains to balance the personal interests with social and cultural norms. The following paragraphs show the data of ego done by the monster as follows:

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*But the world was such a very large place.*

***The monster split in two, and went on separate journeys.***

*One went east.*

*The other headed west.*

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In the first datum of ego above, the monster decides to split into two and travel separately, one goes to east and another goes to west. This decision demonstrates the strategic planning and adaptation to the reality of the world. The monster thinks that there will be an effective way to find a name using two subjects touring in different areas. In addition, this action implies the function of ego in developing methods to obtain the goals of the id.

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*There was a blacksmith who lived at the village's entrance.*

***"Mr. Blacksmith, please give me your name!" said the monster.***

***"I can't give you my name!" replied the blacksmith.***

***"If you give me your name, I'll go inside you and make you strong," said the monster.***

*"Really?" said the blacksmith,*

*"If you make me stronger, I'll give you my name."*

*The monster went into the blacksmith.*

*And so, the monster became Otto the blacksmith.*

*Otto was the strongest man in town.*

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In this context, the monster met a blacksmith who lived at a village. He has a willingness to have a name by asking to a

blacksmith, "Mr. Blacksmith, please give me your name!". On the other hand, the response of Mr. Blacksmith makes the monster realize that he cannot easily get something from others. In this step, his ego will postpone and try to find a solution that can be accepted by the social norms. One of them is bargaining to Mr. Blacksmith by arguing "If you give me your name, I'll go inside you and make you strong.". Furthermore, this utterance is recognized as an action of an ego to balance the monster's need and the reality. This negotiation effort reflects the Ego's role in interacting with the outside world and recognizing that names cannot be simply taken without some sort of agreement or manipulation.

### **The Character's Personality Aspect: the Superego in the short story**

The superego refers to the personality that plays a role in internalizing moral norms and the values of society. In addition, the superego acts as a "personal police" in order to suppress deviant id desires and creates guilt if there is a moral violation. The short story of Nameless Monster mostly does not reflect superego. Even though, there is one condition that seems to be a part of the superego, but it is not. The dialogues are as follows:

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*"The king was overjoyed.  
He announced, "The prince is healthy! The prince is strong!"  
The monster became quite fond of the boy's name.  
He was also quite pleased with his royal life in the castle.  
So **he controlled himself no matter how ravenous his appetite became**  
Day after day, despite his growing hunger, the monster stayed put inside the boy."*

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In this context, the monster really enjoyed his role as the king's son, and then became quite fond of the prince's name. Because, the monster was quite pleased with the royal life in the castle, so he controlled himself to not eat something or even people there. In this condition, the monster's action reflects the phenomenon of superego which suppresses his need to be not committing a violation. Furthermore, the story ended by eating all creatures including another monster that goes to rest. At last, the monster had a name - Johan, but there is no longer anyone to call him by it.

The main character's superego appears to be almost completely absent. The monster displays no sense of guilt or understanding of right and wrong. This absence of the Superego is what makes its actions horrific. The narrative repeatedly describes



the monster devouring its victims with onomatopoeia such as “Munch munch, chomp chomp, gobble gobble, gulp.” The use of mechanical and emotionless language to describe the act of devouring its victims demonstrates a lack of remorse or ethical consideration. The lack of the Superego is reflected in these repeated brutal acts.

The end of story tells that after eating everyone and receiving the name “Johan,” the monster feels “overjoyed” but regrets that no one else is around to call him, calling the name “so beautiful.” The focus on the joy of the name and the praise of it, amidst the utter destruction it creates, demonstrates the unchecked dominance of the Id and Ego by the Superego. His goal is achieved, albeit at the cost of utter destruction.

## **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

### **CONCLUSION**

The results reveal that the nameless monster has a willingness to have a name from other people. Some stages had already done by him in order to get a validation from other that he had a name. Even though, the only thing that he could was by entering to other people body, then he would be called by that name. There are two aspects in psychological condition namely id and ego which derive his personality that is selfishness in struggling to have an identity. On the other hand, the superego does not completely exist in the main character. It is due to the monster only prioritizes his strong desire to have an identity through everything including crime. Furthermore, by analyzing psychological condition through literary features namely sentences, the readers might have a comprehensive understanding the characters' inner conflicts, their motivations and behavior, and provides insight into how literary works reflect aspects of human psychology.

By shedding societal expectations and judgments, the protagonist discovers the strength and beauty in their uniqueness. The conclusion emphasizes the importance of self-acceptance and encourages readers to embrace their own identities, even in the face of adversity. Consequently, the “Nameless Monster” serves as a powerful reminder that we should celebrate our individuality and find the courage to be true to ourselves, as it is through this acceptance that we can truly live a fulfilling life.

According to psychology and linguistics perspective, the story used simple and repetitive language that can reflect a lack of moral depth namely Superego. A single-minded focus is on satisfying baser urges (the Id). The fairy tale style effectively communicates the psychological horror of an existence devoid of ethics and an identity built on destruction. Consequently, the analysis focuses on *how language reflects mental processes*

experienced by the main character such as perception, emotion, and identity. In the short story, *Nameless Monster* examines how language choices reveal the psychological states of characters that explore deeper connections between language deprivation and identity formation.

## **SUGGESTION**

This current research limits the discussion on the psychological condition based on id, ego and superego proposed by Sigmund Freud. The analysis focuses on language features uttered by the main character, a monster. In addition, there are several suggestions for the next researchers. Firstly, future researchers may examine the relationship between language deprivation and identity formation in greater depth, particularly how the monster's lack of a name influences his cognitive and emotional development. Secondly, they may also conduct comparative psycholinguistic studies with other literature featuring nameless or identity-fragmented characters. Thirdly, next research could apply discourse analysis, sentiment analysis, or cognitive linguistic frameworks to explore how narrative voice, metaphor, and emotional language reflect mental processing. Finally, researchers may investigate the monster's language acquisition patterns or analyze reader responses to ambiguity and symbolism. These expanded perspectives would provide deeper insights into the psychology and psycholinguistic dimensions of the short story *Nameless Monster*.

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