

PSYCHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS IN JHON UPDIKE'S SEPARATING

Yeni Wulan Dari

Muhammadiyah University Of Bengkulu

Email :yeniwulandarieni3@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Research objectives of psychological analysis in short stories Separated by Jhon Updike is to explore the true characteristics of the male lead character named Richard. My research on the psychological aspects of Richard. Psychology is related to someone mental. This is what I raised in the story of Separating. Psychology is very important in our life. Every healthy person is of course happy, but what will happen to the health of someone who is experiencing mental stress. Mental pressure and psychology disorders can be caused by many factors. In the story the main separating factor that causes chaos occurs is divorce and feeling unhappy despite having everything. Someone's dissatisfaction sometimes makes the person forget the real happiness. This was experienced by Richard he felt not happy even though he already had a wife and child.

Keywords :*literature, short story, separating, psychology*

INTRODUCTION

The short story "Separating" by John Updike tells the story of a husband and wife who decide to divorce. The thing that is not easy for both, not about separation, but about how to talk and tell their children that they will get a divorce. An extraordinary pressure which was triggered by the main character in this story is Richard, where Richard acts as the family leader, so he has an important role in his family. The pressure is felt to be increasingly heavy because the root cause of their divorce is because he feels unhappy in this marriage, even he has an affair with another woman. Children become an important part of their inner conflict. Where the child who has been the source of his strength has now become his weakness. So complicated is the inner conflict felt by the main character in this story.

This paper focus on the psychological of the main character, where in the “Separating” story of Jhon Updike I see an inner conflict played by the main character in this story. The reason for my underlying issue is because I see there are two characters played by the male lead in this story. If we just see or read at a glance, we will not find different characteristics in Richard. But after I looked deeper into this verita I found that Richard actually had two personalities, where he could be very evil, even he could not care about his family, this was proven by how Richard had an affair with another woman and decided to divorce from his wife . But on the other hand I saw the extraordinary struggle that Richard had on his children. He was very fond of his child and was very careful to say that he would divorce and separate from their mother. These two things seem very contradictory.

This paper investigates the effects of life stresses felt by someone. Where the effects on the psychology of the person, can even affect other people. Richard in Separating by Jhon Updike spends days with his family with unhappiness. This feeling of unhappiness drives the level of mental stress on Richard. In the short story of separating the work of Jhon Updike, Jhon Updike does not show clearly how the pressure felt by the main character can influence the storyline. This is the reason for me as a writer to raise the posychological theme in the story of Separating. As we know, emotions and mental stress are related to psychology. But we should to know how far someone's psychology affects his life. In this story we will see the different perspectives on how to uncover the true character of the main character. In this analysis you will see how the family conflict affects all family members. What's worse is the mental pressure that is felt. The important thing is how as parents should give happiness to their children even though they harbor sadness. Resisting sadness is the hardest thing someone has to do. Where he must pretend to be happy for the people he loves. Pretending to be happy can cause unstable emotions for those who do it. Maybe this does not have a bad impact on others, but of course this has a negative impact on the perpetrator.

LITERATURE REVIEW

a) Definition of Literature

Klarer (1998) states that "Literature is referred to as the entirety of written expression with the restriction that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the more exact sense of the word". The definitions, therefore, usually includes additional adjectives such as "aesthetic" or "artistic". Literature is a creation of humankind that has aesthetics and artistic sides. In the past, the form of literature was usually conveyed orally, such as Epic stories. In the further progress, literature was made in written form and then it was visualized as in drama. Later, Epic stories, written literature and drama are known as genre of literature. Klarer (1998:0) explains the parts of three major literary genres; these are fiction that consists of novel and short story, drama that consists of comedy and tragedy, and poetry that consists of narrative poetry and lyric poetry. These three genres of literature are applicable until now.

b) Definition of Short Story

In this study, we look at the person's character based on psychology. In this study the stories raised are stories that form short stories. In the modern era, short stories tend to be a substitute for novels. Novel is usually identified with literature but is different from short stories. According to Klarer:

"An important feature that is usually identified with short stories is the impression of unity because it can be read differently from the novel in one sitting without interruption. Because of length restrictions, the short storyline must be very selective, involving special temporal dimensions that usually focus on one central action moment." (Klarer, 1998: 14). According to the short story Klarer must rely on one moment, this causes short stories to be different from novels while, short stories usually finish reading only once sitting. Short stories are related to the important elements that build the story itself. All of these elements take their own roles to make the story plausible. They are themes, plot,

background, character and point of view (Anderson: 1993 as quoted in Hansyar: 2005)

c) Definition of Psychological

This paper describes the theory that discusses the research conducted by the author. Theories related to this research are obtained from books, articles, and journals. In the story *Separated* by Jhon Updike we will conduct psychological research on the main character in the story named Richard. The word psychology comes from the Greek word *psyche* meaning soul and *logo* means knowledge. So psychology is an academic discipline that involves scientific studies of mental processes, behavior, relationships and personality.

Psychology literature is the study of literature that views literature as a psychological activity. The author will use creative power, taste, and work alone in making literary works (Endaswara, 2003: 96). Psychological literature will show some psychological aspects of characters in drama or prose. Literary and psychological work has a close, indirect, and functional relationship. Indirect relationship, because literature and psychology use human life as an object. Functional relations means that literature and psikologi choose the psychological condition of humans as objects of study. But the difference in psychology is an indication of the obvious psychological problems of the human soul, and in the literary work imaginatively is *Jatman* (in Endraswara, 2003: 97).

Psychoanalysis studies the relationship between the conscious and unconscious mind and then heals mental disorders from the base. Freud developed three elements personality: id, ego, and super ego. According to Snowden (2006), ID is the fulfillment of the principle of pleasure (desire) and avoidance from tense and unpleasant conditions. From the statement, it can be concluded that the id serves as an instinct in which a person is encouraged to fulfill his desires so that pleasure is achieved. And then, the ego is a part of the mind where someone acknowledges reality and is able to decide. The existence of the ego helps a person to fulfill his desires without ignoring reality. There are

several characteristics of the ego: it tells us about reality, rational, and the ego can observe itself.

METHODOLOGY

In conducting this research I used descriptive methods. Descriptive methods according to Fraenkel and Wallen (1993, p.23) are methods used to explain, analyze, and verify something through various techniques, surveys, interviews, questionnaires, observations and texts. So by using this method we can immediately see the depiction of our process in this story. I draw conclusions from my research based on sentences and quotation that support me. To conduct research, of course, the main thing that must be explained is the method used. The method is the basis for conducting research. Using the right method we as writers will be able to do our research well. Research methods that are in accordance with the analysis we do. Sometimes the data collection process is a different or even we can have difficulties.

Therefore before starting the analysis we should to determine the method. In the descriptive method that I use, I do an analysis based on the quotations in the story. From this quote, I as the writer, will interpret the meaning of each of these quotes. Each quote will reveal the essence of this analysis. By using this method, I ask the writer to explore the problems related to psychology in the story.

DISCUSSION

Psychology is the knowledge of the nature and character of a person, whether normal or abnormal. people who have abnormal characteristics certainly have a reason. there are many reasons that cause a person to experience problems with psychology. one of them is the background of that person's life. In the story of *Separating* by Jhon Updike we will discuss aspects of psychology which is the main character in the story. To see aspects of psychology, of course, we need a related theory, which should be added to the literature review section. This paper explains how a person who lives overcomes pressure on others. Here we see the psychological aspect of the main character in the story which is named Richard. In the sentence

“golden shafts and cascades of green in which their conversations had wormed unseeing, their sad murmuring selves the only stain in nature (Separating P.1)”

In the sentence it appears that happiness is formed from a pretense. Golden shafts are interpreted as a perfect happiness. But in the word stain in nature, there is a problem in a life that should be beautiful. A problem that attracts the character inside to feel the pressure in happiness. Next on the quote

“Richard found the barren tennis court-its net and tapes still rolled in the barn-an environment congruous with his mood of purposeful desolation, and the crumbling of handfuls of clay into cracks and holes (dogs had frolicked on the court in the thaw; revulets had eroded tranches) an activity suitably elemental and interminable.(Separating .P.1)”

From the quote above, it seems that Richard is in a very difficult position in his life. Where, emotions and guilt mix in a very heavy life pressure. This is what can cause a person's psychology to be disrupted where sadness and destruction cannot be excluded. The word destruction is very clear from the word desolation in the sentence. There are many things that cause destruction to a person, one of them is unhappy. This is what will cause a disturbance in psychology to someone. From this sentence it is also known that during the marriage Richard never felt happy. Another thing is shown in the story of Separating by Jhon Updike where Richard as the main male figure who feels the difficulties and destruction in his life still thinks of his child. This is also seen in the following quote

“ yet it was the thought of telling Judith-the image of her, their first baby, walking between them arm in arm to the bridge-that broken im (Separating P.3)”

In this quote we can see the word broken still exists even in the third quote. But in this quote, it also seems that Richard's character was very thoughtful of his children. This shows that someone who is in destruction can also think clearly for the happiness of others. Next in the fourth quote is written

“the partition between his face and tears broke(Separating P.3)”

In this quote, we can see that there is a gap between the face and what it feels. Partition means partition or separator. This means there is a difference between the face and the heart. In this case Richard looks fine. This he shows through his expression. But in his heart and himself, he felt he was having a very big problem. So he held back tears that almost dripped. Very rarely do we find a man who holds back tears with a smile. But this is what Richard felt. People who usually hold back tears are people who have big problems but they don't want to show it to others.

“they liked each other but did not make other happy enough,somehow(Separatin P.4)”

In the quote above, this is the fifth quote. It was stated that Joan and Richard really liked it, but they did not feel happy. There are several factors that can make someone feel unhappy even though they have everything. Among other things because they do not love, not even loved, or maybe love someone else. Next is the sixth quote

“I couldn't cry I guess because I cried so much all spring (Separating P.7)

In this quote, it is clear how the destruction felt by Richard's character. He was devastated by the situation. If someone says he is no longer able to cry then that means he is really hit. And surely the psychology is disturbed. People who have not been able to cry does not mean that their tears cannot drip but there is a feeling in their hearts that makes them tired of crying. However, the next quote shows different things

“O.K good boy.Dicky, listen. I love you so much, I never knew how much until now(Separating P.11)”

In the above quotation, it is clearly seen that Richard really loves his child, even though there are big things that even make him broken, but he still applies as he should to his child. Even if a person's mind is chaotic, his love for the person he loves

will not fade. This is what is seen in Richard. Farewell to his wife did not make Richard ignore his child. Next to the last quote

“why. It was a whistle of wind in a crack, a knife thrust, a window thrown open on emptiness. The waiting whitw face was gone, the darkness was featureless. Richard forgotten why (Separating P. 12)”

In the quote above we see an attitude of contempt from Richard when his son asks why? Richard is also confused why should he separate? why this happened ? why is his family destroyed? and why should he divorce his wife? There are lots of questions that make Richard feel uncomfortable. he was very clearly seen the problem of psychology within Richard. Where initially he wanted to separate from his wife. He even ventured to convey everything to his son, but now he feels guilty for everything.

CONCLUSION

This short story tells about the life of a family. The family that was supposed to be the most comfortable place for the residents, but not with this family, all the chaos and destruction began, when Joan and Richard decided to separate. Farewell was caused by Joan and Richard feeling unhappy with their lives while they were married. Richard as a husband and father in this family was very eager for separation because actually Richard felt unhappy. But Richard unwittingly experienced many serious challenges in his life when he made this decision. The challenge that made him feel the pressure, there was chaos in him, extraordinary destruction began when Richard had to tell his children about their divorce decision. On the basis of the many pressures felt by Richard as the main male figure in the story of Separating, the authors raise the theme of analysis namely psychological analysis. Where this analysis emphasizes the psychological aspects of the main character.

From the analysis conducted, it is known that Richard, who is the main male figure in the story of Separating, experiences pressure on his psychology. Richard has two characteristics where when the story begins Richard's character looks very selfish, he does not attach importance to the interests of others including his family.

He covered his feeling of not being happy with falsehood. But Richard's personal character is different when he confronts his child. Richard became someone with not want to make his child sad. This is what makes the emergence of mental stress on Richad.

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