

Depression Of The Main Character Portrayed In *Topdog/Underdog* Play Script (2001) By Suzan Lori Parks

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Abstract

This study aimed to discover and explained the depression of the main characters in Suzan Lori Parks play script entitled "Topdog/Underdog" and this study was hoped to be utilized by further researcher. The data sources used in this study was the play script of "Topdog/Underdog". In analyzing the data, the writer used descriptive qualitative research method through psychoanalysis approach. Data were obtained by using the techniques of reading, noting, and analyzing. While in classifying the data, the writer used Freud's theory of psychoanalysis and analyzed the symptoms of the depressions used Bhowmik and Beck theory. After analyzing the data, the writer found that the drama script of suzan lori parks entitled "Topdog/Underdog" contains 23 data of depressions were divided into 32 parts consists of 22 data of ID, 5 data of Ego and 5 data of Superego. While the data used 2 types of symptoms which emotional symptoms with 22 data and 1 cognitive symptom. From the data above it can be said that the most dominant data were Id and Cognitive symptoms.

Keywords: Depression, Symptoms, Psychoanalysis, Play.



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1. INTRODUCTION

Literature cannot be separated from society life. Literature was a world of imagination created by authors with regard to the problems of life derived from reality or the social environment based on the author's experience and observed by the author. Literature was not a science but art. Most art activities involve a lot of emotional aspects of mankind, such as; feeling, spirit belief and others are difficult to define. Although it was hard to define, basically, literature was a language art (Halim, 2003).

There were two important aspects in literary work they were plot and character. Those aspects, plays an important role in making the literary work more interesting. A character in literary work was the representation of a living creature. Making a character is the art of characterization what the author does bring a character to life, to provide the reader with a sense of that character personality, to make that character unique. In analyzing a character, it cannot be separated from the character's psychological aspects. Ratna (2005: 66) stated that literary works are the result of the author's work which are always associated with human psychological aspects such as obsession, contemplation, compensation, and sublimation. Literature and psychology are related to each other.

Psychology as a study of behavior and mental process and sometimes refers to character because it was about characterization (Plotnik and Kouyoumdjian, 2008). The psychology was a part of literature because it has relationship to the characterization or character personality.

Depression was a mood disorder that involves a persistent feeling of sadness and loss of interest. It was different from the mood fluctuations that people regularly experience as a part of life. Major life events, such as bereavement or the loss of a job, could lead to trusted Source depression. However, doctors only consider feelings of grief to be part of depression if they persist.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

In conducting this research, the writer used some previous studies as references and to support the research. The writer also utilized some other sources such as articles and books that related to this study.

2.1. Previous Studies

In conducting this research, the writer selected five related previous study as references for this research.

First was Widyawati (2014) who studied “*An analysis of depression on the main character Kyle Kingson on the Beastly film*”. This research was a literary criticism which used psychological approach. It employed a literary criticism because the writer conducts discussion of literary works which is related with the personality of the main character in the *Beastly* film namely Kyle Kingson. The findings showed that there are five symptoms of depression from the main character Kyle Kingson namely, (1) feeling sad or unhappy, (2) loss of interest or pleasure daily activity that be loved before, (3) easy to be angry or easy to be offended, (4) difficult to take decision, less to concentrate, (5) feeling worthless, guilty and always thinking about past failures. Moreover, Kyle can solve his depression by himself and Zola and Will make Kyle confidence with his ugly face.

The second was Aulia (2019) who studied “*Betrayal Trauma in Heather Lloyd’s My Name is Venus Black*”. This thesis analyzed how betrayal trauma in the main character occurs as a result of the person she believed has betrayed her. The aimed of this thesis was to find out how betrayal trauma occurs by looking for problems namely depression and anxiety from those described in the novel. Venus betrayed her stepfather by killing him to come out of sexual harassment that she could no longer accept because it caused her to be depressed and anxious. The research method used in this thesis was a descriptive qualitative method and library research. A writer collects data from the novel, articles, books, and journals. The result of this thesis was to reveal the truth that betrayal trauma could occurred to the main character due to depression and anxiety problems she ever experiences.

The third was Wiyani (2017) who investigated “*The psychoanalytical study on the characteristics and causes of adolescent deviant behaviour found in Veronica Roth’s Divergent Novel*”. This research investigated how the major character described to got causes of Beatrice's deviant behaviors in Veronica Roth’s *Divergent Novel*. This research used three different theories to answer two research questions. First, used the personality theory by Sigmund Freud and used the four of abnormality theory by Ronald J.Comer to define the deviant behavior of the main character, Beatrice Prior. This research also used behavior disorder theory by Harry Gottesfeld to analyzed the causes of deviant behavior which is performed by the main character. The data sources are literary data. The method of data collection of the research was library research. The technique of data analysis was descriptive qualitative method. The researcher served the data in dialogues, and narratives by Beatrice. Based on the analysis, the writer draws two conclusions: First, this research showed that the failure to control personality could made a person being deviant. It is reflected in the major character’s personality when she wants to leave her faction. The second, this research shows that there were four causes of Beatrice deviant behavior in six

causes of behavior disorder, they were the physical, biological factors; the family; and the self-concept, and natural support systems.

The fourth was Wulandari (2017) who studied "*Maleficent's Personality Changes in Robert Stromberg's Maleficent*". The major problem in the study deals with what made the personality changes as well as to what extent that it changes. The study aimed at describing to what the influential factors of Maleficent's personality changed. The research used eclectic research approach combining structural and psychological approaches. Meanwhile, qualitative descriptive method is used in the study with the implementation of library research for taking the data content analysis to analyze it. Results showed that in terms of importance, Maleficent was categorized as a main character; meanwhile, in case of role, she was categorized as either protagonist or antagonist. Maleficent was a dynamic character in accordance with the complexity of her personality. As for the characterization, two types of characterization were found such as direct and indirect characterizations. In the direct characterization of hers, Maleficent was described by the narrator as a fairy living in an area called the Moors. On the other side, several methods of indirect characterization employed showed that she the fairy responsible for protecting the life in the Moors. Results of the psychological analysis using Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic showed that the Id of Maleficent was her desire to love and be loved sincerely; the ego was her will to curse Aurora but still loves Stefan. Meanwhile, the superego was her kindness forcing her to revoke the curse. Two ego defense mechanisms she used include projection, in form of her regret to Stefan projected to Aurora by cursing her, and repression, in form of relieving her anxiety by murdering Stefan.

The fifth is Sonambela (2019) with the research entitled "*Depression in Novel the Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold*". This study used descriptive method in analyzing the data from the novel. The collecting data used theory of depressions. There were 15 depression symptoms from the depression theory. The results show that the Salmon's family experienced 12 depression symptoms. There were feelings of sadness, loss of interest or pleasure in normal activities, insomnia, changes in appetite, agitation, irritability or angry outbursts, slowed response, decreased concentration, tiredness or loss of energy, feelings of worthlessness or guilt, trouble in thinking, and unexplained physical problems. The Salmon's family used their own methods to deal with the family's depression.

From the previous studies above, the writer decide to still conduct a research in the same field with different method, limitation and different object. In this research the writer would analyzed the depressions, the causes of the depression and the effects of the depression for the main characters.

2.2. Research Theory

The word psychology comes from the word psyche and logos which mean soul and science. Literary psychology was the study of the soul or psychiatric symptoms. The psychoanalytic approach focuses on the importance of the unconscious aspect of mind and approach as dealing with something used in every analysis with the theory and approach when the writer analysing literary works whether it was movie, drama, poetry, novel. Psychoanalysis has an aim to knowing about unconscious mind in human life (Freud, 2006:440).

Freud's personality theory (1923) saw the psyche structured into three parts (i.e., tripartite), the id, ego and superego, all developing at different stages in our lives. These are systems, not parts of the brain, or in any way physical. According to Freud psychoanalytic theory, the id was the primitive and instinctual part of the mind that contains sexual and aggressive drives and hidden memories, the super-ego operates as a

moral conscience, and the ego is the realistic part that mediates between the desires of the id and the super-ego.

Play was a type of literature that was written for the purpose of being performed in front of an audience. This type of writing was written in the form of a script, and the story was told through the lines of the characters played by actors. Plays serve the function of entertainment for the audience. While reading a story was powerful, watching the story be performed by actors adds a level of realism to the work. In the age of binge watching, many people enjoy spending leisure time watching plays specifically in the forms of movies or television. Abrams (1988:45) states that play was the literary form designed for performance in the theater, in which actors take roles of the characters, perform the indicated action, and utter the written dialogue.

3. METHODS

The type of the research is qualitative descriptive method to analyzed and present the data. The purpose of the descriptive method was to describe a phenomenon and their characteristics relating to research topic Qualitative research involves data collection procedures that result primarily in open-ended, non-numerical data which is then analyzed primarily by non-statistical methods (Dornyei, 2007: 24). Specifically, this study used content analysis method. The writer studied the depression of the main characters of *Topdog/Underdog* Play script by Suzan Lori Parks then the data presented in form tables and paragraph explanation.

There are two sources the writer used for this study. The main source of data in the research is the words, dialogues, phrases and sentences that portrayed depressions of the main charcters in the script of *Topdog/Underdog* play by Suzan Lori Parks which consists of six scenes and 104 pages of script. Then for the secondary source the writer used literary books, previous studies that are related to this research, and articles that relevant to the topic of this research as the reference for this research.

The writer applied psychoanalysis which is Freudian psychoanalysis approach to collected the data and analyzed the symptoms of the depressions used Bhowmik and Beck theory. Writer analyzed the data from the script then the data presented in form of tables and then explained through paragraph explanation or known as descriptive qualitative method.

4. RESULTS

In accordance with the objective of this study, the writer divided the data findings into three parts. The first was a list of the depressions of the main character:

4.1. The Depressions of The Main Characters

The writer found that there are 23 data of the main character's depressions from the play. The data are devided into three kinds they are ID, Ego and Superego.

4.1.1 ID

Data 1: "And woah, man dont ever be doing that shit!". This data appeared at the beginning of the script and the situation was at that time, the main character who named Lincoln suddenly came to visit his brother Booth. He was dressed in an antique frock coat and wears a top hat and fake beard, he was dressed to look like Abraham Lincoln and his brother was very surprised with his appearance and with the way he dressed and threat his brother because of that.

The second point of data one was "Who thuh fuck you think you is coming in my shit all spooked out and shit". This data appeared on page three of the play script. The

depression in this data was because of the main character's brother who named Lincoln suddenly appeared on his house with strange clothes.

The third point of data one was "You pull that one more time I'll shoot you!". This data appeared in page three of the play script. The depression portrayed in this data was because of inappropriate act and the way the main character's brother who named Lincoln dressed when he visited his brother. The ID of the main character was what led him to threaten his brother like that because there was something wrong with his brother according to him.

Data 2: "Take off that damn hat at least". This data was just the same with data 1 which where the main character who named Lincoln was asked to take off his costume even forbid to dress so and he was asked to take off his hat because his brother Booth did not like it all. In this case, ID of the main character is what led him to say such a thing to his brother. It was his need to satisfy himself.

Data 3: "Take off the damn coat too. Damn, man. Bad enough you got to wear that shit all day you come up in here wearing it' What my women gonna say??". This data was just the same as data 1 and 2 which was about how the main character dressed but this time the main character mentioned a reason why the other character should not dress like that.

4.1.2 Ego

Data 8: "Shit, Link you don't know nothing no more". When this data appeared, the main character Booth, talked about his brother. The Ego of the main character that controls him to say such a thing to his brother. In this case, when the main character compared himself with his brother, he felt he was better than his brother and according to him, his brother cannot do anything right. The main character acted as what portrayed in this data because he realized the reality about his brother and that caused the ego of the main character to control him.

Data 11: "Goddamn you! They dont want it looking too real". The situation when this data appeared, the main character Booth was at his brother's working place. When the main character Lincoln realized what his brother did, the force of Ego drives the main character to said so because the reality he saw was wrong and against what he expected. The main character afraid that his boss would get angry to him because they scared the costumers.

The second point of data eleven was "You're trying to get me fired". In this data Booth was still at the main character's working place. This data considered to be an Ego, because it was illustrated how mad the character because of what his brother did. When he saw his brother, he spontaneously said that it would made him fired from his job. It was because the force of Ego when the main character sees his brother.

Data 14: "First thing you learn is what is. Next thing you learn is what ain't. You don't know what ain't, you don't know shit" In this data, it was illustrated that the main character Booth got mad to his brother. He thought his brother never learn anything in life and concluded his brother as a person who cannot do everything right.

4.1.3 Superego

Data 15: "You're so busy running your mouth you aint never gonna learn nothing! you think you something but you aint shit". This data appeared when the main character was mad and he advised his brother. This was the result of the work of the superego where Lincoln scolded his brother because what he did was morally wrong and detrimental. He thought that he's brother has been talking too much, and never learn anything from his mistakes.

Data 22: The first point is “Who the fuck she think she is doing me like she done? Telling me I don’t got nothing going on. I showed her what I got going on”. In this data, it was illustrated that the main character Booth talked about a girl that they know. He explained to his brother how the girl insulted him. In this case, the superego of the main character made him took revenge to the girl who insulted him. This data considered as superego, because what the girl did to the main character was morally wrong and also what the main character did to the girl was also wrong.

The second point is “I popped her good. Twice. 3 times. Whatever”. The situation where this data appeared was main character Booth were talking to his brother and he admits that he has killed someone. The main character has lost control of his emotion killed the girl who insulted him. In this case the superego which made the main character to think what the girl did to him was morally wrong and it caused him became blinded with anger and killed the girl.

Data 23: The first point is “Think you can take my shit? My shit. That shit was mines I kept it”. This part was the climax of the play. In this data the main character Booth killed his own brother Lincoln because of material. This is the work of su-perego. The main character hid some money that was given by their parent and he does not want his brother to have it. The agression causing him to lose control of himself and killed his brother.

The second point is “And you just gonna come up in here and mock my shit and call me two lefthanded talking about how she could been jiving me then go steal from me?”. This data was the words the main character said right before he killed his own brother. According to him, his brother wanted to steal his inheritance. The main character went crazy mad because he lost control of his emotion. In this case, this happens because the main character sees what his brother did as something extremely wrong and in order to prevent it from happening he killed his own brother.

4.2. Symptoms

After analyzing the ID, Ego and Superego of the data, the writer analyzed the symptoms that are used in the data and also the impacts of depression. The following is the list of symptoms used in the data There are two types of symptoms used by the author which are 22 emotional symptoms and 1 cognitive symptom.

4.2.1 Emotional Symptoms

Data 1: In data one, the aspect of emotional symptom that appeared from the data was anger. There was a change of feelings when the main character met his brother who visited him. The main character Booth spontaneously asked his brother not to do that kind of thing anymore he aslo commented about his outfit then he asked his brother if he do that again he will shoot him. what made this data an emotional symptom was the change of feeling where the main character suddenly became angry when his brother came.

Data 2: In second data the aspect of emotional sympton that appeared from the data was anger. When the main character’s brother came to visited him, he wore a hat but the main character who named Booth asked him despertly to take off his hat. According to the main character the way his brother dressed at that time was innaproprate. What made this data an emotional symptom was the changed of feeling of the main character which happened because of his own brother.

Data 3: In the third data the case was still the same with the first and the second data. The aspect of emotional hedonism that appeared in this data was anger and amxiety. The main character Booth asked his brother to take off the coat he wore when he come. He was worried that his girlfriend will see the way his brother dressed which was something

bad for him. What made this data an emotional symptom was anger and anxiety from the main character toward his brother.

4.2.2 Cognitive Symptom

Data 6: In data six the cognitive symptom found in this research was the aspect of bad experience. This data appeared when the main character suddenly remembered all the bad things that happened in his life. The environment, job and experience were the things that appeared in this data. Those aspects were the indicator of cognitive symptom.

4.3. The Impact of Depressions to The Main Characters

There are some impacts that could caused depressions toward a characters. Bellow is the list of cause and effect of depression of *Topdog/Underdog* by Suzan Lori-Parks.

4.3.1. Cause of Depression on Main Characters

Depression is classified as a mood disorder. It may be described as feelings of sadness, loss, or anger that interfere with a person's everyday activities. Depression could be broken into categories depending on the severity of symptoms. Some people experience mild and temporary episodes, while others experience severe and ongoing depressive episodes. People experience depression in different ways. It may interfere with your daily work, resulting in lost time and lower productivity. It could also influence relationships and some chronic health conditions.

There were many factors that caused of depression in this play they were emotional condition as the result of problems from the past and present life of the main characters, love life of the main characters such as when his girlfriend betrayed him, material when the main characters struggle in life because of poverty and conflict between the two brothers Booth and Lincoln. The most frequent used caused in the data was the conflict, because the story of this play mostly talked about the rivalry between the main characters. Other than conflict, broken home and material were two aspects that mostly caused depression to the main. When it came to material, both of the main character would became sensitive. At the end of the play the main character killed his own brother as the result of their rivalry.

4.3.2. Effect of Depression to The Main Characters

Depression was technically a mental disorder, but it also affected physical health and well being. Learn more about some of the most common symptoms of depression, as well as how depression could affected our entire body and mental health, especially if left untreated.

After identifying the data, the writer analyzed the effects that was caused by the depression to the main characters of the play. There were many things that depression could caused and most of them were negative result such as anger which the most portrayed effected of depression in the play because there were a lot of conflict that cause the main characters to became angry, loss of desire which where the main character felt hopeless about his life and aggression which portrayed at the end of the play where the aggression of the main character made him killed a girl and his own brother. Those were the aspects that the writer found from the play script of *Topdog/Underdog*.

5. DISCUSSION

The result of the data analysis showed that the play script of suzan lori parks entitled *Topdog/Underdog* contained 23 data of depressions which were divided into 32 parts. While the data used 2 types of symptoms which were. From the data above it could be said that the most dominant data was Id and Cognitive symptoms and all the data also had their own causes and effects as the impact.

The first aspect of depression that the writer analyzed was ID. The id was the impulsive (and unconscious) part of our psyche which responds directly and immediately to basic urges, needs, and desires. The personality of the newborn child was all ID and only later does it develop an ego and superego. The writer firstly read the theory in order to understand the definition of ID according to Sigmund Freud then sort the data according to its type and finally explained the data through descriptive qualitative method. As the result, the writer found 23 data of ID. All the data were collected through Sigmund Freud's theory of ID which explained human basic needs and how was the work of ID. The conclusion of this aspect was the ID presented basic needs of the characters and lead the characters to do things for their pleasure.

The second aspect that the writer analyzed was Ego. The ego has the quality of being conscious and is responsible for controlling the demands of the id and of the instincts, becoming aware of stimulate, and serving as a link between the id and the external world. In addition, the ego responds to stimulation by either adaption or flight, regulates activity, and strives to achieve pleasure and avoid unpleasure. After understanding the definition of Ego, the writer applied the theory of Ego by Sigmund Freud in classifying and analyzing the data that considered as an Ego. As the result, the writer found 5 data of Ego from the script. Sigmund Freud's theory stated that Ego was part of human mind that faced reality and controls the ID of a human. In the data, it was portrayed how the characters were aware of things that could cause them trouble. The work of Ego caused the main characters to prevent the desire of ID by doing some acts.

The next aspect of depression was Superego. The superego's function was to control the id's impulses, especially those which society forbids, such as sex and aggression. It also has the function of persuading the ego to turn to moralistic goals rather than simply realistic ones and to strive for perfection. The writer applied this definition of Superego by Sigmund Freud in order to classified the data which were considered as Superego. As the result the writer found there were 5 data that considered as Superego in the script. According to Freud the work of Superego dealt with moral aspects. In the data it was portrayed that the characters did things as the result of what the characters felt was wrong.

Depressions must be followed with the symptoms of depression. After classifying the aspects of depression the writer also analyzed the symptoms of the data according to the theory. In this research the writer found that there were 2 types of symptoms used in the data they were Emotional and cognitive symptoms.

The first was emotional symptoms. In the emotional symptom of changes in feelings, the manifestations are sadness, as little as possible at will and response to joy, apathy, diminishing feelings of love for other people. In this research the writer found 22 data of emotional symptoms. The work of Emotional symptom caused mood swing or change of feelings toward the main characters. This was portrayed in most of the data when a character did something wrong the other character would be angry. This was match to the definition of emotional symptoms which caused mood swing or change of feelings.

The next symptom was cognitive symptom. The cognitive symptom contains three distinct parts. First part the sufferer's distorted attitude towards himself, experience or environment and tenure. This symptom includes poor self-assessment, body image distortion and negative expectations. The second part is overwriting self-fault. Sufferers believe that they are the source various problems. The third part with disability an individual in making a decision. In this research, the writer only found 1 data of cognitive symptom. The characteristics of cognitive symptom were lack of confident, confusion and became more sad about our own self. This symptom was portrayed in of the data where the main character felt so hopeless, desperate because of the problems in his life.

After analyzing the types and the symptoms of the data, the writer identified the impacts of the depression on the main characters. There were causes and effects of depression toward the characters.

The next step was finding the cause of the depression toward the main character. There were many factors that caused of depression in this play they were emotional condition as the result of problems from the past and present life of the main characters, love life of the main characters such as when his girlfriend betrayed him, material when the main characters struggle in life because of poverty and conflict between the two brothers. All this aspects were related to the theory of ID, Ego and Superego by Sigmund Freud. For example the aspects of material was the work of ID because material is basic human needs.

The final step was determining the effects of depression toward the main characters. There are many things that depression could cause and most of them are negative result such as anger, loss of desire and aggression. Those are the aspects that the writer found from the play script. Effects of depressions were the result ID, Ego and Superego in Sigmund Freud's theory. As an example the aspect of aggression when a main character did something morally wrong such as insulting which caused the character to kill the person who insulted the character.

6. CONCLUSION

After analyzing the data, it could be concluded that there were 23 data of depression found from the play script of *Topdog/Underdog* play by Suzan Lori-Parks. The 23 data were divided into 32 parts consists of 22 data of ID, 5 data of Ego and 5 data of Superego. After classifying the data, the writer analyzed the symptoms of the data and as the result, there were two symptoms used in the data which were Emotional symptoms with 22 data and Cognitive symptoms with 1 data.

There were many factors that caused and depression such as emotional condition, material, love and conflict. The writer concluded that the main factor that caused depression in this play was rivalry between the two brothers. While the effected of depression also resulting the main character to feel anger, lost of desire and became aggressive.

There were many knowledges that could be taken from this research, hopefully all readers would be spoiled with the information from this thesis and hopefully they would be able to practice the values of psychoanalysis in their daily lives whether its personal or social life.

For the readers who were interested in studying psychoanalysis especially in literary work, they were expected to understand more through this thesis therefore, they could got a good comprehension in understanding and practicing psychoanalysis in real life.

Meanwhile, for students who were wants to study about psychoanalysis, this study could be an alternative reference. In addition, it was also recommended for the next writers who were interested in doing further researches in the same field to use these findings and discussion as a starting point in conducting research. This research could still be developed by using other similar theories.

The writer realized that this writing was far from perfection. Any advice and critics would be very helpful for the writer in order to conduct a better research and better writings.

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