The Psychological Approach of Melody in Novel Entitled Out of My Mind by Sharon M. Draper

by Gunawan Tambunsaribu

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Themes: English Literature
Author: Gunawan Tambunsaribu
Universitas Kristen Indonesia
(Christian University of Indonesia)
gunawanreza_tamsar@yahoo.com / 081287187780

ABSTRACT

The writer took material entitled "The Psychological Approach of Melody in the Novel Entitled *Out of My Mind* by Sharon M Draper"". The book was written by Sharon M Draper published in 2010. Melody had her own character that influenced the story of this novel. She was a handicapped little girl but she was a very smart minded-person. The problem of this research is to find out the character of Melody. The aim of this research is to ascertain the character of Melody using psychological approach. The writer used psychological approach as a theory of this research. The result of this research is Melody has three characters; they are *Id*, *Ego*, and *Superego*.

Key Words: *Psychological Approach, Id, Ego, Superego, Main Character*

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION
1.1 Background The Research

Literature is a form of creative art work result that the object is human and their life by using language as a medium. As a creative art that uses human and all aspects of their life, then literature is not only about a media to convey idea, theory, or system of human thought (Atar Semi, 1988:8).

In analyzing of novel, we should focus on the intrinsic elements. There are 5 intrinsic elements how novel as well as the other prose. They are character, theme, setting, plot, and psychology. In this paper, the writer only focused on character, character of each player then we know how the story going on completely.

Psychology discusses about human behaviour in their relationship with their environment. So psychology is a knowledge that learn about human behaviour, good as individu or their relationship in their environment. In this research, the writer used psychological approach as a approach to analyze this novel. Psychological approach is a literature research approach which focuses on psychology aspects that contain in a literature work (Atar Semi, 2013:45).

The writer interested with Sharon's literary works because she is one of the best authors who is interested in writing about children's lives and the moral values in parenting. Some of her books are best sellers. Many of her books are recommended to be reading book choices in schools. In this research, writer chose Melody to be the main source for his research because Melody is the main character of this novel and she has many conflicts in facing her daily life as a handicapped girl.

This novel is very interesting to analyze because Melody had her own character that influenced the whole story of this novel. Without Melody's character in this novel, the story wouldn't grow up. Besides, her life was full of conflicts as she is a disabled or handicapped girl but she has a smart mind in her own. She has to face the reality that not everybody can understand what are in her mind and even her parents sometimes do not understand her because she cannot talk like a normal person. Because of this reason, the writer would like to analyze the character of Melody based on psychological approach. That is why this research is

titled "The Psychological Approach of Melody in the Novel Entitled *Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper"

1.2 Problem Formulation

The problem of this research is *"What are the characters that Melody has in this novel?"*

1.3 Objective of The Research

The objective of this research is to ascertain the characters that Melody has in this novel.

1.4 Scope of The Research

This research limits the problem only by discussing the characters that Melody has in this novel by using psychological approach.

CHAPTER 2: THEORETICAL REVIEW

2.1 Personality

The Psychologist believes that personality is influenced by little of genetic element, and also the way we grown up and life's experience that we got. According to Sigmund Freud, personality has been formed in the beginning of our life, especially when it is pushed by our experience about need and pleasure (Mark Parkisnton, 2004:9).

According to Freud (Alwisol, 2005:17), psyche's life has three levels of consciousness, they are conscious, preconscious, and unconscious. Until 1920's, theory about psyche's conflict was just engaging those three elements. In 1923, Freud was recognizing others three structural model, those are Id, Ego, and Super Ego. This new structure didn't change previous structure, but completing image of mental, especially on function and its purpose (Alwisol, 2005:17).

2.2 Psychological Approach

Psychological approach is literature criticism approach which stresses on psychological aspects that exist in a literature work (Atar Semi, 2013:45). These psychological aspects got attention in literature criticism and research due to emergence of consciousness for the author and also for the critic.

The society development and advancement in this modern age are not solely be measured from material aspect, but also from spiritual or psychology aspect. Utilization of this theory in literature that is did by many authors is by taking useful parts and pure for their consideration in researching characteristic and personality of someone.

2.3 Psychology

Psychology originates from Greece's words. The word "psyche" means soul and "*logos*" means knowledge. Psychology doesn't learn about soul or mental directly because its characteristic that is abstract, but psychology bounding on manifestation and expression from soul or mental that is a behavior and process or its activity, until psychology be able to be definition as knowledge that learn about behavior and mental process. However, according to Gerungan (2004), understanding between soul's knowledge and psychology are totally different. Scope of soul's knowledge is wide, including imagination and speculation about soul itself. In the other hand, psychology's knowledge is knowledge about soul that is acquired with systematic by scientific method.

According to Sigmund Freud (Radha Chandrapedia, 2013:15), psychology is a system which contains of three elements, they are Id, Ego, and Superego that each of them has origin, Aspect, function, operation principle, and own equipment.

According to Alfred Adler (Radha Chandrapedia, 2013:17), psychology structure of human is social beings and individual beings. The main theory of Adler is individuality as main problem. In his theory, it has two main encouragement, they are social encouragement and egoist encouragement, humble sense and compensation as improvement in human's life. Life style is principle that is used as a base to understand behavior's person. The creativity of our self is the main activator, philosophy grip, and the first cause for all behavior.

According to Carl Gustav Jung (Radha Chandrapedia, 2013:15), the concept of psychology has three types, they are personality function, emotional and spiritual's person, and self. Psyche is composite or amount of totality from mental content. Self is total personality of awareness and unconscious. He saw human as something that really unique because they has so many personalities that are various between one individual to other individuals. Jung discriminated term between subconscious and unconscious.

2.4 The Psychology System of Sigmund Freud

- **Id**

Id is the oldest part of personality. All of encouragement and desire come from Id. Id constantly demanding to find pleasure. Therefore, id operates on unconsciousness level and there is no regulating for time, place and logic. To implement duty of avoiding pain and getting pleasure, id has two processes; they are reflex actions and primary process. Reflex action is an action which is done automatically, such as sneeze and flicker. Primary process is stopping strains by shaping fantasy about object that is able to disappear its strains. For instance, someone who is hungry. Primary process serves fantasy about food for someone who is hungry. That thing is called fulfillment of desire. Because of primary process is not able to decrease desire, therefore psychological process is recent developing where is ego beginning to form. Id is really danger if it is not controlled. Because of the purpose of id is just finding pleasure without regard whether it is right or not. Id doesn't know good or bad and there is no morality on id. Therefore, to guard and to save ourselves is ego's duty.

- **Ego**

With the ego, someone is able to discriminate himself from surrounding area and thereby it will form a core that integrates personality. If Id just knows about subjective world, ego is able to discriminate things which are in human's mind with things which are in outside world. Ego follows reality principle and operating by following secondary process. The purpose of reality principle is avoiding strains occur until it find object that is suitable as satisfying need.   Ego is a part of personality that taking decision. Ego controls actions and deciding which instinct that will be satisfied and a way that is suitable to use. Even though ego is still a part of id, where ego exists to advance the purposes of id, ego does not want to disappoint Id. Although ego is depending on id, but ego can sometimes achieve perfect control.

- **Superego**

According to Freud, superego is part of moral or ethical from personality. Superego developed when ego internalizing social and moral norm. Superego form of value and traditional society aspiration, in the same manner as parent to children. Superego is controlled by moral principle and ideal that be contradicting with pleasure principle of id and reality principle of ego. Superego mirrors ideality and perfection. The main function is deciding right or wrong, exact or not, suitable or not, so that it can act in accordance with norm which prevail in society. Superego has two subsystem, they are heart voice and ego-ideal. Heart voice comes from experience about punishment that is given from parenting to child's behavior that is not correct or can be said heart voice relating with things that are not to do. In the other hand, ego-ideal is relating with experience about presents that is given by parent because of proper behavior or can be said ego-ideal relating with things that should be to do. Heart voice punishing by making someone feel guilty, whereas ego-ideal awarding by making someone feel proud.

2.5 Novel and Its Structure

A story long enough to fill a complete book, in which the characters and events are usually imaginary *(Oxford, 2000: 904)*. A fictional prose narrative of considerable length, typically having a plot that is unfolded by the actions, speech, and thoughts of the characters. A fictional prose narrative considerable length and a certain complexity that deals

imaginatively with human experience through a connected sequence of events involving a group of persons in a specific setting *(Merriam-Webster, 1997:30)* Based on the definition above, novel is a fictional long narrative story which has its structure such as character, setting, plot, theme, point of view, and language. Every novel has structures (Hawthorn in Qorina, 2008:6) such as Character, Setting, Plot, and Theme.

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHOD
3.1 Qualitative Research

The research of this study is qualitative method. Qualitative research is a situated activity that locates the observer in the world. It consists of a set of interpretive, material practices that makes the world visible. These practices transform the world. They turn the world into a series of representations, including field notes, interviews, conversations, photographs, recordings, and memos to the self. At this level, qualitative research involves an interpretive, naturalistic approach to the world. This means that qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of, or to interpret, phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them. (Denzin & Lincoln, 2005:3).

3.2 Source of Data

The source of data for this research got from library (literature) as books. Besides, some references for complementing the writer's research got or downloaded from internet and also from my gilrfriend and my friend's book.

3.3 Technique of Collecting Data

Technique of collecting data that be conducted in this research. The steps as following :
1. The writer read the whole pages of the novel "Out of My Mind"
2. The writer tries to understand and comprehend about the story of this novel
3. While rereading the story from the beginning, the writer marks the sentences or the dialogues written in that story which tell and reflect the character of Melody.

3.4 Technique of Analysis Data

The technique for analyzing the data of this research is descriptive analysis technique. This research will identify and classify all of data based on problem and interpret the entire of data to find cohesiveness and the relationship between data and theory. So, the writer will get knowledge from the meaning of this research fully. Data which have already been accumulated then be interpreted by the writer using the theory of Sigmund Freud. The result was explained descriptively.

CHAPTER 4: RESULT OF THE RESEARCH
4.1 Synopsis

Eleven-year old Melody has a photographic memory. Her head is like a video camera that is always recording. And there's no delete button. She's the smartest kid in her whole school—but no one knows it. Most people—her teachers and doctors included—don't think she's capable of learning, and up until recently her school days consisted of listening to the same preschool-level alphabet lessons again and again and again. If only she could speak up, if only she could tell people what she thinks and knows, but she can't, because Melody can't talk. She can't write. Being stuck inside her head is making Melody go out of her mind—that is, until she discovers something that will allow her to speak for the first time ever. There's a machine, she names it Meditalker, that can help her to tell what is in her mind. At last Melody has a voice by the help of the Meditalker, but not everyone around her is ready to hear it.

4.2 The Character of Melody

According to Freud's opinion that personality is a system that consists of three elements, they are Id, Ego, and Super Ego. Thus, the following explanation is about the character of Melody as the main character in the novel of "Out of My Mind"

a. Id (unconscious)

Id is a form that the most basic of human's desire. It consists of human desires that are still pure, be not distilled yet by logic, norm, and rules. The principle of id's work is bring out human from situation that is not pleasure to situation that is pleasure. Id is the oldest part of personality. All of encouragement and desire come from Id. Id constantly demanding to find pleasure. Therefore, id operates on unconsciousness level and there is no regulating for time, place and logic. To implement duty of avoiding pain and getting pleasure, id has two processes, they are reflex actions and primary process. Reflex action is actions which is did automatically, such as sneeze and flicker. Primary process is stopping strains by shaping fantasy about object that is able to disappear its strains. For instance, someone who is hungry. Primary process serves fantasy about food for someone who is hungry. That thing is called fulfillment of desire. Because of primary process is not able to decrease desire, therefore psychological process is recent developing where is ego beginning to form.

> *So every once in a while I really lose control. I mean really. My arms and legs get all tight and lash out like tree limbs in a storm. Even my face draws up. I sometimes can't breathe real well when this happens, but I have to because I need to screech and scream and jerk. They're not seizures. Those are medical and make you go to sleep. (Out of My Mind, Chapter 3, pg.11)*

The above quotation shows that Melody, as a human being, wants to release her emotion such as anger and disappointment, etc. It is caused by her instinct to release the constraints in her life.

> *When I sleep, I dream. And in my dreams I can do anything. I get picked first on the playground for games. I can run so fast! I take gymnastics, and I never fall off the balance beam. I know how to square-dance, and I'm good at it. I call my friends on the phone, and we talk for hours. I whisper secrets. I sing. When I wake up in the morning, it's always sort of a letdown as reality hits me. I have to be fed and dressed so I can spend another long day in the happy-face room at Spaulding Street School. (Out of My Mind, Chapter 7, pg.51)*

The above quotation from the novel shows that Melody has wishes to move her body like a normal child, but she cannot because she suffers from *celebral palsy*—the name of the disease that limit only human's body, not the mind.

> *The more I think about it, the more excited I get. Television! Pressure! People looking at me! I can feel myself getting tense and tight. (Out of My Mind, Chapter 21, p. 191)*

The quotation above can tell the readers that the thoughts in Melody's mind can arouse enthusiasm inside of herself.

> *I really wanted to hold it and hug it. But it fell on the floor once more. (Out of My Mind, Chapter 21, p. 191)*

The quotation above can tell the readers that Melody humanly wants to play with her dolls but she cannot because her body's disability unlike normal people.

> *And I'd fall over again. I didn't want to fall or even mean to. I couldn't help it. I had no balance at all. Sometimes I wish I had a delete button in my head. (Out of My Mind, Chapter 21, p. 191)*

The quotation above shows the readers that Melody, driven by her instincts, wants to move her body but nevertheless she cannot move her body like a normal child because of her celebral palsy.

b. Ego (conscious)

With the ego, someone is able to discriminate himself from surrounding area and thereby it will form a core that integrates personality. If id just knows about subjective world, ego is able to discriminate things which are in human's mind with things which are in outside world. Ego follows reality principle and operating by following secondary process. The purpose of reality principle is avoiding strains occur until it find object that is suitable as satisfying need. Ego is a part of personality that taking decision. Ego controls actions and deciding which instinct that will be satisfied and a way that is suitable to use. Even though ego is still a part of id, where ego exists to advance the purposes of id, ego does not want to disappoint Id. Although ego is depending on id, but ego can sometimes achieve perfect control.

> *Mom rushed out of the toy section, pushing the cart real fast. "Stop it!" she cried out at me. I couldn't. It made me so angry that I couldn't tell her. The tornado took over. My arms became fighting sticks, my legs became weapons. I kicked at her with my feet. I screamed. I kept pointing in the direction of those blocks. (Out of My Mind, Chapter 3, pg.16)*

The quotation above shows the readers that Melody does the screech and the scream even though she knows that her actions can make her mother angry with her. She just wants to tell her mother that there is something bad happening.

> *So I screamed and yelled and shrieked. I cried like a two-year-old. I wouldn't stop. Then my tornado explosion took over. I flailed and jerked and basically spazzed out. I kicked so hard that my shoes popped out of the foot straps on my chair. That made me tilt to one side, and I screamed even louder. (Out of My Mind, Chapter 7, pg.54-55)*

The quotation above can tell the readers that Melody release her anger by screeching, screaming, and stomping.

> *From the very beginning, Mrs. Valencia gave me no sympathy. Instead of sitting me in the special little chair my parents had bought for me, she plopped me on my back in the middle of the floor on a large, soft quilt. The first time she did that, I looked up at her like she was crazy. I cried. I screeched. She ignored me, walked away, and flipped on her CD player. (Out of My Mind, Chapter 6, p. 42)*

The quotation above can tell the readers that Melody shows her anger by crying and screeching. She does it because she dislikes what Mrs. Valencia does to her.

> *...., because sometimes I do pretend I don't feel good just so I can stay home. (Out of My Mind, Chapter 10, p. 85)*

The quotation above shows the readers that Melody sometimes doing a naughty thing. She pretends not to feel good because she does not want to go to school, but stay at home.

> *"Hmmm. Your friend rose from school?" I buck and kick with excitement. "I think that's a gread idea, melody. I'll ask your parents and her parents, and if she's willing, we'll have a wonderful day." I can't stop kicking my feet! (Out of My Mind, Chapter 13, p. 117)*

The quotation above shows the readers that Melody wants to show her happiness by kicking her feet.

c. Superego (conscious and unconscious)

Superego is ideal ego for human. Its function is as controller of Id. As a result, form of superego is more to be action that more control following logic and normative's rule that is exist. According to Freud, superego is part of moral or ethical from personality. Superego developed when ego internalizing social and moral norm. Superego form of value and traditional society aspiration, in the same manner as parent to children. Superego is controlled by moral principle and ideal that be contradicting with pleasure principle of id and reality principle of ego. Superego mirrors ideality and perfection. The main function is deciding right or wrong, exact or not, suitable or not, so that it can act in accordance with norm which prevail in society.

> *There was no way I could explain to Mom what had happened. I really had tried to save Ollie's life. I just looked away from Mom. She was angry, and I was too. If she hadn't been so slow, Ollie might have made it. I didn't want her to see me cry. (Out of My Mind, Chapter 8, pg.68)*

The quotation above shows the readers that Melody tried not to cry even though she felt deep condolences deep inside of her for the death of her beloved fish, Ollie. She can behave well based on social and moral norm although her feeling contradicts with situations she wants.

> *Catherine gives me a hug, Rose flasher me a smile, and I try not to kick and drip and my teammates sorry that I'll be on the team with them. (Out of My Mind, Chapter 21, p. 190)*

The quotation above shows the readers that Melody tried not to kick and drip in front of her teammates. She does not want to show them that she is very happy as a part of the team. She knows that there are some of the teammates do not fell happy with her join in that team. This is the reason why she acts calmly even though the reality contradicts with her feelings.

> *"I squeeze my eyes shut. Stupid elevator music float from the tiny airport speakers. I hear no beautifull color. I smell no lovely aromas. All I can see is the darkness behind my eye balls. (Out of My Mind, Chapter 28, p. 258)*

The quotation above shows the readers that Melody tried not to squeeze her eyes shut. She does not want her parents see her crying because of her deep sadness.

> *When she rolled that red suitcase into the kitchen, I looked at her, then looked away. I refused to cry any more. ... I kicked my legs in response, but only a little. I didn't want to upset her even more. (Out of My Mind, Chapter 30, p. 271-274)*

The quotation above shows the readers that Melody refused to cry. She does not want her parents get angrier with her. She didn't want to upset her mother even more.She can behave well based on social and moral norm.

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION
5.1 Conclusion

In this chapter, the writer would like to conclude after having analysis from psychology through the character of Melody in the novel "Out of My Mind", based on the problem of the statements, as follows:

1. Melody has three characters in the novel "*Out of My Mind*". They are Id, Ego, and Superego.
   - Melody, a handicapped girl, sometime acts and behaves like a normal kid. He needs to cry, to screech, to get angry, and other human natural attitudes. It is normally happened because she is still baby.
   - In her daily life as a girl who suffers from abnormal physical movement, he acts like a crazy person. She kicks, she screech, she gets mad with her parents and her surroundings which make other people get annoyed by what she is doing. But, as a handicapped girl, she just wants to say something which is very important for other people to know. But the people surrounding her sometimes do not get what she is trying to tell them because they do not understand how to know Melody's mind and they are not accustomed to get along with melody well.
   - As time goes by, Melody knows how to control her behaviors by behaving as a good kid and keep her anger inside of her because she does not want her parents get angry with her. She sometimes hides her sadness in order to show to other people that she is a strong girl.

5.2 Suggestion

There are still many aspecs of novel "Out of Mind" which are still not discussed yet. They can be other researchers' topic to be conducted in the incoming research. One of the aspect is the language use in that novel. The linguistic aspect can be a new topic to be conducted. The researcher hopes this research can be useful for students, teachers, lecturers, and public readers for their understanding about psychological aspects of characters especially main character of a novel they read. This research can also be used as a reference for incoming researchers who want to analyze this novel in other aspects such as linguistics and sociolinguistic aspects.

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