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The Psychological Conflict of A Woman in Her Family as Seen in Jane Austen's Persuasion

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Abstract

This research aims to describe the main character, the forms of psychological conflict get by the main character, and the main character efforts to resolve the psychological conflict in the novel Persuasion by Jane Austen. This research uses a literary psychology approach with Hippocrates character theory, Freud's personality, Freud's classification emotions, and Freud's ego defense mechanism. Method of collecting the data in this research is descriptive method. Method of analyzing the data in this research is a qualitative analysis method. Data collection technique of collecting the data in research obtained by library techniques, reading techniques, and notes-taking technique. The data analysis technique of analyzing data in this research is categorization step. The results of the research showed that the main character has a kind, patient, caring, act quickly and logistically, want to be love and love, pessimistic, and willing to sacrifice. The forms of psychological conflict that the main characters get are id, ego, superego, the concept of guilt, shame, hate, and love. The main character efforts to resolve psychological conflict get are regression, sublimation, estimation, repression, rationalization, reaction formation, and displacement.

Keywords: Main Character, Forms of Conflict, Resolve of Conflict

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I INTRODUCTION

Literary work is a story that is closely related to the fictional character in the story The importance of the literary psychology approach is to explain more deeply and broadly about the character, the problems of character that will be developed, and help to analyze literary works

with psychological conflicts. The literary psychology approach has a role and function in life, which deals with human problems as individual beings and social beings. The literary psychology approach is able to find aspects of the unconscious which are the sources of

psychological disorders and their healing.

The psychological approach can able to understand and recognize human beings, explain and describe human behavior in everyday life, can feel, think and act about things. Moreover, today's psychological problems in society become a topic that is widely discussed. In Indonesia, we have heard a lot about suicide and depression caused by loss of hope, feelings of helplessness, thought processes, and behavior. The literary works in today's many contain elements of psychological manifestations in stories that are closely related to human life. Basically, literary psychology is explained about human from the inside as well as human problems that can describe the soul by events that are obtained by oneself and events that are obtained by others.

Therefore this research was choose with the title of "*The Psychological Conflict of a Woman in her Family as Seen in Jane Austen's Persuasion*" is to analyze the main character in the story, the forms of psychological conflict get by the main character, and the main character efforts to resolve psychological conflict. Especially in today's era, many people get psychological conflicts in their lives. For example, many people get anxiety disorders, feelings of restlessness, indecision, and other psychological problems that interfere with their lives in living their daily lives. They can get psychological conflicts from themselves, the family, and the environment around them.

In this research will be analyze a novel, because the novel is a literary work that presents

stories that contain conflicts, both conflicts with others, conflicts with oneself, conflicts with the environment, and conflicts with God. Novel is a literary work that is imaginative and as a medium of communication to convey messages or views to readers either directly or indirectly. The research choice the novel by Jane Austen to analyze because every story written by Austen always raises about the state of life in the surrounding community.

This research is analyzing the novel *Persuasion* is for several reasons. First, *Persuasion* novel contain psychological conflicts get by every human being in his life. Second, in terms of story telling *Persuasion* novel contains stories related to human life and the feelings that surround it. These feelings include feelings of affection, inner turmoil, and a desire and achievement that is very relevant to the conditions of modern society today. The third, *Persuasion* novel tell about feelings of heartbreak, jealousy, prejudice, neglect, affection, hope, despair, love and sacrifice which are social phenomena that are closely related to society.

The importance of this research is to understand and recognize various psychological problems that affect the development of the human psyche, to be able to understand the depths of the human soul, to understand the background and consequences of psychological symptoms and to find efforts to solve these psychological problems.

II RESEARCH METHODS

2.1 Method of collecting the data

Method of collecting the data in this research uses a descriptive method Moleong (2019). Descriptive method is a collection of data in the form of pictures, words, written sources, actions and not numbers to reach an important topic for the thing to be studies (Moleong, 2016: 11). Method of collecting the data of this research were collected from a *Persuasion* novel by Austen.

2.2 Method of Analyzing the Data

Method of analyzing the data in this research used qualitative data analysis by

Bogdan and Biklen (1982). Qualitative data analysis is a way to analyze by organizing data, sorting data so that it can be managed, synthesizing it, and searching and finding important data so that it can be studies and can be told to others (Bogdan and Biklen, 1982).

2.3 Technique of Collecting the Data

Technique of Collecting the Data in this research used library research technique by Nazir (2013), reading technique by Ratna (2013), and note-taking technique by Sudaryanto (1993). Library research technique is the stage of collecting data by reviewing literature, notes,

books, and reports related to the problem to be discussed (Nazir, 2013: 93). Library research technique in this research is to collect journals and books related to the main character psychological conflict and take notes.

2.4 Technique of Analyzing the Data

Technique of analyzing the data used in this research is using a categorization step by

Moleong (2019). Categorization step is piles that are arranged based on intuition, opinion, thoughts or certain criteria according to (Moleong,2019: 193). Categorization step technique is a series of analytical work.

III RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. The Main Character in the novel *Persuasion* by Jane Austen

The kind character that exists in Anne's character can be seen from the events she got from her father and sister where Anne always gets bad treatment from them such as unfair treatment, her words are ignored, not respected, and always required to give in but Anne still treats her father and Her sister is kind, respectful, and polite. Anne does not mind her father's unfair behavior and her sister's selfishness. Anne always cared about the problems her father and siblings had and also helped them in overcoming those problems. Besides that, Anne not only treats her family well but she also treats the people around her well, such as never discriminating between people's status and treating everyone the same. That's why Anne in the eyes of others is very good and respected. This can be seen in the quotation below:

“But Anne, with an elegance of mind and kindly of character, which must have placed her high with any people of real understanding.”

(*Persuasion* p.10)

The patient character in Anne's character is seen when Mary, her sister, immediately complained about her illness that did not go away, her children who were always noisy, unruly which gave her headaches, her husband who was insensitive, and her mother-in-law who liked to chatter and interfere in family matters when Anne had just arrived at her sister's house but Anne patiently listened to her sister's complaints and forced herself to be cheerful even though she felt that her sister was not being polite to her in-laws. Anne continued to be patient and forced herself to be cheerful in responding to each of her sister's complaints so that Mary would recover quickly and suddenly

forget about her illness. This can be seen in the quotation below:

“A little farther perseverance in patience, and forced cheerfulness on Anne's side, produced nearly a cure on Mary's.”

(*Persuasion* p.52)

Anne's Willing to sacrifice character is also seen when Sir Walter's father, Anne's father, is not happy with Anne's relationship with whom she thinks marrying Anne to this man will simply demean her as a noble. besides that his relationship was also opposed by his godmother, Lady Russel who said their marriage was not a wise thing, how could a descendant of nobility, marry at the age of nineteen to a man who had nothing but himself, a youth without connections who could not achieve high position. Anne could not stand this opposition. Anne could not see captain Wenworth scorned by her father if she continued their relationship, but Anne also did not want to hurt the feelings of her godmother who had cared for her all this time if she continued her relationship with Wenworth. Anne carefully chooses to cut off her relationship with Wenworth for the good of the man, Anne is willing to sacrifice being hated by the man she loves, accused of being fickle and easily persuaded by others and prefers to suffer the pain of parting with the man she loves rather than ignoring advice. Lady Russell. This can be seen in the quote below:

“but Lady Russell, whom she had always loved and relied on, could not, with such steadiness of opinion, and such tenderness of manner, be continually advising her in vain. She was persuaded to believe the engagement a wrong thing -- indiscreet, improper, hardly capable of success, and not deserving it. Anne chooses to be heartbroken

over making Lady Russell disappointed in her.”

(Persuasion p.38)

Caring is a character or human nature who has concern and awareness of the people around him when experiencing problems. Anne has a caring character where it can be seen when Anne's incident without being asked to help Mr. Mugesgrove where the family was grieving because of their child's accident, Anne caringly encouraged, gave advice and offered to take care of Mr Mugesgrove's house. Anne comforted Mr Mugesgrove and looked after his grandson while Mr Mugesgrove's family traveled to Lyme to care for their daughter. Mrs. Musgrove feels so blessed to have Anne who cares for him he doesn't know what would happen if Anne wasn't by his side and he is very grateful for Anne's concern. This can be seen in the quotation below:

“But Mrs. Musgrove, who got Anne near her on purpose to thank her most cordially, again and again, for all her attentions to them, concluded a short recapitulation of what she had suffered herself, by observing, with a happy glance round the room, that after all she had gone through, nothing was so likely to do her good as a little quiet cheerfulness at home.”

(Persuasion p.173)

Act quickly and logically is a human trait or character that is able to examine and take action on a problem carefully and precisely. Anne has a character who act quickly and logically which is seen when Louisa fell on the Cobs embankment and fainted. When everyone panicked and didn't know what to do to give first aid to Louisa, Anne was calmly able to think clearly by instructing everyone there to help Louisa as quickly as possible and give first aid to Louisa before the orderlies came to treat Louisa. This can be seen in the quotation below:

.” Go to him, go to him, for heaven's sake to go him. I can support her my self. Leave me, and go to him. Rub her hands, rub her temples; here are salts; take them, take them. A surgeon, Captain Benwick, would not it better for Captain Benwick? He knows where a surgeon is to be found.”

(Persuasion p.145-146)

The pessimistic character of Anne's character is seen in the event where Anne feels that she will never fall in love again, will not get

the warmth of love again, does not believe in the future, and no longer believes in the power of God after a painful separation from the man she loved who disappeared. all her happiness. Anne refused the proposal of the man who asked for her hand without asking her godmother for advice, her heart was never touched by any man even Anne did not think of going into the household because she was too pessimistic that she would live happily in the future . This can be seen in the quotation below:

“How eloquent could Anne Elliot have been! how eloquent, at least, were her wishes on the side of early warm attachment, and a cheerful confidence in futurity, against that over-anxious caution which seems to insult exertion and distrust Providence! She had been forced to be wise in her youth.”

(Persuasion 2019:41)

B. The Forms of Psychological Conflict get by Main Character in the Novel *Persuasion* by Jane Austen

The form psychological conflict of ego is dealing with reality or reality, which seeks to fulfill the desires and satisfactions of the id in a socially acceptable manner and delays gratification and desires by helping to relieve the tension that the id feels if the desires are not fulfilled immediately. The form of psychological conflict get by Anne's Ego is when Sir Walter and Elizabeth chose their new place of residence in Bath. He didn't imagine that happened. Anne seemed to be dealing with a well-planned situation. Both decisions made Anne disliked because she didn't like Bath but wanted to stay at Kellynch Hall, without negotiation, and had unwittingly forced her to do what they wanted. Anne surrendered. She could only remain silent and agree on what her father and sister had planned and Anne had no reason to refuse it because she did not want to bother other people with her wishes just because of her dislike of Bath. This can be seen in the quotation below:

“ Anne, though dreading the possible heats of September in all the white glare of Bath, and grieving to forego all the influence so sweet and so sad of the autumnal months in the country, did not think that, everything considered, she wished to remain . It would be most right, and most wise, and, therefore, must involve least suffering, to go with the others. ”

(Persuasion P.44)

The form of psychological conflict id is seeking satisfaction and pleasure to meet human needs, desires, and maintain a constant time at avoiding unpleasant states and achieving pleasant states . If this is not fulfilled, one can become anxious or tense . The form of psychological conflict get by Anne's character is seen when she prefers to break off her engagement to Wenworth to avoid her discomfort and her satisfaction so as not to hurt her godmother whom she respects even though she unconsciously hurts a man. whom she loves, Anne makes the decision for her own gratification and does not think about the impact that her decision will have on hurting the feelings of others. This can be seen in the quotation below:

“Such opposition, as these feelings produced, was more than Anne could combat. Young and gentle as she was, it might yet have been possible to withstand her father's ill-will, though unsoftened by one kind word or look on the part of her sister; but Lady Russell, whom she had always loved and relied on, could not, with such steadiness of opinion, and such tenderness of manner, be continually advising her in vain. She was persuaded to believe the engagement a wrong thing -- indiscreet, improper, hardly capable of success, and not deserving it. But it was not a merely selfish caution, under which she acted, in putting an end to it.”

(Persuasion p.38)

The Form of psychological conflict the concept of guilt is when individuals are unable to cope with life's problems while avoiding them through defensive maneuvers that result in feelings of guilt and unhappiness. The psychological conflict of Anne's concept of guilt is seen when Anne broke off her engagement with Wenworth, which made her unable to meet the man. Anne's every meeting with Wenworth made the woman tense and always wanted to escape because she couldn't see the man's face, every time she saw the man Anne always felt guilty how she could hurt him in the past. Her painful separation from Wenworth left her suffering, unhappy, dispassionate, and regretful for years for hurting the man she loved. This can be seen in the quotation below:

“A few months had seen the beginning and the end of their acquaintance; but, not with a

few months ended Anne's share of suffering from it. Her attachment and regrets had, for a long time, clouded every enjoyment of youth; and an early loss of bloom and spirits had been their lasting effect.”

(Persuasion p.39)

The form psychological conflict of Anne's sadness is seen when Anne refuses a proposal from Wenworth. Anne was forced to reject Wenworth's proposal because of the problems that kept popping up in their relationship, starting from her father's indifference and condescending attitude towards her father who insulted Wenworth's work as a lowly soldier, as well as the rejection of her godmother whom Anne loved , namely Lady Russell, who also rejected her relationship with Wenworth. unwise. Anne could not face the rejections she received from her closest and loved ones and the insults of those closest to the man she loved, finally chose to break off her engagement with Wenworth for the common good even though it made Anne feel extreme sadness in her life and made her suffer pain. wound in the heart. This can be seen in the quotation below:

“ A short period of exquisite felicity followed, and but a short one. Troubles soon arose. Sir Walter, on being applied to, without actually withholding his consent, or saying it should never be, gave it all the negative of great astonishment, great coldness, great silence, and a professed resolution of doing nothing for his daughter. He thought it was a very degrading alliance; and Lady Russell, though with more tempered and pardonable pride, received it as a most unfortunate one. ”

(Persuasion p.37)

The form of psychological conflict of hate is closely related to feelings of anger, dislike, jealousy and envy. The characteristic that marks the feeling of hatred is the emergence of lust or desire to destroy the object that is the object of hatred. Feelings of hate are not just the emergence of feelings of dislike or reluctance whose impact is to avoid and not intend to destroy it. The psychological form of Anne's hatred is seen when events will decide Anne's new residence where there are three places that will be projected as a place to live, namely London, Bath, and another house in the village of

Kellynch. Anne really liked the last option of residence that would be occupied as their new residence namely Kellynch because she was still close to Mary, and still had the opportunity to visit the grounds of her old house in Kellynch, but Sir Walter and Elizabeth decided to choose their new residence in Bath. When Anne heard of her new choice of place to live, Anne did not like it because she felt that Bath was not suitable for her because the city reminded her of painful past events and Anne hated Bath which eventually became Anne's new home. This can be seen in the quotation below:

“ And with regard to Anne's dislike of Bath, she considered it as a prejudice and mistake arising, first, from the circumstances of her having been three years at school there, after her mother's death; and secondly, from her happening to be not in perfectly good spirits the only winter which she had afterwards spent there with herself. ”

(Persuasion p.22)

The form of the superego psychological conflict is a decision taken based on the moral values that exist in society and know the good or bad of an action to be taken. The form of psychological super-ego conflict that Anne can see when the incident of her father and sister insulting Mrs. Smith his friend how ugly and pathetic that woman was and mocked Anne how to be friends with that woman, Anne wanted to rebuke and scold her father that her father had gone too far and she also wanted to tell her father that the man was worse than Mrs. Smith. Smith, but Anne refrained from replying and argued against her father's words that insulted her friend because Anne realized it was not a bad attitude for a child to his father. This can be seen in the quotation below:

“Anne could have said much, and did long to say a little in defence of her friend's not very dissimilar claims to theirs, but her sense of personal respect to her father prevented her. She made no reply. She left it to himself to recollect that Mrs. Smith was not the only widow in Bath between thirty and forty, with little to live on, and no sirname of dignity”.

(Persuasion p.205)

The form psychological conflict of love is a feeling of being attracted to the other party with the opposite expectation followed by feelings of loyalty and affection. The

psychological form of Anne's love was seen when the Wenworth incident asked Anne to stay with Louisa and help Mrs. Herville looks after Louisa. Wenworth said there was nothing more skilled and reliable in caring for than Anne. Hearing Wenworth's compliments made Anne blush and flutter. Anne's pounding feelings grew even more when Wenworth spoke softly to Anne asking her to stay behind to care for sick Louisa. Wenworth who spoke softly to her like before made Anne feel happy. This can be seen in the quotation below: “ You will stay, I am sure; you will stay and nurse her,' cried he, turning to her and speaking with a glow, and yet a gentleness, which seemed almost restoring the past. She colored deeply, and he recollected himself and moved away. She expressed herself most willing, ready, happy to remain ” . (Persuasion p.150)

C. The Main Character Efforts to Resolve Psychological Conflict in the *Persuasion* novel by Jane Austen

Sublimation is a way to maintain the ego by channeling an action that is not good into a better form, so that it can accepted by those around him. Everyone always has a desire or ambition that is sometimes not well seen in society. The right way to maintain a bad desire is to channel it into a form of activity that is better and of course fun to avoid the bad act. How to maintain the ego like this can be used as a solution to resolve the psychological conflict get by Anne in the novel *Persuasion*. Anne's sublimation is to divert a desire by being patient. Patience is one of the efforts made by Anne to resolve psychological conflicts in the form of ego. The ego get by Anne is her injured ego This conflict was get by Anne when she couldn't do anything about the attitude given by her sister Elizabeth who decided to invite strangers to live with them even though Anne had warned her sister that the woman would have a bad impact on her brother and father . Elizabeth angrily asserted that Anne must understand each other's position where Anne is not included to give advice. This makes Anne's ego feel at bay, even though she just wants to warn. he began to think that his efforts were enough. She then left it to fate, even though it was against her conscience. Anne's attempt to resolve her psychological conflict was. to divert her ego by being patient. Anne has a patient nature despite the impoliteness that her sister said, it turns out that

she is still needed by her presence according to Anne, every human being needs each other. This can be seen in the quotation below:

“I cannot possibly do without Anne,' was Mary's reasoning; and Elizabeth's reply was, 'Then I am sure Anne had better stay, for nobody will want her in Bath.’ To be claimed as a good, though in an improper style, is at least better than being rejected as no good at all; and Anne, glad to be thought of some use, glad to have an anything marked out as a duty, and certainly not sorry to have the scene of it in the country, and her own dear country, readily agreed to stay. (Persuasion p.45).

Repression is an ego defense mechanism by encouraging id impulses to avoid discomfort and feelings of anxiety. Repression can be used as a way to resolve conflicts. Anne's character avoids the inconveniences that will occur in her life. Psychological conflicts that are resolved by means of repression are the id. Psychological conflicts in the form of the id can be resolved by means of repression. The conflict is in the form of an id between satisfaction and discomfort. Anne avoids her discomfort by severing the man she loves for the satisfaction of her pride as a kind child to her father and godmother. A gratification that would destroy what he had believed so long ago: to be loved. However, he was able to suppress it by suppressing his desire. Anne suppressed her desire by turning things around that no one could make her achieve what she wanted. Anne could not ignore Lady Russell, the woman she had always relied on. Anne found someone who could love her and that was Wenworth a man who was strong and full of spirit with all the possibilities that could happen between the two of them would be happy together. However, Anne chose to resist that desire even though she was able to be happy with Wenworth to avoid the inconvenience that would be obtained from her father and godmother who opposed her wish. This can be seen in the quotation below:

“They were gradually acquainted, and when acquainted, rapidly and deeply in love. It would be difficult to say which had seen highest perfection in the other, or which had been the happiest; she, in receiving his declarations and proposals, or he in having them accepted. A short period of exquisite

felicity followed, and but a short one. Troubles soon arose. Sir Walter, on being applied to, without actually withholding his consent, or saying it should never be, gave it all the negative of great astonishment, great coldness, great silence, and a professed resolution of doing nothing for his daughter. He thought it a very degrading alliance; and Lady Russell, though with more tempered and pardonable pride, received it as a most unfortunate one.”

(Persuasion p.36-37)

Displacement is the transfer of feelings of dislike to an object that encourages desires to make the object a source of frustration. Displacement can be used to resolve the psychological conflict of hatred. The hatred resolved by the Displacement is Anne's hatred of her father's decision about their new city, which reminds her of painful memories of Anne's past, but Anne switches to saying she doesn't like Bath because the city is not suitable for her. Anne gets the object of her diversion to avoid her feelings of displeasure when she gets a request from her sister Mary who needs it. Anne's attempt to overcome her hatred is a distraction by being considerate. This can be seen through the quotation below:

“ Something occurred, however, to give her a different duty. Mary, often a little unwell, and always thinking a great deal of her own complaints, and always in the habit of claiming Anne when anything was the matter, was indisposed; and foreseeing that she should not have a day's health all the autumn, entreated, or rather required her, for it was hardly entreaty, to come to Uppercross Cottage, and bear her company as long as she should want her, instead of going to Bath .”

(Persuasion p.45)

Rationalization is an ego defense mechanism to reduce disappointment in achieving goals. Psychological conflict that are resolved by rationalization is psychological conflict in the form of pent-up guilt. The hidden guilt is Anne, who is afraid to fall in love, rejects the proposal that comes to her and is not married. In reality, Anne has not been able to heal her wounds. Anne was already devastated by breaking off her engagement to Wenworth. It made him experience tremendous conflict. The

effort made by Anne is to turn the situation around with no regrets, not blaming herself, and thinking logically because time cannot be changed. Anne felt a very confused feeling when she might get criticism from others saying that what she did before was being led by Lady Russel, but Anne's dilemma as a young person who asked for advice, Anne would not say she was sorry or happy even though she knew uncertain future. He did this because he realized that he would never be able to blame others for the decisions he made because he was already an adult, his way of thinking was different from before and all he could do was speculate. This can be seen in the quotation below:

“With all these circumstances, recollections, and feelings, she could not hear that Captain Wentworth's sister was likely to live at Kellynch without a revival of former pain; and many a stroll, and many a sigh, were necessary to dispel the agitation of the idea. She often told herself it was folly, before she could harden her nerves to feel the continual discussion of the Crofts and their business no evil. ”

(Persuasion p.41)

IV CONCLUSION

The problem raised in this research is the psychological conflict of the main character in the novel *Persuasion* by Austen. This studies looks at the main character's character based on the way the character responds to the existing conflict, the form of psychological conflict the main character gets, and the main character's efforts to resolve the psychological conflict. The main character in this novel has four types of characters developed by Hippocrates, namely sanguine, choleric, phlegmatic and melancholy, but the main characters are dominated by sanguine and melancholy characters. Based on the sanguine character, Anne's character is a beautiful woman aged 27 who has two characters, namely patient and kind Based on the type of choleric character, Anne's character has a character who acts quickly and logically, namely Anne is always calm and logical in dealing with every pressure and problem in her life. Based on the type of phlegmatic character, Anne's character has an attentive character where Anne is always attentive to the people she loves. Based on the type of melancholy character, Anne's character has three characters, namely pessimism, self-sacrifice, and want to be loved and love. Anne was always pessimistic that she could be happy. Anne can feel how loved and loved by a young man named Wenworth, but Anne is also willing to sacrifice for the people she loves.

This research uses Freud's theory of personality and emotional classification to

determine the form of psychological conflict get by the main character in the *Persuasion* novel by Austen. Based on the findings of the research described in the previous chapter, it can be concluded that according to Freud's theory of personality and emotional classification, psychological conflicts consist of id, ego, super ego, concept of guilt, pent-up guilt, self-punishment, shame, hatred, sadness, and love. The form of psychological conflict that Anne gets is more dominated by psychological conflicts of sadness, hate, love, the concept of guilt and ego.

This research uses Freud's theory of ego defense mechanisms in an attempt to resolve the conflict get by Anne's character in the *Persuasion* novel by Austen. Based on the results of the research described in the previous chapter, it can be concluded that efforts to resolve psychological conflicts according to Freud's theory of ego defense mechanisms consist of projection, displacement, rationalization, reaction formation, repression, sublimation, regression. Efforts to resolve conflicts that Anne's character gets are more dominated by efforts to resolve psychological conflicts of rationalization.

Suggestions

Based on the discussion and findings of research, there are several suggestions, namely the novel entitled *Persuasion* by Austen can be used as an illustration of how a character who has many characters. Conflicts that occur and

efforts to resolve them can be used as an illustration in researching other stories. In addition to containing psychological conflicts, this novel is also about romance and affection.

For this reason, readers can use this novel as research material with topics other than psychological conflicts.

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