

HUMANISTIC PSYCHOLOGY STUDY OF MAIN CHARACTER'S INNER CONFLICT IN PAULO COELHO'S NOVEL

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Abstract

This study aims to describe the inner conflict of the main character in the novel *Mata Hari*. This type of research is descriptive qualitative. The source of the data in this study is the novel *Mata Hari* by Paulo Coelho. The data in this study are in the form of quotations that contain inner conflicts experienced by the main character. The method in this study is descriptive with a literary psychology approach. The technique used is literature study technique, namely content analysis. The research focus is Abraham Maslow's humanistic psychology study; (1) physiological needs, (2) safety, (3) love and belonging, (4) self-esteem/appreciation, and (5) self-actualization. The form of inner conflict is internal and external inner conflict. The results of the research show that there is an inner conflict experienced by the main character *Mata Hari*. Internal inner conflict, namely the main character was raped by the school principal when she was sixteen years old before the main character got to know the world and dived deeper to know the dark world. External inner conflict, in which the main character suffers greatly from accusations from her father, stepmother, and even her husband.

Keywords: *inner conflict, novel, main character, literary psychology*

1 Introduction

Literature is an art form that can be in the form of human personal expressions that are poured through language and become a literary work (Mutmainna, 2021). Literature is a fictitious literary work that is imaginative in nature (Wan- ingyun, 2022). Literary work is not merely an outpouring of feelings and daydreams simply because literature is based on realities that exist in people's lives (Awalluddin, 2021).

Literary criticism can aim to prove whether a literary work is true or not can really be classified as a good literary work or literary work the bad one (Sari, 2021:2). One of the types of literary works is the novel. Jakob Sumardjo (1984:66) states that a novel or romance is a long and broad story in the form of prose. In general, according to Nurgiantoro (2013: 22-23), the building elements are referred to as intrinsic and extrinsic elements. This research focuses on the intrinsic elements in the novel, namely the main character. Aminuddin (2009:79) states that actors who carry events in fictional stories so that these events are able to interweave a story are called characters.

Literary research continues to develop from time to time. The approaches used to research literature are also increasingly diverse. The main purpose of analyzing literature, fiction, poetry, or others is to better understand the literary work in question (Nilawijaya, 2021). According to Minderop in Wardianto (2020) in a literary work, there is an aspect that has a very important role to animate conflict in the literary work itself, namely the psychological aspect of literature.

Literary psychology and literature have a relationship with humans and society. The literary psychology approach can provide an overview or explanation of literature, especially on issues related to feelings in literature. The focus of this research is the study of humanistic psychology by Abraham Maslow (1954), among others; (1) physiological needs, (2) safety, (3) love and belonging, (4) self-esteem/appreciation, and (5) self-actualization. Based on this theory, the form of inner conflict consists of internal and external inner conflicts.

Based on the background, the researcher formulated the research problem, namely: "how is the inner conflict experienced by the main character in the novel *Mata Hari* by Paulo Coelho?" The purpose of this study is to describe the form of inner conflict experienced by the main character in Paulo Coelho's novel *Mata Hari*.

Relevant research is research conducted by Prissilia Prahesta Waningyun and Siti Fadilatul Aqilah from Ma'arif Nahdlatul Ulama University, Kebumen, published in the *Journal of Indonesian Language and Literature Education* in 2022 with the title *Analysis of the Main Character Literary Psychology and Values of Character Education in the novel Hati Suhita by Khilma Anis*. The relevance is found in the theory used, namely the analysis of the main character's inner conflict. The difference between this research and previous research is that this research focuses on the literary psychology approach of Abraham Maslow.

2 Literature Review

2.1 Novel

The novel is a work of fiction that offers a world that contains an idealized life, an imaginative world which is then built from various kinds of intrinsic elements such as plots, characters, events, settings and points of view that are imaginative in nature, even though everything that the author embodies is deliberately made the same as the real world that looks like it actually exists and actually happens, this can be seen from its own coherence system (Nurgiyantoro, 2013:4).

2.2 Inner Conflict

Staton in Nurgiyantoro (2013: 124) says that conflicts in stories can be divided into two types as follows: (1) external conflict, is a conflict that occurs between a character and something outside himself, maybe with the natural environment or maybe with the human environment and (2) internal conflicts are psychological conflicts, problems arise as a result of conflicts between humans and themselves. For example: conflict between two desires, different choices, expectations or other problems.

2.3 Character

According to Abrams (in Nurgiyantoro, 2013: 247), story characters (characters) are people who appear in a narrative work, or drama, which the reader interprets as having certain moral qualities and tendencies as expressed in speech and what is done in action.

Characters are the structural elements of fiction that give birth to events. Viewed in terms of involvement in the whole story, characters in fiction are divided into two. First, the central figure or main character. The central haracter is a character who takes the lion's share in the story, the existence of which can be determined in three ways, namely, (1) the character is most involved with the meaning of or story theme; (2) that character is most related to other characters, and (3) the character requires the most telling time.

2.4 Literary psychology

Literary psychology is a study that views literature as a psychological activity. Literary psychology considers that literature is a reflection of the soul. According to Maslow (1954), literary psychology is synonymous with psychoanalysis, which emerged from Sigmund Freud's theory which was later developed and used in the study of literary psychology, such as humanistic psychology regarding personality and human behavior which is determined by the motivation to achieve something.

3 Research Method

This research is a type of qualitative research. Qualitative research is research that is used to examine the condition of natural objects, where the researcher is the key instrument.

The data collection technique used in this research is content analysis, which is a document analysis that focuses on data. The steps for collecting data are: (1) reading the novel *Mata Hari* repeatedly and (2) writing down sentences that describe inner conflict seen from the perspective of the main character.

Data analysis in this study rested on giving interpretations and conducting section by section descriptions found in the study. The steps for analyzing the data include: (1) reading and listening to the novel to understand the contents as a whole, (2) identifying the inner conflict problems of the main characters in the novel, (3) recording quotations in the novel, and (4) concluding the results. research on the inner conflict of the main character.

4 Result and Discussion

The results of this study were obtained using a literary psychology approach. This research produces findings about the inner conflict of the main character *Mata Hari* in the novel *Mata Hari* by Paulo Coelho. The goal to be achieved in this research is to describe the form of inner conflict experienced by the main character *Mata Hari* in the novel *Mata Hari* by Paulo Coelho.

This study shows that the main character *Mata Hari* experiences internal inner conflict and external inner conflict. Inner conflict is a conflict caused by the existence of two or more conflicting ideas or desires that control oneself so as to affect individual behavior.

4.1 Internal Inner Conflict

Dialogue excerpts that show internal inner conflicts found in the main character in Paulo Coelho's novel *Matahari* are as follows.

(1) "Yes, I am a prostitute. If a prostitute means someone who accepts a debt of gratitude and conditions in exchange for affection and pleasure. Yes, I am a liar, a liar so compulsive and uncontrollable that I often forget what I have said and have to apply great mental energy to cover up mistakes in my speech." (*Mata Hari*, 2016:29)

Quote (1) describes *Mata Hari* as a prostitute who is willing to give her whole body and soul to get what she wants. All the usual jewels, money and thrones *Mata Hari* got only by giving herself as a substitute as a gratification of men or to get luxuries to enrich herself. Even though sometimes *Mata Hari* lied to herself and even her parents for the sake of work, among other things, to give satisfaction to men who wanted her body.

(2) "All the men I have known have given me joy, jewels, or position in society, and I have never regretted knowing any of them except the first one, the principal, who raped me when I was sixteen years old."

Quote (2) describes the inner conflict experienced by the main character which is very concerning. *Mata Hari* tries to escape from the threat of the headmaster but what can *Mata Hari* do is just a little girl getting orders from the headmaster. *Mata Hari* accepted the invitation and accepted everything.

(3) "He called me a slut because I wasn't a virgin anymore when I met him. She wanted to know the details of every man she could imagine I'd slept with. Sobbing, I told him about the headmaster in his office." (*Mata Hari*, 2016:37)

Quote (3) describes the inner conflict experienced by the main character, namely the same incident, being treated arbitrarily by her own husband when *Mata Hari* found out that *Mata Hari* was no longer a virgin before *Mata Hari*'s husband married her. *Mata Hari* was tortured, beaten, and even her husband asked her to have sex like someone who had been harassed by other people by her own husband. *Mata Hari* was helpless, even *Mata Hari* was ready to accept her husband's invitation.

(4) "Now I'm not forever, the only moment in my life so far so miserable, where I always ask for help in exchange for sex. I'm used to it now, but being used equals being satisfied. Money is not enough. I want more!" (*Mata Hari*, 2016:66)

Quotation (4) describes the inner conflict experienced by the main character, namely Mata Hari is used as assistance in exchange for sex for the satisfaction of the men. Mata Hari was so enchanting that it attracted the interest of the men who came. The charm that always invites the lust of all men and even Mata Hari were used as a substitute for sex in a nightclub. Mata Hari never shied away from this request because Mata Hari was used to it all, especially in sex. For Mata Hari money is not enough, you have to earn more.

(5) "And this one is for the torments that my body and soul have narrated since my first cruel experience. And now, every time I sleep with rich men, do things that bring me to tears. All this influence, money, dresses.... Things were getting drab. I am tormented by nightmares that I created myself." (Mata Hari, 2016:83)

Quote (5) describes the main character's inner conflict, namely the torment and suffering that has been felt by his body and soul. The first time Mata Hari felt sex was so cruel, she sank even more every time she had sex with every man who came. Even though she changed men, every time she had contact with her, Mata Hari always imagined the first time she was harassed by a school principal. Everything Mata Hari did was for the sake of money, jewels, all kinds of luxuries and pleasures.

4.2 External Inner Conflict

Excerpts of dialogue that show the external inner conflict experienced by the main character in the novel Mata Hari by Paulo Coelho are as follows.

(1) "He even once sent a maid to go with me to buy clothes similar to the school uniform I was wearing when I met her. Whenever he's possessed by something, he ordered me to put it on. He most enjoyed reenacting the rape scene; he laid me down on the table and entered me so loudly while I screamed, that all the maids could hear and think I liked him." (Mata Hari, 2016:38)

Quote (1) describes the external inner conflict experienced by the main character, namely her husband himself sent a maid to buy a school uniform and then he slept with her as if she had been abused. This incident depicts what Mata Hari experienced when she was abused by the school principal when she was sixteen years old. Mata Hari was called a prostitute, even Mata Hari was asked to scream and ask her even more harshly as if she were in a very heinous state of rape. Even Mata Hari was asked to accept and serve him.

(2) "I do not ask to be happy; I just ask that I'm not sad and miserable that I feel. Maybe, if I had been a little more patient, I could have gone to Paris under different circumstances. But I can no longer stand the accusations of my father's new wife, my husband, a child who constantly cries, or a small town full of village people who still have prejudice against me even though I am now a married and respectable woman." (Mata Hari, 2016:52)

Quote (2) describes the inner conflict experienced by the main character which shows that Mata Hari is increasingly suffering from the accusations of her father's new wife, her husband, her children, or the condition of the city where she lives. These accusations made Mata Hari even more patient in dealing with the situation. For him Mata Hari was not asked to be happy, but Mata Hari asked to be unwilling and miserable for how people treated her.

(3) "I am always grateful to Monsieur Guimet. He gave me the first opportunity to appear, in his private museum, with the very expensive clothes he imported from Asia for his private collection, even though I had to pay for it with half an hour of sex and one pleasure." (Mata Hari, 2016:65)

Quote (3) describes the main character's external inner conflict where it is told that Mata Hari is willing to do anything to get worldly pleasures. A Monsieur Guimet gave Mata Hari the opportunity to appear in her private museum in very expensive clothes and as payment, Mata Hari was willing to give herself up to be enjoyed by the man. In front of many spectators, journalists, celebrities, Mata Hari danced in beautiful clothes, showing off her beauty which was used as the main capital to get satisfaction from the men who saw her. The man also showed the Sun the money-making Olympia shows, starting to change his way of thinking. Mata Hari began to appear in large buildings whose prices were fantastic. It was from that place that Mata Hari earned so much income. Finally, Mata Hari was so satisfied to enjoy luxury in the world of fashion.

(4) "Astruc helped me find hotels commensurate with my growing fame and negotiated contracts all over paris. He got a gig at the Olympia, the tallest concert hall of all time, for me." (Mata Hari, 2016: 79)

Quote (4) describes the external inner conflict shown by someone helping to find a place to live and offering shows at a big event. However, it must show dance with a sexy body and wearing open clothes. This was done by Mata Hari to get money, wealth and various kinds of pleasure.

(5) "I don't know why life subjected me to so many trials in so short a time. To see whether to face hard times. To see how much power I have. To give me experience. But there are other ways, other ways to achieve this. Life shouldn't have to submerge me in the darkness of my soul or force me to wade through this forest full of wolves and other wild animals without a hand to guide me." (Mata Hari, 2016:105)

Quote (5) shows the inner conflict of a main character which is shown with regret not coming from the beginning but always from the end. Mata Hari with everything she has done, from the world of sex, fashion and even all kinds of events that bring in money, made her step in the wrong direction. In her regret, Mata Hari began to realize that life had made her go through so many trials in so short a time. The rising state of Mata Hari has been able to face difficult times, to be able to see how much power she has, and to give her experience. But there is another way or way to achieve. Life should not need to drown in the darkness of the soul. That was the expression of Mata Hari's heart for everything she treated and did.

5 Conclusion

Based on the results of research and discussion, it can be concluded that there is the inner conflict experienced by the main character Mata Hari. The form of inner conflict is internal and external inner conflict.

The internal inner conflict in the novel *Mata Hari* by Paulo Coelho is that the main character experiences sexual harassment by the school principal when he is sixteen years old which is the first incident before Mata Hari knows the world and dives deeper into knowing the dark world. This event made a deep impression on Mata Hari's memory. The inner conflict experienced by the main character is very concerning. Mata Hari tried to escape from the threat of the head of the school but what could Mata Hari was just a little girl who got orders from the head of the school. Mata Hari accepted the invitation.

The external inner conflict in the novel *Mata Hari* by Paulo Coelho, namely Mata Hari is increasingly suffering from the accusations of her father, stepmother, and even her husband. These accusations increasingly made Mata Hari feel that her existence was never considered as a child or even as a wife. But Mata Hari was so patient in dealing with that situation. Mata Hari as the main character does not ask to be happy, but Mata Hari asks to be treated well by the people closest to her and those around her.

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