

Humanitarian Issues in the Novel Kenang-Kenangan Mengejutkan Si Beruang Kutub By Claudio Orrega Vicuña: A Psychological Study of Literature

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ABSTRACT

This research is motivated by the increasing phenomenon of animal cases that are victims of violence and human exploitation. The problems in this study include how the theme, plot, characterization, how the character's personality, and humanitarian problems are in the novel Kenang-kenangan Mengejutkan si Beruang Kutub. This study has the aim of describing the theme, plot, and characterization, character personality, and humanitarian problems in the novel Kenang-kenangan Mengejutkan si Beruang Kutub. The research method used is descriptive qualitative with the data source of the novel Kenang-kenangan Mengejutkan si Beruang Kutub. The results of the analysis show that the character's personality structure is interconnected between the id, ego, and superego which form the character's psyche in viewing problems that exist in humans. The researcher found four humanitarian problems, namely problems between humans and animals, humans, power, and routines

INTRODUCTION

Literary works are a form of imagination from the author made from observations of the environment. These observations are written into a story that has moral values from surrounding problems and symptoms. Therefore, when researchers or observers read a literary work, be it a novel, drama, poem or short story, and so on, they essentially aim to enjoy, appreciate, or even evaluate these works. This means that they struggle with the characters and characterizations contained in these works. These fictional characters display various characters and behaviors related to psychology and psychological experiences or conflicts as experienced by humans in real life. Literature is a creative activity, a work of art. Literature is also considered as an imaginative, fictional, and innovative work (Wellek and Warren in Susanto, 2016). Meanwhile, the term *susastra* itself is essentially derived from the prefix *su* which means beautiful or good. The word *susastra* is often compared to *belles-letters* (Teeuw in Susanto, 2016:1). The notion of literature associated with the term *belles-letters* is essentially related to the notion that developed in the Western tradition, especially Europe. This can be seen in French as the word *Litterature* and English as the word *Literature*.

A different view on the definition of literature, for example, was expressed by Antonio Gramsci. According to Gramsci, to answer the question of what literature is, he approached the questions “what is aesthetics?” and “what is literature?”. Gramsci eventually came to the conclusion that the value of a work lies in the relationship between the writer and society and the times or historical conditions in general. As an example, we can look at the works of Indonesian writer Pramoedya Ananta Toer. Pram's works show his relationship with the context of the society he represents, the spirit of the times, and the development of the social history of his society. The various definitions of literature actually explain the point of view and paradigm. That is, in interpreting a reality or object, different perspectives will certainly produce different implications for how to treat, use, and seek truth or value from something that has been interpreted. For example, if someone looks at literature from a moral perspective, literature is believed to provide useful values as a guide to life.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Although the literary work is only fiction, in reality, literature is also able to provide benefits in the form of moral messages for readers that can be used as examples or examples. In this case, the moral messages contained in literary works can be used as guidelines for society. Moral messages contained in literary works include values that are mutually agreed upon in social life. "Values are conceptions that a person has about what is more or less important, what is better or less good, and what is more or less true". Values that are agreed upon and embedded in a society, organizational scope, community environment, which are rooted in a custom, belief, symbols, with certain characteristics that can be distinguished from one another as a reference for behavior and response to something are also called cultural values (Karmini, 2019).

In general, the purpose of literary psychology is to understand the psychological aspects contained in a work. Through understanding the characters, for example, people can understand the changes, contradictions, and other deviations that occur in society, especially those related to psychology. There are three ways to understand the relationship between psychology and literature, namely a) understanding the psychological elements of the author as a writer, b) understanding the psychological elements of fictional characters in literary works, and c) understanding the psychological elements of readers. Basically, literary psychology pays attention to the psychological problems of fictional characters contained in literary works (Ratna, 2003). Literary psychology is the study of literary works that are believed to reflect psychological processes and activities. So the research will focus on the psychological elements of the author, the psychology of the characters and the psychology of the readers. The research is analyzed with Sigmund Freud's personality structure. According to Freud, behavior is the result of conflict and reconciliation of the three personality systems. The factors that influence personality are historical factors of the past and contemporary factors, analogous to innate factors and environmental factors in the formation of individual personality. Freud discusses the division of human psychic dynamics, namely the Id (located in the unconscious) which is a reservoir, the Ego (located between the conscious and unconscious), and the Superego (located partly in the conscious and partly in the unconscious).

Bowman (1928) states that the id represents the earliest organization of the mental life of the individual and contains within itself the emotional and instinctive forces. Basically, the id represents the instinctive and natural side of living beings. Humans have natural instincts, such as the instinct to eat, the instinct to feel in love, the instinct to get angry and so on. The ego is a part of the Id that shows the relationship of natural instincts with the influence of the outside world. Freud (1927) states that the ego is that part of the id which has been modified by the direct influence of the external world. The ego has the task of bringing the influence of the outside world from the results of Id instincts along with the results of these instinctual tendencies by replacing the principles of reality. Bowman states that the Super Ego is a form of primary identification with parents or can be referred to as a modification of the Ego. Super Ego is related to many aspects, especially conscience, namely religion or religiosity,

morals, and social instincts. because Super Ego is a modification of the Ego, there are several things in common, namely there are restrictions on human instincts as living beings. The Super Ego emphasizes the restriction of instincts on different aspects of the background. These restrictions can vary depending on the individual's personal experience. Therefore, the Super Ego is largely determined by the individual's environment, such as religion, morals, social, customs, and so on.

Based on the opinions of several experts above, the division of human psychic dynamics or characters in the story can be seen through Id, Ego, and Superego. Id is something that lies in the subconscious. This part represents the natural and instinctual side of living things. Everything Id does is based on human desires and needs, such as eating, drinking, falling in love, and so on. The Ego plays a role in bringing the natural instincts of humans with the outside world of humans. The ego becomes a kind of restriction on instincts with the surrounding environment.

The Super Ego has almost the same thing as the Ego. The similarity lies in the restriction of instincts, but the Super Ego relates to the norms or rules of the surrounding environment. There are norms that bind these instincts or needs to be restrained and not released so as not to violate the norms or rules that exist in society.

Basically, every human being has a body and soul. In this case, literary psychology can be used to study this phenomenon. Because every writer will always pour new thoughts and ideas into each of his writings. Every thought written down is indirectly influenced by the environment, experience, and reflection of the writer himself. Therefore, every literary process will always be closely related to psychological processes. Psychological studies can help literary researchers review the work and add artistic values, coherence, and complexity to the literary work.

The selection of the novel *Kenang-kenangan Mengejutkan si Beruang Kutub* as the object of research because first, the problems faced by the characters are basic problems and often occur in society. Second, the problems faced by the characters are presented from the point of view of the characters' unique behavior, character, and personality. Third, the problems and phenomena within the characters can be studied using a literary psychology approach, Sigmund Freud's theory of the division of the dynamics of human thought. Therefore, this research tries to analyze the character's personality and human problems through the theory of literary psychology. The problems to be discussed in this study are the analysis of the novel structure, namely theme, plot, and characterization. Second, the psychological analysis of the characters in the novel *Kenang-kenangan Mengejutkan si Beruang Kutub*. Third, the humanitarian problems in the novel *Kenang-kenangan Mengejutkan si Beruang Kutub* with Sigmund Freud's theory of literary psychology.

Based on the above background, the problems in this study are as follows.

1. What are the theme, plot, and characterization in the novel *Kenang-kenangan Mengejutkan si Beruang Kutub*?
2. What are the personalities of the characters in the novel *Kenang-kenangan Mengejutkan si Beruang Kutub*?
3. What are the humanitarian issues in the novel *Kenang-kenangan Mengejutkan si Beruang Kutub*?

Based on the problem formulation above, the objectives of this study are as follows.

1. Describe the theme, plot, and characterization in the novel *Kenang-kenangan Mengejutkan si Beruang Kutub*
2. Describe the character's personality in the novel *Kenang-kenangan Mengejutkan si Beruang Kutub*
3. Describe humanitarian issues in the novel *Kenang-kenangan Mengejutkan si Beruang Kutub*

METHODOLOGY

In this research the method used is descriptive. This method can be interpreted as problem solving that describes the state of the subject or object of research based on the facts that appear as they are. In addition, researchers also use a literary psychology approach to examine the psychology or personality of characters and humanitarian issues in literary works.

The approach used in this research is Sigmend Freud's literary psychology. This approach is used to find out the psychology and personality of the character in viewing a problem, especially human problems that arise in society. The disposition that includes thoughts, feelings, and behavior is a person's characteristic that shows how he adapts and compromises in life. That is what is called personality (Santrock in Minderop, 2010). This approach emphasizes the psychological aspects contained in a literary work, both through, the author, characters and readers.

This approach aims to find out the personality or psychology as well as the character's point of view in seeing a problem around him. The problems that arise around the character need to be analyzed and interpreted by connecting it to the author's biography. The psychological process, consciously or unconsciously, will always be involved in the author's creative process. Behavior, according to Freud, is the result of conflict and reconciliation of the three personality systems. The factors that influence personality are past historical factors and contemporary factors, analogous to innate factors and environmental factors in the formation of an individual's personality (Minderop, 2010). Related to this, the researcher uses the literary psychology approach as a tool to examine the psychological side of the main character contained in the novel *Kenang-kenangan Mengejutkan si Beruang Kutub*.

This research focuses on the psychology and point of view of the novel's characters and humanitarian issues that affect the characters' thinking patterns as well as the impact of humanitarian issues on the characters and readers in the novel *Kenang-kenangan Si Beruang Kutub* by Claudio Orrego Vicuña.

RESULTS

Intrinsic Elements of Kenang-kenangan Mengejutkan Si Beruang Kutub

The theme of *Kenang-kenangan Mengejutkan si Beruang Kutub* is loneliness and solitude. The figure of Baltazar, a polar bear who was captured and put in an enclosure at a zoo in Valle Central. He was forced to spend his life in a cage alone, after being captured by a Canadian expedition team led by Christian Warrington. From fear and loneliness to wisdom and understanding of human behavior outside his iron prison every day. He came to understand human behavior and the misery behind the gray faces of everyone who came to the zoo.

There is only one character in the novel, Baltazar, the polar bear himself. No dialog occurs between the main character and other characters. All the words are expressions of Baltazar's own thoughts. We hear the polar bear telling us about all the feelings, phenomena, and events that have happened to him.

The novel *Kenang-kenangan Mengejutkan Si Beruang Kutub* uses a mixed plot. In the first chapter, we are introduced to a polar bear who wakes up in a cage in a zoo in Valle Central. Then, we will be invited to find out how the bear lives in the Arctic until he is captured by the expedition team and brought to the zoo. We then follow the events and feelings faced by the polar bear as well as the naming of the keeper. In the fourth chapter we are thrown back in time to when he was happy and felt the first time he fell in love with a female polar bear while still living in the North Pole.

In the following chapters, we will return to contemplating the condition of being confined in a cage prison until at times with different tragedies and events, a bear views human attitudes and behavior. Until the polar bear is killed by its own keeper. The author uses the third person point of view of "Baltazar", although in each chapter, he will mention "I" as a depiction of the character Baltazar. Therefore, we can see that the author is indirectly involved in the contemplation and problems in the story.

Structure of Personality According to Sigmund Freud

Behavior is the result of conflict and reconciliation of the three personality systems. Freud divides into several factors that influence personality, namely past historical factors, contemporary or innate factors, and environmental factors in the formation of individual personality. Minderop (2010) states that Freud discusses the division of human psychism: id (located in the unconscious part) which is the reservoir of impulses and becomes the source of psychic energy. Ego (located between the conscious and unconscious) which serves as a mediator who reconciles the demands of impulses and the prohibitions of the superego. Superego (located partly in the conscious part and partly in the unconscious part) is tasked with supervising and preventing the perfect satisfaction of these impulses which are the result of education and identification with parents.

The id resides in the subconscious, no contact with reality, i.e. always seeking pleasure and always avoiding discomfort. The id represents basic human needs such as eating, sex, resisting pain or discomfort. In the novel *Surprising Memories of the Polar Bear*, Baltazar is a polar bear who was kidnapped from his natural habitat and forced to live in a cage. Id can be seen when he feels free to do anything when he is in his habitat in the North Pole. The following quote shows Baltazar's Id.

Sometimes cold nights make me imagine the old days, when my childhood friends and I played in the sea and chased white ice floes. Those were times of freedom and ease (Vicuña, 2018: 3)

The Long Night had just passed, and we were just starting to get used to the bright world that was sparkled by the rays of the God of light. At times like that, after the Long Winter, we needed to get to know everything again. Like a frenzy, we bears ran from one place to another, jumping from one ice slab to another, sliding and rolling on the slopes (Vicuna, 2018: 32)

The basic need to forage happily for food when a polar bear is in the wild. Id's quote shows this. He played with my friends and brothers, jumping onto the ice, diving into the water and emerging again, smiling and happy, with a fish between his teeth. (Vicuña, 2018: 34)

In addition to living freely in the wild, id can also be found when Baltazar feels love without any restraints and self-limitation to do so. Feeling happy, happy and radiant when feeling love for the first time to one of the female polar bears in his place. The following quote shows this.

The morning was really bright. And it got worse because it seemed like he himself was not aware of the changes he had experienced throughout the winter. Since then, he has been making me feel gloomy. I felt very confused, and of course, started doing stupid things (Vicuña, 2018: 33)

What was important to me was just how to approach him; how to make him join me on an adventure, where my bravery could make him fall in love with me forever; how to overcome my shyness and express my love for him. (Vicuña, 2018: 34)

The ego is trapped between two opposing forces and is guarded and obeys the principle of reality by trying to fulfill individual pleasures that are limited by reality (Minderop, 2010). The ego gives satisfaction to the self without giving suffering to the self at a later time. Like the leader of a company, the ego gives orders and makes the best rational decisions.

Baltazar's id is to feel free to live life in the wild, running around, foraging for food, laughing happily with the herd, and so on. But his ego had to be restrained and pushed him to enjoy all the circumstances in the cage without pain and suffering. We can see the quote below.

I simply accepted his rough feeding and his reluctant cleaning of my cage. I put up with it for months without complaint, although more than a few times I entertained myself with the thought of how different things would be if we were out in the middle of the Arctic ice instead of in a cage. If only he had the cheek and the arrogance to be there! (Vicuña, 2018: 24)

Baltazar's id wants freedom in everything, just like a polar bear can do anything without restraints, but his ego holds him back from doing so even though he has the strength, but for now he is in a position that will make him suffer even more if he goes against the will of the guard. Another thing is shown by Baltazar when his ego prefers to fight the guards because his rational cannot accept the oppression or violence that the guards do to a small child. We can see the quote below.

The poor boy, even though he was no longer a child, did not react or defend himself. All I could hear from him were the unbearable sobs of someone who was the victim of unfair persecution. I admit that what I did after that I did without thinking. My innate nature overpowered my reason, and without knowing where, I roared in rage (a roar that had been forgotten for so long that I myself was afraid of its power). I grabbed the guard by the neck, shook him and pushed him against the bars (Vicuña, 2018:27)

The superego controls which behaviors are allowed and which are not (Wiyatmi, 2011). Freud calls the superego a moral principle that regulates or controls what behaviors to take. The superego develops when a person is in the childhood phase when behavior and actions are regulated and determined by parents, but after growing up, the superego will be formed and control will come from themselves. Baltazar's id is to feel the freedom of living in nature, then the ego requires facing reality and living life in a cage, then Baltazar's superego enjoys every life he goes through and finds comfort and happiness in others. We can see the following quote.

I never said that I was resigned to being satisfied with life behind bars. After all, the God of the bears did not create us for that, but to enjoy the unlimited freedom of the arctic ice. However, in the end I was able to find pleasures that I never thought I would be able to find (Vicuna, 2018: 54)

You could say that I was able to find a kind of original happiness. Not happiness from doing what I wanted to do, but a deeper one, which comes from the ability to understand why things happen the way they do (Vicuna, 2018: 54)

The psychology or personality of a character in a novel can be seen through the id, ego, and superego. The three formers of a person's personality structure are interconnected with one another. This is in line with research conducted by Azizah, Waluyo, and Ulya (2019) which explains the relationship between id, ego, and superego in the character Alif in the novel *Rantau 1 Muara*. In this novel, *Kenang-kenangan Mengejutkan Si Beruang Kutub*, there is a personality-forming structure of id, ego, and superego. Baltazar's id or Baltazar's subconscious that provides comfort, namely when he is in the wild, doing whatever he wants, running, making love, and finding food without any restrictions. Baltazar's ego or rational mind was limited by the cage and he had to suppress his desires. Although in this novel there are several egos shown by Baltazar. When he chooses to be calm and patient in the face of cage officers who are arbitrary when caring for and feeding him. Even though as a polar bear who has more strength, he could have stabbed the officer, but he chose to restrain his anger so as not to cause more suffering to him. Baltazar's other ego is shown when he sees the violent or oppressive treatment of visitors who try to feed him.

The officer took out a whip and whipped the boy's face until he was red and crying. Baltazar's ego thought it was too much and his rational thought the most appropriate action was to hit the officer.

Baltazar's superego or good and bad judgment. Baltazar's superego realized after some time that he himself forgot. He found happiness, wisdom, more knowledge about the human world. He became a wiser bear than his fellow bears in the North Pole. He understood every problem that existed in humans, both positive and negative. He understands the feelings of every human who comes every day to his cage better than the humans themselves. And understands that there is actually not much difference between humans and bears. The personality-forming structure in Baltazar goes hand in hand between id, ego, and superego so that we can know the psychological side experienced by Baltazar as a human being.

Humanitarian Issues in *Kenang-kenangan Mengejutkan Si Beruang Kutub* Humanitarian problems are problems that are experienced existentially due to human behavior in living life, such as conflicts between individuals, aggression behavior, love, mental health, and conflicts between groups. Humanitarian issues in novels have a role as a giver of impressions and messages to readers. Humanitarian issues refer to the impressions and messages conveyed by the author regarding behavior or attitudes related to humans. Humanity describes human tenderness, compassion and loving attitudes towards others, the environment, animals even in a state of suffering and misery. The definition of humanity includes all traits, views, ways of thinking and actions that because of their nature, humans must have, because humanity is an inner drive to give birth to a humanitarian attitude or action.

The human problems contained in the novel *Kenang-kenangan Mengejutkan Si Beruang Kutub* include (1) Problems of humans with animals, (2) Problems of humans with humans, (3) Problems of humans with power, and (4) Problems of humans with routine. By reading the novel *Kenang-kenangan Mengejutkan Si Beruang Kutub* first, we can find the problems of humanity which are described as follows.

Human Problems with Animals

Humans are the most dominating creatures among all creatures in this world. This dominance causes humans to act arbitrarily towards creatures that they consider to have strength and abilities below them. Animals are one of the creatures that are victims of human behavior. The problems that occur between humans and animals are violence and oppression. One of the most obvious things is when humans kidnap animals to be pets or as a spectacle and entertainment. Humans have unknowingly and consciously taken away the freedom of an individual, even an animal. The difference between humans and animals is how they communicate.

Animals have the same feelings and emotions as humans. Therefore, any form of oppression or violence can be felt by every animal. In this novel, Baltazar is a polar bear who is forced to live his days in a cage after he is captured by a group of humans and taken to a zoo. He is forcibly deprived of the freedom to live his life surrounded and imprisoned in a cage as a spectacle and

entertainment for humans. He felt and expressed all his feelings, suffering, loneliness, and fear. Quotes that show this

It had been a long time since the sun had last warmed the land of Valle Central, where I was forced to live. The swifts had gone to the equator with the warm days, which they were enjoying both young and old at this very moment. Any bears that lived there would suffer from the heat; if there were any bears there at all, so far from home, in an environment as strange as mine. (Vicuña, 2018: 3)

Human to Human Problems

The phenomenon that occurs in society is that although we are all born the same as humans, we can have different fates. We often see people who are homeless and living on the street. With makeshift, tattered clothes. On the other hand, there are some people who wear fashionable and cool clothes. It can happen to humans and is not found in other creatures. How can humans neglect their own fellow human beings, there is even a term "neglected people, vagrants, and the like". Shouldn't we be kind to our fellow humans, because we live in the same environment and world. Acts of kindness, such as helping each other, not hurting one another, greeting each other, and so on.

This kind of problem is also found in this novel. When Baltazar experiences his first human friendship. He felt friendship with a little girl who came to visit his home. The girl was about twelve years old with a tattered skirt. How could the little girl survive the cold conditions wearing only such clothes. One wonders how humans can abandon their kind when neither sea lions nor cawing seagulls would do so. Humans really are different in these conditions than animals. A quote that shows this

I remember that sea lions and seagulls that caw would never abandon their fellow humans. When misfortune strikes, they will always show solidarity so that everyone can be happy. Why are humans so different in this regard? Why are selfishness and evil so blatant and obvious in their world? (Vicuña, 2018: 20)

Man's Problem with Power

Power is the ability to control someone. Power is one of the forces that has a good influence on humans but on the other hand also has a bad impact if it cannot control it. Power can be a problem for humans, because they have control over someone to do anything. Power is one of the forces that makes people cross the line to treat anyone who has power under them.

This form of power problem can be seen in the incident when the keeper of Baltazar's cage treated the animals harshly and treated them insincerely. The case of this guard can be analogized to a prisoner with a warden. Baltazar is the prisoner and the guard is the warden. Power is fully owned by the warden because it is limited by the prisoner's condition that all actions are based on the warden's orders. This power becomes a problem when it is used to inflict pain and suffering on the weak. Baltazar received all forms of violence and inappropriate services by the officers who were supposed to provide the best care and services for the animals in the cage. An excerpt that shows this.

This is of course nothing new. It has been going on for as long as I have lived in this cage, and the only reason for it is the arrogance of my cage keeper. (Vicuña, 2018: 24)

For that reason I was always careful, because I was well aware of the difference in position between us. I just accepted his rough way of feeding me and his reluctant way of cleaning my cage. (Vicuña, 2018:24)

Human Problems with Routines

Routines are inseparable in human life. The routines referred to here are work routines or other things that make a person suffer. Some humans get a routine that makes them depressed every day, one of which is work. Not a few jobs make a person suffer because the work they do is outside of their passion. Work that makes the days gray and stressful. The demands of survival and meeting basic daily needs that force someone to do something they don't like and put aside something they enjoy. Humans are sometimes unaware of this problem, a routine that is boring and tedious.

In this novel, Baltazar sees the gray faces of people who are depressed out there, whether by work, routine and so on. When Baltazar saw people's faces laughing and happy, it was like a weight off his shoulders. He felt the drab routine on their faces as they entered and passed his cage. We can see this in the following quote.

You can see it in people themselves. When they come to the zoo, it feels like a heavy burden has been lifted from their shoulders. It seems like it's the only day they can do whatever they want. You can see it on their faces, on the way they dress, and on their carefree and easygoing style when walking around the zoo (Vicuña, 2018: 29)

Their monotonous life is reflected in their facial expressions. The lack of vitality is evident in every action they make that is boring. (Vicuña, 2018: 30)

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the explanation that has been described above, the novel *Kenang-kenangan Mengejutkan Si Beruang Kutub* has intrinsic elements, theme, setting, characterization and plot. The theme contained in the novel, namely loneliness and solitude, the setting is in the Valle Central zoo enclosure, the character in the novel is only one, namely Baltazar, a polar bear, and uses a mixed plot. This research uses Sigmund Freud's personality structure theory which includes id, ego, and superego to fulfill the main character's psychology in the novel. The id in the character is the freedom to live life in nature without restrictions, the ego restrains him to rebel and live a forced life in a cage, the superego of the character finds the values of wisdom and wisdom in understanding humans while in the cage.

This research found that there are four humanitarian problems in the novel *Kenang-kenangan Mengejutkan Si Beruang Kutub*, namely human problems with animals, human problems with humans, human problems with power, and human problems with routine. These problems are found through the psychological conditions during the main character's life in the zoo cage so that literary psychology and human problems are interconnected in this study.

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