

ANALYZING THE OBSESSIONS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN THE SHORT STORY: YOUNG GOODMAN BROWN

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Abstract

This study was aimed to identify how the main character is depicted and identify the characteristics presented by Nathaniel Hawthorne in the short story Young Goodman Brown. This research used a qualitative descriptive method to analyze the data. The primary data were the quotes and the sentences that describe the characters and obsession characteristics of the main characters in Young Goodman Brown's short story. The authors analyzed several trusted journals, articles, and internet sources to conduct a more detailed analysis. The results show that the author of this short story takes the theme of religion, mystery, personal stories and implies moral education. The protagonist, Goodman Brown, is a man who tries to find his way in life. The analysis of this short story finds Young Goodman Brown's obsession with getting to know the demonic sect. Based on the analysis of the personality structure consisting of the id, ego, and superego. The character has a balance of personality. The analysis of the clarification of emotions shows that the main characters are doubt, fear, anger, sadness, and disappointment.

Keywords: short story, character, characteristics, Young Goodman Brown

INTRODUCTION

Literature is all written works that can be used as references in various activities in the field of education and other fields because they are considered to have lasting advantages or benefits. Another opinion says that the meaning of literature is all sources of information that can be used as a reference by its users. In other words, literature does not have to be in the form of writing, but can also be in the form of films, recordings, LPs, laser discs, and other objects that can provide useful information. Researchers chose literature because it offers a unique way to makes the reader interested in the story and that's also because researchers like to study things related to literature.

Prose is a communicative style that sounds natural and uses a grammatical structure. Prose is the opposite of verse, or poetry, which uses a rhythmic structure that does not imitate ordinary speech. However, there are some poems called "prose poetry"

that use elements of prose while adding poetic techniques such as heightened emotional content, high frequency of metaphors, and juxtaposition of contrasting images. Most forms of writing and speaking are done in prose, including short stories and novels, journalism, academic writing, and casual conversation.

The word "prose" comes from the Latin prose oratio, which means direct or direct speech. Since the definition of prose refers to direct communication, "prosaic" has become a boring and mundane discourse. However, when used as a literary term, prose does not carry this connotation.

Young Goodman Brown, an allegorical short story by Nathaniel Hawthorne, published in 1835 in the New England Magazine and collected in Mosses from an Old Manse (1846). Considered a story about magic that is very extraordinary.

The reason for choosing this short story is because this short story not only tells us

about the elements of romance or variety of stories but also learns a lot about what kind of life people do in order to have a good reputation in the eyes of others and this story also describes a very good life situation and emotional state that is shown through a character.

The researcher wants to describe the character created by Nathaniel Hawthorne in the short story *Young Goodman Brown* and what characteristics the main player has based on the personality of the main player. Goodman Brown is the main character in this story, he is a man who is obsessed with people's views of him.

Based on the background above, a formula question will be formed, namely how is the main character in the short story *Young Goodman Brown*? What are the characteristics of the main character in the short story *Young Goodman Brown* based on his personality in the short story?

This study is expected to help readers understand how the author characterizes the main characters in a short story and also understands the obsession characteristics based on his personality in *Young Goodman Brown's* short story.

Prose or short story often contain structural and character elements that can be used as guides to help you think about their actions, themes, and contexts of the story. Short stories are short narrative prose usually centered around a single event.

Edgar Allan Poe in his essay *The Philosophy of Composition* said a short story should be read in one sitting, anywhere from a half hour to two hours. Short stories, as the name suggests are short stories. The length of the short story itself varies. There are short stories (short stories), some are quite long (medium short stories), and there are long short stories (Nurgiyantoro, 2012, p. 10). Short stories are short fiction that can be read in one sitting. Short stories have only one meaning, one crisis and one effect for the

reader. Short story writers just want to point things out sharply (Sumardjo, 2001, p. 184)

Character is a product of characterization made in a certain way. The good conversations they have, the things they do, their appearance, and so on are the special ways the author chooses to characterize his character. Character creation is the art of characterization by the author to bring the character to life so that the reader feels the character's personality to create a unique character. Character can be defined as someone in a literary work that has identity which is made up by appearance, conversation, action, name and thoughts on in the head. Bennett and Royle (2004, p. 60) state that characters are the life of literature: they are the objects of our curiosity and fascination, affection and dislike, admiration and condemnation

Characters in fiction can be classified into major and minor, static and dynamic. The main character is an important character who is the center of the action and the theme of the story. Usually the character's status as major and minor is clear. But sometimes, it's not just one but two characters that dominate a story, it's their relationship that matters the most.

Characterization in literary works is the process used by the author to develop the character and create the image of the character for the audience. On the other hand, it is the way the author expresses his character in a work of fiction or in other words the method of characterization of the character depiction (Bennett & Royle, 2004, p. 65). There are two different approaches to characterization, including direct characterization and indirect characterization.

The most dominant psychological theory in the analysis of literary works is the theory of Sigmund Freud. According to Freud, personality theory is generally divided into three parts: the id, the ego, and the superego. Freud's theory is used to reveal

various psychological symptoms behind the symptoms of language.

Id is the original personality system, inborn. From the id, ego and superego are born. Freud likens the id to king or queen, ego as prime minister and superego as supreme priest. The id acts like an absolute ruler, must be respected, spoiled, arbitrary and self-serving; what he wants must be done immediately. The way id works is related to the pleasure principle, which is always seeking pleasure and always avoiding discomfort (Minderop, 2010, p. 21).

Ego is the executive (executor) of the personality, the ego as the personality executive tries to meet the needs of the id while also meeting the moral needs and developmental needs to achieve the perfection of the superego (Alwisol, 2004, p. 16).

Superego is the moral and ethical force of personality, which operates on idealistic principles as opposed to complacency id and the realistic principle of the ego. The idealistic principle has two sub-principles, namely conscience and ego ideal. The superego is essentially an element that represents parental values or parents' interpretation of social standards taught to children through various prohibitions and commands.

METHOD

In this study, the author used a qualitative descriptive method to analyze the existing data. According to Moleong (2018), qualitative method is a research that produces data in the form of oral and written data. Therefore, qualitative methods are applied in a study that needs to be analyzed and presented in the form of a description.

The main data or material for this research were quotes, sentences that highlight the main character and the characteristics of the main character in Nathaniel Hawthorne's short story Young Goodman Brown. To conduct a more detailed analysis, the authors

analyzed several trusted journals, articles and internet sources. Their ideas provide an overview and a way to identify the character and obsession characteristics of the main characters in Nathaniel Hawthorne's short story Young Goodman Brown.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Barnet *et al.* (1993) revealed that the author describes or displays his character in various ways. It is possible that the author presents his character as an actor who only lives in a dream, an actor who has a fighting spirit in defending his life, an actor who has a path according to real human life or an actor who is selfish, disorganized. and selfish. The culprit can be humans or other creatures that are given characters, such as humans, mice, birds, and cats.

The characters in a story have different roles. A character who has an important role in a story is called the main character, while a character who has an unimportant role because his appearance only complements, serves, and supports the main character is called an additional character or supporting character. In the short story Young Goodman Brown the author describes the main players as in the following excerpt:

“In truth, all through the haunted forest, there could be nothing more frightful than the figure of Goodman Brown. On he flew, among the black pines, brandishing his staff with frenzied gestures, now giving vent to an inspiration of horrid blasphemy, and now shouting forth such laughter, as set all the echoes of the forest laughing like demons around him. The fiend in his own shape is less hideous, than when he rages in the breast of man. Thus sped the demoniac on his course, until, quivering among the trees, he saw a red light before him, as when the felled trunks and branches of a clearing have been set on fire, and throw up their lurid blaze against the sky, at the

hour of midnight. He paused, in a lull of the tempest that had driven him onward, and heard the swell of what seemed a hymn, rolling solemnly from a distance, with the weight of many voices. He knew the tune; it was a familiar one in the choir of the village meeting-house. The verse died heavily away, and was lengthened by a chorus, not of human voices, but of all the sounds of the benighted wilderness, pealing in awful harmony together. Goodman Brown cried out; and his cry was lost to his own ear, by its unison with the cry of the desert". (*Young Goodman Brown*, p. 7).

In determining who is the main actor and who is the additional actor in a short story, we can determine it by observing how often it appears in the story. Another way is through the instructions given by the author. The main character is the character that is most often discussed, while the additional actors are only commented on perfunctory. The title can also be used in determining who the main actor is because there is a short story title taken from the name of the main actor and in this short story Nathaniel Hawthorne uses the name of the main character as the title of the short story he wrote.

The personality structure of the id seen from its development is the oldest part of the personality. The characteristics of the personality structure of the id have no morality because they cannot judge or distinguish good and bad, so the id is immoral. The id is a personality that contains instinctive strength and drive aggressiveness, and lust that is concrete in the form of libido whose work system is concerned with the pleasure principle. This personality structure can be seen in the events in Nathaniel Hawthorne's short story *Young Goodman Brown* contained in *Young Goodman Brown*. *Young Goodman Brown*'s great ambition in the wizarding world shows that *Young*

Goodman Brown is dominated by Id. *Young Goodman Brown* is a person who really cares about other people's views of him, *Young Goodman Brown* is obsessed with following the flow of magic that he has never known before, that's what makes *Young Goodman Brown* willing to leave his wife, Faith, in order to walk through the forest and follow demon current. The personality structure of the id in *Young Goodman Brown* is such an obsession that he has to do it. Here are the quotes:

"My love and my Faith," replied young Goodman Brown, "of all nights in the year, this one night must I tarry away from thee. My journey, as thou callest it, forth and back again, must needs be done 'twixt now and sunrise. What, my sweet, pretty wife, dost thou doubt me already, and we but three months married!" (*Young Goodman Brown*, p. 1).

"Poor little Faith!" thought he, for his heart smote him. "What a wretch am I, to leave her on such an errand! She talks of dreams, too. Methought, as she spoke, there was trouble in her face, as if a dream had warned her what work is to be done to-night. But, no, no! 'twould kill her to think it. Well; she's a blessed angel on earth; and after this one night, I'll cling to her skirts and follow her to Heaven". (*Young Goodman Brown*, p. 1).

From that quotes, it can be seen that *Young Goodman Brown* is very obsessed with satanic sects, in the quote it can be seen that *Young Goodman Brown* is willing to be away from his wife he loves, Faith, in order to go to the forest that night. Another id seen in *Young Goodman Brown* can be seen from the following quote:

With this excellent resolve for the future, Goodman Brown felt himself justified in making more haste on his present evil

purpose. He had taken a dreary road, darkened by all the gloomiest trees of the forest, which barely stood aside to let the narrow path creep through, and closed immediately behind. It was all as lonely as could be; and there is this peculiarity in such a solitude, that the traveller knows not who may be concealed by the innumerable trunks and the thick boughs overhead; so that, with lonely footsteps, he may yet be passing through an unseen multitude.

In the quote above, it can be seen that Young Goodman Brown's obsession makes him unable to stop what he will do in the future, he can't resist the turmoil of his obsession to keep following the demonic flow, even though some oddities begin to appear in front of him.

The ego is one component of the personality structure that controls so that humans act and relate in the right ways according to real conditions so that the id is not pushed out too much. The ego is in the conscious and is rational. It will control irrational behavior and thoughts. He will control irrational thoughts to become rational. The ego is the controller between the id and the superego. Ego personality structure in Young Goodman Brown is seen when he regrets following an old man into the forest. Here are the quotes:

"Too far, too far!" exclaimed the goodman, unconsciously resuming his walk. "My father never went into the woods on such an errand, nor his father before him. We have been a race of honest men and good Christians, since the days of the martyrs. And shall I be the first of the name of Brown, that ever took this path and kept--" (*Young Goodman Brown*, p. 2).

"Friend," said he, stubbornly, "my mind is made up. Not another step will I budge on this errand. What if a wretched old

woman do choose to go to the devil, when I thought she was going to Heaven! Is that any reason why I should quit my dear Faith, and go after her?" (*Young Goodman Brown*, p. 4).

In the quote it appears that Young Goodman Brown began to realize what he was doing, he felt his obsession with this satanic sect had made him forget that his father was a very devout Christian, so he felt doubtful and felt too far away to follow the devil's current. And the quote shows that Young Goodman Brown began to regret and wanted to return to his wife, Faith, after seeing someone who taught him about Christianity following Satan's sect.

The superego is part of the human personality because of the filter of the good-bad and right-wrong sensors. The personality structure of the superego cannot produce repression by itself, but it can command the ego to do so. So the superego tends to oppose the id and the ego and makes them a balanced conception.

The superego begins to appear in Young Goodman Brown when he feels very surprised by what he sees, he feels he has been cheated by people who have been around him, he feels disappointed in everyone. Here's the quote:

The next morning, Young Goodman Brown came slowly into the street of Salem village, staring around him like a bewildered man. The good old minister was taking a walk along the graveyard, to get an appetite for breakfast and meditate his sermon, and bestowed a blessing, as he passed, on Goodman Brown. He shrank from the venerable saint, as if to avoid an anathema. Old Deacon Gookin was at domestic worship, and the holy words of his prayer were heard through the open window. "What God doth the wizard pray to?" quoth Goodman Brown. Goody Cloyse, that excellent old

Christian, stood in the early sunshine, at her own lattice, catechising a little girl, who had brought her a pint of morning's milk. Goodman Brown snatched away the child, as from the grasp of the fiend himself. Turning the corner by the meeting-house, he spied the head of Faith, with the pink ribbons, gazing anxiously forth, and bursting into such joy at sight of him, that she skipt along the street, and almost kissed her husband before the whole village. But Goodman Brown looked sternly and sadly into her face, and passed on without a greeting. (*Young Goodman Brown*, p. 9).

From the quote it can be seen that Young Goodman Brown regretted following the old man he met in the forest to introduce him to the demonic sect, after witnessing all the people he met in the village were in the forest to take part in the worship ceremony to the devil made Young Goodman Brown felt cheated by the people he had trusted the people who had taught him about christianity. Another superego of Young Goodman can be seen from the following quote:

Be it so, if you will. But, alas! it was a dream of evil omen for young Goodman Brown. A stern, a sad, a darkly meditative, a distrustful, if not a desperate man, did he become, from the night of that fearful dream. On the Sabbath-day, when the congregation were singing a holy psalm, he could not listen, because an anthem of sin rushed loudly upon his ear, and drowned all the blessed strain. When the minister spoke from the pulpit, with power and fervid eloquence, and with his hand on the open Bible, of the sacred truths of our religion, and of saint-like lives and triumphant deaths, and of future bliss or misery unutterable, then did Goodman Brown turn pale, dreading lest the roof should thunder down upon

the gray blasphemer and his hearers. Often, awaking suddenly at midnight, he shrank from the bosom of Faith, and at morning or eventide, when the family knelt down at prayer, he scowled, and muttered to himself, and gazed sternly at his wife, and turned away. And when he had lived long, and was borne to his grave, a hoary corpse, followed by Faith, an aged woman, and children and grand-children, a goodly procession, besides neighbors, not a few, they carved no hopeful verse upon his tombstone; for his dying hour was gloom. (*Young Goodman Brown*, p. 10).

The quote shows that Young Goodman Brown feels very disappointed with the people in his village, he feels very disappointed because people have deceived him, he never thought that his wife also followed the flow of the devil. Because his disappointment was very strong, it made Young Goodman Brown feel hate and distrust of anyone in the village, until finally Young Goodman Brown chose to stay away from the people in the village of Salem. Until the end of his life no one cared about Young Goodman Brown.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results of research on Nathaniel Hawthorne's short story entitled *Young Goodman Brown*, it can be concluded that this short story has one main character, Young Goodman Brown. This character is the focal point of the research center because it is very influential on the development of the plot, while the characters related to the life of the main character, namely Goodman Brown's wife named Faith, The Devil Figure is the mysterious man who meets Goodman Brown in the forest, Minister, Deacon Gookin, Goody Cloyse, Martha Carrier, and Powwows.

The author of the short story *Young Goodman Brown*, Nathaniel Hawthorne,

takes the theme of religion, mystery and secret stories, implicit moral education stories or contains moral or philosophical implications. Young Goodman Brown's short storylines are exposition, rising action, falling action, climax, conclusion. Exposition occurs at the beginning of the story or the first paragraph, the author reveals the protagonist. The protagonist is Goodman Brown, a man trying to find his way in life. He travels through the forest with an old man who is an antagonist. The rising action begins when Brown, out of the village, enters a dark, gloomy, and possibly haunted forest. He hadn't gone far before he met the Devil in the form of a middle-aged, respectable-looking man, whom Brown had offered to meet and accompany on his journey. Perhaps full awareness of who his partner was and what the night would save for him now dawned on Brown, as he attempted to return to Salem. Falling Action is seen as a problem or the result of a turning point where a series of events occur in contrasting situations and conditions in this story. The climax of the story occurs when Goodman Brown, standing before the altar with Faith to receive the baptismal mark from the devil, hesitates at the last minute and exhorts his wife to "look to heaven, and resist the evil one." The conclusion or ending of this story then begins when he suddenly finds himself alone in the forest, as if he had just woken up from a dream. What he experiences in the forest – whether dream or reality – changes his life. He is now suspicious of everyone, as were the Puritans in real life Salem when they participated in the witch hunt that resulted in his execution. After the events of Young Goodman Brown is never the same again, he is a sad person when he has it strong, like a lonely and hopeless person. "Finally in this story he dies (Young Goodman Brown) leaving his wife and family behind.

The analysis of this short story finds Young Goodman Brown's obsession with getting to know the demonic sect. For the sake of knowing this, Young Goodman was willing to leave the wife he loved so much by himself. Young Goodman Brown's obsession can be seen based on an analysis of the personality structure consisting of the id, ego and superego. The character of Young Goodman Brown has a balance of personality, this can be seen from the attitude or character shown by the character of Young Goodman Brown in this short story. Young Goodman Brown has a great obsession with the flow of demons, but his obsession can be broken by his own disappointment after knowing the lies kept by those closest to him who turned out to have followed the demonic sect. The analysis of the clarification of emotions contained in the short story Young Goodman Brown shows that the main characters are doubt, fear, anger, sadness, and disappointment.

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