

HANNIBAL'S REVENGES IN THOMAS HARRIS' *HANNIBAL RISING* (2006) A PSYCHOANALYSIS APPROACH

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Abstract: This study is about revenges by a character whose relatives have been hurt by others in Thomas Harris' *Hannibal Rising*. Using psychoanalysis theory referring to the id, ego, and superego and supported by close reading as well as dramatic and descriptive method, the study finds that the character shows his id through his anger, retaliation, and killing to his enemies. This study then seems to be a simple one, however, learning deeply the previous studies, the study gives a remarkable finding that the previous studies concentrate on the dissatisfaction of the id leading to the anxiety, whilst, the study on the satisfaction on the id.

Key Words: *psychoanalysis, close reading, revenge, murder, fight back*

INTRODUCTION

Since this study is about something that moves a human, therefore, the researcher begins with the discussion of psychoanalysis which is a study about mind and behavior (Zhang, 2020), about the process of consciousness and unconsciousness, desires, suppressions, as well as the mental functioning regulation (Berger 1993). Psychoanalysis also refers to as 'verstehen' (understanding) psychology, as a comprehension of the sensible psychic life and an upper link with the insensible psychic life is available (Kartono, 1996:131). The researcher then understands that the discussion of psychoanalysis refers to somebody's personality.

Further, Sigmund Freud, the founder of the psychoanalysis theory, divides personality into three parts, that is, the conscious (consciousness), the preconscious (pre-consciousness) and the unconscious (unconscious). The preconscious mind is

built on the conscious mind and the unconscious mind. A person's experience that usually allowing him to involve the experience is called the preconscious mind (Suryabrata, 2002).

Further, Freud does a classification of the process of human psychology into the id, ego, and superego (Endraswara, 2003). The Id functions as an aspect of biology that is the most elementary psychological layer. The id can be the presentation of an elementary human necessity like eating, drinking, sleeping and sexual lust. The id encompasses several inborn characters from birth including the needs to be attained. The id generally follows the desire value referring to immediate gratification of human wishes and desires. Unless these two things are attained by individuals, then individuals can be worried, stressed, or annoyed. Suryabrata (1993) states that the id can be satisfied through two ways, that is to say, by impulse act as well as main procedures like people's feeling hungry with the food in their imagination. Besides, the id is always in the subconscious, no reality contact based on the people's pleasure. Different from the id, ego is the doer of the action to accomplish the id's desires, whilst, superego refers to the norms that limits the movement of superego. (Minderop, 2010).

When attempt to fulfill the desires of the id, but by reducing the perceived tension of the id. Ego arises from within a person because of his own needs, but also relates to reality. The ego can cause internal conflict if the ego is weak, and vice versa if the ego is too strong it will cause external conflict. The ego is not only concerned with personal interests, but also thinks about other people and their impact on those around them. In a person's personality, the ego is the main leader. The position of the ego is between the subconscious and the human conscious. There is no good or bad value in the ego. The job of the ego is to give mental space as the main solution to problems. The ego can solve problems if it is controlled properly, for example by delaying the satisfaction of the id (Minderop, 2010).

One of the novels worthy of psychoanalysis application is Thomas Harris' *Hannibal Rising*, with the main character, Hannibal Lecter, who is dominated by the id so that he reveals his emotion of revenges in such a way that he feels satisfied. Revenges are considered the most an effective way of relieving pain and its real form demands equal treatment that must be received by each individual (Pulungan 2019). Then how revenges are conducted by the main character is the main focus of the researcher's analysis in this study.

To get the novelty of the study, the researcher refers to, first of all, Kurniasari (2024), with her study of the main character's psychoanalysis, Warriner, who has no ability to satisfy his id so that he undergoes anxiety in Charles Williams's *Dead Calm*. Using anxiety's types as well as descriptive qualitative method the study shows that the main character undergoes anxiety through his feeling of weakness, worriedness, and punishment fear, remorseful to the other character and facing a real danger.

Second of all, the researcher refers to Fanani, et. al. (2025), with his study of the main character, Theo, who cannot satisfy the id, therefore, he undergoes anxiety disorder. Using anxiety's types: neurotic anxiety, moralistic anxiety, and realistic anxiety as well as descriptive and dramatic method, the study shows that the main character experiences those mentioned types of anxiety through depression, trauma, panic, and frustration caused by his inability in controlling his emotion as well as his social carelessness.

Last of all, the researcher refers to Hadju (2018), with his study of the main character, Willy Wonka, undergoing traumatic events in Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Using Freud's psychoanalysis of the id, ego, and superego, the study shows that the main character fails to overcome his anxiety through a competition, therefore, he is traumatic.

From the elaborated previous studies above, it is clear that the researcher's study has the novelty, though the researcher's study uses the same theory as the previous studies, however, the result is different. The difference goes to the main

characters' inability to satisfy their id in the previous studies, whilst, the main character can satisfy his id in the researcher's study.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

In this study, the researcher analyzes a character that has nothing to do with the social reality when the novel is written, the history of the author, and the author's life. Therefore, the researcher goes merely within the novel itself. Accordingly, the researcher uses close reading method in that the researcher get the deep understanding of the novel in conducting the analysis (Pickering, 2019). Likewise, because the researcher refers to the description of the author about the character and the dialogue of the characters so that the researcher uses descriptive and dramatic approach (Little, 1966) to elaborate the main character's revenge in Thomas Harris' *Hannibal Rising*.

Data Collection Technique

Firstly, the researcher conducts the study refers to himself as the instrument of the study insomuch as it is the study of literature. Secondly, the researcher refers to the data collection ways such as interview, observation, document, and survey (Miles, and Huberman, 1984). Interview is excluded here because the researcher's study belongs to the literary one. Thirdly, to have the issue as well as the theory, the researcher does the activity of reading through observation. Fourthly, to have the citation and classification of the description as well as the dialogue of the main character's revenge, the researcher documents them. Lastly, to have the data interpreted, the researcher surveys the data.

Data Analysis

For analyzing the data, the researcher goes back to the research problem and the research problem's elaboration that still belongs to Miles and

Huberman's theory (1984); the researcher elaborates how the main character undergoes revenges in Thomas Harris' *Hannibal Rising*.

RESEARCH RESULT

Finding

Hannibal Lector's Revenges

Hannibal's revenges are done through, firstly, anger. Hannibal is triggered by a man named Paul, a butcher, who has named his aunt. Hearing this, Hannibal grows angry with Paul. Thus, fight against each other is unavoidable. "The leg of lamb smashing into Paul's face drove him over backward in a spill of bird intestines, Hannibal on top of him ... (Harris, 2006:62).

Secondly, Hannibal's revenge is through fighting back. It turns out that Hannibal cannot stand being bullied by Fedor through Fedor's throwing stone at Hannibal. Accordingly, Hannibal swings water grass with a lump of earth in spite of the fact that Fedor's face is angrily attacked by Hannibal.

"The dirt ball caught Fedor hard in the face and Hannibal, a head shorter, charged and shoved him down the steep embankment to the water, scrambling after the stunned boy and had him in the blackwater, holding him under, driving the slingshot handle again and again into the back of his neck, Hannibal's face curiously blank, only his eyes alive, the edges of his vision red. Hannibal heaved to turn Fedor over to get to his face" (Harris, 2006:33).

The quotation above means that Hannibal hates what is done by the angry children. Accordingly, Hannibal responds by attacking, pushing, as well as confronting his face. Through his anger against others, Hannibal demands a good feeling in him. Thus, his emotional desire to get comfort makes him do everything though he is controlled by his emotion.

Thirdly, Hannibal's revenge is through murdering Paul, Dortlich, Milko, Kolnas, Grutas, and Grentch. As to Paul, Paul turns out to have talked about sexual harassment about Lady Murasaki that triggers Hannibal to avenge her. "Hannibal stopped. "You inquired about her pussy, I believe. You speculated that it ran which

way?" "Is she your mother? Jap pussy runs crossways! You should fuck the little Jap and see" (Harris, 2006:69-70). It happens when the conversation between Hannibal and Paul to the heated peak that leads to the death of Paul by cutting Paul's head.

As to Dortlich, the next day, Dortlich is strangled by Hannibal with a rope then a horse, Cesar, pulls the rope till Dortlich is died. "Dortlich sat gagged and bound to a tree. Hannibal and Cesar joined him" (Harris, 2006:156). It is the revenge of Hannibal though it seems sadist. It is the representation of his feeling retaliated that is fulfilled by his ego.

As to Milko, Milko is forced to drink alcohol by Hannibal penetrating a needle full of alcohol-filled liquid in his neck to his death. "Hannibal stepped close behind Milko and sank the hypodermic full of alcohol into the side of Milko's neck, catching him as his legs gave way and his eyes rolled up, easing him to the floor" (Harris, 2006:185).

As to Kolnas, Kolnas is murdered by Hannibal in his own restaurant. Hannibal kills him because Kolnas is involved in the killing of Hannibal's sister. "He could hear himself blink. He could hear the child's breathing. He could hear Madame Kolnas' voice from down the hall" (Harris, 2006:204). This the way how to satisfy the inner feeling of somebody, there is a matching agreement between Hannibal's id and ego. When the id needs something that comes to the agreement of ego, the id is satisfied. Hannibal is really satisfied by avenging his murdered relatives.

As to Grutas, Grutas is killed by Hannibal in Grutas' boat where he ties Lady Murasaki as a hostage. Hannibal tries to save her though he is hurt by Grutas' shooting in his back. However, Hannibal manages to fulfill his revenge by killing Grutas. "Grutas shot Hannibal in the back from behind the door, the bullet striking between

his shoulder blades and he went down on his back, blood spreading from under him” (Harris, 2006).

As to Grentz, he has been killed by Hannibal in a business way that Hannibal presents himself as a buyer, whilst, Grentz presents himself as a seller because Grentz owns a shop in Canada.

"I've come to collect a head," Hannibal said.

"Which one, have you got your ticket?"

"I don't see it up there on the wall."

"It's probably in the back."

Hannibal has a suggestion. "May I come? I'll show you which one" (Harris, 2006).

The quotation above shows that Hannibal is in Grentz's shop that according to Grentz Hannibal is really a buyer that needs a 'head' a toy. When Hannibal follows him to the back to get the head, Hannibal kills him. Thus, Hannibal's desires of revenges have been completed by the death of Grentz. It again shows that when somebody's desires (the id) is completed by ego, he will feel quite satisfied.

Discussion

In this sub-title, the researcher would like to discuss why Hannibal avenges his relatives. The first is that there are breakthrough and robbery. The first reason is that the cottage house that Hannibal and Mischa stay is broken into by Grutas and his accomplices, robbing everything. "THE DOOR BURST OPEN then and Grutas came in with Milko and Dortlich." "He slipped Mischa's bracelet off her wrist and put it in his pocket" (Harris, 2006:24).

The second is that there is a kidnapping of the children, Hannibal and Mischa. Hannibal and Mischa are chained in their necks, whilst, the two children are chained to a ledge above the staircase. "Put them in the bunkhouse," Grutas said. "Lock them in." "Where would they go?" Grentz said. "Who would they tell?" "They can tell you about their sad fucking lives, in Albanian, Grentz. Get your ass out there and do it"

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(Harris, 2006:25). It turns out that Hannibal and his relatives are not only chained but also physically hurt Grutas, Grentz, and Kolnas.

The third is that there is a physical violence. In this part, Hannibal has been replaced to an orphanage that now becomes a castle. Curious by Fedor, an orphan, who has thrown a stone at Hannibal, Hannibal is quite dismayed. "Fedor took a slingshot of red inner-tube rubber out of his shirt and reached into his pocket for a stone. The stone hit the mud at the edge of the moat, splattering Hannibal's legs with mud" (Harris, 2006:32-33).

The fourth is that there is a verbal violence. This verbal violence is forwarded to Lady Murasaki, Hannibal's aunt by Paul Momound, a butcher. It turns out that Paul Momound very rudely talks to Lady Murasaki.

"Hey, Japonnaise!"

And the voice of Bulot of the Vegetables: "Please, Monsieur! That is unacceptable."

And Paul again: "Hey, Japonnaise, tell me, is it true that your pussy runs crossways? With a little puff of straight hairs like an explosion?" "Hannibal saw Paul then, his face smeared with blood and feathers, like the Blue-Eyed One, like the Blue-Eyed One gnawing a birdskin" (Harris, 2006:62).

When Paul the butcher calls Hannibal's aunt, Lady Murasaki with a racist label, and also a verbal abuse, it really shows that Paul is an id roughly. Then after that moment, when Hannibal sees Paul Momon the butcher making sexual harassment remarks, Hannibal is angry and replies to Paul's words.

The last is that there is a trauma of childhood memory. It turns out that Hannibal cannot get away from his a memory of his days of yore. Accordingly, he keeps having nightmares in his sleeping. He sees his sister Mischa killed in his dream.

"In the barn, the air is cold, the children's clothes are pulled down to their waists as Blue-Eyes and Web-Hand feel the flesh of their upper arms. The others behind them nicker and mill like hyenas who have to wait. Here is the one who always proffers his bowl. Mischa is coughing and hot, turning her face from their breath. Blue-Eyes grips the chains around their necks. Blood and feathers from a birdskin he gnawed are stuck to Blue-Eyes' face. Bowl-

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Man's distorted voice: "Take her, she's going to dieee anyway. He'll stay freeeeesh a little longer." Blue-Eyes to Mischa, a ghastly cozening, "Come and play, come and play!" Blue-Eyes starts to sing and Web-Hand joins in: Ein Mannlein steht im Walde ganz still und stumm, Es hat von lauter Purpur ein Mantlein um Bowl-Man brings his bowl. Web-Hand picks up the axe, Blue-Eyes seizing Mischa and Hannibal screaming flies at him, gets his teeth into Blue-Eyes' cheek, Mischa suspended in the air by her arms, twisting to look back at him. "Mischa, Mischa!" (Harris, 2006:48).

Normally, a nightmare that is commonly recognized by the public is a "nightmare", which is a condition that causes an uncomfortable feeling when a person wakes up from sleep. A person who has nightmares may see, hear, or feel scary and terrible things while sleeping so that his sleep becomes restless. This nightmare happens over and over again, even every time Hannibal is trying to sleep. Until this nightmare makes Hannibal remember of his past and trauma. This is one of the reasons why Hannibal wants to do his revenge to the five deserters.

CONCLUSION

From the discussion above, the researcher concludes that Hannibal's revenges are not without reasons. It is psychologically normal that a person avenges his beloved relatives who have been hurt from robbery, kidnapping, and both physical and verbal violence. In spite of the fact that the application of the psychoanalysis theory is on the right way, the researcher hopes so much that the study gives contribution to the development of the literary study. Accordingly, other researchers are demanded to conduct further study on the same novel with different theory or with different novel with the same theory.

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