ANXIETY IN ROBERT JAMES WALLER’S
*THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY:*
A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH

Research Paper
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by:

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A. Background of the Study

Each person is unique individually, with their problem and different experience in their lives. Many problems exist and could make people uncomfortable, and fell anxious. Their experience can be happiness, sadness, hesitation, and anxiety. Occasionally, people are capable of solving the problem rationally, but in certain day, they cannot. And the people will disclose falsehood. The people have capability to create feeling and thought. The composition of their feeling and thought are not static but changeable. One of the problems is love. It’s sensitive problem to the people. Because of love, the people can feel happy, unhappy, hesitation, and anxiety. Those make people live differently.

Anxiety is a style closely related to fear and it has motivational consequence. Anxiety can be nightmare for some individuals, because base on intense inner conflict. It may appear when they have problems and they are too hard to solve. Some people reduce the anxiety by escaping from the problem for a moment, it happened from the environments in facing the problem with a pleasure. Anxiety may occur when one individual feels his or her society not to treat him or her as an individual who has right to decide what he or she wants to do to express his or her own feeling, instead he or she to accept the society’s decision without giving a chance to speak.
Anxiety as one of psychoanalytic principles is part of psychoanalytic study. Psychoanalytic theory also could be used as a way to know more about the work of literature knowing the way out or over in the problem, the mental illness and self-defense on facing the problem. In the concept of psychoanalytic theory, anxiety is the most important. In defining anxiety; Freud (1964/1983: 81-85) emphasized that is “a felt affective; unpleasant state accompanied by physical sensation that warn the person against impending danger. The unpleasant is often vague and hard to pin point but the anxiety itself is always felt”

Freud was the originator of psychoanalytic theory in the early One of the best-known figures in all of psychology is Sigmund Freud, in 1900s. The structure of personality consisted of three separate but interacting parts, the id, the ego, and the superego. This is what the writer wants to expound from the major character’s personality. Robert James Waller conceives The Bridges of Madison County. It is to be the first novel from seven novels that is written by him. It has written in 1992, published by arrangement in Great Britain on 1993 and has 171 pages, on nine chapters. This novel is Top Best Seller, over One Million copies in America. This novel is great, because it is talking about reality story by Francesca Johnson. The other works by Robert James Waller are: A Thousand Country Roads; Puerto Vallarta Squeeze; Border Music; Old Song in a New Café; Slow Warta in Cedar Bend; Could Mountain and The Been Trees. (www.TheBridgesofMadisoncounty1993.com)
The knowledge of psychology helps authors to create their characters in novels more real as well a situation and plot (Wellek and Warren; 1984: 88-91). The author described situation and emotions, as *Francesca is* falling in love with *Robert Kincaid*, a photographer in New York. For along times she lives in anxiety up to she is dying. But before died, she writes a letter for her children. The letter tells about her mistakes, her affair with Kincaid. In the letter, she wants that her children, Carolyn and Michael accept Kincaid as family. She tells everything about Kincaid in her letter, and gives Kincaid’s letter to them.

Considering the above explanatory ideas, the researcher turns to analyze the novel by using psychoanalytic approach because of some consideration. The first one is that the novel is an expression of human internal battle in overcoming the anxiety. She has the feeling of ambition, anxiety, and confusion when she falls in love again. The second is that the novel has great possibility to know the phenomenon of psychological problems in the character.

**B. Literature Review**

As long as the writer knows, there is no other research that has been conducted to study the novel *The Bridges Of Madison County; A Psychoanalytic Approach* in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta and Surakarta Region.
C. Problem Statement

Considering the phenomenon, the researcher formulates the problem statement in this study as “How is major character’s anxiety reflected in Robert James Waller, *The Bridges of Madison County*?”

D. Limitation of the Study

To carry out the study, the researcher needs to limit the study. The researcher is going to analyze Francesca Johnson as the one major character in novel *The Bridges of Madison County*.

E. Objectives of the Study

Dealing with the problem statement above the objectives of the studies is:

1. To analyze the structural elements of the novel in order to identify the unity of the novel
2. To analyze the major characters of the novel based on the psychoanalytic approach.

F. Benefit of the Study.

The benefit affected from the study as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit:

   To give additional information to literature researcher dealing with *Francesca Johnson “THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY”*
2. **Practical Benefit:**

To give deeper understand about the concept of the novel especially from the psychology aspect.

G. **Research Method**

1. **Type of the Research**

The research on this novel belongs to qualitative research because it does need statistic to explore the fact. Qualitative research does not include calculation and enumeration.

2. **Object of the Study.**

The object of the study is the novel ‘THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY’.

3. **Type of the Data and the Data Source**

There are two kinds of data namely primary and secondary data. First, the primary data are taken from the text of the novel such as dialogues, characters action, and whole narration, which are relevant to the object of analysis. Second, the secondary data includes the references of some books and the internet.

4. **Technique of the Data Collections**

The techniques of collecting the data are:

a. Reading the novel repeatedly and learning on Francesca Johnson’s *The Bridges of Madison County* and secondary data from the other books.

b. Taking notes of the important part in primary and secondary data.
c. Arranging the data into several parts based on classification.

d. Analyzing the data of the research based on Sigmund Freud theory of psychoanalysis.

e. Drawing conclusion based on the analyzed data.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The researcher uses two kinds of technique in analyzing the data. The first step in analyzing the data of this research is trying to clarify to obtained data by selecting the necessary ones. The second steep is analyzing data based on psychoanalytic theory.

H. Research Paper Organization

This research consists of five chapters. The first chapter is introduction that explains the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, research limitation, objective of the study, benefit of the study research method and paper organization. The second chapter is underlying theory. It deals with the notion of psychoanalytic and theoretical application. The third chapter is structural analysis. In this chapter, the researcher explains the structural elements, which included character and characterization, plot, setting, and theme. The fourth chapter deals with the analysis of psychoanalytic toward the anxiety. Finally, the researcher presents conclusion and suggestion in the fifth chapter.