

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Background of the Research

Children's literature is a kind of literature for children characterized by a tone of joy and innocence, which is associated with children (Jilkova 2006:2). Additionally, children's literature is sometimes also characterized by agricultural life, closeness to nature, reliable friends, the extreme contrast between good and bad, the ideal and the practical, ideal family and the orphan, group and family responsibility and concern for one's self (3).

One of the most dominant author of children literature who is able to combine all the elements associated with children is Francis Hodgson Burnett. Frances Hodgson Burnett is a British born author and playwright who is well-known for her works in the genre of children's literature. Burnett has written numerous works in her lifetime. One of them is *The Secret Garden* (1911). *The Secret Garden* was firstly published as a novel in 1911. It is considered as one of Burnett's most popular novels and included as a classic of English children's literature. In *The Secret Garden*, Burnett has created a main character significantly different from the other main characters in her previous children's novel. In *Little Lord Fauntleroy*, the hero – Cedric Errol – is told as having an innocent nature. In *Sara Crewe*, the main character has been described as a quiet, well-mannered and a kind little girl despite her status as a daughter of a wealthy widower. However, in *The Secret Garden*, Mary Lennox as the main character is described as a

“tyrannical and selfish a little pig as ever lived” (Burnett 1993:2) since the beginning of the story. As the story goes on, the main character starts to have a significant changes of her personality after she finds the secret garden and takes a good care of it. *The Secret Garden* is all about the damage that influences a child’s behaviour, both emotionally and physically, if their parents do not pay enough attention to them.

The garden in *The Secret Garden* has a vital part in developing the main character’s behaviour. The contribution of the garden in changing the main character’s personality is crucial. After Mary is transferred to Misselthwaite Manor, the garden becomes her obsession. She wants to obtain the garden for herself. Perhaps Mary thinks the garden as the projection of her inner self. Unconsciously, the garden represents her image from the past, when she was neglected by her parents and cared by servants who allowed her to become a spoiled, aggressive and selfish child. The interaction between the garden and Mary is the main issue that will be discussed in this research. The garden has a mystical power to attract people, especially Mary. It is somehow attracts people’s attention with its deepest beauty that is hidden beyond its darkness. Since the first time Mary finds out about the garden, she begins to feel a little bit of emotion through her inner self. She unconsciously feels happy knowing that there is something that experiences similar things as she does. Both of them have been abandoned for so long. As for Mary, due to her abandonment, she wants to take over her mother’s responsibility. She begins to search for a clue to obtain the garden for herself. Thus, the writer is interested to find the motive behind Mary’s behaviour in taking care of the garden which can make her a better child. Furthermore, the writer is

also interested to find out why Mary unconsciously wants to take over her mother's responsibility in taking care of someone else. It is assumed that Mary thinks the garden as an image of herself, and then she is responsible to take care of it. This appearance of the garden turns her personality to become more controllable and healthier, both physically and mentally. This illustration makes the writer assume that Mary suffers from a psychological disorder. From here, the writer proposes to conduct a research by focusing on the contribution of the garden as the projection of the main character, Mary Lennox, to cure herself. Along with helps by other characters that appears in the story.

1.2. The Identification of the Problems

The main character experiences several traumatic events since the beginning of the story. Mary Lennox has faced tragic moments in her family. These traumatic experiences lead to misbehaviour of the main character. The progress of her development is crucially neglected. She becomes aggressive, temperamental, disrespectful, and depressed. She cannot think straight how to behave well to other people. From a psychological perspective, trauma occurs when a child experiences an intense event that threatens or causes harm to his or her emotional and physical well-being (NCTS 1). Children who suffer from child traumatic stress are those who have been exposed to one or more traumas over the course of their lives and develop reactions that persist and affect their daily lives even after the traumatic events have ended.

In the novel, Mary has been abandoned by her parents since she was born. She becomes selfish, easily irritated, and frequently has troubles in interacting

with other people. Furthermore, Mary has weak physical condition. After the tragedy that happened in her house, Mary moves to Misselthwaite Manor where she lives with her uncle, Archibald Craven. This is where Mary finds the secret garden that becomes her obsession. The garden has also been abandoned for ten years, which makes her uncounsciously believes that the garden is like a projection of herself. Mary takes care of the garden and as the consequence with her action, her mental and physical states are progressively healed. The writer assumes that the main character has suffered from psychological disorder, deep in her psyche. In the end, taking care of the garden has the most important role in healing the state of her id, ego and superego.

1.3. The Scope of the Research

In conducting this research, the writer focuses on the intrinsic element of the story. The writer analyzes the psychological condition of the main character. The writer assumes that the main character suffers from psychological disorder because of her traumatic experience in the past. It can be related with her actions during her life in Misselwaith. Nevertheless, the garden is the most crucial part of the story, since it contributes a lot in Mary's life-changing behaviour and tranforms her to a better child.

1.4. Research Questions

This research is aimed to answer the following questions :

- a. What are the effects of parents neglect to the main character's personality and what are the symptoms that proves it?

- b. How is the garden used as the projection of the main character's unconscious desire?
- c. How do the other minor characters represent the "id and superego" of the main character?

1.5. The Objectives of the Research

Basically, this reseach is aimed to analyze the effect of traumatic events toward the main caracter's personality. It is supposed to enrich the analysis of the novel *The Secret Garden* in the study of literary work by using a psychoanalytical approach. Specifically, this research is aimed to understand deeply about the main character from psychological perspective. This research is going to reveal her experience of suffering abandonment and other traumatic events that have changed her personality. Furthermore, it is also aimed at explaining the contribution of the garden and other characters in developing her personality to be a better child; how the garden uncounsciously represent Mary's inner self, and how Mary thinks that she is responsible to take care of the garden.

1.6. The Reviews of Previous Studies

Since it was published in 1911, *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett has been discussed by using several different perspectives. Thus, the writer has also reviewed several researches from other writers. These sources provide the writer with more specific information about the research. Furthermore, it is important to obtain any ideas that have already developed by other writers who has already contributed in this study.

Kathryn DiGiulio (2014) in her article entitled “Between Misselthwaite Manor and The “Wild, Dreary” Moor: Children and Enclosures in The Secret Garden” explains how children employ agency to negotiate space, specifically in the garden. She says that in Burnett’s narrative, each physical space encodes regeneration and death to the child characters and the garden operates as a key site of influence in Mary’s personal development. The enclosures in *The Secret Garden*, as stated by DiGiulio, prove problematic and nurturing for the liminal character, Mary Lennox. Mary’s journey to find out trip from India to the English Yorkshire, makes herself defined by a perpetual state of liminality. Not only does she float between two countries, but Mary’s constant state of transitioning from family to family also marks her as liminal. From physical to social to familial, Mary can be classified as a liminal character because she does not belong to a single country, space, family, but fluxes between spaces and people. Just like Mary, the garden represents a space in transition. At the onset of the novel, Mary’s isolation from her familial ties and uprooting from the national identity tie her character to the neglected garden. Her gained interest in discovering the entrance to the flowery enclosure and cultivating a “piece of earth” (Burnett 95) demonstrates her heightened comfort in the space, in stark contrast to her alienation in Indian and English society. In fact, the garden becomes the central space into which Mary belongs to; the close association between the two constructs her as liminal character, much as the garden remains in liminal space. The writer finds that this article mostly discusses about the problematic of nurturing character that comes from a different region. It helps the writer to understand that

Mary as the main character, can be classified as a liminal character because she does not belong to a single country, but fluxes between space and people.

The second article is written by Anna Krugovoy Silver (2002) entitled “*Wuthering Heights and The Secret Garden: A Response to Susan E. James*”. It explores Silver’s response to the previous study that has been written by James. Silver says that James views the garden as the symbolic hearts of Burnett’s work as a refuge from unpredictable and frightening natural world, a world which she sympathizes more deeply. Silver argues that “nature” and “human nature” are closely paralleled, taken from such paradigm by Phyllis Bixler that explores the romantic linkage between the growth of a child and the growth of a plant. James indicated in her assertio that Heathcliff in *Wuthering Height* mirrors the destructive aspect of nature and Mary in *The Secret Garden* mirrors the constructive aspects which nurture life. From this article, the writer has an idea that a garden can be an allegory of something that reflects Mary’s life. It is like a mirror, that projects the growth of a child by symbolizes it through nature.

The third article is written by Frances E. Dolan (2013) entitled “Mastery at Misselthwaite Manor: Taming the Shrews in *The Secret Garden*”. This article explores the characteristic of Mary Lennox as the main character to the ‘shrew’, where the disorderly character dating back at least as far as Noah’s wife in medieval drama. Just as Mary resembles the stereotypical shrew, Dolan argues that the novel plot is indebted to the venerable shrew-taming tradition. The shrew taming plot depicts how a feisty woman, isolated in part by her refusal to conform, is domesticated in order to accomodate herself to social relationship. *The Secret Garden* is being tamed as a largely benevolent process of learning to

be ‘friends with’ person and things. It produces a positive result such as improved health, better manners and brighter spirits. By reading this article, the writer finds out that shrew taming is actually a way to help the readers to obtain a social relationship. It is a step to help the character to know how to be friends with other character appears in the story.

Added to an article by Francis Michael McCarthy (2010) entitled “Forget the Devil and keep your Pink Lamps Lighted: The Metaphysics of Francis Hudgson Burnett’s *The Secret Garden*” that explores the way Burnett uses the novel as a vehicle to spread a “beautiful thought” to the masses. After the death of her eldest son, Burnett suffers a depression and physical exhaustions, and through this novel she tries to show that the garden could be a vital role in someone’s self development. The garden, as it always be an important place for Burnett, is used as metaphor in *The Secret Garden*. Through *The Secret Garden*, the main character undergoes a metamorphosis from being a tyrannical and miserable child to an agent of healing. Like Burnett herself, her passion for gardening and horticulture has made her mind stuck between a good health and nature. People can heal themselves through positive thinking and affirmation because the mind and body are intimately connected. From here, it gives an idea that Burnett wants to shows us her thought after the death of her son. By creating an image of a garden, Burnett seems to want to spread all the beautiful thoughts about her son toward the reader.

The next article written by Perry B.D and Pollard R (1998) entitled “Homeostatis, stress, trauma, and Adaptation: A Neurodevelopmental view of childhood trauma” examines the available neuro developmental and neuro

physiological studies related to childhood trauma. The authors revise previously stated neurodevelopmental theoretical constructs used to guide clinical research and practice. This synthesis focuses on memory and the neural systems involved in the stress response. It explains how a person deal with a traumatic experience and find a way to fix their own misbehaviour. This article helps the writer to understand the stage of childhood trauma. How children deal with those stages and their responds the neurotraumatics cause by that problem.

The last article is written by Marcy Viboch (2005) entitled “Childhood Loss and Behavioral Problems: Loosening the Links”. The author explains that an experience of traumatic youth moment can effect a great damage to children when they grow up. Especially something cause by death. Loss is common among children with poor conduct, because it can affect their personality, especially their behaviour. They easily become angry over something unimportant, fighting, irritability, and poor concentration, and all natural psychological responses to childhood grief and so on. Thus, they also are prone to angry outbursts, tantrums, oppositional behaviour toward adults (refusing to obey rules, for example), and aggression toward other people and especially adult. The article concludes all the attention of related authorities with children development to the importance of decisions that consider children as a human being that is capable in contributing significantly towards a sustainable society and environment. This article helps the writer to understand deeply about all psychological responses to childhood grief. The tragedy of losing someone can heavily damage the mental state of a child. The effect of losing someone can cause several problems to related child, which is concludes in this article.

Those reviews of the studies mostly discuss about the relationship between human life and nature, and explore Mary's character generally. Indeed they analyze differently and each authors have their own perspective. But in average, they say that the garden could be the place for nurturing, arguing that someone's condition is based on the place where he or she lives. But none of them see the impact of the garden to the main character of *The Secret Garden* through psychological lens.

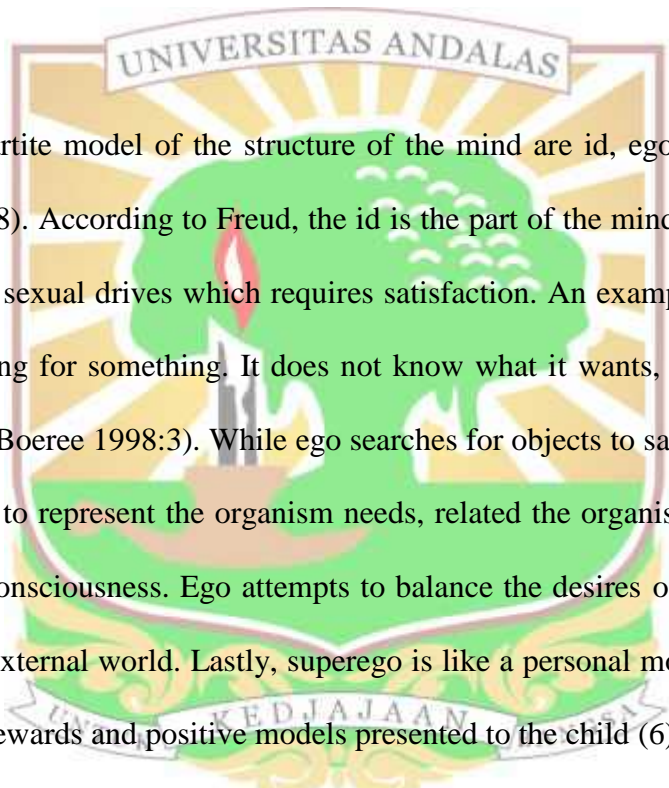
1.7. The Theoretical Framework

The writer focuses on analyzing the intrinsic element of the novel. In other word, the writer will not going beyond what is discussed in the story. The writer evaluates this research objectively. As stated by Abrams (1989) in his book *Theories on Literary Criticism* that objective research emphasizes the integrity and ontologically sounds status of the work, without immediate reference to author or external reality (3). It emphasizes the perspective of the readers in perceiving the poem as a gift (4). The writer simply conducts an analysis by combining all the elements within the novel itself. The writer uses psychological approach to elaborate this analysis. The concept of discussion is based on the psychoanalytic principles invented by Sigmund Freud (1856-1939).

Sigmund Freud : *Psychoanalytical* Theory “A Tripartite Structure of the Mind”

Psychoanalytical Theory on a literary work is influenced by the study of human psyche based on the theory invented by Sigmund Freud. There are three parts of human mind that are very popular by people studying psychology. They are unconscious, preconscious and conscious (ego, super-ego, id). The conscious

mind is what you are aware of any particular moment, your present perceptions, memories, thoughts, fantasies and feelings (Boeree 2006:5). Another one, working closely with conscious is called preconscious, which is anything that can easily bring to mind with. The largest part by far is the unconscious. It includes all the things that are not easily available to the awareness, including many things that have an origins in human mind, such as drives or instincts, and also things that we cannot bear to hold, such as the memories and emotions associated with trauma (5).

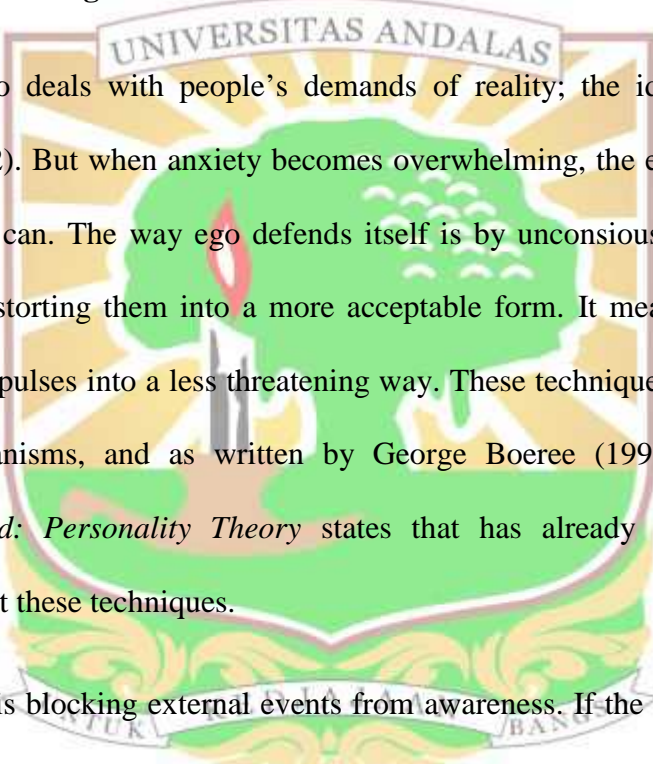


A tripartite model of the structure of the mind are id, ego and super-ego (Freud 1923:48). According to Freud, the id is the part of the mind which situates the instinctual sexual drives which requires satisfaction. An example of this is an infant screaming for something. It does not know what it wants, it just knows it wants it now (Boeree 1998:3). While ego searches for objects to satisfy the wishes that id creates to represent the organism needs, related the organism to reality by means of its consciousness. Ego attempts to balance the desires of the id and the reality of the external world. Lastly, superego is like a personal moral standard. It derives from rewards and positive models presented to the child (6).

The ego sits at the centre of reality, society represented by superego, and biology represented by the id. When these make conflicting demands upon the poor ego, it is understandable if someone feels threatened and overwhelmed. This feeling is called anxiety. Or type of anxiety called neurotic anxiety, which is the fear of being overwhelmed by impulses form the id (6). If people have ever felt like they about to lose control, temper, even their mind then they have felt neurotic anxiety.

Another term that is discussed is called hysteria. According to Boeree, (1998) hysteria is the result of a traumatic experience or traumatic childhood experience, one that cannot be integrated into the person's understanding of the world (10). The emotions appropriate to the trauma are not expressed directly, they express themselves in behaviour that in a weak, vague way offer a response to the trauma.

Sigmund Freud : Ego Defense Mechanisms



The ego deals with people's demands of reality; the id, and superego (Freud 1920:32). But when anxiety becomes overwhelming, the ego must defend it as best as it can. The way ego defends itself is by unconsciously blocking the impulses or distorting them into a more acceptable form. It means that the ego changes the impulses into a less threatening way. These techniques are called ego defense mechanisms, and as written by George Boeree (1997) in his book *Sigmund Freud: Personality Theory* states that has already divided several principles about these techniques.

- Denial is blocking external events from awareness. If the certain situation is too much to handle, the person just refuses to experience it.
- Repression is not being able to recall a threatening situation, person, and event.
- Asceticism is one that most people never heard, but it has become relevant with the emergence of the disorder called anorexia.
- Isolation involves stripping the people emotion from a difficult memory or something threatening.

- Displacement is the redirection of an impulse onto a substitute object or person.
- Turning again the self, is a very special form of displacement. The person becomes their own substitute target. It is the opposite of displacement itself, which is reference to hatred and anger.
- Projection is almost the complete opposite of turning against the self. However, it involves the tendency to see your own unacceptable desires in other people or object.
- Undoing involves a gesture that is meant to cancel our unpleasant thoughts that happened in the past.
- Regression is a movement back in psychological time when the related person is faced with stressful situation.

Bernard J. Paris : *Imagined Human Being*

The second theory comes from literary expert called Bernard J. Paris. In his book entitled *Imagined Human Being: A Psychological Approach to Character and Conflict in Literature*, he states that a fictional character can be analyzed just the same with a real person (Paris 1997:3). The most fascinating about literature is its portrayal of human beings and their relationship. The author has developed a psychological approach in which to understand the behaviour of a fictional character in literary work with the same way we analyze the real person. Paris asserts that: “for many years I [Paris] have been developing a psychological approach in which I [Paris] try to understand the behavior of realistically drawn characters in the same way that we understand the behavior of real people” (1).

It is not a universal theory but still, it deals with human's needs and defense mechanism that is portrayed in literary works. Without ignoring cultural differences, this approach enables the reader to see an underlying similarity in human experience. This approach can help the reader to understand the behaviour of character in literature from the past, to understand their inner conflicts and relationship.

When people try to understand a fictional character in psychological terms, they tend to escape their roles in the plot and to subvert the view about them advanced by the rhetoric (2). There is always conflict between an author's interpretation and judgments, which are parts of what the author means by rhetoric and the mimetic portrait of a character. Authors tend to analyze characters who embody the defensive strategies while they portraying their behaviour as damaging to themselves. However, there are some inconsistencies within the rhetoric itself, as the author presents conflicting interpretation and judgments toward the fictional characters appears in literary work.

Since psychoanalysis deals with human beings in conflict with their inner self and other people, literature portrays such situation and condition that is related with this theory. Furthermore, human psychology is inordinately complex and can be analyzed in many ways. There are several number of theories which accurately describe certain aspects about psychology, but none of them have the whole truth or universally applicable. At the end, this approach can help the reader to understand about the inconsistencies by seeing them as a product of the inner divisions of the implied author.

Klara Jilkova's Concept of Garden in Children's Literature

For some literary works, a garden has been a frequent topic of children's literature. There are numerous works for young children that creates an image of garden, such as Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden*, Philippa Pearce's *Tom's Midnight Garden*, Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, James Barrie's *Peter Pan* and many more. The garden in these books have many common features: they are kind of mystery that attracts the child characters and nurtures their imagination; they are often walled garden inaccessible to public; many of them are locked and neglected, and so it is a great challenge for the children to get inside (Jilkova 2006:6). Of course the magical element from the garden is important as well. The atmosphere is emphasized by illustrations which in the cases from Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden*.

There are many topics that can be dealt in children's literature. But there is a specific reasons why did the authors choose to write about the gardens. First, the thing that comes to one's mind is that a garden is usually the first piece of nature one finds when go outside the house (6). Logically, the garden of course belongs to the house and is thus safe for a child to go in and out. At the same time, it is the first piece of the outside world that can be investigated for children, without the interruption from their parents. Garden have a lot of attraction for children. Logically, by being in the garden means being in the open air and connected to nature. It is more natural for a child taht has not been 'spoilt' by the adult world yet (6). Jilkova quoted from Dorris B. Wallace who says that "perhaps it is the freedom to be as one is, not as one 'ought' to be that makes the garden and its

privacy so important. For children, the world of nature is free of the adults of the world and the demands they impose” (7).

According to Carpenter (1985), the garden is connected with childhood and evokes memories of it (7). As stated by Carpenter “The impetus for books like *The Secret Garden*, and for other children’s book in which enchanted places and magic gardens have a central place to be nostalgia for and escape to childhood” (7). The writer thinks that Carpenter’s idea might be true, but only partly though. As it was only after Burnett moved to America from the industrial England at the age of sixteen, she had a closer contact with outside world and nature. Moreover, she found the inspiration for *The Secret Garden* in the rose garden which belonged to the house in Kent (Burnett 1993).

After reading this article, the writer believes that the garden is actually the symbol of different world. The world where a child can feel their own freedom, which makes them develops their imagination without being steadily control by parents and without having to adjust to the rules. The garden represents a different world where more possibilities can be obtained rather than stay inside the house.

1.8. The Methods of the Research

In conducting this research, the writer evaluates the novel based on Mario Klarer’s idea. Furthermore, literary critique is sometimes used to differentiate between the reader’s interpretation of the story and the evaluate criticism that normally occurs with book reviews (Klarer 2004:100). Additionally, there are several steps in evaluating a literary work. The first step is collecting the data. In collecting the data, the writer applies library research method. There are two types

of data used in this research; the primary data, which are taken from the novel *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett and the secondary data taken by collecting some related information from articles, related theses, essays and theory books about the main subject in this research.

The second step is analyzing the data. The writer uses psychoanalytic theory invented by Sigmund Freud. The analysis starts by analyzing the intrinsic elements of the story, the plot progress of the story itself and the related events and conditions that trigger this subject. The writer analyzes the main character in this novel, Mary Lennox, and compares with other characters in order to support the idea of this problem. The idea is to find what kind of symptom occurs in the main character and how she deals with those problems. Nevertheless, the writer analyzes those problems by using psychoanalytical theory.

The last step is presenting the result of analysis. In this research the writer provides qualitative method in presenting the result of analysis. At the end of this research, the writer presents several points as the result of this research descriptively. These steps of literary critique shows that the evaluation of works in literary criticism is controversial, which mostly because this process requires too many variables (Klarer 2004:102).