

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

5.1 Conclusion

In *Persuasion* (1817) by Jane Austen, Mary Musgrove represents the fears and struggles connected with maternal identity. Her behaviors, which include insecurity, attention-seeking, and discontent, reflect long-standing psychological issues stemming from her duties as a mother. Austen portrays Mary to examine the restricted expectations of motherhood, demonstrating how these obligations shape and distort a woman's sense of self. Moreover, Mary's portrayal highlights the psychological consequences of maternal duties in a culture that both reinforces and diminishes their importance.

In applying Sigmund Freud's dynamics of personality, this thesis discovers that there is an imbalance between the id, ego, and superego, which leads to maladaptive personality traits, such as selfishness or self-indulgence. It suppresses the id's selfish impulses while mediating the ego's wants through remorse and moral judgment. When the superego is weak or unbalanced, people may engage in overly self-centered conduct, neglecting societal norms and obligations. In Mary's case, she has a dominant id and becomes impulsive; if the id reaches the level of overly dominant, it might become uncontrollable.

To break down the factors that contribute to Mary being a selfish mother, Chodorow explains through five key aspects of Chodorow's theory: the effects of early mothering, mothering relation and self-identity, mother's ambivalence and emotional influence, social and psychological expectations of mothering, and unresolved preoedipal conflicts

in motherhood. Through these theories, Chodorow explains how our early relationships (with primary caregivers, especially the mother) shape our sense of self and our relationships with others. According to Chodorow, the mother is the early caregiver and major source of identification for all children. This identification is not only a conscious process; it is fundamentally unconscious and formative, forming the child's psyche and ego from the very beginning.

Meanwhile, Mary did not have a mother figure as she grew up; she went through the teenage phase and got married when she was nineteen. By the five aspects presented by Chodorow following Mary's behavior, the effects of early Mothering are the most influential factor because Mary's emotional detachment, insecurity, and attention-seeking behavior can be linked back to her lack of a caring mother figure as a child. In Mary's case, she grew up without a mother figure, and she has no one to imitate how to be a mother. According to Nancy Chodorow's hypothesis, early mothering experiences shape one's ability to mother. Mary was emotionally mistreated and lacked a stable maternal attachment, which led to her struggles with her motherhood identity, and she is unable to build healthy emotional connections with her children, which proves that Mary put aside her obligations and attached importance to her own desire.

As a result of those factors, her sons are exposed to patterns of detachment, inconsistency, and emotional neglect, which in the long term may impair their ability to form strong attachments and negatively impact their social and emotional development.

5.2 Suggestion

In furthering the analysis of this study, future studies could discuss the role of neglectful mothers in Austen's social critique. Future studies could investigate how

Austen uses a neglectful or inadequate mother to portray social commentary in the portrayal of women in the Regency era society.

Other researchers could also analyze Mary's not being an idealized mother figure through a feminist perspective by applying Betty Friedan's "The Feminine Mystique". In "The Feminine Mystique", Friedan explains how women are expected to find fulfillment in being a wife and a mother, when in reality, a lot do not. This reflects Mary's character in that she is not an idealized mother figure.

