

Inferior and Superior Analysis of the Main Character of Cerkak “Sendhang Ing Pangangene Barji” by Irul S. Budianto: Psychological Study of Alfred Adler

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SUBJECT

Literature

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Abstract

This research analyses the inferior and superior forms of the main characters in the story “*Sendhang Ing Pangangene Barji*”. This study used a descriptive qualitative method. This research uses Alfred Adler's psychology approach theory. The data in this research is in the form of text quotations that describe the feelings of inferiority and superiority of the main character in the story “*Sendhang Ing Pangangene Barji*”. The data source in this research is the story “*Sendhang Ing Pangangene Barji*” by Irul S. Budianto, which is contained in the Jayabaya magazine, Sunday third-edition January 2019. The data collection technique in this research uses library study techniques. The data analysis technique in this research uses description techniques. The inferior form shown by the main character in the story “*Sendhang Ing Pangangene Barji*” is in the form of feelings of confusion and despair. In achieving success and superiority, the main character needs support from other characters. This support takes the form of advice. This advice ultimately makes the character succeed, namely the emergence of feelings of confidence and enthusiasm to continue life after despairing at the severity of the problems faced previously.

1. Introduction

Humans have different attitudes, which arise because of the psychological drives that shape them (Ja'far, 2015). It appears in literary works as an imitation of the human world. The characters in a story certainly have their personalities, which are part of the character formation of the characters. According to Minderop (2010), personality is a person's characteristics, which include thoughts, feelings and behaviour in showing how he adapts and compromises with life (Minderop in Aminatuzzulfa & Parmin, 2018). The personality possessed by a character in a story is described through his interactions with the environment, especially with other characters.

Some of Adler's psychology research is oriented towards analyzing the main characters who appear in Indonesian novel literary works (Dewi, 2015; Sri, 2017; Carolina, 2018; Aminatuzzulfa & Parmin, 2018; Maulani et al., 2019; Suwandana, 2020; Umaroh, 2020). Individual psychology research has been carried out on foreign literary works or adaptations of the main characters' personalities (Sulistyo, 2015; Wibowo, 2020; Suryandari et al., 2021). Individual psychology research on Javanese literary works was conducted by Rohmah (2014), which also yielded results of an attitude of inferiority in the main characters.

In literary works, linguistic signs reflect the reader's intentions. This is related to the cultural conditions in which the literary work was created (Winarsih, 2023). In a psychological framework, Javanese literature emphasizes the extent to which a person can build feelings in every life (Zustiyantoro, 2022). However, within the practice framework, it will be different when the characters face social dialectics: some persist with their culture, and some reject it. This defence is related to the value of belief in the same community (Rokhim & Zustiyantoro, 2022). Rejection appears to respond to inferiority due to limitations and not receiving recognition from the surrounding environment (Rokhim, 2023).

This research will focus on analyzing the feelings of inferiority and superiority of the main character in the story "*Sendhang Ing Pangangene Barji*". This Cerkak is one of the stories by Irul S. Budianto, published in Jayabaya magazine, third-week edition in January 2019. This Cerkak tells the story of a character experiencing a marital breakdown. He returned to his parents' house. However, his main goal was to visit the place that was a silent witness to his love story with his wife. While daydreaming in that place, his parents awakened and advised him. Furthermore, in the end, he returned home to the city to meet his children and forget about his wife, who had left them.

Based on the problems experienced by the main character in his life in the story, researchers are interested in analyzing the main character's psychology in overcoming feelings of inferiority and struggling to achieve feelings of superiority. This research uses Alfred Adler's psychology approach theory. Based on Alwisol, Adler considers that every individual is formed from a weakness, which then activates feelings of inferiority or feelings that move a person to achieve success or superiority (Hidayati, 2016: 2). This superior or inferior attitude is not patent because changes always occur due to the influence of certain things (Nugroho, 2020; Lakoro, 2021; Moge et al., 2021; Neina, 2023).

Thus, based on the explanation described above, this research aims to analyze the feelings of inferiority and superiority of the main character in the story "*Sendhang Ing Pangangene Barji*" using Alfred Adler's psychology theory.

2. Research Methods

This study used a descriptive qualitative method. Qualitative methods are used in this research because the primary data source is words, not numbers. The approach in this research uses Alfred Adler's psychology approach theory. The data in this research is in the form of text quotations that describe the feelings of inferiority and superiority of the main character in the story "*Sendhang Ing Pangangene Barji*". The data source in this research is the story "*Sendhang Ing Pangangene Barji*" by Irul S. Budianto, which is contained in the Jayabaya magazine, third-week, January 2019 edition.

The data collection technique in this research uses library study techniques. The library study technique is used to obtain data by reading data appropriate to the research

object (Faruk in Aminatuzzulfa, 2018). The data analysis technique in this research uses description techniques. According to Ratna (2007: 39), the description technique is a method used by analyzing and then describing the data used to describe or describe the condition or situation of the object being studied and simultaneously to describe the aspects that are the centre of the research.

3. Result

Reviewed based on Alfred Adler's psychology relating to feelings of inferiority and superiority, several quotes were found in the story "*Sendhang Ing Pangangene Barji*", which show the main character's feelings of inferiority in achieving superiority regarding the problems he faces.

3.1 Main Character's Inferior Form

The main character in this story is called Barji. In the story, several forms of feelings of inferiority are shown by the character Barji in the story "*Sendhang Ing Pangangene Barji*", which include feelings of confusion and despair.

3.1.1 Feelings of confusion

The character Barji in the story "*Sendhang Ing Pangangene Barji*" shows his confused feelings when he arrives home and his parents ask why he came alone without his wife and children. Barji was confused because his parents' response to Barji's answer seemed to understand what Barji was experiencing. This is proven in the following quote.

"Barji sing saiki ngadeg ijen ana ing emper omah batine takon-takon dhewe. Kaya-kaya wong tuwa sing ngukir jiwa ragane kuwi bisa maca apa sing lagi dipikir lan dirasakake." (Budianto, 2019:28)

'Barji, who is currently standing alone in the yard of his house, is wondering to himself. The old man who carved his body and soul can read his thoughts and feelings.' (Budianto, 2019:28)

In this quote, it is stated that Barji was wondering about the response his parents gave him. When his parents asked why he only came alone, Barji answered, "he just wanted to be alone." his parents smiled and left Barji to go into the house. From his parents' response, Barji wondered what his parents' smile meant. Can his parents read what Barji is thinking and feeling?

Barji's second feeling of confusion arose when his parents suddenly came to him, who was daydreaming on the edge of *Sendang*. He was confused about whether to tell what happened or not. However, he did not want to burden his parents. This second feeling of confusion is evidenced in the following quote.

"Geneya kowe malah meneng?" Barji nggresah. Batine gronjolan dhewe, senajan saiki lagi nemahi lelakon sing njalari pangangene kekitrang, nanging dheweke ora mentala yen kudu ngandhakake apa anane." (Budianto, 2019:29)

"Why are you silent?" Barji complained. His mind is raging on its own, even though he is currently experiencing a life journey that has caused it, but he does not have the heart to say it as it is.' (Budianto, 2019:29)

This quote contains a dialogue from Barji's parents asking why he was silent. In the previous dialogue, his parents told Barji to quickly eliminate his difficult or upset feelings, which he compared to being cloudy. If you are experiencing anxiety, it is okay to let it out; do not just hold it in. Hearing what his parents said, Barji was silent. Here, Barji's confused feelings emerged. Barji was confused about whether he should tell his parents about the problems he was thinking and feeling. On the other hand, Barji could not bear it if his parents had to think and feel what he was feeling.

3.1.2 *Feelings of Hopelessness*

The second feeling of inferiority is a feeling of hopelessness. In the text, it is stated that Barji is hopeless and feels defeated in facing the realities of life. The following quote proves evidence of this feeling of hopelessness.

"Kula kados kalah ngadhèpi kanyatane urip" kawetu tembungé Barji alon, meh ora keprungu.' (Budianto, 2019:29)

"I feel like I have lost in facing the reality of life," Barji said quietly, almost inaudibly.' (Budianto, 2019:29)

Barji's feeling of despair was because he was unable to face the reality of life, and he had to experience serious life problems like those he was experiencing at that time. The sentence marks Barji's hopelessness in the phrase, "*Kula kados kalah ngadhèpi kanyatane urip* (I felt I have lost in facing the reality of life)." Barji was unable to face the realities of life after encountering problems in his domestic life. The problems he experienced seemed to be wrestling in his mind and heart, so that made him very sad and desperate.

3.2 Main Character's Superior Form

In realizing feelings of superiority, the main character is assisted by supporting characters, namely his parents. The advice given by his parents became Barji's driving force to realize his superiority. The quote containing the main character's superior drive is as follows.

"Ora ana critane anakku lanang dadi wong ringkih. Wiwit cilik kowe wis dakgulang lan tansah dakgadhang-gadhang bisa dadi wong santosa lan duwe kapitayan. Kuwat ngadhèpi kanyatan urip apa wae. Nanging geneya kowe kandha kaya ngono sing nggambarake ringkihe jiwamu?" (Budianto, 2019:29)

"There is no story about my son being a weak person. Since I was little, I have taught you, and I always hope you will become a safe person with faith. Be strong to face any reality of life. However, why do you speak like that, which shows the weakness of your soul?" (Budianto, 2019:29)

This text quote is the initial dialogue between Barji's character's parents, who start to advise so that Barji will be aware and not just get involved in a problem. From childhood, Barji was taught by his parents always to be strong and face all obstacles in life. However, this advice was not enough to wake Barji, and he was still immersed in his sadness. Then, his parents continued the advice as follows:

"Urip ya kaya ngono. Kajaba seneng utawa bungah, ana kalamangsane ya kudu gelem lan wani ngrasakake susah. Mulane, nalika lagi ngadhèpi susah ana banjur banget-banget

anggone nelangsa. Sing cetha, sok sapa wae sing bisa ngrasakake urip kanthi apa anane, embuh kuwi bungah apadenen susah, ing kono bakal ngerti lan bisa merdeni tegese urip. Bisa dadi wong sing ngadeg jejeg." (Budianto, 2019:29)

"Life is like that. Apart from being happy or happy, there are times when you have to be willing and brave to feel difficult. Therefore, when facing difficulties, do not be too sad. What is clear is that anyone who can live life as it is, whether it is happy or difficult, will later understand and be able to accept the meaning of life. Can be a person who stands tall." (Budianto, 2019:29)

Barji's parents advised so that Barji would not get too caught up in his sadness and hardship. Because in life, you will encounter this. We as humans must be able to accept and always be strong and authentic individuals. If you are experiencing difficulties, do not get too caught up in it; if you are happy, do not celebrate too much. Hearing this advice, Barji seemed to come to his senses immediately and nodded. Thanks to advice from his parents, Barji achieved his feelings of superiority. Superiority is realized in the belief that he must let go of the departure of his idol and continue living happily with his children.

4. Conclusion

Based on the results of the discussion that has been presented, the conclusion is that the inferior form possessed by the main character in the story "*Sendhang Ing Pangangene Barji*" is a feeling of confusion and a feeling of despair. Confusion arises when he finds his parents' response when he comes alone and is confused about whether he should tell his parents about his problem. The feeling of despair is described by the main character's statement that he feels defeated by the reality of life after encountering problems in his family.

The superior form is the answer to the inferior within him. His success in achieving superiority or success is supported by the role of other figures, his parents. This superior form is the return of the character's confidence and enthusiasm in continuing his life after encountering storms and tempests in his household.

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