



**ESCAPISM AS A MANIFESTATION OF UNFULFILLED DREAMS IN
CARL SANDBURG'S POEMS *DREAM IN THE DUSK* AND *WAITING***

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Info Artikel

Sejarah Artikel:

Diterima Oktober 2013

Disetujui Oktober 2013

Dipublikasikan
November 2013

Keywords:

*Dream in the Dusk,
Waiting, Escapism, Dreams*

Abstract

This final project is about Escapism. The objectives of this study are to analyze dreams that are not fulfilled in the poems, to analyze how the poem reveals the poet's escapism through poetic devices such as imagery and figures of speech and to describe how escapism as a manifestation of unfulfilled dreams in the poems viewed from Freud's theory.

The psychological approach used in analysing these poems is Freud's psychoanalysis. The researcher analyzes the case of escapism as a manifestation of unfulfilled dreams in the poems. Qualitative method is used in this study, while library and other references are used here to get data. The data are focused on words, stanzas, imagery and figures of speech in the poems. Then the researcher starts to analyze and finally report the answer of statements of the problem.

*There were some results discovered in this study. First, in *Dream in the Dusk*, the poet dreams to be a rich person and in *Waiting*, the poet dreams of his home. Second, the poems reveal the poet's escapism as a manifestation of unfulfilled dreams through poetic devices such as imagery and figures of speech. It has the poet's message and figures of speech which show escapism in the poems. At last, escapism as a manifestation of unfulfilled dreams viewed from Freud's psychoanalysis shows that escapism found in this poem is fantasy of the poet that makes him feel better, and it can also make him forget the distressed feelings caused by reality.*

The final conclusion of the study is that the poet cannot reach his dreams. It makes him sad and despair, so, he escapes from his sadness by fantasizing.

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ISSN 2252-6463

INTRODUCTION

All human beings need safety and happiness in their life. They have rights to feel happiness and pleasure. Surely they also have dreams or wishes that they want to reach. In reaching the dreams, it needs a big patience and strength, because in reality, there are always a lot of obstacles that people must face.

Each person must experience some problems or obstacles. If she or he has a strong personality, surely, she or he is able to handle or control the problems. While people with weak personality, they will find difficulty in controlling the problems which they experience. They will think that life is unfair to them, as a result, they feel an oppressive condition, they feel stressed or drown into depression because of having the unsolved problem in their life.

There are two results in reaching the dreams, they are success and failure. If people fail to reach their dreams, they will start to feel disappointed, sad, and they will think that they are worthless. The unpleasant feelings are getting worse when they think of their failure. Therefore, in order to avoid the unpleasant feeling, they seek a diversion to entertain themselves, so that they forget their pain. This is called as escapism.

This study is about "Escapism as a Manifestation of Unfulfilled Dreams in Carl Sandburg's Poems *Dream in the Dusk* and *Waiting*". The poems describe the wish of the poet that he wants to reach during his life. Unfortunately, he cannot achieve it. It hurts him so much, so that he tries to seek pleasure in order to avoid the unpleasant feeling or pessimistic thought caused by failure in reality.

Evans (2001: 55) says:

"That people see escapism as a way of getting to part of their brain that is happier and more relaxed. From the statement, it can concluded that when people do escapism, they will feel relaxed and happy."

Potter, Stringer, and Wetherell (1984:1) says:

"That both psychology and literature adopt one of their goals namely overt behavior and mental life of individuals, and their relationship."

According to the statement, literary works and psychology are related to each other. It means that literature and psychology discuss similar theme on human life.

The topic entitled above is then chosen based on the following reasons:

- (1) Escapism is an interesting topic to be discussed because it talks about escaping from reality or pain.
- (2) The researcher chooses Carl Sandburg's works because they show pain, sadness, and broken-hearted feeling that the poet tries to avoid.

The objectives of analyzing Carl Sandburg's *Dream in the Dusk* and *Waiting* are:

- (1) To analyze dreams that are not fulfilled in the poems.
- (2) To analyze how the poems reveals the poet's escapism through poetic devices such as imagery and figures of speech.
- (3) To describe how escapism as a manifestation of unfulfilled dreams in the poems viewed from Freud's theory.

Some significances of this study are:

- (1) To apply the practical knowledge and theories the researcher got during the time of the study especially in literary reading and analysis.
- (2) To improve the reader's knowledge and ability especially in analyzing literary works from Freud's Psychoanalysis.
- (3) To be one of the references for further projects related to this topic.

The framework of analysis used this study concerns with analyzing Escapism as a Manifestation of Unfulfilled Dreams in Carl Sandburg's Poems *Dream in the Dusk* and *Waiting*. The researcher chose psychological theory of Sigmund Freud called psychoanalysis where researcher used

tripartite model; the *id*, the *ego*, and the *superego* to explore the personal life of the poet.

Then, the researcher analyzed escapism in the poems through poetic devices such as imagery and figure of speech, the researcher chose *personification*, *symbol*, and *metaphor* which are found in the poem. Afterwards, psychoanalysis is used to analyze how escapism as a manifestation of unfulfilled dreams is reflected in the poems from Freud's theory.

DISCUSSION

Dream in the Dusk and *Waiting* are poems of Carl Sandburg, he wrote these poems when he was still 30's. These poems describe sadness and depressed situation that are felt by the poet. Unpleasant situation that he experienced drags him to escape by fantasizing.

Unfulfilled Dreams in the Poems *Dream in the Dusk* and *Waiting*

Dream in the Dusk

The poet is Carl Sandburg which is from working class family. He drops out from school to work for his family. Although in his biography, he tells that he never regrets it, but through his work such as *Dream in the Dusk* poem, he reveals a sadness and broken heart feeling. Carl Sandburg is also a socialist, he is an activist for working class people. So, he always feels empathy for them, and he put his empathy expression through his works, one is *Dream in the Dusk*. As a person from working class family, he is not rich and sometimes he cannot buy something that he likes. It drags him to fantasize about something that he likes or he wants to get or he fantasizes about becoming a rich who has everything that he wants.

Dreams in the dusk,

Only dreams closing the day

And with the day's close going back

To the gray things, the dark things,

The far, deep things of dreamland.

(Stanza 1)

The first stanza of the poem shows that the poet has dreams that he tries to reach. He becomes stressful, desperate, and exhausted when he fails in reaching the dreams. Such condition drags him to fantasize. The poet fantasizes about being successful in reaching his dreams. Fantasizing is a way of the poet in doing escapism from reality.

Dreams, only dreams in the dusk,

Only the old remembered pictures

Of lost days when the day's loss

Wrote in tears the heart's loss.

(Stanza 2)

From the second stanza, the poet fails to reach the dreams and it makes him sad, disappointed, and tired. Failure makes burden for the poet to bear it alone. Failure always haunts the poet, so, it makes him remember the bitter past when he gets failure in reaching the dreams.

Tears and loss and broken dreams

May find your heart at dusk.

(Stanza 3)

The last stanza of the poem tells that when the poet cannot reach the dreams, it makes him disappointed, desperate, unhappy, and sad. It makes him think that there is no hope or other way for him anymore to continue. It is a condition which makes him sorrowful. It then can drag him to fantasize in order to heal himself from painful unpleasant feelings. Escapism brings him far away from reality which gives him hardship to fantasy land in his mind which offers the poet happiness and comfort.

Waiting

In this poem, the poet tells that he is a sailor who works on a ship and sails on wide seas where he just can see water around him. It seems that becoming a sailor is a boring job, he works on a ship that is sailing on a sea for a long time and far away from home, the place that he loves. As a result, he misses his home or family and he wants to go home as soon as possible. His longing of his home makes him feel sad, so, he starts to fantasize while he sits on the deck of ship. It can be

that he fantasizes about his home, so that he feels relief.

*Today I will let the old boat stand
Where the sweep of the harbor tide comes in
To the pulse of a far, deep-steady sway.
And I will rest and dream and sit on the deck
Watching the world go by
And take my pay for many hard days gone I
remember.*

(Stanza 1)

The first stanza in line 4 shows that the poet tries to escape from the hardship of life that he spends by resting and dreaming on the deck. As a sailor, it is a hard job to do because as a sailor, he has to face the danger on the sea such as high wave and deadly storm which can destroy the ship.

*I will choose what clouds I like
In the great white fleets that wander the blue
As I lie on my back or loaf at the rail.
And I will listen as the veering winds kiss me and
fold me
And put on my brow the touch of the world's great
will.*

(Stanza 2)

The second stanza shows the poet's dreams that he wants to reach in his life but the dreams cannot be reached because of the poet's business and he does not have time to fulfill his dreams.

*Daybreak will hear the heart of the boat beat,
Engine throb and piston play
In the quiver and leap at call of life.
To-morrow we move in the gaps and heights
On changing floors of unlevel seas
And no man shall stop us and no man follow
For ours is the quest of an unknown shore
And we are husky and lusty and shouting-gay.*

(Stanza 3)

In the third stanza above, the poem shows the biggest dreams of the poet that he wants so much to be happy although unpleasant feelings always come to him especially exhaustion and sadness. The poet hopes that someday his dreams will be fulfilled so that he can feel happy.

Escapism through Imagery and Figure of Speech in the Poems *Dream in the Dusk* and *Waiting*

Imagery

Visual imagery is something that can be seen. In *Dream in the Dusk* poem, there are some visual imageries representing escapism such as, *dusk, gray, dark, far, pictures, and tears*. Those visual imageries show sorrow and sadness that make the poet do escapism. The word *Dusk* is twilight which means something on the edge or cannot be reached. *Gray* and *dark* are gloomy colors which show sorrow and sadness, the word *Far*, in this poem, the poet wants to reach his dreams, but it is too far to be reached. *Pictures*, in this poem are memories of the poet which is bitter past that haunts the poet. The word *Tears* means result of the poet's sadness or the poet's expression when he is sad because of unfulfilled dreams.

In the previous subchapter, in *Dream in the Dusk* poem, the poet has dream, he wants to be rich, but he cannot fulfill his dreams because he is just a working class person and he realizes that his dreams is just a dream. When his dreams are unfulfilled in reality, he feels so sad and disappointed, and to forget those unpleasant feelings, the poet escapes from reality by fantasizing. It is not good for drowning in sadness continually, because it only gives the poet sorrow.

There are several visual imageries available in the poem *Waiting*. In *Waiting* poem, the poet tells himself as a sailor who works on the sea and far away from land. While he stays on the ship, he just can watch the sky and sea. It seems like it is not what he wants, and he wants something worthy for his life.

Visual imageries in the first stanza of *Waiting* poem are *far* and *watching the world go by*. *Far* means the poet is working as a sailor on a ship that is sailing on the wide sea. It means that he is so far away from home. *Watching the world go by* means the poet witnesses his adventure during sea voyage.

Visual imageries in the second stanza are *clouds*, *white fleets*, and *the blue*. *Clouds* means the poet's ideas or dreams that he wants to reach. In a word, if he had a choice, he would choose what he dreamt of. It can be that he wants to work around his home so that he can be with his family. *White fleets* means the sailors who work on the wandering ship. While, the poet is working, he can still think of his dreams in his busy times on the ship. *The blue* means the sea or ocean where the poet sails on.

In the third stanza, visual imagery is *daybreak*. *Daybreak* means morning or it can be a new life. The poet wants something new in his life that can make his life change become better. From the previous explanation, the poet misses his home so much during working as a sailor. Long voyage on the sea makes him think of his home and family, and he wants to go home as soon as possible. Working as a sailor makes him tired and bored, so he wants to escape from all that makes him sick. So, he starts to fantasize of his home during sea voyage.

Besides visual imageries, there are also auditory imageries in *Waiting* poem such as, *listen*, *hear*, *boat beat*, *engine throb*, *quiver*, *call*. There are no beautiful sounds on the ship, only sounds of ship engine that can be heard.

After working hard, the poet takes a rest for a while, and all he needs is an entertainment to relieve his exhaustion. Auditory imageries show that the poet escapes by using the sounds around him as an entertainment, because there is nothing that can make him feel pleasure but sounds around him.

Kinesthetic imagery is a movement or tension such as *closing*, *close going back*, *wrote*, *find* in *Dream in the Dusk* poem. Those imageries tell that when the poet cannot reach his dreams, he feels disappointed and sad. Those feelings just make his life broken because he drowns in the unpleasant feelings. His heart is getting worse when he continually thinks about the failure. The poet

can feel more sorrowful if he continually thinks about it. So, it is better for the poet to do escapism through fantasizing so that he can forget unpleasant feelings such as sadness, disappointment, and exhaustion which is caused by failure.

In *Waiting* poem, there are also some kinesthetic imageries such as, *Today I will let the old boat stand*, *Where the sweep of the harbor tide comes in*, *And I will rest and dream and sit on the deck*, *And take my pay for many hard days gone I remember*, *I will choose what clouds I like*, *As I lie on my back or loaf at the rail*, *To-morrow we move in the gaps and heights*, *On changing floors of unlevel sea*, *And no man shall stop us and no man follow*.

These imageries show that the poet does his activity as usual as a sailor. Although it is hard to be done, he is always patient. And when he takes a rest for a while, he starts to fantasize his desire to go home. He has his own thought, if he were lucky, he would choose what he liked, perhaps he does not like work as a sailor. And the following days, he will work again by sailing on the sea to another sea. Then, he realises that he cannot fulfill his dreams because he is just a sailor who always sails on the sea.

There are also tactile imageries in *Waiting* poem such as, *the veering winds kiss me and fold me*, *And put on my brow the touch of the world's great will*. Tactile imageries on *Waiting* poem shows that the poet fantasizes and enjoys condition around him as an escapism act.

Figure of Speech

From the explanations about metaphor in the previous chapter, metaphor is a figure of speech which shows comparison, by comparing one thing with other things which are not related to each other.

Dreams in the dusk,
Only dreams, closing the day
And with the day's close going back
to the gray things, the dark things,
The far, deep things of dreamland.

(Stanza 1)

There is metaphor in the first stanza, it is found in line 1, *Dreams in the dusk*, this line shows that the word *Dreams* is compared with wishes. Line 3,4, and 5, *And with the day's close going back/to the gray things, the dark things/The far, deep things of dreamland* metaphorically mean wishes or dreams which contain something essential, important, or something very meaningful to the poet. In the previous subchapter, it is said that the poet wants to be rich, it is his dream that he wants to reach.

The meaning of the first stanza is that the poet wants to reach dreams that he dreams of and his dreams can determine his future, though the dreams are too high to be reached. The phrase *the far* and *deep things* metaphorically mean something essential and the word *dreamland* metaphorically means "future".

*Dreams, only dreams in the dusk,
Only the old remembered pictures
Of lost days when the day's loss
Wrote in tears the heart's loss.*

(Stanza 2)

Only the old remembered pictures/Of lost days when the day's loss, line 2 is a metaphor, which means memory, and line 3 is compared with pain and sorrow of a failure or an unsuccessful things. The meaning of this stanza is that the poet thinks of the bitter past.

*Tears and loss and broken dreams
May find your heart at dusk.*

(Stanza 3)

The last stanza of the poem has another metaphor in line 1, *Tears and loss and broken dreams*, here, *broken dreams* represents unfulfilled dreams. The meaning of this stanza is that when the poet is drowned in sadness and disappointment continually because of failure in reaching his dreams, he will only get bad times in his life.

Personification is a figure of speech, which gives or shows that non-human such as an object or an animal could do human's job like moving, screaming, crying, etc, as

the object has soul. In the poem *Dream in the Dusk* by Carl Sandburg, there are several words in stanza of the poem which use personification.

*Dreams in the dusk,
Only dreams, closing the day
And with the day's close going back
to the gray things, the dark things,
The far, deep things of dreamland.*

(Stanza 1)

The first stanza has a figure of speech, that is personification in line 2 and 3, *Only dreams, closing the day/And with the day's close going back* – there are two human attributes in those lines, they are *closing* and *going back*. Dreams are abstract and cannot close anything because it is not an animate object. The stanza of the poem purposes to show that the poem would like to describe the power of dreams that could motivate him to reach it. Dreams look so alive and worthy. Dreams have ability to control the poet, so that he tries so hard to make his dreams come true. Dreams can make the poet feel happy and enthusiastic about reaching it, yet dreams can also make the poet feel down when he fails to reach it.

*Dreams, only dreams in the dusk,
Only the old remembered pictures
Of lost days when the day's loss
Wrote in tears the heart's loss.*

(Stanza 2)

The second stanza in line 3 and 4 has personification, *Of lost days when the day's loss/Wrote in tears the heart's loss*, in the words *loss* and *wrote*. It is personification because day cannot lose or write something, in line 3 and 4 show if the poet always memorizes or remembers the failure in fulfilling his dreams, he will just feel unpleasant feelings that will hurt him for a long time. Painful reality can make the poet feel down which breaks his heart.

*Tears and loss and broken dreams
May find your heart at dusk.*

(Stanza 3)

The last stanza of the poem above also has personification in the word *Find* in line 2,

May find your heart at dusk. The stanza shows that when the poet fails to get what he wants; it becomes a painful truth which he must accept. If he cannot accept it, he will feel worse than before. His broken dreams continually will haunt his mind and think about it every time and just makes him get more sorrowful and tired. In *Waiting* poem, there are also some personification as the following.

*Today I will let the old boat stand
Where the sweep of the harbor tide comes in
To the pulse of a far, deep-steady sway.
And I will rest and dream and sit on the deck
Watching the world go by
And take my pay for many hard days gone I
remember.*

(Stanza 1)

This whole stanza shows that the poet's life as a sailor who works at harbor and stays on the ship. He spends most of his life on the sea. Working as a sailor is very hard, tiring, and makes him feel bored. So, when the poet starts to feel unpleasant feelings, he will fantasize something that he like.

*I will choose what clouds I like
In the great white fleets that wander the blue
As I lie on my back or loaf at the rail.
And I will listen as the veering winds kiss me and
fold me
And put on my brow the touch of the world's great
will.*

(Stanza 2)

The second stanza above also has personification such as, *great white fleets that wander the blue, the veering winds kiss me and fold me.* The whole of this stanza means that the poet has dreams. Although it seems that he is busy as a sailor, he has times and places where he can fantasize his dreams as a way to escape from his unpleasant feelings.

*Daybreak will hear the heart of the boat beat,
Engine throb and piston play
In the quiver and leap at call of life.
To-morrow we move in the gaps and heights
On changing floors of unlevel seas
And no man shall stop us and no man follow*

*For ours is the quest of an unknown shore
And we are husky and lusty and shouting-gay.*

(Stanza 3)

In the third stanza, there are personification in 2 lines such as, *Daybreak will hear the heart of the boat beat*, it means that the poet hopes that he will have another bright day or perfect future that makes him comfortable in living the day. In the whole of third stanza, the poet's life was fueled by busy by working on the ship, crossing the wide sea, and far away from home that makes him so tired.

Symbol is one of the figures of speech expressed in words form that are used by poets to give different meaning beyond the words, so that readers do not face difficulty or make mistakes in interpreting or analyzing a poem. In *Dream in the Dusk* poem by Carl Sandburg, besides *metaphor* and *personification* that are found in the poem, there are also *symbols* which are points of the poem's meaning. The symbols which are found in the poem are in the words *Dreams*, *Dusk*, and *Dreamland*.

*Dreams in the dusk,
Only dreams, closing the day
And with the day's close going back
to the gray things, the dark things,
The far, deep things of dreamland.*

(Stanza 1)

The word *Dreams* in the poem is not like a common phenomenon. The word *Dreams* in this poem is defined as desires or wishes of the poet. The word *Dusk*, literally means twilight or dark setting sun. The word *Dusk* refers to darkness. Figuratively, *Dusk* here means as a disappeared hope. And the word *Dreamland* in the poem means future and happiness.

There are some symbols in *Waiting* poem such as, *clouds* and *seas*. The word *clouds* in *Waiting* poem signifies ideas, thoughts, or dreams. While the word *Seas* signifies life, it shows that the poet's life is like the seas.

Escapism as a Manifestation of Unfulfilled Dreams in *Dream in the Dusk* and *Waiting* Viewed from Freud's Theory

People who are in a distressed situation often run away from problems by doing escapism to release themselves from problems which only make them stressed. Escapism can be a positive form for some of people; it reduces depression, exhaustion, and stress which are experienced by people in daily life. Escapism can be done by daydreaming, fantasizing, or appears in dreams while sleeping. But escapism can be a negative form for some persons, however, escapism is a fantasizing act which is created by an individual to relieve the pain. It can disturb personality development and mental health.

The id of the poet is that he wants to release himself from unpleasant feelings such as sadness, disappointment, and exhaustion by fantasizing of his dreams that he cannot reach in reality. It means that he does escapism to avoid unpleasant feelings that he feels as suffering which tortures him. The poet feels uncomfortable with his unpleasant feelings. Those feelings torture him little by little until he cannot hold on anymore. As a result, he wants to be free from anything which makes him uncomfortable, sad, disappointed, etc. to release himself from unpleasant feelings, the poet tries to escape or avoid it by doing escapism.

Reality always gives two results; the good one and bad one. When people face the reality that they do not expect or which is hard to be accepted, there are two things that are possible to be done by people. First, if they are wise enough, they can accept it and go through their life as usual with no bad emotion towards life. Second, if they are people with weak character, they cannot accept the reality that they do not expect. And when reality cannot be accepted in the real world, the result is that they feel unhappy which put them in a miserable condition such as feeling sad and down, they will feel uncomfortable with that situation.

People surely want to feel happy always, so for feeling happy, they start to seek diversion by creating a fantasy or an entertainment to make them forget the unpleasant feelings that they feel in reality world. The poet thinks rationally towards reality. Yet he tries to accept it, but it tortures him instead. So, the poet does escapism in order to be free from the picture of reality which tortures him by fantasizing.

Here, *superego* of the poet cannot prevent the *ego*, the poet felt suffering too much until he could not bear it. So, it is better for him to escape from unpleasant feelings or suffering. It is very uncomfortable for the poet in feeling the suffering of the working class people which always tortured him. There is a way for the poet to release all of his unpleasant feelings by doing escapism, he can vividly fantasize his dreams to come true in his mind, but not in reality. The two poems of Carl Sandburg entitled *Dream in the Dusk* and *Waiting* have similar topic, that is escapism. The two poems show that the poet does escapism to avoid unpleasant feelings which is caused by his failure in fulfilling his dreams. In the poem *Dream in the Dusk*, he dreams to become a rich, while in the poem *Waiting*, the poet dreams his home. Those poems describe the poet's dreams that he cannot reach.

CONCLUSION

After reading and analyzing the poem, the poet tries to tell that he or other people should not feel sad and disappointed because of failure or being unsuccessful in reaching the dreams, because it just makes one be broken-hearted and pessimistic. People should seek diversion from all of sadness that they feel. They should realize that reality does not always give them happiness and if the reality does to them, they should not feel sad too much, and if they feel so helpless, they could do escapism to entertain themselves.

Escapism is running or avoiding an unpleasant problem or situation in reality. People do escapism by daydreaming, fantasizing, committing suicide, consuming drugs, etc. there are so many ways escapism act that people can do in order to far away from their unpleasant situation which break their hearts.

Escapism is known as a negative concept by most people, but, actually, it has positive side too. When people who are in sadness feeling or depressed situations, they only feel pain in their hearts. If they feel that continually, it will be their nightmare and sorrow in their daily life. People should not drown in sadness and despair. Because all of human beings deserve to get happiness. People usually escape from their sadness by fantasizing of something beautiful. As a result, they can forget their sadness or problems in reality.

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