

The Inferiority and Superiority of the Main Characters in Andrea Hirata's Novels (Alfred Adler's Psychological Studies)

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Abstract

Inferiority was a feeling that is experienced by every people. But these feelings were able to encourage people to achieve the success (superiority). This research was talking about the inferiority experienced by the main character in Andrea Hirata's novels. These novels were serial novels that are separated from personal story of the author. The novels are entitled Ayah (2015), Sirkus Pohon (2017), and Orang-Orang Biasa (2019). This research aimed to analyze inferiority and superiority of the main characters in novels (Ayah, Sirkus Pohon, and Orang-Orang biasa) by Andrea Hirata. This research used a literary psychology approach by Alfred Adler with a qualitative descriptive research method. The results of this research were first, there are seven forms of inferiority possessed by the main character in the novels (Ayah, Sirkus Pohon, and Orang-Orang biasa) by Andrea Hirata, such as (1) pessimist, (2) hopeless, (3) disappointed, (4) worthless, (5) lost of spirit (heart break), (6) restless, (7) bitterness and gave up. Second, there are six forms of superiority possessed by the main character in the novels (Ayah, Sirkus Pohon, and Orang-Orang biasa) by Andrea Hirata, they were (1) optimistic or confident, (2) high of spirit, (3) proud, (4) success at work, (5) motivate us to have goals, (6) lost of ideas, strategies, and life plans/keep moving. Based on the results of this research, the main character who has a feeling of inferiority manages to achieve superiority, so that it can motivate every reader to never give up in achieving goals in the future.

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INTRODUCTION

Literary work was an art of storytelling that prioritizes the beauty of language. The existence of literary works as a mirror of human life in word stories. Human life was the subject of the study of literary psychology in which there were people as characters who experienced various psychological aspects, one of which was a life conflict.

A novel was a literary work that presented a complete story with characters shaped by various conflicts. Azizah & Setiana (2016) argued that the presence of novels was not only viewed as a fictional work but can also be used as a reference for understanding a society's culture. Concerning this research, Purwaningrum and Haryati (2016) considered the correct novel to be explored using a literary psychology approach as a psychological novel, the novel corresponded to the psychological symptoms that the characters experience.

Several of Andrea Hirata's novels provided inspiring stories and were useful as references and motivation to enjoy a life of struggle. Like the novels *Ayah* (2015), *Sirkus Pohon* (2017), and *Orang-Orang Biasa* (2019). These three novels were series or freelance novels as the stories and characters in each novel were not related to each other. These three novels were not the author's personal story or, like the previous eight novels, did not talk about the author's personal life. These three novels provided a real-life picture of community figures suffering from personality issues such as low self-esteem, worthlessness, and efforts to fight back and achieve success.

Characters as an actor of the stories faced with various problems. Feelings were states that result from the perception of external and internal stimuli. Feelings of worthlessness and inferiority are referred to as inferiority. These feelings are influenced by the character's psychology. The psychology that specialized in the breakdown of human activities and activities, as well as human personality types, was known as personality psychology (Walgitto, 2004).

These personality problems were developed by the psychology character Alfred Adle. As the father of *Individual Psychologie's*, Adler reported that people live with different kinds of ideas or thoughts that were purely wrong, which has no evidence. Adler (in Feist and Feist, 2010) believed that every human being has an innate strength and a natural nature in the form of an urge for perfection or superiority.

A character's inferiority could be due to personal problems or problems of social groups. Semiun (2017) showed that the factors that trigger feelings of inferiority stem from (1) physical deprivation, (2) family dynamics, (3) the community influences. Trauma was one of the effects of inferiority factors. Concerning this, Terr (in Shirkhani, 2020) showed that trauma relates not only to physical but also to psychological trauma. Trauma was like an emotional blow. It had viewed as psychological violence that leads to fear, helplessness, loss of capacity to act, and loss of trust in someone (Marwan et al., 2019).

Another factor also came from the family. Indeed, several factors could minimize be applied to the occurrence of inferiority caused by the family, Ratri (2017) once stated that eight values must be applied in family upbringing, namely diligent worship, unanimity, achievement, courage, independence, proportionality, self-care, and compassion. It was an attempt to form an ideal personality. In addition, Setiari et al. (2016) showed that experiences with parents play an important role in shaping the child's personality. The attitude of parents towards children was one of the educational environments in the family.

The effects of feelings of inferiority could take the form of disappointment, insecurity, disappointment, pessimism, despair, and low self-esteem as if they could not cope with a problem. As the power of love, that could put the people of sadness to disappointment the heart, but also provided a force that could promote the spirit of the struggle for survival and the brilliant success (Udayana and Indiatmoko, 2017).

Compensation was a form of tactic to combat feelings of inferiority. Ulfah and Deliana (2012) reaffirmed the status of compensation that people always strive for superiority for bringing themselves to again the problems from one stage of development to the next higher level of development; it was done from life to death. This form of compensation as always was to try without giving up, having a strong urge to be determined to always get up and others.

Man must recognize that everyone always feels inferior but giving up and giving up was not the only way to solve a problem. It was in this feeling of inferiority that there was an innate force that could encourage a person to seek superiority or achievement. The purpose of this research was to analyze and describe the inferiority of the main character in the novels (*Ayah, Sirkus Pohon, and Orang-Orang Biasa*) by Andrea Hirata. Analyze and describe the results of the analysis in terms of the superiority of the main character in novels (*Ayah, Sirkus Pohon, and Orang-Orang Biasa*) by Andrea Hirata.

Studies on the problem of inferiority in Alfred Adler's theory were carried out by Kenchappanavar (2012), Feldhaus (2015), Alimatussa'adiyah & Nuryatin (2017), Ikram & Waheed (2018), and Juidah (2019).

METHODS

The approach used in this research was a qualitative descriptive study of the psychology of literature. The analytical technique used literature study techniques and the first stage of semiotic reading, namely heuristic reading. The research data was in the form of fragments of novel texts in the form of sentences or dialogues that are believed to contain forms of inferiority and superiority. The data sources in this study were the texts of novels (*Ayah, Sirkus Pohon, and Orang-Orang Biasa*) by Andrea Hirata. The data were collected using literature study techniques and semiotic reading of the first stage, namely heuristic reading. After the heuristic data acquisition, the researcher analyzes and interprets the data using the hermeneutic reading technique.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of this research focused on data on the inferiority of the main character and the shape of the superiority of the main character relate, based on the views of Alfred Adler. The results of the research described were fragments of text in the form of sentences and dialogues that are contained in the novels (*Ayah, Sirkus Pohon, and Orang-Orang Biasa*) by Andrea Hirata.

Forms of the Inferiority of the Main Character in the Novels of Andrea Hirata

Inferiority was a feeling of inferiority that everyone has. For psychological reasons, this feeling was called an *inferiority feelings*, Adler (in Suryabrata, 2007) regards feelings of inferiority or inferiority as feelings of inferiority caused by a person who feels less valuable to a subjective psychological or social disability or an incomplete physical condition. Feelings of lack or inferiority according to Adler (in Kartono, 1996) asserted that the theory of low self-esteem was an experience in living feelings, namely high self-esteem and self-worth, which included forms of these feelings: less valuable, weak helplessness, shame, fear, disappointed, inferior, pessimistic, restless (doubt, not calm, worried), inferior and discouraged/hopeless. Data was found in the form of the inferiority of the main character in the novels (*Ayah, Sirkus Pohon, and Orang-Orang Biasa*) by Andrea Hirata.

Novel Ayah

The inferiority of the main character in the novel *Ayah* (2015) by Andrea Hirata is experienced by the characters Sabari and Amiru/Zorro. The forms of inferiority were as follows.

- Sabari Characters

As the main character, Sabari has a feeling of inferiority, which was a form of disappointment. Sabari's feelings of disappointment led to a loss of enthusiasm. The feelings that Sabari experienced are stimulated by the senses. Feelings, created by a form of inferiority affected the human senses. The

feelings that Sabari experiences are stimulated by sensory feelings or those associated with physical stimuli; like the stimulation of pain, heat, cold, heavy, fragrant, etc. (Kartono, 1996).

Sabari lost his excitement after seeing Lena making out with his girlfriend, making Sabari's heart and soul even hotter, her body sick too, and he had a fever. This painful situation made Sabari lose her enthusiasm to return to school. It can be seen in the following quote.

Sabari demam lagi, kali ini tiga hari. Dia masuk sekolah sehari, lalu demam lagi enam hari. Lalu, terdengarlah kabar yang mengerikan itu, bahwa Sabari mau men-dropout-kan dirinya sendiri (Hirata, 2015: 69).

The pain Sabari experienced was a pain that emanated from her soul and spread to the senses or physically. The form of inferiority Sabari experienced began when he saw Marlina fiddling with Bogel, causing jealousy that made him feverish for days. The painful situation Sabari was going through made him lose his excitement, so he planned to leave school. He wasn't strong because he often watched the landscape between Lena and Bogel. Ms. Norma tried to advise Sabari but it still did not work. Feelings of love catapult and broke Sabari's heart. Sabari felt that school had become a painful place for him.

Sabari also experienced another form of inferiority, namely not feeling worthless and useless in front of anyone. Feeling that no one cared about him and loved him anymore, he decided to throw himself away and leave his own home.

Tahun ke delapan, tak ada lagi yang melihat Sabari di rumahnya. Rupanya Sabari sudah meminggatkan diri dari rumah. Dia hidup menggelandang di platform pasar ikan bersama Abu Meong dan puluhan kucing pasar dan anjing kurap di sana. Pasar selalu menjadi tempat orang membuang anak-anak kucing dan anjing yang tak diinginkan. Sabari pun merasa terbuang, tak diinginkan oleh cinta. Dia pun merasa nasibnya tak ubahnya nasib Florentino Ariza (Hirata, 2015: 283).

Sabari, who had the feeling that he was no longer valuable, felt like a wasted person, nobody wants him anymore. Everyone he loved had left him. This situation made Sabari felt inferior. In the end, he threw himself into the dump that was the market.

- Amiru/Zorro Characters

As the main character, Amiru was concerned about staying at the pawnshop due to economic factors that made up the only entertainment in his house. Due to the family dynamic, there was nothing he could do about it. Fear was a mental tension or uncomfortable state of mind caused by the danger of trouble and a passionate desire to get something that was expected (Suryana, 2019). Amiru's fear was a form of inferiority. Form inferior. It can be seen in the following quote.

Berdasarkan upah harian memikul keranjang sampah takkan mencapai sejuta enam ratus ribu sampai batas waktu siaran radio. Gelisah, hampir putus asa, ke sana kemari anak kecil itu menawarkan diri, tetapi pintu tertutup untuknya (Hirata, 2015: 88).

Amiru felt restless, restless, and discouraged (hopeless). The family's poor economy led him to find work. The inferiority of the main character Amiru was evident when, at his very young age, namely ten, he struggled to get a decent amount of money. He could not raise money to pay for the radio. Amiru was nervous and wanted to redeem the radio from the pawnshop immediately. Amiru did not want to accept the pen job because he was still very young and had not yet finished elementary school.

Novel Sirkus Pohon

The form the inferiority of the main character in Andrea Hirata's novel *Sirkus Pohon* (2017) is experienced by the characters Tara and Sobridin. The forms of inferiority were as follows.

- Tara Characters

As the main character, Tara surrender, gave up, and was ready to sacrifice his idea in order not to continue his dream of college. The

nature of sacrifice was a trait based on wanting without thinking about what the reward was for the actions performed (Muawanah and Teguh Supriyanto, 2016). Tara bitterly buried his dreams, an attitude Tara had adopted solely to help his family's economy. Feelings of bitterness and resignation over the inability to continue studying were a form of feeling inferior. This situation made him more confident. It evidenced by the following quote.

Akhir pekan dia ke taman kota untuk melukis wajah. Dengan getir, Tara telah memadamkan cita-citanya untuk kuliah di jurusan Seni Rupa (Hirata, 2017: 3).

Tara had come to know himself and felt inferior to his inability to continue studying fine arts. The traveling circus as the livelihood for Tara and his mother was now closed, Tara has to work hard and used his skills to make a living. Tara used it to paint the faces of the busy visitors who arrived at the city park at the weekend. Tara was sad about his current life. Tara realized that he should not go on with his dreams. It did not matter to keep studying, to make ends met he had to paint faces in city parks.

- Sobridin Characters

The main character Sobrin felt inferior when the dream of marrying his lover was canceled. Sobirin's failure to marry was a form of inferiority. It evidenced by the following quote,

Harapan besarku untuk punya istri dan anak banyak bubar berkeping-keping. Harapanku itu bak buah rambai ditangkai yang rapuh, sekali disapu angin, berguguran. Kukabari orang-orang bahwa rencana pernikahanku dibatalkan sehubungan dengan kemalangan yang menimpa calon istri. Sungguh kabar yang pahit sehingga dapat kurasakan getir dikerongkonganku waktu mengatakannya (Hirata, 2017: 133).

Sobirin bears false hopes, the love story, which is shared with Dinda was hit by trials. He felt very deep disappointment and sadness. They canceled their marriage because of a strange illness that suddenly came and attacked Sobri's

lover. He had to accept the bitterness of life as he has experienced it before. Finally, the long plan for the future that Sobirin and Dinda had made threatened to fail.

Novel Orang-Orang Biasa

The shape of the inferiority of the main character in the novel *Orang-Orang Asli* (2019) by Andrea Hirata had experienced Aini and Debut characters. The forms of inferiority were as follows.

- Aini Characters

As the main character, Aini felt if she was called a stupid student because her grades always lag behind other students. Hence, Aini became pessimistic about outdoing herself, and she dared not have aspirations. Suryana (2019) believed that pessimism also causes a person to not believe in their abilities, making them believe that nothing more can be done for their life. Feelings of pessimism and lack of desire for ideas were forms of inferiority. It evidenced by the following quote.

Jika guru bertanya di kelas soal cita-cita, murid-murid lain berebut menunjuk, Aini sendiri yang menunduk. Karena dia sudah pasrah dikader ibunya untuk menjadi pedagang kaki lima mainan anak-anak, melanjutkan usaha keluarga (Hirata, 2019: 31).

Aini has gotten bad grades, especially for math grades, even in the stupid student category, and has the potential for non-advancement in class. It made her beat and she felt inferior in the form of pessimism and also her lack of courage to have high aspirations. She felt that she was not worthy of a bright future. Until, Aini resigned when she inherited her mother's job as a toy seller at a street vendor.

- Debut Awaludin Characters

As the main character, Debut experienced feelings of inferiority before reacting to his plans. He admitted that the brutal plan, which he led a plan that led to destruction. He predicted the failure was smelled by their group. Bad predictions that Debut experienced were negative thoughts that were usually filled with

prejudice, suspicion, suspicion, and also with unfounded doubts from the outset (Suryana, 2019).

Debut prediction was also an auto-suggestion that affected the success or failure of a company. Debut experienced a form of inferiority in the form of a lack of confidence in the plans they were making themselves. It evidenced by the following quote.

Sang ketua sendiri, akhirnya mengakui bahwa rencana mereka merampok bank esok bak main rolet Rusia, dan yang akan terjengkang diterjang peluru revolver adalah mereka sendiri. Dia sadar organisasi yang dipimpinya adalah organisasi dystopia, yang mengarah pada kehancuran (Hirata, 2019: 171).

It was also predicted that the plan so arranged by the group leader would fail. Making an uncertain and already pessimistic Debut about the bank robbery plan was a form of inferiority. He had predicted that his plans would go astray and led to destruction.

The Form of the Superiority of the Main Character in the Novels of Andrea Hirata

Superiority was a feeling that someone has of high self-esteem. An explanation of superiority was put forward by Kartono (1996) stated that the forms of superiority or feeling of excess that led to positive things include: feeling strong, capable, successful, proud, majestic, optimistic, and alive/in motion stay. The data was found in the form of the superiority of the main character in novels (*Ayah, Sirkus Pohon, and Orang-Orang Biasa*) by Andrea Hirata.

Novel Ayah

- Sabari Characters

As the main character, Sabari prides himself on being versatile in certain subjects. Sabari's pride in mastering Indonesian language classes made him even more optimistic about graduation. This pride was a form of superiority. It evidenced by the following quote.

Hari terakhir adalah ujian Bahasa Indonesia. Sabarai tersenyum simpul. Dijawabnya semua soal

dengan tenang. Cincai. Dilihatnya nun di sana. Ukun mengaduk-aduk rambut. Sabari tersenyum lagi. Di arah pukul 5.00, Tamat tercenung, tampak tertekan batinnya. Sabari kembali tersenyum. Maaf siswa lain bolehlah jago Matematika, IPA, Bahasa Inggris, Geografi, Biologi, tetapi Sabari adalah Isaac Newton-nya Bahasa Indonesia (Hirata, 2015: 11).

Sabari achieved superior shape when turns his favorite subject. He smiled in relief because he could solve Indonesian problems easily and quickly. Sabari's Indonesian scores always seem above average the look on his face conveyed the pride that he felt best in Indonesian classes, even when he was not good at other lessons. He was optimistic that his Indonesian language results could cover the test results of other subjects.

- Amiru/ Zorro Characters

As the main character, Amiru managed to achieve the goals of his work. This high morale enabled him to complete tasks beyond the established limits. Amiru's achievement of goals in the craft was a form of superiority. It evidenced by the following quote.

Amiru bekerja dengan kecepatan yang membuat juragannya tercengang. Tak pernah ada orang bekerja sekeras Amiru. Pada hari pertama dia tak bisa mencapai angka tiga ratus, tetapi hari-hari berikutnya dia melampauinya (Hirata, 2015: 131).

Amiru's persistence could bring him success in achieving a goal. Although the first day failed to meet the goal set by his Juragan, the next day he managed to make more than three hundred keyrings a day. The result surprised his Juragan. Amiru's success was a form of superiority and has a positive effect in the form of praise from others.

Novel Sirkus Pohon

- Tara Characters

As the main character, Tara achieved a form of superiority by successfully exhibiting his work. Tara was confident that this time his exhibition would set him up against the defense.

But what happened, the exhibition brought other benefits.

Tara's confidence made him even more creative. Hutubessy and Ezmir (2018) confirmed that the ability to overcome their mistakes encourages the character to develop confidence in life, it was gained from existential experiences, and ultimately confidence in life increases creatively. The exhibition continued to develop Tara's talents until he managed to make him famous and create other jobs. It evidenced by the following quote.

Setelah pameran tunggalnya itu, Tara dikenal sebagai pelukis wajah piawai. Lama-lama keahliannya dimanfaatkan yang berwajib. Begitu sempurna lukisan wajahnya sehingga selalu menjurus pada penangkapan pelaku (Hirata, 2017: 352).

Tara's solo exhibition to look for Tegar brought different results. Tara managed to surprise the audience and made his famous as a talented face painter. In addition, the exhibition offered Tara the ability to arrest suspects by drawing facial sketches.

- Sobridin Characters

As the main character, Sobridin achieved success at work, Sobridin's success was a form of superiority. His hard work as a circus clown paid off until many needs were met. It evidenced by the following quote.

Semua berjalan baik. Penghasilan bekerja di sirkus membuatku mampu membeli sebidang tanah kecil, lalu membangun rumah yang juga kecil di atas tanah itu. Semuanya merupakan bagian dari sebuah rencana yang mendebarkan, yakni masa depan bersama Dinda. Hopeless, hopeless (Hirata, 2017: 91).

Sobridin's life had gone well, he achieved his success after getting a job as a circus clown. Sobridin got a salary. He was saving as salaried employees were collected to buy a piece of land and build a house in which he could live later with Dinda. Sobridin's success showed the superiority he achieved at work.

Novel Orang-Orang Biasa

- Aini Characters

As the main character, Aini was successfully motivated and set goals that should be achieved like other students. That success was a form of superiority. The drastic changes made him a hard-working student. It evidenced by the following quote.

Jam istirahat, kawan-kawannya bermain-main, Aini tetap di kelas untuk membaca dan mencatat-catat. Dulu dia lebih banyak diam dan menunduk saja jika ditanya guru sehingga guru-guru malas bertanya padanya. Kini keadaan berbalik, Aini minta tempat duduknya dipindahkan ke depan dan giliran dia memberondong guru-guru dengan pertanyaan, sampai pusing mereka dibuatnya (Hirata, 2019: 41).

After a strange illness commanded by Aini's father, the motivation and curiosity for the illness that cost her father's life grows. Aini's willingness could encourage her to achieve goals as a form of achievement or superiority. The success of having dreams made Aini even more diligent in studying. She never failed to ask about class problems that left the teacher dizzy and overwhelmed with answering her questions.

- Debut Awaludin Characters

As the main character, Debut achieved a form of superiority. Debut's had ideas that keep flowing so that it never runs out of plans and strategies. It showed that the living conditions Debut lived in continued to move so that a form of superiority was achieved. It evidenced by the following quote.

Perampok keluar dari mulut gang, lalu melemparkan tas-tas besar itu ke dalam mobil minivan di pinggir jalan itu. Debut masuk ke mobil itu, mengotak-atik sebuah alat, lalu meletakkan alat itu di antara tas-tas tadi. Saat itulah Bapak Gundul terkejut melihat titik-titik merah di GPS tiba-tiba mati (Hirata, 2019: 197).

Debut's had plans that always work because Debut always had multiple plans. The plan was used for general teams and the second plan was only for special teams. It included tricking the security guards by turning off the

GPS sensor in the large bag so that security did not track their whereabouts. Apparently, Debut's had secretly planned it without told his friends. Debut's plans could keep him and his gang moving

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research and discussion it can be concluded as follows. First, the inferiority of the main character in novels *Ayah*, *Sirkus Pohon*, and *Orang-Orang Biasa* by Andrea Hirata was presented using Alfred Adler's theory. The main characters in the novel *Ayah* were Sabari and Zorro/Amiru. The main characters in the novel *Sirkus Pohon* were Tara and Sobridin. The main characters in the novel *Orang-Orang Biasa* were Aini and Debut. The form of inferiority that the main character had in Andrea Hirata's novels, such as: as (1) pessimist, (2) hopeless, (3) disappointed, (4) worthless, (5) lost of spirit (heart break), (6) restless, (7) bitterness and gave up

Second, the form of achievement or success (superiority) that the main character experienced in Andrea Hirata's novels, such as: 1) optimistic or confident, (2) high of spirit, (3) proud, (4) success at work, (5) motivate ourselves to have goals, (6) lost of ideas, strategies, and life plans/ keep moving

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