

**THE MIND STRUCTURE OF AN INDEPENDENT WOMAN  
AS REFLECTED IN CHARLOTTE BRONTE'S NOVEL JANE****Dyah Fajar Indriyani**✉

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***Abstract***

*This study is aimed at (1) describing the character and characterization of Jane Eyre (2) finding the mind structure of Jane Eyre (3) describing a portrait of Jane Eyre as an independent woman. This study is a descriptive qualitative study. The data were analyzed by using psychological approach. The data were gathered by reading the novel thoroughly, identifying, compiling, classifying, selecting, and reporting. The analysis was done by several techniques including the process of exposing, describing, and interpreting. The psychoanalysis theory by Freud was applied in finding the mind structure of Jane Eyre in the novel by finding the Id, the Ego and the Superego. The results were gained, first, Jane is described as a woman who is not beautiful but she has strong characteristics who are mature, smart, hard worker, confident, and generous. Second, the mind structure of Jane Eyre shows that Jane's id is reflected in a desire to love and to be loved, a desire to be independent and a desire to be acknowledged. However, Jane's ego is reflected in several actions. They are treating a doll like a human being, resisting or denying everybody who has limited her independence and also being a teacher in order to get the acknowledgement from the society and people around her. Whereas, for the representation of Jane's superego, she could prove her believes to others. They are; Jane believes that everyone who loves and respects each other will also to get love and respect from others too, then Jane believes that everyone who has fought for the truth should not have to feel guilty and regret, and the last Jane believes that by being a teacher she could change her life to be better and as a result everyone around her would respects her. Third, Jane Eyre is described as a portrait of an independent woman because of her financial independence and her independence of thinking and behaving. This study is expected to help readers to have understanding about the portrait of an Independent woman as reflected in the novel and be useful as a reference to the study of literature.*

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## INTRODUCTION

Understanding literature is very useful because readers can learn about literary works which are related to human life. They can learn about culture, religion, politic, economic, social problem, and even about personality or behavior of individual. Moreover, understanding literature can also sharpen our awareness toward problem of life wisely. As readers, we can get more understanding about literary works by reading and analyzing it through some theories and approaches. Thus, when we are doing a study of literary works, we must be able to read them carefully to comprehend the whole content or story of the works and the message of the author that will support our analysis and deeper understanding about it.

Talking about literary works, according Laurence and Arp (1987:3), fiction may be classified into two broad categories:

Literature of escape and literature of interpretation. Escape literature is that written purely for entertainment to help us pass the time agreeably. Interpretive literature is written to broaden and deepen and sharpen our awareness of life. Escape literature takes us away from the real world: it enables us temporarily to forget our troubles. Interpretive literature takes us, through the imagination, deeper into the real world: it enables us to understand our troubles. Escape literature has as its only object pleasure. Interpretive literature has as its object pleasure plus understanding.

One of literary works that could be an object pleasure plus understanding is novel. It is a kind of literary works which more complex than a short story. According Koesnowebroto (1988:18), "a short novel is called novella or novelette, and never becomes a long short story." Sometimes, the story in a novel usually shows about the picture of real life in the society. However, it

could also be a representation of the author's life or even just an imagination of the author's idea.

One of the authors' idea which is very interesting to be discussed from the past until now is topic about women because there are many of the authors write that topic in order to voice about the equality between men and women. The topic is very populer since most of people in the society still have opinion that women are the inferior of men. They still consider that women are weak person who could not to be independent because of their dependence on men. Actually, women should have the same opportunity to be independent like men because the women's role not only in the household but also in the society. However, in the past, women did not have the same opportunity to be independent like men. They were not allowed to get formal education because women were expected to stay at home for their family. Therefore, this phenomena pushes many of the authors to write a story or novel which is related to women. One of the author that presents a story about women is Charlotte Bronte. She was one of the author in the victorian era that presents a story about women's struggle in her novel entitled *Jane Eyre*. The novel is very interesting to be read because it tells about the life journey of the main character, Jane Eyre. On the other hand, talking about reading a novel, it would be related to the activity of analyzing literary works. As previously stated above, there are some theories and approaches in analyzing literary works. Novel is one of literary works that can be analyzed by using psychological approach since the story in the novel sometimes focus on the analysis or discussion about the behavior or personality of the characters or figures in the novel. In this case, psychoanalysis theory is used in order to analyze and criticize the psychological aspects in the characterization of the characters in the novel. According Ryan (2012:48), "Psychoanalysis begins with

the work of Sigmund Freud and his path-breaking book, *The Interpretation of Dreams*. In it, he argued that “our conscious lives are shaped and determined by unconscious feelings, memories, and drives that are usually unavailable to conscious perception but that make themselves manifest in dreams.” However, according to Roberts and Jacobs (1998:1834), “psychoanalysis provided a new key to the understanding of character by claiming that behavior is caused by hidden and unconscious motives.” Considering the background above, I am interested in conducting a study on psychological aspects of characters in Charlotte Brontë’s novel *Jane Eyre*. I focus on the analysis of the mind structure of Jane Eyre, the main character in the novel. Then, I apply the psychoanalysis theory in order to find the mind structure of the main character.

## DISCUSSION

### Character and Characterization of Jane Eyre

Jane is the main character of this novel. She is an orphan girl since she was a child. Physically, Jane is not a beautiful girl as reflected in the following quotation:

I sometimes regretted that I was not handsomer: I sometimes wished to have rosy cheeks, a straight nose, and small cherry mouth; I desired to be tall, stately, and finely develop in figure; I felt it a misfortune that I was so little, so pale, and had features so irregular and so marked (Brontë 2001:97)

From the quotation above, it can be interpreted that the main character in the novel little bit feels disappointed about her physical appearance. It could be seen from her disappointment when she expects to have a beautiful face with rosy cheeks, straight nose and small mouth that common people consider them as the beauty standard of a woman. Eventhough she is not a pretty girl,

she is a figure of a strong girl who is mature, smart, hard worker, confident, and generous.

As an orphan, Jane, the main character of the novel, accustomed to face her childhood in difficulty and sorrow. In her youth, Jane has to struggle her life alone without anybody beside her. This condition has encouraged her to be a mature person in facing her hard life even she is still very young. Her maturity could be seen from her thought and behavior. It is showed when she talked with Mr. Lloyd about her life since she has a strong will. It is available in the following quotation:

I reflected. Poverty looks grim to grown people; still more so to children: they have not much idea of industrious, working, respectable poverty; they think of the word only as connected with ragged clothes, scanty food, fireless grates, rude manners and debasing vices: poverty for me synonymous with the degradation (Brontë 2001:19)

Based on the quotation above, it can be interpreted that Jane, which is represented by the character “I”, really hates poverty because she assumes that poverty will take her into the misery of life. According to my opinion, Jane imagines that by being a poor person, she could not achieve her happiness and her success because her life is only be surrounded by the sorrow. Therefore, in order to escape from the poverty, she should become independent woman because by being independent, it could help her to avoid poverty. And as a child Jane has a critical thinking about that. It is represented in the sentence “poverty for me synonymous with the degradation.” From that sentence, it can be seen that Jane really concern about her future. It proves that Jane has been growing mature because she has an idea like a mature person who thinks about her dignity, her existence in the society, and her future life.

Even she is an orphan girl, Jane is a smart girl. When she was a child, she really likes to read books. It shows that she has a

good reading skill although she never gets a formal education before. Besides, after six years, Jane finishes her study in the Lowood School successfully and because of her ability, she is appointed to be a teacher in her young age. It is showed that Jane is a smart girl because only for six years getting a formal education she could get a position as a teacher.

Beside smart, Jane is a figure of a hard working girl. She is very confident and optimistic to achieve her success in the future by herself. She never gives up creating her wishes to get a good education even it is very hard to live and keep survive in the unpleasant place like in the Lowood School which has terrible condition like in the following quotation:

The unhealthy nature of the site; the quantity and quality of the children's food; the brackish, fetid water used in its preparation; the pupil's wretched clothing and accommodations: all these things were discovered and the discovery produced a result mortifying to Mr. Brocklehurst, but beneficial to the institution (Bronte 2001:81)

Beside a hard working girl, Jane also a figure of a woman who has a good self confidence. When in the Thornfield Hall, she is falling in love with her employer, Mr. Rochester. Jane realizes that a kind of relationship she does with him is forbidden in their society. However, she decides to get married with him even she comes from different social class with him. She has a view that her status is equal with him because she is an educated and independent woman. It shows that Jane is a figure of a woman who has a good self confidence because she regards her status is equal with her employer even she comes from the lower class.

Later, Jane, is also a figure of a generous girl. It is showed when she inherits much money from her uncle but she does not enjoy it herself. Certainly, she divides it for her cousins. It means that Jane is a generous

person because she does not think about her happiness herself but also for others.

### **The Representation of The Mind Structure of The Main Character in The Novel**

#### **The Representation of The Main Character's Id**

The first component of the mind structure in psychoanalysis is the id. Therefore, the first step to investigate the mind structure of the main character of *Jane Eyre* novel is by finding the the main character's id. In *Jane Eyre*, the main character's id emerges since her childhood especially after her parents died. They are the desire to love and to be loved, the desire to be independent, and the desire to be acknowledged.

#### **A Desire to Love and to be Loved**

Born as an orphan, the main character of the novel, Jane, grows without her parents. She lives around the people who do not care and love her. In the Gateshead, Jane passes her days only with loneliness and sadness because her aunt and her cousins never include her to join activities with them. It is available in the following quotation: "From every enjoyment I was, of course, excluded." It means that she never gets love from people around her. In essence, I conclude that Jane's id is a desire to love and to be loved since she really wants to have somebody that loves and cares to her.

Another evidence that shows her id is when Mr. Lloyd visits her in order to examine her health. She looks comfort and secure beside him even it just for a moment. She really feels happy of his presence because he is a kind person who treats her with full of love and affection which she never gets at Gateshead. According to my opinion, it shows that Jane really wants to get love and affection.

Actually, Jane's id not only emerges when she is in the Gateshead but also when

she met Miss Temple, a kind teacher in the Lowood School. Miss Temple is very different with another teacher in Lowood School. According to Jane, she represents a figure of mother. Her presence in Lowood has brought peacefulness not only for Jane herself but also for other students. Jane really feels comfort because she treats her motherly. Therefore, when Miss Temple had to move to another place after getting married with a clergyman, she becomes very sad. It means that Jane has lost a figure of mother who really cares to her.

#### **A Desire to be Independent**

As stated previously above that Reed's family really hates Jane. Especially her cousin, John, he really likes to disturb and oppress Jane, whenever he wants. Besides giving oppression to Jane, her cousins, John always forbids her to do everything independently although it just to be able to read books like in the following quotation: "It is well I drew the curtain," thought I; and I wished fervently he might not discover my hiding place" (Bronte 2001:3). Based on that quotation, it can be interpreted that Jane gets the limitation from John when she is reading books. It means that Jane is not allowed to do everything she wants independently because she just an orphan who depends her life on Reed's family so she must be obedient toward them. In essence, the next Jane's id is a desire to be independent. It based on the following quotation: " If I had anywhere else to go, I should be glad to leave it; but I never get away from Gateshead till I am a woman"(Bronte 2001: 19). According to the quotation above, it can be interpreted that Jane really wants to escape from Gateshead since her independence is limited by her aunt and her cousins there.

Beside in the Gateshead, Jane's id also strongly emerges when she lives in Lowood school. In that place, she has to face again if her independence is taken. It is by Mr.

Brocklehurst, a cruel clergymen who has been visiting her when she was in the Gateshead. In there, Jane and other pupils must obey and follow the strict rules that is created by him which oppress them so much. They must be obedient to him because they are poor and dependent.

In another evidence, Jane's id also emerges when Saint John proposes her to become his wife. According to my opinion, her desire rises up because she realizes that Saint John does not love her but he decides to propose her because of his assumption that says Jane is an independent and strong woman who is appropriate to accompany him to do that hard mission in India. According to my opinion, Jane is considered as an independent and strong woman, but she has to sacrifice her independence of life because if she accepts this proposal, she must dedicate all her life to that mission and it means, she does not have an opportunity to manage her future life.

#### **A Desire to be Acknowledged**

Besides getting oppression and pressure like in the previous explanation above, the main character, Jane, also gets insult from people around her like in the following quotation:

"And you ought not to think yourself on an equality with the Misses Reed and Master Reed, because Missis kindly allows you to be brought up with them. They will have a great deal of none, and you will have none: it is your place to be humble, and to try to make yourself agreeable to them (Bronte 2001:7)

The quotation above shows that Jane is always claimed by the person in the Gateshead as a poor and dependent girl who could do nothing to fulfill her need. It shows that Jane is always underestimated by the people there. It means, she is never acknowledged in that place. According to my opinion, the condition has forced Jane's

desire to be acknowledged since everybody around her never considers Jane as a part of them.

### **The Representation of The Main Character's Ego**

#### **Jane's Ego in Fulfilling a Desire to Love and to be Loved**

The realization of Jane's id in fulfilling a desire to love and to be loved in the reality could be found from her behavior in the following quotation:

Human beings must love something, and in the dearth of worthier objects of affection, I contrived to find a pleasure in loving and cherishing a faded graven image, shabby a miniature scarecrow. It puzzles me now to remember with what absurd sincerity I doated on this little toy, half fancying it alive and capable of sensation. I could not sleep unless it was folded in my night-grown; and when it lay there safe and warm, I was comparatively happy, believing it to be happy likewise. (Bronte 2001:23)

The quotation above shows about Jane's solitude. She feels lonely because everybody in the Gateshead is never sympathetic to her. Actually, she really wants to have somebody that loves and cares to her. She dreams of having a family like other children. However, she realizes that it could only be a dream for herself. Therefore, she tries to find a way to satisfy her desire to love and to be loved by loving her doll and treating it like a human being. The sentence "I could not sleep unless it was folded in my night-grown; and when it lay there safe and warm, I was comparatively happy, believing it to be happy likewise" emphasizes that she could fulfill her desire because by loving and treating her doll like a human being, she feels safe and comfort, and it could release her from the grief and sorrow even it just for a moment.

#### **Jane's Ego in Fulfilling a Desire to be Independent**

As we know that in the previous explanation above that Jane's desire to be independent is strongly apparent because of the pressure from the people around her. In order to release from this condition, she tries some ways and realizes the dream into the real situation. The realization of Jane's ego in fulfilling a desire to be independent could be found in the following the quotation: "I don't very well know what I did with my hands, but he called me "Rat! Rat" and bellowed out aloud (Bronte 2001:5)." The quotation shows about Jane's way in order to escape from John's oppression because for Jane, the oppression has trapped her desire to be independent. Therefore, the only way to be independent is by fighting the oppression upon to her bravely because John is not only bullying but also limiting her independence in doing activity in the Gateshead.

In another datum, Jane also resists her aunt who has trapped her desire to be independent. It is available in the following quotation: "I am not deceitful: if I were, I should say I love you, but I declare I do not love you" (Bronte 2001:31). The quotation above shows about Jane's ego in fulfilling a desire to be independent. It is her way in order to free herself from her aunt's accusation. According to my opinion, the accusation reflects Jane's limitation. It means, she could not get the independence if she could not free from the accusation.

Beside denying her aunt's accusation, she also denies accusation from Mr. Brocklehurst by telling the truth to Miss Temple. Finally, she could prove that the accusation from Mr. Brocklehurst is not true and as a result, everybody in the Lowood never hates her again. The realization of Jane's ego in fulfilling her desire to be independent could also be seen in her refusal toward Saint John's marriage proposal. According to my opinion, it is a kind of an

independence for Jane because she ought not to be his wife and not to do the hard mission with him in India which may threaten her life. Therefore, by refusing the proposal, she could live independently by her own ways and free from her obligation to her husband.

#### **Jane's Ego in Fulfilling a Desire to be Acknowledged**

As stated in the previous explanation above, it shows that Jane always gets bad experiences from people around her like her aunt, her cousins, the servant and also Mr. Brocklehurst who always insult her as a poor and dependent woman. In order to escape from the insults, Jane builds her spirit in order to awaken herself from the weakness. As a result, she changes to be a smart girl when she studies in the Lowood School. Finally, her hard effort has brought her to get the position as a teacher in that school. Her hard effort here represents her ego to fulfill a desire to be acknowledged. It can be found in the following quotation: "I had meant to be so good, and to do so much at Lowood: to make so many friends, to earn respect and win affection (Bronte 2001:65). From that quotation, it can be interpreted that by being a smart student in Lowood School, Jane would be acknowledged by others because everybody would see her ability and they never underestimate her again.

#### **The Representation of the Main Character's Superego**

As we know in the previous explanation above, it is stated that Jane is always alienated. She never gets love and affection from people around her. However, Jane believes that everyone needs to love and to be loved each other like in the following quotation:

But I feel this, Helen: I must dislike those who, whatever I do to please them, persist in disliking me; I must resist those who punish me unjustly. It is as natural as that I

should love those who show me affection, or submit to punishment when I feel it is deserved (Bronte 2001:54)

The quotation above shows about her superego. It means that Jane would love and respect everyone who has been kind to her. Therefore, she treats and loves her doll like a human being because she feels that the doll could give her love and affection so she considers it like a human being. However, in another evidence, when she becomes a teacher in a Morton, finally Jane could get the happiness because everyone around her respects and loves her. It could be found in the following quotation: "I felt I became a favourite in the neighbourhood. Whenever I went out, I heard on all sides cordial salutations and was welcomed with friendly smiles." The quotation shows that Jane gets love and respect from the people around her because of her kindness toward the children in that place. According to my opinion, the acknowledgement from the people like in the quotation above is the reflection of Jane's superego toward a desire to love and to be loved. It proves that her belief is true because people who love and respect others will also get love and respect from others too.

#### **Jane's Superego toward Her Desire to be Independent**

In the preceding explanation above, it is very clear that Jane resists everybody who obstructs her desire to be independent because she does not want to live under authority of others who always underestimate and pressure her. Her belief could be found in the following quotation:

A great deal: you are good to those who are good to you. It is all I ever desire to be. If people are always kind and obedient to those who are cruel and unjust, the wicked people would have it all their own way: they would never feel afraid, and so they would never alter, but would grow worse and worse. When we are struck at without a reason, but should

strike back again very hard; I am sure we should so hard as to teach the person who struck us never to do it again (Bronte 2001:54)

The quotation above clearly shows that Jane is very confident about her belief in resisting everybody who has oppressed and limited her independence because she believes that she has done something right so she should not have to feel guilty and regret. Therefore, she tells it to her close friend, Helen, in order to convince her whether her belief is true. Besides, it is also in line with human right stating that everyone including her, has the right to get independence in her life, so she must struggle to get it even it is very hard. Later, she tells the accusation and the oppression upon her to Miss Temple in order to get the justice because it had trapped Jane to be independent person when she studied in Lowood School. Finally, Jane's effort gives her opportunity to show her existence to others that she is completely free from the accusation and the oppression which limit her independence because she could prove herself if she is not a liar girl. According to my opinion, it could be interpreted that Jane's belief reflects her superego because it makes Jane could get the respect from everyone in the Lowood School, like in the following quotation:

Miss Temple, having assembled the whole school, announced that inquiry had been made into the charges alleged against Jane Eyre, and that she was most happy to be able to pronounce her completely cleared from every imputation. The teachers then shook hands with me and kissed me and a murmur of pleasure ran through the ranks of my companions (Bronte 2001:71).

#### **Jane's Superego toward Her Desire to be Acknowledged**

In the explanation above, it is stated that Aunt Reed, John Reed, the servant, and Mr. Brocklehurst always underestimate Jane as a poor and dependent woman. Hence, Jane

believes that by studying hard in the Lowood School, she could change herself to be independent person. Therefore, after she finishes her study in Lowood, she could be a teacher and this profession has changed her life to be better. Moreover, it makes Bessie, one of the servant in the Gateshead respects her. It is reflected in the following quotation: "I always said you would surpass them in learning. In that quotation, Bessie is represented by the character "I." In my opinion, the quotation above emphasizes about the acknowledgement of Bessie toward Jane's cleverness and reflects Jane's superego toward her desire to be acknowledged. Not to mention, it also proves that hard effort will take her into a better life is absolutely right. Then, after she could be an independent woman, she succeeds to get respect and acknowledgement from the society and people around her.

#### **A Portrait of an Independent Woman as Reflected In Jane Eyre**

In the beginning of the novel, Jane's life is full of obstacles. She has to face the oppression and pressure from people around her. However, the experiences have made her become a strong woman who has strong will to gain success. Finally, she succeeds in being an independent woman by taking respectable occupation as a teacher and governess. Her success is a result of her effort when she studies in the Lowood School. The education is the most important factor that brings her to become an independent woman because by being educated, Jane could be more eligible in getting better job.

There are two reasons that reflect Jane as a portrait of an independent woman. The first reason is because of her financial independence and the second is because of her independence of thinking and behaving. Those two reasons are quite enough to prove that Jane reflects a portrait of an independent woman as described follows:

### **Financial Independence Reflects Jane as an Independent Woman**

Financial independence is the essential factor that reflects Jane as an independent woman. By having financial independence, Jane could change her life to be better because she could maintain her life without depending on others. She begins her career by doing hard effort to keep survive in Lowood School with all the restriction and pain in order to become a successful person. Finally, she could get a position as a teacher in Lowood School. Jane has transformed herself from an orphan girl who is poor and dependent to become a teacher who is respectable and independent. Thus, by being a teacher in Lowood, Jane gets a settled job and it makes her become an independent woman who has financial independence.

### **Independence of Thinking and Behaving Reflects Jane as an Independent Woman**

The next reason that reflects Jane as an independent woman is because of her independence of thinking and behaving. It plays an important role because she could stand on her principal and make her dream come true by her idea independently without domination or pressure from others. Her independence of thinking and behaving could be seen from her attitude that shows how mature Jane is in solving the problems in her life wisely. When Jane is in the Lowood School, finally she could get a position as a teacher and it brings her to a better life. However, even she has got a settled job in that school, she decides to leave Lowood in order to achieve new experiences and a new life. In another evidence, her independence of thinking and behaving is also showed when she decides to refuse the marriage proposal from Saint John. She thinks that she has taken a right decision on her life by refusing Saint John's proposal because she feels that it could

limit her desire to become an independent woman.

Jane also shows her independence of thinking and act that reflects her as an independent woman when she decides to leave Saint John and then back to the Mr. Rochester. In the end of the novel, finally she gets the happiness by marrying her true love, Mr. Rochester. It shows that Jane's happiness of life could not be separated from her independence of thinking and behaving which brings her to make good decisions or solution in every part of her life. By having the independence of thinking and behaving, Jane could show her existence as a human being who has a right in planning and deciding everything for her best life and also she proves that a woman could be independent by her own thinking and behaving.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Based on the analysis in the discussion above, here I present some points as the conclusion of this study.

First, the characterization of Jane Eyre found in the novel are; physically, she is not a portrait of a beautiful woman, and she is an orphan girl who faces many conflicts and difficulties in her life. However, the hard life has pushed her to become an independent woman who is mature, smart, hard worker, confident and generous.

Second, by using the psychoanalysis theory, I find the mind structure of the mind character in the novel. They are the representation of the main character's id, the representation of the main character's ego and the representation of the main character's superego. The analysis shows that the main character's id is reflected in a desire to love and to be loved, a desire to be independent and a desire to be acknowledged. Born as a poor orphan is the reason of the emergence of the main's character id. However, The main

character's ego is reflected in several actions. They are treating a doll like a human being in order to get love and affection, resisting or denying everybody who has limited her independence and also being a teacher in order to get the acknowledgement from the society and people around her. Whereas, for the representation of the main character's superego, Jane could prove her believes to others, they are; firstly, Jane believes that everyone who loves and respects each other will also get love and respect from others too, secondly, Jane believes that everyone who has fought for the truth should not have to feel guilty and regret, and thirdly, Jane believes that by being a teacher she could change her life to be better and as a result everyone around her would respects her.

Third, Jane Eyre is a portrait of an independent woman. It is reflected through her financial independence and her

independence of thinking and behaving. The financial independence makes Jane could maintain her life without depending on another person. However, her independence of thinking and behaving makes her to be free in deciding her future life without oppression and pressure from another person.

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