

# THE PERSONALITY OF THE MAIN CHARACTER AS REFLECTED IN PAULO COELHO'S *THE DEVIL AND MISS PRYM*: A PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY

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**Abstract:** This research entitled "The Personality of the Main Character as Reflected in Paulo Coelho's *The Devil and Miss Prym*" is intended to find out the personality of the main character and factors that influence the personality of the main character.

This research uses descriptive qualitative method since the researcher does not apply any quantitative analysis or statistical procedures. The researcher uses the novel entitled *The Devil and Miss Prym* as the data source of the research. The methods used in collecting the data are observation and documentation. In observation method, the researcher reads the chosen object critically, and then identifies the psychological conflicts. After reading and identifying, the researcher collects and writes all data supporting the research. While in the documentation method, the researcher uses some related books and other documents collected from internet to support this research. In analyzing the data, the researcher applies descriptive qualitative method. He uses the descriptive qualitative method to collect the data and analyzes it by using Sigmund Freud's personality theory.

The result shows that the personality of the main character is influenced by internal and external factors. The internal factor consists of heredity features relating to physic, psychological features relating to physical state, and the heredity features of the character. The external factor consists of some part of life like family, environment, and job.

**Key word:** descriptive, qualitative, personality, psychological study

## A. Introduction

People are created with different personalities. This difference makes life meaningful. Some people state that the differences in human personalities can be called as the art of life. Personality can be related to some aspects in literary works, such as novel and drama. In a novel, the personality of the main characters is a good topic for the readers to analyze.

As people know, the function of literary works is for satisfaction and education. This statement means that the author has to think hard in making a literary work, like novel. The novel that he or she writes must give the readers additional values. The readers do not only get satisfaction in reading the novel, but also new things as knowledge. The knowledge is about human beings, culture, life, art, and language.

Personality in a novel is shown in many ways, like dialogues, attitudes, and behaviors through thinking, and characteristics that influence the personality. From this statement, it is clear that personality in a novel is closely related to personal psychological condition. Psychology of personality does not only learn about the personal thought or feeling but also learn throughout life as contribution between physical and spiritual life (Suryabrata, 1982: 50).

A smart author is able to create the personality of the characters that reflects the personality of human beings in the real life. This will make an imitation of life inside a novel. It is also a requirement to make a good novel. The novel *The Devil and Miss Prym* has successfully fulfilled this requirement. In Paulo Coelho's *The Devil and Miss Prym*, the author displays how the character is and the factors influencing the main character. The

character of Chantal Prym will be interesting to be discussed by using psychological approach.

Paulo Coelho is one of the top novelists in the world. He got many prestigious international prizes, such as Wilbur Award (USA, 2006), Direct Group International Author Award (Germany, 2005), The Budapest Prize (Hungary, 2005), etcetera. The Devil and Miss Prym is Coelho's third novel. It includes the trilogy of *End on the Seventh Day*. It was published in Brazil for the first time in 2000. The novel becomes the best seller in Argentina, Spain, Portugal, France, and Norwegian.

*The Devil and Miss Prym* tells many aspects that often happen in the real life, like the battle between good and evil inside a human. The result of the battle may sometimes determine the personality and behavior of a person. Another side of the story tells about a man that has been controlled by the demon inside him for a long time. This condition makes him always think about crime.

## B. Personality

### 1. The definition of personality

The term "personality" is derived from the latin word "persona" which means "mask". Originally, it denoted the mask worn by theatrical players in ancient Greek dramas, eventually the term came to encompass the actor's role as well (Allport, 1960: 25).

In this research, the psychology of literature that is used to search the characterization of Chantal Prym in the novel *The Devil and Miss Prym* is special psychology, especially psychology of personality. Psychology of personality is special psychology that discusses personality. Psychology of personality does not only learn the personal thought or feeling, but also learns throughout life

as contribution between physical and spiritual life (Suryabrata, 1982: 50).

### b. Sigmund Freud's Personality Theory

Sigmund Freud claims the well known and mostly studied of all personality theories. Psychoanalytic was the first theory that stresses the developmental aspects of personality. Psychoanalytic focuses on four basic concepts, namely level of consciousness, personality structure, defense mechanism, and psychosexual stages of developmental. In this thesis, the writer will focus on personality structure.

Sigmund Freud viewed that personality structure consists of the mental structure, which he named Id, the Ego, and Superego. Each of structure serves different function and develops at a different time (Freud via Papalia and Olds, 1985: 486).

The Id (latin word for "it") as the original part of psyche is believed to present at birth. It consists of basic needs such as hunger, thirst, and sex that Freud called the life instinct, run by a form of energy called libido. The life instinct is called "eros", which is also for the name of what a Greeks says "God of Love". The Id also contains a death instinct (thahatos), responsible for aggressive and destruction (Papalia and Olds, 1985: 486). The Id works based on the pleasure principle since the Id is a primitive and completely unconscious part of the psyche. The action of the Id usually remains unconscious and it is out of awareness (Mc. Neil, 1977: 424). For instance, a hungry man imagines some food (wish fulfillment). However, it is quite clear that he will not feel satisfied only by imagining some food.

The Ego (latin for "I") is capable planning, problem solving, reasoning and controlling the Id. The Ego develops soon after birth when the infant realizes that all that he or she wants will not automatically com to him or her and that he or she will have to figure out a way to get what he or

she wants. It operates on the reality, by which a person works out a plan and then takes some kind of reaction to test the plan to see whether he or she is on the right track (Papalia and Olds, 1985: 486). For instance, expression of the sexual drive is delayed until an appropriate “object” and environmental circumstances are available. Thus, when the object and conditions are ideal, the pleasure principle is satisfied.

Unlike the Id, the ego distinguishes between reality and fantasy, tolerates moderate amounts of tension, changes as a function of new experience, and engages in rational cognitive activity. The superego opposes both the id and the ego.

The Super Ego (latin for “over the I”) is the last part of the personality structure. It is a moral part of the personality judgement. It appears in the early childhood. It operates on what people may call the perfection principles. It represents the values that parents and the other representatives of society communicate to the child as ideas. The Super Ego lets the child internalize the concept of the right and wrong so that he/she can control his/her own behavior according to whether he/she considers a given action right or wrong. For instance, the child who is rewarded for scholarly effort will feel proud whenever he or she shows academic accomplishment (Hjelle and Ziegler, 1992: 91).

In <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ego> Freud states that the Super Ego is a symbolic internalization of the father figure and cultural regulations. The Super Ego tends to stand in opposition to the desire of the Id for their conflicting objectives, and is aggressive towards the Ego. The Super Ego consists of the ego-ideal (the “should” for which we have been approved of, to which we aspire, and of which we feel proud) (Papalia and Olds, 1985: 487).

The superego is said to be fully developed when self-control replaces the parental control. However, this principle of self-control is not served by the reality principle. The superego, while attempting to inhibit completely any id impulse that would be condemned by society, also tries to guide the person toward absolute perfection in thought, words, and deed.

c. The factors that Influence the Personality of Human Psychology

Human always grows and changes psychologically and physiologically. In human individual development, there are several factors that influence and determine human personality.

According to William Stern via Sujanto (1982:5), there are two factors that influence the development of human being. Those two factors are the internal factors (endogen) and the external factors (hexogen).

## 2. Internal Factor (endogen)

Inside factors are the heredity factors consisting of following:

- a) the heredity features relating to physic
- b) the psychological features relating to physical state (temperament)
- c) the heredity features of the character

## 3. External Factors (hexogen)

Basically, people feel themselves as unsupportable part of the environment. People always want to use their common sense but are not be able to do that. The external factor is the person around the surrounding, the environment of residence.

Beside the features above, the outside factors play an important role in human beings' development. The forms of outside factors include the family, education, and environment.

### C. Psychology and Literature

#### 1. The Definition of Psychology

Psychology is a science, study of the mind and its processes (Hornby, 1974:67). The word psychology is derived from Greek word “psyche” and “logos”. Psyche means the soul, spirit or human mind and mentality. Logos means a science, study, and knowledge.

Psychology as the science or study of mind and its processes can be used to analyze literary works. Another contribution of psychology toward literary criticism is related to character that can be good, bad, or frustrated. In relation to this matter of research, the psychological aspects are discussed, especially the personality of the character (Subhan, 2003: 14).

Psychology is the knowledge about human beings and the condition of their personality. Literature, on the other side, has a relation to the human expression in the forms of literary works. Psychology of literature is a new approach in studying literature. This approach has a view that psychology (the science of the study of mind and its processes) can be used to help a literary critic or researcher to explain, interpret, and evaluate literary works.

#### 2. Psychological Approach

According to Walgito (1997: 9) psychology is the research that studies the attitude and activities of human, that is, manifestation. The writer uses the psychological approach in the study since the attitude of the literary figures in a novel can be observed by using the psychological approach.

A psychological approach in a literary work has four meanings. They are:

1. Psychological approach to the author as a person

2. Psychological approach to the creative process of the literary work

3. Psychological approach to the rules and norms that can be gained from a literary work

4. Psychological approach to the influence of literary work through the readers (Wellek and Warren, 1989: 90).

### D. METHOD

The type of the research is a library research. It consists of the primary source and secondary source. The primary source is taken from the novel *The Devil and Miss Prym*. While for the secondary source are taken from psychological books, several references in literature, and electronic devices such as internet.

The writer of the research uses two techniques in collecting the data. It consists of observation, documentation. The following paragraphs will further explain the both techniques.

In observation method, the researcher reads the chosen critically, and then identifies the psychological conflicts. After reading and identifying, the researcher collects and writes all data supporting the research. In the documentation method, the researcher uses some related books and other documents collected from internet to support this research. The purpose of this research is to analyze Chantal Prym as the main character. In this research, the writer uses the descriptive qualitative method to collect the data and analyzes it by using Sigmund Freud's personality theory.

### E. FINDINGS

#### Character and Characterization of the Main Character

Character is the most obvious form of literary representation of an individual within a larger imaginary situation. Character in a novel can be divided into two groups, namely major or main character, and minor character. Characterization is the clear declination of

character in a story. In this research, the researcher focuses on analyzing and describing Chantal Prym as the main character in the novel *The Devil and Miss Prym* by Paulo Coelho.

Chantal Prym is the main character in the novel *The Devil and Miss Prym*. The characterization of Chantal Prym will be described as follow:

#### 1. Curious

The author describes Chantal Prym as a curious girl. She always wants to know everything clearly. The following conversation between Chantal Prym and the stranger will describe her as a curious girl.

“Why did you want to show me this?” she asked.

“Who are you exactly? And what are you doing here?”

“Why did you show me this, knowing I could go and tell everyone what’s hidden here on the mountain?”

“So many questions at once,” the stranger replied. (C 2, P10).

From the dialogue above, it can be inferred that Chantal was very curious with the stranger was going to do. Her curiosity forced her to ask the stranger many questions.

#### 2. Polite and Friendly

Although Chantal is still young, she is a friendly girl. She wants to make friendship with everyone without regarding their age. The following quotation may give a further explanation.

She politely put down her book, held out her hand, and introduced herself.

“My name is Chantal. I work in the evening at the bar of the hotel where you’re staying, ...” (C.2, p.8).

“And thank you for your invitation, but I’ve already seen the landscape around the Viscos from every

possible imaginable angle; perhaps it would be better if I showed you places you haven’t seen, but I suppose you must be very busy. (C.2, p.8).

The dialogue above gives the readers a clear explanation. Although Chantal had just met the stranger, she wanted to get along with him soon.

#### 3. Lonely

Chantal lives alone in Viscos. Her mother died when she was born. Her grandmother took care of her since that time. Now, after her death, Chantal had nobody to live with.

“Her mother’s dead. Her grandmother’s dead. Nobody will miss her,” the mayor agreed, thus becoming the third approving the suggestion. (c.15) (p.137).

Chantal felt lonely since she was an orphan girl. She needs a husband who would accompany her every night.

Until then she had been the helpless orphan, the girl who had never managed to find a husband, a poor night worker, a lonely wretch in search of company; they were losing nothing by waiting. (c.10, p.93).

#### 4. Regretful

Chantal often regrets mistakes that she has done. In this case, she regrets being the messenger of a devil.

“Damn the man. And damn myself too, since I was the one who made him cross my path”

As she made her way back to the village, she regretted every single minute of her life; ...” (C5, p46).

Deep inside her heart, Chantal refused being the stranger’s mouthpiece. However, the reward that she would get from this job

made her unable to refuse the offer.

#### 5. Ambitious and hopeful

Poverty and loneliness changed Chantal into an ambitious girl. Her ambition is to live prosperous far away from Viscos. A bar of gold could help her to fulfill her ambition.

“Well, I think I deserve my gold, and I’m going to take it, assuming you don’t stop me,” she said. “I’d advise you to do the same. Neither of us needs to go back to Viscos. We can head straight to the valley, hitch a ride, and then each of us can follow our own destiny.” (Chapter 12 page 121).

The quotation above describes Chantal’s plan to live Viscos with the gold. The gold would give her a prosperous in a big city.

#### 6. Ignore

Chantal Prym is an ignore girl. She would ignore the other people opinion if she thinks that what she has done was right. The following quotation may support this statement.

The fork banged repeatedly against the wine glass. Everyone in the bar was packed on that Friday night, turned towards the sound; it was Miss Prym calling for them to be silent.

“She had better have something important to say.” thought the hotel landlady. “If not, I’ll get rid of her tonight, despite the promise I made to her grandmother not to abandon her.” (C8, p73).

It can be inferred that Chantal did not care about the bar visitors’ opinion about what she was doing. She just wanted to say something important.

Another quotation below would give further explanation.

“No. I rebelled against something that happened to me and I don’t care whether others like my attitude or not...”

Chantal shook her head. (C12, p123).

### **Personality of the Main Character Observed by Sigmund Freud’s Personality Theory**

The writer analyzes the personality of Chantal Prym as the main character by using Sigmund Freud’s personality theory which is known as psychoanalytic. Based on the theory, the personality structure consists of the mental structure, which he named the Id, the Ego, and the Superego.

#### 1. The Id

Freud acknowledges that Id is the hidden and accessible part of human personality. However, the researcher can see the Id action whenever a person does something impulsive.

In the novel *The Devil and Miss Prym*, Chantal Prym’s Id is shown when she agreed to be the mouthpiece of the stranger since she wanted the gold. The gold could make her be a rich girl; a rich girl who could buy everything that she wanted. Relating to the theory, the gold acts as the impulse.

“How much would it be worth?” she couldn’t tell with any degree of accuracy, but as the stranger said, it would be enough for her not to have to worry about earning another penny for the rest of her life. (Chapter 4 pg 30).

#### 2. The Ego

The Ego is capable planning, problem solving, reasoning, and controlling the Id. The Ego operates on the reality, by which a person works out a plan, then takes some kinds of reaction to test the plan to see whether he or she is in the right track or not.

“Tomorrow” the stranger said. “But you seem to believe that tomorrow will come and keep putting off what I asked you to do. We’re getting towards the end of the week, and if you don’t say something, I’ll have to do it myself.” (C7, pg 61).

The quotation above gives the readers a description about Chantal’s plan. What had been said by the stranger let her know whether she was on the right track or not.

The fork banged repeatedly against the wineglass. Everyone in the bar, which was packed on that Friday night, turned towards the sound; it was Miss Prym calling for them to be silent.

“I’m going to tell you a story that everyone here, apart from our visitor, will know.” She said, pointing to the stranger.

“After that, I’ll tell you another story that no one here, apart from our visitor, will know. When I’ve finished, it will be up to you to judge whether or not it was wrong of me to interrupt your well-earned Friday evening rest, after an exhausting week’s work..” (C8, pg 73).

The quotation above shows the readers that the principle of Ego is fulfilled. Chantal delayed conveying the message until an appropriate environmental circumstance is available. Conveying the message to the bar which was packed was the appropriate moment.

#### c. The Superego

Superego is the moral part of the personality judgment. This is what people may call the perfection principles. It gives observation to the Ego.

In the novel *The Devil and Miss Prym*, Chantal’s Id is shown when she

accepted the offer from the stranger, while her Ego is shown when she delivered the stranger’s offer to the Viscos inhabitants. The Superego of Chantal is shown when she realized that her decision to be the mouthpiece of the stranger made Viscos inhabitants angry with her. They felt that she had become a devil’s mouthpiece. It indicates that her Superego observes her Ego.

“You are the one who’s gone mad. You should never have allowed yourself to become the mad man’s mouthpiece! What on earth do you want? What are you getting out of it? Do you want to turn this place into a hell, just like it was in the Ahab stories? Have you lost all sense of honor and dignity?” (C10, p93).

Chantal began to tremble.

The quotation above represents the Viscos people reaction towards Chantal’s decision.

“You really have gone mad! Did you actually take the wager seriously?” (C10, p94).

Chantal’s statement indicates that she didn’t expect that they would accept the offer.

The Superego also tries to guide a person toward absolute perfection in thought, words, and deed. Chantal proved it when she regretted what she had done. Her decision to cancel the execution also supports this matter. She tried to cancel the execution since she wanted to leave Viscos with a good memory. In the end of the story, she succeeded. The execution was finally canceled. Then, she left the Viscos with smile.

#### **Factors that Influence the Main Character’s Personality**

Factor is the thing that causes or influences something. In this part, the

researcher will analyze the factors that influence Chantal Prym's personality in the novel *The Devil and Miss Prym*. There are some factors that influence Chantal Prym's personality:

1. Internal Factor

a) Heredity Features Relating to Physic

This quality can be searched from the physical aspect. The physical aspect includes the face, hair, and the body of the main character. In the novel *The Devil and Miss Prym*, the researcher cannot find the physical aspect of the main character.

b) The Psychological Features relating to Physical State (Temperament)

In line with temperament, the author of the novel described Chantal as a high-temperament girl. She often spoke loudly in front of other people.

The fork banged repeatedly against the wineglass. Everyone in the bar, which was packed on that Friday night, turned towards the sound; it was Miss Prym calling for them to be silent.

The effect was immediate; never in all the history of the village had a young woman whose sole duty was to serve the customers acted in such a manner. (C 8, p73).

"I'd like you to listen," Chantal said. (C 8, p73).

"I said shut up!" Chantal shouted even more loudly, trembling from head to foot, her eyes wide with hatred. (C23, p190).

Chantal's temperament tends to be a good one. She often got angry with everything that looked bad for her. The

quotation above happened when Chantal was trying to cancel the execution.

c) The Heredity Features of the Character

The characteristic is reflected on daily manner and behavior. Here are Chantal Prym's characteristics:

a) Patient

Although Chantal lived alone, she was a patient girl, especially in looking for the right man that she would marry. The following quotation may give the readers clearer explanation:

Her heart had already been broken many times over, and yet she still believed she was destined to meet her man of her life. At first, she had let many chances slip by, thinking that the right person had not yet arrived,... (c2, p12).

Chantal's grandmother took care of her patiently. So, it must come from her grandmother's features.

b) Brave and helpful.

Chantal was a brave and helpful. She risked her life to save other people. It was proved when she was trying to cancel the execution of Berta.

"Shut up, you idiot."

These words from Chantal startled everyone. None of them dreamed that anyone in Viscos could say what they had just heard.

"Have you gone mad?"

"I said shut up!" Chantal shouted even more loudly, trembling from head to foot, her eyes wide with hatred.

"You are the one who's mad, for falling into this trap that has led us all to condemnation and death. You are the irresponsible one!" (c23, p191).

Chantal knew that the executor could shoot her to make her silent.

However, she had made her decision. The execution was finally canceled and Bertha was safe from death.

c) Dreamful

In her poor life, Chantal had many dreams. It must come from the characteristics of her family, especially her grandmother. Her grandmother had eked out a living as a dressmaker, saving every penny she could so that her granddaughter could at least learn to read and write, (Coelho, 2000: 31).

Chantal had had so many dreams; she thought she could overcome all obstacles, find a husband, get a job in the big city, be discovered by a talent scout who happened to be visiting that out-of-the-way place in the hope of finding peace, get a career in the theater, write a bestseller, have photographers calling out to her to pose for them, walk along life's red carpets. (c4, p31).

Chantal had also dreamed an impossible thing. However, the dream was still related to Viscos.

Occasionally it crossed her mind that the Celts, the ancient inhabitants of her region, might have hidden an amazing cache of treasure there, which one day she would find. Of all her dreams, that had been the most absurd, the most unlikely. (c4, p31).

2. External Factor

The external factor plays an important role for the development of the character's personality. In the novel *The Devil and Miss Prym*, the external factor that influenced the personality of the main character consists of some part of life like the followings:

a. Family

Since Chantal was child, her grandmother was her only family. Her mother passed away when she was born. She had never known who her father was. So, when her grandmother died, she became an orphan.

"Her mother's dead. Her grandmother's dead. Nobody will miss her," the mayor agreed, thus becoming the third to approve the suggestion. (c15. p137).

Her condition as an orphan girl plays an important in her life, especially in the way she behaves.

b. Environment

In the novel *The Devil and Miss Prym*, the author describes Viscos as a small village. Berta was the older and Chantal was the younger. The environment also plays an important role in determining a person's personality. The condition of Viscos changed Chantal to be an ambitious girl. Her ambition was to leave Viscos and live wealthy in a big city.

She was holding her dream in her hands, the thing she had always longed for, and which a miracle had set before her. Here was the opportunity to free herself from all those identical days and nights in Viscos .... (c4. p30).

Yet here she was now with a gold bar in her hands, the treasure she had never believed in, her definitive freedom. (c4. p31).

The quotation above shows the readers Chantal's ambition, an ambition to be a rich girl who lived in a big city.

c. Job

Chantal had been working as a barmaid since she was eighteen. She worked at the evening. It means that Chantal was a night girl.

“My name is Chantal. I work at the evenings at the bar of the hotel where you’re staying, ....” (c2, p8).

The kind of job that a person has may determine his or her behavior. Some people are proud of what they do, but some others feel shame. It depends on the personality structure that an individual has.

## F. CONCLUSION

After reading and analyzing the whole story of the novel *The Devil and Miss Prym*, the researcher can make conclusion about the personality of the main character Chantal Prym. There are four findings that researcher gets by analyzing the novel.

The first finding is about the characterization of the main character. The characterizations of the main character are curious, friendly, lonely, regretful, ambitious and hopeful, ignorer.

The second finding is the personality of the main character Chantal Prym. As stated at previous chapters, the researcher uses Sigmund Freud’s personality theory which is called psychoanalytic to observe the personality of the main character. The theory consists of the Id, the Ego, and the Superego. The Id of Chantal appears when she accepted the stranger’s offer to be his mouthpiece in order to get a bar of gold. Her Ego appears when she delayed delivering the stranger’s offer to the Viscos people since she was still waiting for the right time and the right place. Her Superego appears when she realized that her decision to be the mouthpiece of the stranger made Viscos inhabitants angry with her. They felt that she had become a devil’s mouthpiece

The third finding is about the factors that influence the personality of

the main character Chantal Prym. The factors consist of the internal factor (endogen) and external factor (hexogen). The internal factor consists of the heredity features relating to physic that cannot be found by the researcher, the psychological features relating to physical state (temperament), and the heredity features of the character. The external factor consists of the family of the main character, the environment around the main character, and the job of the main character.

## B. Suggestion

After reading and analyzing the novel *The Devil and Miss Prym* by Paulo Coelho, the writer would like to take some suggestion as follow:

1. There are many kinds of literary works that the readers can read and analyze. One of them is novel. By reading and analyzing a novel, the readers can get many things such as enjoyment, knowledge, experience and education.
2. Reading a text book, especially an English novel is a good habit since can improve the vocabulary of the readers.
3. There are many ways to analyze literary works. One of them is by using psychological approach that is used by the researcher of this research. So, since there are still many ways to analyze literary works, it is suggested for other researcher to use the different way from this research.

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