

DECEITFULNESS OF DR. JEKYLL IN STEVENSON'S *THE STRANGE CASE OF DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE* (CHARACTER ANALYSIS)

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Abstract : This study presents the analysis of the Deceitfulness of Dr. Jekyll in Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. The aim of this study is to analyze the qualities and conditions of Dr. Jekyll that form his deceitfulness by using the objective approach. The method used in this research is the library research method. This method is used also as the data collection technique to get information or references dealing with the object discussed. The objective approach is used here to analyze the structural elements of this novel like character, setting, conflict, and theme to reveal the research's object. The result shows that the novel *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* tells about Dr. Jekyll's deceitfulness. The main instance of the deceitfulness of Dr. Jekyll in the novel is when he hides his real personality and when he is being a murderer. There are several reasons behind the actions of Dr. Jekyll: his strict childhood, his wrong ambition, and his bad environment.

Keywords : *Deceitfulness, Character Analysis, Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*

INTRODUCTION

Literature, in form of poems, novels, plays, and short stories, is a reflection of human existence, both in society and in individuals' private lives (Sabudu, 2014). It means Literature depicts a certain social reality as well as personal experiences (Rorintulus 2018). Hence, both societies in real life and in literary work are almost the same. The author describes the society in his or her work based on the real society that he or she lives in. We can see the very complexity and diverse of human life in many literary works. One of them is through novels. Through the intrinsic elements in the novel, we can see how human life is reflected. According to Taylor (1981), a novel is a written piece of moderate complexity that aims to illustrate the equality of values inherent in the human experience. This indicates that a novel is a lengthy piece of literature that

describes a situation in great detail. The novel has many genres such as adventure romance, detective, science fiction, horror, and mystery. In this research, the researchers are interested in analyzing a novel in the horror and mystery genre, that is *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* which is written by Robert Louis Stevenson.

This novel tells about Dr. Jekyll described as a man born to a rich family that he considered a fortune. Dr. Jekyll is representing the middle to upper society with abundant wealth and intelligence and higher education, which makes him highly respected in Victorian society in England. In order for the honor to be preserved, he must protect himself from disgraceful acts such as killing, stealing, etc. Dr. Jekyll always believes that human nature has a good and bad side in their body. Then one day, He was experimenting to separate his

good and bad personality by creating a strange potion and trying it on himself that midnight. The result is so shocking that he found himself no longer himself but another figure of himself, a second evil person named Edward Hyde.

Here the researcher is very interested in analyzing the qualities and conditions that mold the deceitfulness of Dr. Jekyll. So, this research is conducted to reveal the qualities and conditions that mold Dr. Jekyll's deceitfulness in R.L. Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. This research is expected to enrich the area of literature knowledge. Samsurizal (2012) did a study with the aim of describing the personality conflict that Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde went through in Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* using a structural approach. The study by Samsurizal differs from this research because the prior study's research focused on the personality conflicts of the novel's key characters. In contrast, this study examines the character of Dr. Jekyll as its subject, and the data were analyzed using the objective approach.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research is qualitative research. It means that the data in this research is in the form of words or quotations and do not deal with diagrams, numbers, or formulas. (Bogdan & Biklen, 2007). In this research, the data are collected from the novel itself, R.L. Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Other references such as some related books, articles, and websites are also used as secondary sources for this research. Hence, this research is classified as library research. In collecting data, the primary source is taken from the novel *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* which was published by Planet E-Book in 2014. According to Maru (2014), "*Literary work as its object and primary sources for its analysis it is thought to be crucial to apply literary*

approach it assists to reveal the meaning from the novel." The researchers focus on the qualities and conditions of Dr. Jekyll. Besides the central character, the researchers also investigate the supporting characters, theme, setting, and plot of the novel. Therefore, the novel itself is the main source of the analysis. The researchers also gather several sources to analyze the topic in this study. After the data are collected, the researchers analyze the character and characterization of Dr. Jekyll by using the objective approach to analyze data. "Objective theory is an approach that focuses on intrinsic elements namely plot, character, and setting," (Abrams, 1999)

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The deceitfulness of Dr. Jekyll

Deceitfulness is a quality possessed by a person to deceive a person or people around him, especially to get gain. In everyday life, people sometimes tell a deception, the deceiver communicates misleading information to another person or group namely the deceived. In Stevenson's novel, the deceiver is Dr. Jekyll meanwhile the deceived are Dr. Jekyll's friends and the whole of London. In many cases, deceitfulness is considered a bad act because the person who deceives is usually deceitful to get an advantage for themselves. On the other hand, there is also deceitfulness whose aim is not to gain or to harm others.

In Dr. Jekyll's case, he was deceitful in a negative way, in which he lied to his friends and all of London to get benefits and fulfill his ambition. The main instance of lies and deceit in the novel is when Dr. Jekyll is hiding his alternate identity, Mr. Hyde. He hides Mr. Hyde not only from his friends but also from the whole of London. Jekyll is driven by secrecy and deception when he creates his alter ego that allows him to express his deepest pleasures. As he is still a respectable man, he decides to never reveal his secrets.

The ambition of Dr. Jekyll caused a major problem in London society. Mr. Hyde viciously became increasingly out of control. He doesn't hesitate to molest an innocent little girl who accidentally bumps into him at a crossroads. Hyde as Jekyll's alternate personality is getting stronger day by day. Dr. Jekyll decided to hide the fact that Mr. Hyde was a part of him that he had separated with drugs, which makes Dr. Jekyll freely transform himself into Mr. Hyde whenever he wants.

Hiding His Real Personality

In the novel *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, we can see the main instance of lies and deceitfulness of Dr. Jekyll in the novel when he is hiding his alternate identity, Mr. Hyde. He hides Mr. Hyde both from his friends and the whole of London. Dr. Jekyll is driven by secrecy and deception when he separates his alter ego which allows him to indulge in his deepest pleasures. As he is still a respectable gentleman, he makes the decision to never reveal his secrets. Jekyll later starts to understand this and believes that his problem can be solved with deceit and protecting his reputation at the same time.

Dr. Jekyll assumes that the human soul is composed of two opposing elements, good and evil, which are constantly raging in human life. Human life will be better if the two elements are separated. Through his experiments, he succeeded in making two types of drugs. The first one is to separate and the second one to put the two elements back together. Through Mr. Hyde as a totally bad guy, Dr. Jekyll can unleash his evil deeds without any resistance from his good nature. Over time, his vices at Hyde dominated Dr. Jekyll. Even though he had tried hard to maintain his identity as Dr. Jekyll. The desire to be like Mr. Hyde, who can enjoy life to the fullest without guilt and sin, always appears in him.

And after drinking the potion, he felt younger, lighter, he was happy with his new body. He became evil, tenfold more evil. And that feeling really makes him delighted.

"I felt younger, lighter, happier in the body; within I was conscious of a heady recklessness, a current of disordered sensual images running like a millrace in my fancy, a solution of the bonds of obligation, an unknown but not an innocent freedom of the soul. I knew myself, at the first breath, of this new life, to be more wicked, tenfold more wicked, sold a slave to my original evil; and the thought in that moment, braced and delighted me like wine." (Stevenson, 2014: 77)

Jekyll considered that after he separated the evil from the good in him, he would be freed from the guilt of committing crimes using Mr. Hyde's body, and still, be a good and honorable person when he became Dr. Jekyll. So, he wants to commit a crime or his wish without contaminating Dr. Jekyll.

"If each, I told myself, could but housed in separate identities, life would be relieved of all that was unbearable; the unjust delivered from the aspirations might go his way, and remorse of this more upright twin; and the just could waste steadfastly and securely on his upward path, doing the good things in which he found his pleasure, and no longer exposed to disgrace and penitence by the hands of this extraneous evil." (Stevenson, 2014: 74)

This thought convinced him that he would gain happiness if he could have both sides by separating them only to the good side and only to the evil side. He became obsessed with this idea, so he did a lot of experiments. Until one day he managed to make a concoction that transformed him into someone with different characteristics from himself,

Being a Murderer

The criminality of Mr. Hyde is already seen at the beginning of the novel. It starts

with the crime story of Mr. Hyde to a little girl he accidentally bumped into at a crossroads

“All at once, I saw two figures: one a little man who was stumping along eastward at a good walk, and the other a girl of maybe eight or ten who was running as hard as she was able down a cross street. Well, sir, the two ran into one another naturally enough at the corner; and then came the horrible part of the thing; for the man trampled calmly over the child’s body and left her screaming on the ground.” (Stevenson, 2014: 6).

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A year later Mr. Hyde killed Mr. Danver Carew brutally and sadistically by beating a baton to his death. With Mr. Utterson's help, the police managed to find Hyde's apartment and burn all the files that were there. Then Mr. Utterson asked Dr. Jekyll to stop dealing with Hyde again. Dr. Jekyll agreed with that. He even delivered a farewell letter from Hyde. However, what a surprise Mr. Utterson and his guests (staff) were so aware that the writing in the letter, although slightly altered, is very similar to the writing of Dr. Jekyll. Of course, Utterson was angry that he thought Jekyll had faked a letter from a murderer.

The Causes of Dr. Jekyll’s Deceitfulness Jekyll’s Strict Childhood

Dr. Jekyll was born as a respectable baby of a middle-class family.

“I was born in the year 18- to a large fortune, endowed besides with excellent parts, inclined by nature to industry, fond of the respect of the wise and good among my fellowmen, and thus, as might have been supposed, with every guarantee of an

honorable and distinguished future.” (Stevenson, 2014: 49)

In his youth, Dr. Jekyll was known to be a bit of a naughty boy. In this novel, his naughty nature is described by Mr. Utterson in the quotation below.

“He was wild when he was young.” (Stevenson, 2014: 21)

On the other hand, as a son of a middle-class family all of Dr. Jekyll’s acts and movements are under control and he needs to push his naughty nature.

“Hence it came about that I concealed my pleasures.” (Stevenson, 2014: 49)

He was educated by his parents to be a child who could be a "good" person, even when his age still tolerates a child's naughty actions. His parents cannot tolerate it. Hence it came about that he concealed his pleasures. So, he decides to embrace freedom deep within himself and didn't want to show it to the public.

Deep inside him, Dr. Jekyll has an obsession to separate his evil and good personalities. Dr. Jekyll believes that once he can separate his good and his evil personalities from him, he will be able to express all of his desires.

“If each, I told myself, could be housed in separate identities, live would be relieved of all that was unbearable; the unjust might go his way, delivered from the aspirations and remorse of his more upright twin; and the just could walk steadfastly and securely on his upward path, doing the good things in which he found his pleasure, and no longer exposed to disgrace and penitence by the hands of this extraneous evil.” (Stevenson, 2014: 50)

After living as Mr. Hyde for a while, then he has a new idea. In the beginning, Dr. Jekyll thought that the lifestyle of Mr. Hyde suits him well. His soul is more inclined toward Mr. Hyde, but he had to stick with the fact that he was born as a person who is highly respected. This is why he feels very free while living as Mr. Hyde.

However, Mr. Hyde's lifestyle which is very wild is potentially problematic because he does whatever he wants even though it violates the norms prevailing in society. If something bad happened to Mr. Hyde which makes him need to disappear then he would drink back the drug and turn into Dr. Jekyll then gets hidden inside Dr. Jekyll's body which he thought was safer.

"I next drew up that will to which you so much objected; so that if anything befell me in the person of Dr. Jekyll, I could enter on that of Edward Hyde without pecuniary loss. And thus fortified, as I supposed, on every side, I began to profit by the strange immunities of my position." (Stevenson, 2014: 80)

So, the naughtiness described by Dr. Jekyll's friend and also his lawyer in the novel is more referring to the ambition of Dr. Jekyll itself. The description of his childhood mischief shows that he really wants freedom. He missed freedom like in his childhood. He wants to be free to do what he wants without having to think of sanctions for what he has done. Then one day he had an idea that every human being has good and bad sides then he tried to do an experiment to separate the two basic personalities by making a drug. That experiment then became the beginning of Mr. Hyde that is the evil personality that resides within him.

Jekyll's Wrong Ambition

Dr. Jekyll has an educational background as a doctor of chemistry. As a doctor of chemistry, he only worked in the laboratory and it was through this work that he began to carry out various unreasonable experiments. But he is still shackled by the fact that he was born as a respectable person and should be able to maintain the good reputation of his family.

On the other hand, Dr. Jekyll believes that within him there is one personality that every human being naturally possesses, it is evil personality. His education background as a doctor of chemistry makes him free to be able to

carry out experiments following his ambition of separating his personality, which he thinks is divided into two. It can be seen in the quote below:

"And it chanced that the direction of my scientific studies, which led wholly toward the mystic and the transcendental, reacted and shed a strong light on this consciousness of the perennial war among my members." (Stevenson, 2014: 74)

Dr. Jekyll then makes an observation by making a drug that can separate the evil and good in him, and surprisingly his experiment succeeded.

"I was so far in my reflections when, as I have said, a side light began to shine upon the subject from the laboratory table." (Stevenson, 2014: 50)

That drug he had made truly could separate his dual personality. Once he drank that drug, Dr. Jekyll would transform into another personality of him named Mr. Hyde.

The expectation of Dr. Jekyll is not going well, Hyde grows stronger in Jekyll's body and he is being uncontrolled. The unpredictable transformation happens again and again until he has no more drugs. Those facts make him in big trouble. In the end, Jekyll gives up on Mr. Hyde and he finds dead in the body of Mr. Hyde.

Something that makes Dr. Jekyll doing an experiment is his ambition to separate the good and evil personalities in him; Dr. Jekyll conducted one experiment and created a drug, which then succeeded in separating the two personalities. He could easily conduct experiments in his laboratory due to his profession as a chemist.

Jekyll's Bad Environment

Dr. Jekyll's environment requires him to always be a good man and distance himself from any scandals.

"...and would make such a scandal out of this, as should make his name stink from one end of London to the other. If he had

any friends or any credit, we undertook that he should lose them.” (Stevenson, 2014: 7)

If a person cannot maintain their honor, then the risk is that the person will lose credibility as well as the friends they have. This is one of the factors that caused Dr. Jekyll to pay close attention to the public's deeds and reputation.

The news is spread very quickly in the neighborhood of Dr. Jekyll. This is one of the reasons why he is afraid to show the evil side that is stored tightly inside him because he is a respectable person. Once he commits a criminal act, his reputation will soon be destroyed, and sure he will become a trending topic in the neighborhood where he lives.

“The next day, came the news that the murder had been overlooked, that the guilt of Hyde was patent to the world and that the victim was a man high in public estimation.” (Stevenson, 2014: 88)

The reasons for the fast news spread in Dr. Jekyll's neighborhoods were that it involved well-known and high-class figures. News about respected public figures is always an interesting thing to talk about.

“...and that the victim was a man high in public estimation. It was not only a crime; it had been a tragic folly.” (Stevenson, 2014: 88)

It can be seen in the quote that the crime of Mr. Hyde is not an ordinary crime; it is portrayed as tragic folly. The reason that it is said to be tragic folly is that the victim is a highly respected person. News of the murder could have spread faster and attracted more public attention if they had known that Mr. Hyde is another figure of Dr. Jekyll.

One of the consequences he had to bear if he dared to commit a scandal was that all of London would ostracize him, and he could lose all of his friends.

“And would make such a scandal out of this, as should make his name stink from one end of London to the other. If he had

any friends or any credit, we undertook that he should lose them.” (Stevenson, 2014: 7)

The very strict rules and values of his society make Dr. Jekyll feel bound by regulations and make him unable to act freely and comfortably. Dr. Jekyll must behave according to the values of society so that he can be considered a good person.

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CONCLUSION

The main instance of the deceitfulness of Dr. Jekyll in the novel is when he hides his real personality of him, and when he is being a murderer. There are some reasons in this novel that mold Dr. Jekyll's deceitfulness. The first one is Dr. Jekyll's strict childhood; he wants to be free to do what he wants without having to think of

sanctions for what he has done. But his parents force him to be a perfect man in public. The second is Dr. Jekyll's wrong ambition. As he grows up, he realizes that every human has two personalities that are good and evil. He has an ambition to separate the two personalities in him. Then he does an experiment and creates a drug, the drug then succeeded in separating his good and evil personalities in order to fulfill his ambition. The last is Dr. Jekyll's bad environment. The neighborhood of Dr. Jekyll is very interested in the news of middle-class families; news is spread very quickly in the neighborhood of him. This is the reason why he is afraid to show the evil side that is stored tightly inside him because he is a respectable man.

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