

## AN ANALYSIS OF MAIN CHARACTER'S PERSONALITY IN KITCHEN NOVEL BY BANANA YOSHIMOTO

Putri Amifalahiya Iqlima<sup>1</sup>, Risa Triassanti<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup> Universitas PGRI Ronggolawe, Indonesia

e-mail: [putriiqlima25@gmail.com](mailto:putriiqlima25@gmail.com), [triassantirisa@gmail.com](mailto:triassantirisa@gmail.com)

### Abstract

Novel is a form of literary work that is presented realistically and complexly. In a novel, there are two constituent elements, namely extrinsic and intrinsic elements. Extrinsic elements in the novel are support that indirectly affects the content of the novel. Meanwhile, the intrinsic elements contained in a novel include themes, characters and characterizations, plot, setting, point of view, moral value, language style. The purpose of this study is to analyze main character's personality in Kitchen novel by Banana Yoshimoto. This research used qualitative descriptive methods to gain a deep understanding of main character's personality in Kitchen novel by Banana Yoshimoto. The data were analyzed using personality theory stated by Sigmun Freud. From the results of data analysis, the researcher found three major system with three Id, two ego, and two superego contained in the main character's personality.

Keywords: Kitchen Novel, Main Character, Personality.

### INTRODUCTION

Literary work is a reflection of life in society (Milawasri, 2017). Through literary works, the author seeks to express what society experiences. In conveying his ideas about portraits of people's lives, the author also often uses his imagination (Hasibuan, 2020). The purpose of this is to make the work look more lively and attract the attention of readers. In its development, literary works are classified into several types, one of which is novel.

Novel is a form of literary work that is presented realistically and complexly (Fazalani, 2021). The structure in the novel itself is strung together and controlled by the author's language manipulation. This causes the content in the novel to make the reader's mood emotional.

In a novel, there are two constituent elements, namely extrinsic and intrinsic elements (Milawasri, 2017). Extrinsic elements in the novel are

support that indirectly affects the content of the novel. Meanwhile, according to Nurgiantoro (2012), the intrinsic element is the building element of the literary work itself. The intrinsic elements contained in a novel include themes, characters and characterizations, plot, setting, point of view, moral value, language style.

There is always a main character in a novel. The main character is a character who plays a significant part and mostly interacts with other characters (Aini. et al, 2021). The main character, also known as the protagonist, is a complicated person with both positive and negative features, much like a real person.

The main character has always been the subject of a novel. As an important part of the intrinsic elements of the novel, characters are certainly created with unique, distinctive depictions, and have a personality that distinguishes a character from other characters. The personality possessed by the main character plays a role in bringing the story to life.

The latin word *persona*, which means mask, is where the word personality comes from. It was originally used to refer to the theatrical masks worn by actors in ancient Greek theater. Eventually, the phrase expanded to include the actor's part as well, according to Allport (1960).

In this study, the author will analyze the personality possessed by the main character in the novel titled *Kitchen*. The theory of personality used by the author is the theory expressed by Sigmund Freud. This theory of personality includes the *id*, *ego*, and *superego*.

The reason the author chose this novel is because it has won The Prestigious 6<sup>th</sup> *Kaien Magazine* Newcomer Writer Prize in 1987. Beside that, this 152-page novel also has sold millions of copies all around the world and is in its sixty printing. Various credible media, such as *The Independent*, *The Times*, and *The New Yorker* also gave good reviews of this novel. Based on this description, the author is interested in analyzing the main character's personality in *Kitchen* novel by Banana Yoshimoto.

The formulation of the problem in this study is 1) how's the main character's personality in *Kitchen* novel by Banana Yoshimoto? The purpose of this study is to analyze the main character's personality (Mikage Sakurai) in *Kitchen* novel by Banana Yoshimoto either directly or indirectly described by the author from the character's life.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The method used in this study is descriptive qualitative. According to Vanderstoep and Johnston (2008), qualitative research facilitates a better understanding. As a result, it becomes the suitable methodology for this research. The purpose of the study is to analyze main character's personality in Kitchen novel by Banana Yoshimoto. The data is taken from the novel entitled Kitchen which is written by Banana Yoshimoto and first published at 1993. This novel has 152 pages.

In order to get the data, the writer conducted certain actions, including reading the novel and taking some notes. While for the data analysis, the steps are identifying and analyzing the main character's personality (Mikage Sakurai) using personality theory stated by Sigmund Freud, creating the conclusion, and rechecking it to resolve the statement problem.

## FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In this study, the author analyzed main character's personality in Kitchen novel by Banana Yoshimoto. The main character in this novel is a girl named Mikage Sakurai. The character's personality is analyzed using personality theory stated by Sigmund Freud. The level of personality consists of the id, ego, and superego.

### *Mikage Sakurai Personality*

#### The Id

The first Id begins when Mikage lost her grandmother as the only member left in her family and she tried to find a new apartment/home to stay so she can easily deal with her sad feeling. The second Id is shown when Mikage gets an offer to stay at his friend's house, Yuichi Tanabe. She was at a loss whether to accept the offer or not, because she was worried that it would be troublesome. The last Id is shown when Mikage worries about Yuichi's condition after the death of his mother, Erico. After hearing the news, Mikage tried to see Yuichi, but Yuichi avoided to calm his feelings.

#### The Ego

The first ego is when Mikage thinks that she does not want to accept Yuichi's invitation to live together in his house. Mikage wants to be an independent figure and not trouble others, even though she lives as a *kara*. The second ego found when Mikage decides to work away from Yuichi's home environment. Mikage's departure from home actually made Yuichi's mother, Erico, a little sad. Therefore, Yuichi tried to keep Mikage from staying. However, Mikage wants to make her own efforts to make money so she still leaves Yuichi's house.

#### The Superego

The first superego is shown when Mikage decided to accept Yuichi's invitation to live together with his family. Mikage made this decision with the consideration that she would feel safe in Yuichi's house and she needed a place to share her grief. The second superego is shown when Mikage decided to allow Yuichi to calm his feelings first. A few months after Erico's death, Mikage and Yuichi finally reunite to come to terms with a sense of loss and move on with life better.

## CONCLUSION

From the results of data analysis, it can be summarized as follows: 1.) The Id of Mikage Sakurai shown when Mikage lost her grandmother and tried to find a new apartment/home, Mikage gets an offer to stay at his friend's house named Yuichi Tanabe, and the last Mikage was very worried about Yuichi's condition after his mother, Erico, died. 2.) The ego of Mikage Sakurai is shown when she thinks that she does not want to accepted Yuichi's invitation to live together in his house, the second ego found when Mikage decided to work away from Yuichi's home environment. 5.) The superego of Mikage Sakurai is shown when she decided to accept Yuichi's invitation to live together with his family, the next superego is shown when Mikage decided to allow Yuichi to calm his feelings first.

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