

THE REFLECTION OF THEORY OF ANXIETY AND CONFLICT,
AND SUBLIMATION
IN *YOUTH* BY JOHN MAXWELL L. COETZEE

STRATA-I THESIS
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AND SUBLIMATION
IN *YOUTH* BY JOHN MAXWELL COETZEE

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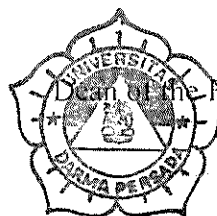
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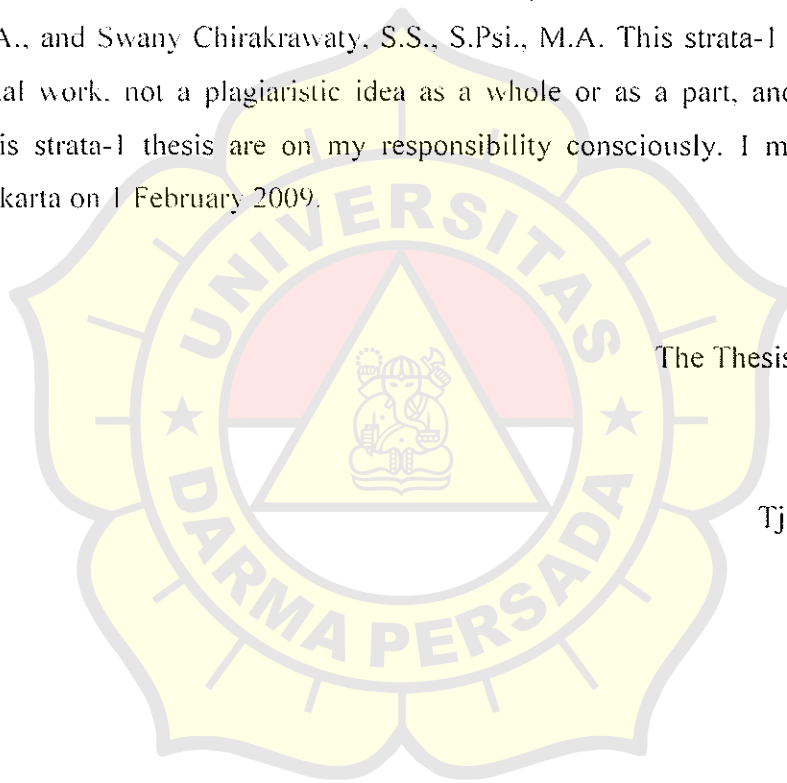
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is a scientific research conducted under the supervision of Dr. Albertine Minderop, M.A., and Swany Chirakrawaty, S.S., S.Psi., M.A. This strata-I thesis is truly an original work, not a plagiaristic idea as a whole or as a part, and all the contents of this strata-I thesis are on my responsibility consciously. I made this statement in Jakarta on 1 February 2009.

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PREFACE

I thank to God that I have finished my strata-I thesis, titled "The Reflection of Theory of Anxiety and Conflict, and Sublimation in Youth by John Maxwell Coetzee, on schedule. For that reason, I praise my prayer to God.

This research is administered as one of requirements to acquire strata-I degree from the University of Darma Persada, Jakarta. This research is conducted under qualitative research methodology based on written data and supported with various relevant written data.

I like to thank parties that have already given their helps and supports in my strata-I thesis research. Nevertheless, I want to give my special credit to some people, and they are:

1. Dr. Albertine Minderop, M.A., as Dean of Faculty of Letters of University of Darma Persada, and as my first supervisor in this thesis.
2. Swany Chiakrawaty, S.S., S.Psi., M.A., as Head of English Department and as my second supervisor in this thesis.
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4. Poedjadi, M.A., who has inspired me in many things.
5. Ira Linardi who has accompanied me during my study.

Even though I have carefully prepared my thesis from every angle, but I realize that there are still unintentional mistakes in this thesis. Therefore, I am opened to critics and suggestion for the improvement of this thesis.

Jakarta, 1 February 2009

Tjin Siong
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CONTENT

Preface	i
Content	ii
Chapter I INTRODUCTION	1
A. Background of the Problem	1
B. Identification of the Problem	2
C. Limitation of the Problem	3
D. Formulation of the Problem	3
E. Objective of the Problem	3
F. Theoretical Framework	4
1. Intrinsic Approaches	4
2. Extrinsic Approaches	5
G. Method of the Research	7
H. Benefit of the Research	7
I. Scheme of the Research	7
Chapter II ANALYSIS OF CHARACTERIZATION, SETTING, AND PLOT	9
A. Analysis of Characterization through Omniscient Point of View	9
B. Analysis of Setting	28
1. Setting as Background for Action	28
2. Setting as an Antagonist	29
3. Setting as a Means of Creating appropriate Atmosphere	30
4. Setting as a Means of Revealing Character	30
C. Analysis of Plot	31
1. Exposition	31
2. Complication	31
3. Crisis	32

4. Falling Action	33
5. Resolution	34
D. Summary	35
Chapter III THE REFLECTION OF THEORY OF ANXIETY AND CONFLICT, AND SUBLIMATION	37
A. Analysis of <i>Youth</i> through the Psychology of Personality	37
1. Theory of Anxiety and Conflict	37
2. Theory of Seeking Identity	44
3. Sublimation	48
B. Analysis of Theme	52
1. Theory of Anxiety and Conflict	52
a. Fleeing to London	52
b. Chasing His Dream	54
c. Doubting His Decision	58
2. Sublimation	60
a. Drowning Himself in Sex	60
b. Reconciling with His Reality	63
C. Summary	68
Chapter IV CONCLUSION	70
A. Conclusion and Suggestion	70
B. Summary of the Thesis	72
Scheme of the Thesis	73
BIBLIOGRAPHY	74
Abstract	75
Summary of the Novel	76
Biography of the Novel Writer	78
Biography of the Thesis Writer	79

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

In real life, most people experience anxiety resulting from things uncontrollable and unreachable situations or things. This condition is a natural response from human being. Sometimes anxieties can be pressed and shifted to other activities such as exercises, works, etc. *Youth*¹, a novel by John Maxwell Coetzee, stresses on this topic. J.M. Coetzee is a South Africa born writer. He lived in England and United States before he immigrates to Australia. J.M. Coetzee is the first writer who received Booker Prize twice, for *Life & Times of Michael K* (1983) and *Disgrace* (1999). In academic field, J.M. Coetzee in 1968 graduated from University of Texas with a PhD in English, linguistics, and Germanic languages. His greatest achievement was Nobel Prize in Literature 2003.

Although the main figure in *Youth* is known as John, Coetzee prefers to use a third-singular pronoun, "he", in describing this figure. John is a university student in South Africa studying mathematics and English literature. Since in the university, he has decided that he will leave South Africa after he graduates. He wants to leave South Africa which has been in the gate of social unrest against the White Government. He chooses England as his destination because in his thought England is a place where many great poets and writers were born. To support his living in English, he works as a programmer at IBM. One of his duties at IBM is to make a missile guided program which, of course, raises his fears that he has helped or contributed in Cold War between East and West. He then decides to quit his job and concentrates to be a poet. However, he has to work again because of financial problem, and once again he works as a programmer. While he works at the

¹ J.M. Coetzee, *Youth* (London: 2002, Secker & Warburg)

company, he also waits for inspiration to be a poet and an opportunity to immigrate to U.S.

During his stay in England, he feels unacceptable by the English people. Even though, he is a European but he is a South Africa born European. He feels hard to socialize with his surroundings. For him, the English people are too cool. For that reason he feels isolated from his society. He worries about what English people think about him, as a representative of colonialism. He drowns himself in works and is isolated from society. Besides working, the only thing he does is concentrating to find inspiration for his dream to be a poet or writer.

His anxieties boost because he is facing with two realities in his life. He wants to be a poet or writer, but on other the hand he has to work to support his living in London. Meanwhile, to be a writer is not an instant dream, but a long process. Inspiration is what a writer needs, but inspiration is something that never comes to him. In his ways to find inspiration and passion, he drowns himself in sex, but he fails to find what he wants. At last he realizes that he has to settle first with his job, and the let the faith come to him.

B. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background, I identify that the main concern in this novel is John experiences conflict inside himself between his dream and the reality he faces in his life. To be a writer is what he dreams on, but writing is not a good career to make enough money for him in order to support his living in London.

My assumption that I propose is the reflection of theory of anxiety and conflict, and sublimation which can be analyzed by literary approaches and psychology of personality.

C. Limitation of the Problem

Based on identification of issue, I limit the problem on the analysis of the John's anxiety and conflict, and his sublimation. Concepts and theories that I use are:

- intrinsically, I will analyze characterization through point of view, setting and plot.
- extrinsically, I will analyze characterization through personality psychology approaches. Personality psychologies that I use are Theory of Anxiety and Conflict from Karen Horney, Sublimation from Sigmund Freud, and Theory of Seeking Identity from Erik Erikson.

D. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problem, I describe the problem as follows: Am I right that the theme of this novel is reflection of theory anxiety and sublimation? To find the answers for this problem, I emphasize the discussion on aspects as follow:

1. Can point of view be used to analyze characterization, setting and plot?
2. Are analysis of characterization, setting and plot able to show the theory of anxiety and conflict, and sublimation?
3. Is theme analysis able to be built through the analysis of: point of view, characterization, setting, and plot which are combined with the theory of anxiety and conflict; and sublimation?

E. Objective of the Research

Based on the formulation of the problem, I have purpose to show that the theme of this novel is reflection of theory of anxiety and conflict, and sublimation. To achieve this purpose, I will do phases as follow:

1. Through point of view, analyzing characterization, setting and plot.
2. Analyzing characterization, setting and plot to show the existence of theory of anxiety and conflict, and sublimation.

3. Analyzing the theme as the result of analysis on: point of view, characterization, setting and plot which are combined with theory of anxiety and conflict; and sublimation.

F. Theoretical Framework

Based on purpose of research, I will use theories and concepts which cover intrinsic and extrinsic approaches.

1. Intrinsic Approaches

Intrinsic approaches are similar to approaching in accordance to literary theories. Literary theories used are omniscient point of view, characterization, and setting.

a. Omniscient Point of View

In omniscient point of view, narrator is being outside the story reporting events that figures experience or have from viewpoint of third person singular, such as he, she, etc.² With omniscient point of view, the narrator imposes himself between reader and the story, and keeps full control over the narrative. The narrator can explore the story, for instance dramatizing, summarizing as the narrator wants and chooses. The narrator explores deeply the feelings, thoughts, and minds of figures.³ Sometimes it is possible to have dialogue in omniscient point of view, because the narrator wants to let the figures in his novels to reveal their own self.⁴

² Albertine Minderop, *Metode Karakterisasi Telaah Fiksi* (Jakarta: 2005, Obor), 99

³ James H. Pickering & Jeffrey D. Hooper, *Concise Companion to Literature* (New York: 1981, Macmillan), 45

⁴ Minderop, *op. cit.*, 98

b. Characterization

Characterization is sense and feeling of figures in a novel which cover not only behaviours and habits but also physical appearances.⁵

c. Setting

Setting can help readers to visualize a literary work and adds credibility and an air of authenticity to the characters.⁶ In literary works, setting functions as: (1) background for action, (2) antagonist, (3) a means of creating appropriate atmosphere, (4) a means of revealing character, and (5) a means of reinforcing theme.⁷

c. Plot

Plot is a narrative of events arranged in time sequence, the emphasis falling on causality. With plot, a story is divided in five stages, i.e. (1) exposition, (2) complication, (3) crisis, (4) falling action, and (5) resolution.⁸

2. Extrinsic Approaches

I use psychological aspects for the extrinsic appreciates. In literature, psychology has conceptions as psychological studies of a writer as personal, analysis of creative process, effects of a literary work on readers, and analysis on theories which are psychologically applied in literary criticism. The last conception is the closest meaning to literature world.⁹ Psychology used in this novel analysis is psychology of personality.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 95

⁶ Pickering, *op. cit.*, 37

⁷ *Ibid.*, 38

⁸ *Ibid.*, 13 *et. Seqq*

⁹ Rene Wellek & Austin Warren, *Teori Kesusastraan*, (Jakarta: 1993, Gramedia), 111

Psychology of personality is a study of psychology that observes and analyzes aspects that establish and influence human behaviours in complete way.¹⁰ The psychology of personality which I use are:

a. Theory of Anxiety and Conflict

According to Karen Horney, Basic anxiety is a derivative of fear, is the “insidiously increasing, all-pervading feeling of being lonely and helpless in a hostile world. Conflict within ourselves are an integral part of human life. We may have to decide between desires that lead in opposite directions, or between wishes and obligations, or between two sets of values. The person with basic anxiety thus begins life with what is a conflict of truly crushing proportions: the need to survive versus the need to be.”¹¹

b. Theory of Seeking Identity

Referring to Erik Erikson, seeking identity involves searching for continuity and sameness in oneself-trying to get a clear sense of what one’s skills and personal attributes are, to discover where one is headed in life, and to believe that one can count on recognition from “significant others.” The adolescent who forms a sense of identity gains two benefits, according to Erikson: (a) a feeling of being home in one’s body, and (b) a sense of psychological well-being. Adolescent who fail to achieve a sense of identity may face confusion over what roles they can or should be playing in life. They may delay any commitment to adult rules, a delay which Erikson calls a *psychological moratorium*.¹²

¹⁰ E. Koswara, *Teori-teori Kepribadian* (Bandung: 1991. Eresco), 3 *et. Seq.*

¹¹ Calvin S. Hall & Gardner Lindzey, *Introduction to Theories of Personality* (USA: 1985, Wiley), 158 *et. Seq.*

¹² Clifford T. Morgan, Richard A. King, John R. Weisz, John Schopler, *Introduction to Psychology* (Singapore: 1986, McGraw-Hill), 472

e. Sublimation

For Sigmund Freud, sublimation was the highest level of ego defense. It consists of a redirection of sexual impulses to socially valued activities and goals. Freud believed that satisfactory sublimation could only be achieved by an individual whose sexual impulses were being at least partly gratified and whose ego was healthy and mature.¹³

G. Method of the Research

For the method of the research, I will use qualitative research methodology based on written data, a novel, *Youth*, and supported with various relevant written data. The type of research is bibliographies and the disposition of research is interpretative. The method of data collecting is through bibliography research and the analysis pattern is inductive, i.e. from specific to common.

H. Benefit of the Research

I hope that the result from this analysis can widen our knowledge on the use of extrinsic approaches in literary criticism, especially for the community of Faculty of Letters. This analysis is opened for further critics and any possibility research in various aspects.

I. Scheme of the Research

Chapter I: titled INTRODUCTION, which consists of Background of the Problem, Identification of the Problem, Limitation of the Problem,

¹³ *Ibid.*, 590

Formulation of the Problem, Objective of the Research, Theoretical of the research, Method of the Research, Benefit of the Research, Scheme of the Research.

Chapter II: titled ANALYSIS OF CHARACTERIZATION, SETTING, AND PLOT, which consists of analysis on characterization, setting and plot.

Chapter III: titled THE REFLECTION OF THEORY OF ANXIETY AND CONFLICT, AND SUBLIMATION IN *YOUTH* BY JOHN MAXWELL COETZEE, which consists of analysis of literary work on psychological approaches through the theory of anxiety and sublimation.

Chapter IV: titled CONCLUSION, which consists of my conclusion for this research

