AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR OF CHARACTER HENRY CAUSED BY HIS JEALOUSY IN THE FILM *THE GOOD SON* BY IAN McEWAN

TERM PAPER

Submitted in Part-Fulfillment for Obtaining Strata One (S-1) Degree

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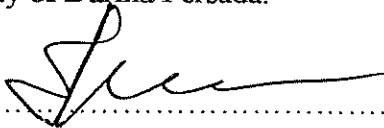
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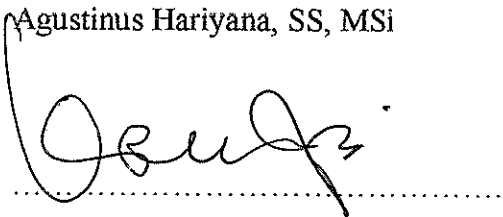paper   His Jealousy in the Film *The Good Son* by Ian
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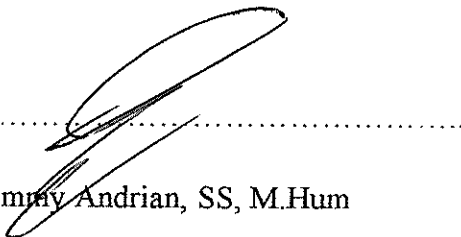
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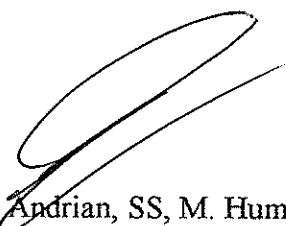
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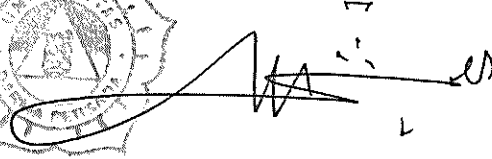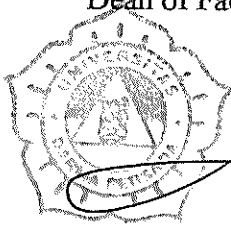
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PREFACE

Alhamdulillahirabbil'aalamiin, praise be to Allah SWT, God Who has been giving His blessing and mercy to me, always keeps me tough during writing this term paper. Therefore, I can complete this term paper entitled "aggressive behavior of character Henry caused by his jealousy in the film *The Good Son* by Ian McEwan". This term-paper is submitted in part fulfilling for obtaining Strata One (S-1) degree in English Department, University of Darma Persada.

There is a lot of knowledge that I get during studying in this university. It really helps me finish this term paper. The term paper cannot be finished unless I have got the guidance, help, and support from some parties. Therefore, I would like to give my regards and thanks to people who has given me those guidance and help, they are:

1. Agustinus Hariyana, SS, M.Si as the Advisor who has patiently guided me in finishing this term paper. His advice and references are really helped me to complete this term paper. And also as Academic Advisor who has supported me in my study.

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3. Tommy Andrian, SS, M.Hum as the Head of English Department.

4. Syamsul Bachri, SS, M.Si as the Dean of Faculty of Letters.

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6. My beloved parents, who have supported me and make me tough during my finishing the study, thank you for your love and pray for me, also all of my family who have supported me.

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8. Also to all people that cannot be mentioned one by one, thank you so much for all of the support and help, may Allah bless you.

Finally, I realize that this paper is still far from being perfect, therefore any constructive criticism and suggestions for the improvement of this writing are really appreciated. I hope this writing will be useful for all of us, especially for the students of English Department, Faculty of Letters, University of Darma Persada.

Jakarta, August 25, 2014

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ABSTRACT

Name : Nina Rachmawati

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Title : Aggressive Behavior of Character Henry Caused by His Jealousy in the Film *The Good Son* by Ian McEwan

This term paper discusses about a literary work especially a film. The problem that will be analyzed is Henry's jealousy that makes him becomes aggressive. It will be analyzed by using intrinsic and extrinsic approaches. Through the intrinsic approach, the concepts applied are: characterization – showing method, setting, plot, and theme, and for the extrinsic approach, the concepts are: jealousy and aggression. This term paper uses qualitative method by collecting data in a form of the film entitled *The Good Son* by Ian McEwan as the primary source and is supported by some literature that related to the theories and concepts as the secondary sources. In this research it is proved that jealousy can make Henry becomes aggressive and it can be dangerous to other people or himself.

Keywords: *The Good Son*, Ian McEwan, Social Psychology, Jealousy, Aggression

ABSTRAK

Nama   : Nina Rachmawati

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Judul   : Aggressive Behavior of Character Henry Caused by His Jealousy in the Film *The Good Son* by Ian McEwan

Skripsi ini membahas karya sastra khususnya berupa film. Masalah yang akan dianalisis adalah kecemburuan Henry yang membuatnya menjadi agresif. Hal tersebut akan dianalisis dengan menggunakan pendekatan intrinsik and ekstrinsik. Melalui pendekatan intrinsik, konsep-konsep yang diterapkan: perwatakan – metode langsung (showing), latar, alur, dan tema, dan untuk pendekatan ekstrinsik diterapkan konsep-konsep: kecemburuan dan agresi. Skripsi ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan mengunpulkan data dalam bentuk film berjudul The Good Son karya Ian McEwan sebagai sumber primer dan didukung dengan beberapa literatur yang berkaitan dengan teori dan konsep sebagai sumber sekunder. Dalam analisis ini terbukti bahwa kecemburuan dapat membuat Henry menjadi agresif dan hal tersebut dapat membahayakan orang lain atau dirinya sendiri.

Kata kunci: The Good Son, Ian McEwan, Psikologi Sosial, Kecemburuan, Agresi

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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

Jealousy is a natural feeling and can be experienced by all people. Human beings feel jealous of their boyfriend or girlfriend, sibling, and others. Children can feel jealous too. They are usually jealous of their siblings, or even cousin, because they think their siblings or cousin has taken their parents' attention. For example, a child is jealous of his young brother because his mother always defends his young brother when they are fighting for a toy. His mother asks her eldest son to give in to his young brother. Jealousy can be dangerous to other people or even to themselves. It can lead to aggressive behavior. People who are jealous are afraid of losing someone who is priceless in their life, and they can do everything including doing harm to other people. This thing is also found in some literary works. One of them is a film entitled *The Good Son* by Ian McEwan.

Ian McEwan was born on 21 June in 1948 in Aldershot, Hampshire, England. He spent much of his childhood in the Far East, Germany and North Africa where his father, an officer in the army, was posted.[1] He wrote some screenplays, one of them is *The Good Son* (1993). *The Good Son* told about a son named Mark Evans who had to live with his relatives for a moment because his father had to go to Tokyo for a business. Henry Evans always asked Mark to play with him. They could be close friend at first. Susan treated Mark well, she considered his as her son too. But, Henry did not like if Susan too close to Mark. Henry lied about everything, including his planning to kill Connie. He made Mark seemed like an unkind kid after his mother's death. Even Wallace and Susan called a therapist to help Mark, but again Henry successfully fooled her. One day, Susan found a rubber duck in a shed that Henry made it as his secret place. The rubber duck

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[1] "Ian McEwan" available from http://literature.britishcouncil.org/ian-mcewan on Sunday, April 13, 2014

belonged to Richard and was be with him when he drowned in a bathtub. Susan suspected his son who had killed Richard. Wanting to know what exactly happened, Susan asked if Henry killed Richard, then Henry answered what if he did. Felt defected and worried that his mother would send him away; Henry wanted to kill his mother too. He asked her to go for a walk. Knowing Henry would kill his mother, Mark chased them. When he arrived in a cliff, he fought with Henry but they slipped and Susan held both of them by her hands. She could not hold them any longer. She had to choose one of them that she wanted to save. Finally, she saved Mark and released her grip on her son, Henry.

The reasons why I choose this film are, because I have watched it for many times and I am interested with the story. The story seems complicated and I want to analyze it through psychological approach. The main problem that I want to analyze is Henry's jealousy of his brother and sister. He thinks that his brother and sister have taken all of his mother's attention and love. Also, when his cousin, Mark lives with them for a moment, his mother treats him as their own son. Henry's jealousy leads him to do something aggressive that harm other people.

B.   Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the problem above, I identify the problem of this research is Henry's jealousy of his siblings and cousin. He thinks they take his parents' care, love and else. His jealousy leads him to be aggressive. He can do harm things to other people. Therefore, I assume that the theme of this research is aggressive behavior of character Henry caused by his jealousy in the film *The Good Son* by Ian McEwan.

C.   Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problem above, I limit the problem of this research in the analysis of Henry's jealousy and aggressive behavior. Theories and concepts that I use are through intrinsic approach characterization – showing methods, setting, plot, and theme. Through extrinsic approach, I use social psychology – jealousy and aggression.

D. Formulation of the Research

Based on the limitation of the problem above, I formulate the problem whether it is true that my assumption of the theme of this research is aggressive behavior of character Henry caused by his jealousy. To answer this question, I formulate the problems as follows.

1. How do the characterizations of characters in this film through showing method?
2. How do setting and plot support the theme?
3. How do characterization, setting, and plot support the concepts of jealousy and aggression?
4. Can the theme of this film be reinforced by using the result of analysis of the intrinsic and extrinsic approaches?

E. Objective of the Research

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the purpose of this research is to show the theme of this research is aggressive behavior of character Henry caused by his jealousy. To achieve that purpose I take some steps:

1. Analyzing the characterization through showing methods.
2. Analyzing the setting and plot through the theories of setting and plot.
3. Analyzing this film by elaborating characterization, setting, and plot with the concepts of jealousy and aggression.
4. Reinforcing theme by using the result of analysis of the intrinsic and extrinsic approaches.

F. Framework of the Theories

Based on the objective of the research above, the theories and concepts that I use are through intrinsic approach, characterization – showing methods, setting, plot, and theme. Through extrinsic approach, I use psychological approaches – jealousy and aggression.

1. Intrinsic Approach

To analyze this film I use some concepts through intrinsic approach, they are characterization, setting, plot, and theme. Those concepts will be explained as follows.

a. Characterization

Character is an important thing in literary work. Pickering and Hoeper explain some terms of character in literary work. The major, or central, character of the plot is the protagonist; his opponent, the character against whom the protagonist struggles or contends is the antagonist.[2] The term protagonist and antagonist do not directly show the characterization of each character. It does not mean protagonist always has good nature and also antagonist always has bad nature. There are also flat and round characters. Flat characters are those who embody or represent a single characteristic. Round characters are just the opposite. They embody a number of qualities and traits.[3] On the other hand it is said that flat character is a minor character of a story. Round character is a major character of a story. To establish characterization of characters can be analyzed through showing methods.

1) Showing Method (Indirect)

There are two methods of characterization, telling method and showing method. To analyze this film I use showing method. Showing method involves the author's stepping aside, as it were, to allow the characters to reveal themselves directly through their dialogue and their actions[4]. It places the author is out of the story.

a) Characterization through Dialogue

To know characterization in literary work such as a film I have to analyze characters through dialog between characters. Some characters are careful and guarded in what they say: they speak only by indirection, and we must infer from

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[2] James H. Pickering & Jeffrey D. Hoeper, *Concise Companion to Literature* (New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1981), pp. 24-25
[3] *Ibid*
[4] *Ibid*, p. 27.

their words what they actually mean. Others are open and candid; they tell us, or appear to tell us, exactly what is on their minds.[5] It needs more concentrating and understanding to determine a characterization of a character.

b) Characterization through Action

Characterization through action is as important as characterization through dialog. To establish character on the basis of action, it is necessary to scrutinize the several events of the plot for what they seem to reveal about the character, about their unconscious emotional and psychological states as well as about their conscious attitudes and values.[6] In addition, characters' expression can show their characterization.

b. Setting

The term setting in literary work gives broadest sense to the reader. Setting includes place where the action is taken and also time when the action is taken. At its most basic, setting helps the reader visualize the action of the work, and thus adds credibility and an air of authenticity to the characters.[7] There are five functions of setting that will be explained as follows.

1) Setting as background for action

Setting in a literary work can be an important element of a story or it is just a decorative element. To know about that, we need to ask a question; could the work in question be set in another time and another place without doing it essential damage? If the answer is yes, then the setting can be said to exist as decorative background whose function is largely irrelevant to the purpose of the work as whole.[8]

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[5] *Ibid.* p. 32.
[6] *Ibid*, pp 34-35.
[7] *Ibid*, p.37.
[8] *Ibid*, p. 39. *et seqq*

2)   Setting as antagonist

Setting in the form of nature can function as a kind of casual agent or antagonist. It helps to establish the conflict of a plot in a literary work. Setting also can help to determine outcome of some events after the conflict.

3)   Setting as a means of creating appropriate atmosphere

Setting also can function to create appropriate atmosphere. Many authors manipulate their settings as a means of arousing the reader's expectations and establishing an appropriate state of mind for events to come.

4)   Setting as a means of reveling character

An author can also use the setting to clarify and reveal character. It also helps the audiences or readers to determine characterization of characters.

5)   Setting as a means of reinforcing theme

Besides four functions that have been explained before setting also has function to reinforce the theme of a literary work. It means setting can reinforce or clarify the theme of a novel or film.

c.   Plot

Plot is whole events of a story. It is arranged by the author in time sequence. Plot emphasizes the story causality.[9] Plot has five elements. Those will be explained as follows.

1)   Exposition

Exposition is the beginning section in which the author provides the necessary background information. It also introduces characters of a literary work and conflict or potential conflict.[10]

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[9] *Ibid*, p. 13
[10] *Ibid*, p. 16. *et seq*

2) Complication

Complication section is also known as rising action. In this section, the author starts to lead the audiences or readers to the conflict. On other word, it introduces the conflict of the story.

3) Crisis

Crisis in a story occurs when the plot reaches the moment with the greatest emotional intensity. It is also said that conflict of a story occurs in crisis section.

4) Falling action

In falling action the author leads the audiences or readers to the conclusion of a story. The conflict of the story has been subsided.

5) Resolution

Resolution is the final section of plot. It tells the conclusion of a story or the conclusion after conflict.

d. Theme

Theme is the main idea of a story. It is the author's thought that want be told to the audiences or readers. Readers or audiences also can get moral lesson from the theme of a literary work.[11]

2. Extrinsic Approach

To analyze this film through extrinsic I use psychological approach, especially social psychology. They are jealousy and aggression. I use the concept of jealousy to analyze Henry's jealousy to his siblings and cousin. Jealousy happens in children when they are not at the center of their parents' attention.[12] Henry will do everything to protect the relationship between his mother and him. His jealousy

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[11] *Ibid*, p. 61
[12] Heather McKinney, *Child Development Stages and Jealousy*, available from http://www.ehow.com/info_7928689_child-development-stages-jealousy.html on Tuesday, December 17, 2013

makes him does aggressive things to his family. It is said that aggression is any action that intended to hurt others.[13]

G.   Methods of the Research

Based on the framework of the theories above, I use qualitative method, the kind of research is study of literature, and interpretative research, or analysis by collecting data in the form of the film entitled *The Good Son* by Ian McEwan as the primary source and supported by other literature which related with the concepts as the secondary source. Secondary source are intrinsic and extrinsic concepts. Those are from several books such as the books entitled *Concise Companion to Literature* by James H. Pickering and Jeffrey D. Hoeper, *Handbook of Jealousy: Theory, Research and Multidisciplinary Approaches* by Sybil L. Hart and Maria Legerstee, and other books, also from some websites.

H.   Benefits of the Research

Based on the methods of research above, this research is useful for those who want to broaden their knowledge about this film. It can be useful because it is analyzed through new perspective by applying concepts of jealousy and aggression which are included in psychology that shows something new and possible for further research.

I.   Systematic Organization of the Research

Based on the benefits of research above, systematic organization of this research is arranged as follows:

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION.

It consists of: background of the problem, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, formulation of the problem, objective of the research, framework of the

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[13] David O. Sears, Jonathan L. Freedman, & Letitia Anne Peplau, *Fifth Edition Social Psychology* (New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1985), p. 262

theories, methods of the research, benefits of the research, and systematic organization of the research.

CHAPTER II: **CONCEPTS AND THEORIES OF PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

It consists of: the explanation of the concepts and theories. It includes extrinsic approach especially social psychology – jealousy and aggression.

CHAPTER III: **ANALYSIS OF THE FILM *THE GOOD SON* THROUGH INTRINSIC APPROACH.**

It consists of: analysis of characterization through showing methods, analysis of setting and plot through the concepts of setting and plot. The analyses above are shown in some sub-chapters.

CHAPTER IV: **ANALYSIS OF THE THEME "AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR OF CHARACTER HENRY CAUSED BY HIS JEALOUSY".**

It consists of: analysis of the film which reflects jealousy and aggression. The analyses above are shown in some sub-chapters.

CHAPTER V: **CONCLUSION.**

It consists of: the conclusion that prove that the theme of this film is "Aggressive Behavior of Character Henry Caused by His Jealousy", the summary of the research in English and *bahasa* that review the analyses of previous chapters.

Attachment: References and Scheme of the Research