

MAIN CHARACTER'S PERSONALITY IN JEANNETTE WALLS' *THE GLASS CASTLE*

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ABSTRACT

This thesis dealt with main characters personality In Jeannette Walls' The Glass Castle. The analysis of this thesis focused on main character's personality of Jeannette. The problem of the study in this thesis are What are types of personality, What is the most dominant type, and the impacts of the main character's most dominant personality in Jeannette Walls' The Glass Castle, according to Goldberg Lewis' theory. While completing this thesis, the writer Apply library research descriptive qualitative methods in order to again the appropriate results as the writer hope to. The result of this study are: (1)The types personality used by the main character in Jeannette Walls' The Glass Castle are: Openness, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Agreeableness and Neuroticism. (2)The most dominant type of personality used by the main character in Jeannette Walls' The Glass Castle is Conscientiousness. (3) The impact of dominantly personality are: (a) Bullied make mentally stronger; She was frequently bullied by other children because they lived in the garbage. This made her try to escape poverty and become more ambitious. (b) Personality Changing Causes of Permissive parenting; Parents failing to provide food, clothing, shelter, and most importantly, love and attention to a child can harm their physical, mental or emotional condition. This results in children having low self-esteem and having difficulty surviving.

Keywords: Psychology, Personality, Conscientiousness, The Glass Castle.

INTRODUCTION

Literature is often represented as the soul in the form of another world, where someone can experience life through their imagination. Talking about literature is not only about writings contained on a piece of paper, the reader can also feel the existence of new life. The study of literary psychology is one of the most interests things about literature because it talks about the humanistic side. Literary psychology offers humans a deeper world and a connection to the surface or inner side of humans that has not yet been revealed. In literary psychology, the reader not only knows one's own soul but from there can also recognize new souls and personalities. The writers personality will influence the spirit of the work produced because an writer holds important constraints in his

work. Experience, imagination, and how the writer views what is happening around him have a big influence.

Literary works will make someone read how the world works in a different way because literature describes a way of human life that is full of freedom. In literary works, the structure of thinking is colored by emotions, which is why in literature, psychological studies are very strong.

Many researchers believe that the human subconscious has a greater influence than the conscious mind because the personality that is visible and what people see is only part of the surface. Through literary works, an writer can realize dreams and desires that he cannot achieve. Psychology and literature are like paths that cross each other but have the same destination.

Through psychological review, it will be seen that the function and role of literature are to present and express the human image as freely as possible. From literary works, the reader can know and feel the mental activities and memories recorded by the writer through his writing and the writer's activities in connecting humans with God, nature, and themselves.

The conscious and unconscious natures of humans complement each other and unite in writing; good and bad memories and experiences are well recorded; the past, present, and future can only be united by a writer through his work, which is full of freedom, and nothing can stop him from created that.

The study of literary psychology is very important to study further because the psychological aspect is important to facilitate self-development. If someone knows their personality type, it will be easier for them to adapt to the world. People know what they should do, what they should avoid, and how to adapt to someone who has different views from ours. People are not limited by literary works because they can see not only the image of their own soul but also the portrait of other people's souls, as if they were present and participated in the story they read.

The novel is one of the most realistic literary works about life. Novels represent the world as if it were real. A story describes character traits, lifestyles, and human behavior that people encounter on a daily basis. Various conflicts and events that occur around us are depicted realistically, but with artistic value, in novel literary works.

The events experienced by characters in a story are very diverse. Personality clashes between characters and differences in feelings and behavior will influence the plot of the story, and psychology is needed to examine these problems. Psychology allows us to understand what is behind the change of a character's personality in a story, whether it comes from himself at birth or the emergence of a new personality

due to external factors, and literary psychology will help us interpret the possible causes.

The main character plays an important role in a story. If the main character is presented interestingly by the writer, this will influence the reader's interest. The characters in Jeannette Walls' novel *The Glass Castle* describes their personality and perspective as an abnormal family.

Jeannette, the main character in this story is describe as smart and independent little girl. They live as nomads, this causes them to keep moving and looking for vacant homes to live in. She enjoys adventure and always respects her father, despite the fact that he is an alcoholic and unemployed. This continued until Jeannette reached a point of saturation. Jeannette's parents could not be relied on, so she was expected to be capable of doing everything, including cooking and caring for her siblings, at such a young age. Even though she enjoys adventure, like most people she also wish a quiet and purposeful life. Her desire to escape poverty gradually materialized after she decided to relocate to New York City and change her life.

The writer decided *The Glass Catle* as the object of this research because this novel is the work of a famous American writer, and her name is known globally. *The Glass Castle*, is the result of a true story experienced directly by Jeannette Walls, so she wrote the story to be turned into a memoir. For other reason the writer chose this novel as the research object in this study is that the story in this novel conveys human life realistically so that it will be easily accepted by the public.

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls provides a mirror of life from all aspects of life's problems and presents moral values that have educational value. Research on literary works is important to determine the relevance of literary works to the reality that exists in society because the values contained in literary works basically reflect social reality and have an influence on society. Therefore, literary works can be

used as a medium for understanding the personality, which are processed narratively by the writer.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS

2.1 Literature

When talking about literature, most people will associate it with written works, things related to the use of language arts, as a form of human expression based on thoughts, observations, experiences, imagination, and feelings. Language is a means of creating literary works, but the language was used in literary work is not as simple as the language used in everyday life.

Literary language has aesthetic, artistic, and original value and contains deep meaning. Literature teaches people because there are certain values inside the literary works (Purba, 2022). Literary works are like reflections of real life, such as real life that people can see through a mirror; likewise, the stories described in literary works are very realistic and look the same as what is happening around us.

2.2 Novel

The word novel comes from the Latin word *novellus* which is also derived from the word *novis* which means new (Tarigan, 2000).

The stories contained in novels can be taken from the writer's review of everyday life and developed into deeper and more imaginative stories of human life. The themes raised in the novel are very varied and unlimited, where the intrinsic and extrinsic elements are interconnected and influence each other. There are two elements in a novel, they are intrinsic and extrinsic.

The plot of a novel is much more complex than a short story or similar literary work. The narrative is much more detailed in describing the atmosphere, and the various events that appear are connected and related to each other. In writing a novel, the writer has the freedom to discuss all aspects of the problem, so the scope is much wider.

2.3 Psychology in Literature

In general, psychology is often associated with psychological aspects relating to human thoughts and behavior and how individuals behave to connect and interact with others. Psychology discusses various things that influence human behavior, such as the social environment, family environment, and genetic factors.

Psychology will help us to understand and know human emotions and behavior more deeply. This can help us recognize ourselves, be able to know what need, and be able to understand other people, making it easier for us to interact and survive in the wider scope of social life. The science of psychology examines the actions or responses shown by humans in various situations, both directly, such as the way they talk, walk, or expressions when laughing or crying, as well as hidden behavior within a person, such as trauma, feelings of anxiety, disappointment, and various other things that exist within a person, someone's mind.

Psychology and literature are two different sciences, but they go hand in hand and cannot be separated. Boyd (2014: 17) described that literature is very close with human life, of all the knowledge closest to literature is psychology. Psychology helps a writer understand the psychological aspects that exist in literary works, and the role of literature is to present human images through characters who act in accordance with psychological truth but have artistic value.

Literary psychology is a branch of literary science that studies literary works from a psychological perspective. Literary works are considered a manifestation of the writer's expression, while psychology can help a writer observe and dig deeper into the characters discussed in literary works.

Literary works are made often associated with the field of psychology, because consciously or not, the writer uses the psychological aspect to create his work (Silaban, 2019). Literature and psychology illuminate and help each other. Conflicts

that arise in literary works can be analyzed with the help of psychological understanding. Only through a literary psychology approach can people find out the causes of changes in the behavior of characters in a story. This statement explains how literature and psychology are connected and influence each other.

2.4 Personality

A lot of people assume that a person's childhood experiences will influence their personality as an adult. Life experiences will change and even create a new personality. For example, someone who experienced bad memories as a child is likely to experience trauma until adulthood, it called inner child. This talks about the results of childhood observations experienced by someone, whether they are good or bad experiences that influence behavior in adulthood.

The impact of this inner child will influence a person's decision-making, thought patterns, how to handle and respond to the people around him, and how he lives his life. Another example is someone who, as a child, had an introverted personality, but as time goes by, he continues to be involved in social life, in friendships, organizations, and the demands of the work environment, making him much more active and likes to interact with many people.

Personality can be defined as a dynamic and organized set of characteristics possessed by a person that uniquely influences his or her cognitions, emotions, motivations and behaviors in various situations (Siahaan, 2015).

Personality is related to a person's behavior that comes from the subconscious; behavior that is visible and seen by other people is only the surface of their true characteristics. Finding out about someone's personality requires more in-depth observation, and this can be known through psychological observation of a person. A personality psychology approach will provide a deeper understanding of a person's personality. As in depicting a

character's personality in literary works, exploration of a character's mental state can be analyzed using psychological theory.

2.5 Personality Types

Goldberg Lewis, a personality psychologist from America, put forward a personality theory known as the Big Five Personality Traits Model, which consists of five key dimensions, namely openness, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness, and neuroticism, or in short called "OCEAN", (Larsen, 2005).

2.5.1 Openness

Openness personality type classifies as someone who likes to explore new things. Openness dislikes rules and prefers freedom. They are a personality type that enjoys challenges, exploration, and a wide perspective. They are not afraid to get out of their comfort zone because, for them, every challenge will give them new experiences and opportunities to learn. It is distinguished by a strong sense of self-confidence and a willingness to take risks.

Openness is a trait that reflects an individual's mindset towards art, adventure, and unconventional concepts. It encompasses a sense of wonder, curiosity, and a willingness to explore new experiences and different ideas and possibilities. High-level openness, individuals are drawn to creative pursuits, explore and face challenge, have innovative ideas, insightful, and are creative.

People with the openness personality type are also known for their tendency to be argumentative. This sometimes makes them seem temperamental because they will criticize something they consider wrong. They are not afraid to be different from others because they are open-minded and accept any differences of opinion.

2.5.2 Conscientiousness

People with the conscientiousness personality type are known for being considerate and thorough. A conscientious person has strong self-discipline, likes to keep things organized and systematic, and is good at managing their time. People with the conscientiousness personality type

prefer to work with numbers, notes, or machines in a consistent and orderly manner, avoiding ambiguous and unstructured activities. They are diligent, do not waste their free time on useless activities, and are determined to complete a task.

They are careful and detailed in making decisions, plan well, and are not careless. They remain calm and are not easily influenced by others. Someone with the conscientiousness personality type really appreciates people who are disciplined; they are the kind of person who is characterized as optimistic, independent, mature, responsible, hardworking, emotionally stable, detail-oriented, and good at planning.

2.5.3 Extraversion

Extraversion is a personality type defined by the following characteristics: social butterfly, talks a lot, friendly, assertive, and communicative. They are people who can lighten the mood and enjoy joking around. They enjoy busy social environments and being the center of attention for a lot of people.

A person with an extraversion personality enjoys sharing their experiences and stories with others, is adaptable, and reliable. They dislike being alone and find boring activities unpleasant. They are typical people who have a curious soul. They are typical people with a curious spirit who enjoy asking questions. An extravert is enthusiastic, and cheerful, and enjoys conversing.

2.5.4 Agreeableness

Agreeableness is a personality type that someone shows with prosocial behavior. A person with the agreeableness personality type is distinguished by empathy, caring, compassion, mature, trustworthiness, cooperative (able to work together), full of trust and compassion. They are not the type of people who hold grudges; they are forgiving and prefer peace. These agreeable individuals are patient and prefer to avoid conflict.

They are cooperative and friendly individuals who can create a comfortable environment for those around them. Typically, someone with the agreeableness personality type is well-liked by many people; they are praised for their honesty and kindness.

2.5.5 Neurotics

A neurotic's personality is frequently associated with instability. A neurotic person's mood changes quickly, and this emotional instability confuses others about their personality. Neuroticism is defined as emotional weakness; they are easily agitated, anxious, and overthinkers. They are vulnerable to the effects of negative emotions, find it difficult to calm themselves when angry, and struggle to make decisions due to their indecisiveness and fear of taking risks. They are irritable, temperamental, insecure, sensitive, pessimism and childish.

3. DISCUSSIONS

3.1 The Types of Main character's

Personality in Jeannette Walls' *The Glass*

The analysis of each type of the main character's personality in Jeannette Walls' *The Glass Castle* according to Goldberg Lewis' theory is shown as follows:

3.1.1 Openness

Jeannette enjoys her adventure. She feels lucky to be sleeping out under the sky and living like a nomad. This is one of the characteristics of an open-minded personality. They love nature and freedom. She is capable of using her own strength to face the demon. With the support of her father, she is being a brave little girl to carry on in spite of danger.

Jeannette disagrees when the lady calls them poor people. She argues when the lady uses the same word many times. This is another characteristic of an open-minded personality: they don't hesitate to express their opinion if they believe it's wrong.

Jeannette as imaginative. She is imagining how something can be change as she wishes. The quotation above makes an interesting point about something existing

in her mind, she just want peace, even though she realize it never happened.

3.1.2 Conscientiousness

Jeanette is a diligent girl. When her teacher asked a question, she would raise her hand quickly and wave it frantically in the air. From the previous analysis implies that she is smart, which is one of the characteristics of the conscientiousness personality type.

Jeanette is hardworking. She does a lot of work. She is determined to achieve success through her own efforts. She do everything in order to get a job. She is very persistent and focused on her goal. She only wants money and does not care about her young age. She just wants to do something that will generate income.

Jeanette has a forward-thinking personality, is mentally flexible, and is constantly strategizing to achieve her dream of moving to New York. Jeanette takes a proactive approach to life. She's taking responsibility for herself and her siblings. She cooks for herself even though she is only three years old. Her parents are already preoccupied with their businesses, and no one helped her when she was starving.

The other characteristic of a conscientious personality type is the ability to predict and calculate what will happen or be needed in the future. She knows that dropping out is not a good idea, but she must do it to save money. She has not received support from her parents to achieve her dreams, and that is the only option for her to survive.

Jeanette has high self-confidence. She not easily influenced by Miss Katona, and is optimistic that she can go to college in New York City and survive without any help.

3.1.3 Extraversion

Jeanette hopes she can make some new friends at her new school. She has a desire to connect with others. She smiles easily and wants to show genuine appreciation to new people. This is one of the characteristics of the extraversion type.

she is a talkative girl. One of the characteristics of the extraversion personality type is that they find it easy to strike up a conversation, unlike others who may be shy. Being talkative is associated with being friendly. They are chatty, garrulous, loquacious, and talky.

They have less food, but Jeanette never gives up on their financial situation. She always smiles and feels satisfied with what they can eat today. She is a cheerful little girl, which is one of the characteristics of extraversion personality type.

3.1.4 Agreeableness

She was trying to calm her siblings when her parents got into a fight. When their parents act like children, but Jeanette is trying to act mature. No one can handle this situation, but Jeanette is always peaceful and quiet especially in difficult situations. Jeanette also shows her respect for her father. She never blames her father for alcoholism; she always looks at him from the positive side.

Jeanette is people pleasure. She is constantly striving to please her father, often sacrificing her own desires. She resents the fact that she couldn't control herself enough to give her father money to buy some beer. Her father is an alcoholic with an inability to control his drinking habits, and she hates herself because she has a soft spot for him.

She has a type of people-pleasing behavior that typically arises from a deep-rooted fear of upsetting others. She realizes that there is less food, but she is trying to calm her parents by saying that she feels okay eating margarine. She is also trying to be okay when her mother asks about her experience in school. Even though she got bullied by her friend, she did not tell her mom the truth because she just wanted to avoid conflict and handle it by herself. This is one of the characteristics of the agreeableness type; it is a type of people-pleasing behavior that avoids conflict or disagreements at all costs and fears making others upset or angry. They avoid

confrontation and prefer dealing with conflict.

3.1.5 Neuroticism

Jeannette was bullied by the other child. It makes her feel insecure. Jeannette wishes to respond to the statement that they are living in garbage, but no one supports her. The neurotic type is also known for overthinking. Jeannette also worries about her sister. She had no idea what would happen after Lori moved to New York, they did not have enough money, and she was concerned about Lori's ability to survive there.

Pessimism is a characteristic of the neuroticism type. The previous analysis described Jeannette's worried that it was impossible to get money to replace stolen money. Jeannette feels ashamed of herself. She had what she needed a luxury life and all expensive things but she did not enjoy her current life.

It doesn't matter how much her parents give her a lot of experience, at the end, when she was living a luxury life, she hid the fact that she had a poor family. She feels ashamed for her parents condition and thinks that what looks good is life good, but in fact she is the one who needs help, not her parents. Her parents just live life as they are.

The most embarrassing thing is that she never feels happy with all the luxury things that she wears. This is one of the characteristics of the neurotic type; they don't want people to know their weaknesses; they just want to show the world how perfect they are.

3.2 The Most Dominant Type of Personality Used By The Main Character in Jeanette Walls' *The Glass Castle*

Based on the data that has been collected, can be concluded that the most dominant type of personality that the main character has in Jeannette Walls' *The Glass Castle* is Conscientiousnes type. The reason is because Jeannette is has dominant characteristics of Conscientiousnes personality type which proved by her

characteristic such as; hardworking, persistent, organize, diligent, independent, foresight, and optimist. It is all the characteristics of Conscientiousnes.

Jeannette exemplifies conscientiousness through several compelling traits. Her unwavering determination in facing adversity is striking, as she navigates a tumultuous upbringing with resilience and perseverance. Despite growing up in a volatile and often impoverished environment, Jeannette demonstrates a steadfast commitment to education, overcoming numerous obstacles and relocations to pursue her academic goals.

Her independence and sense of responsibility shine through as she assumes caretaking roles for herself and her siblings from a young age, making significant decisions and shouldering burdens beyond her years. Moreover, Jeannette exhibits a clear ambition and strategic planning for her future, setting her sights on opportunities like scholarships and college despite the odds stacked against her.

Her deep self-awareness and emotional intelligence are evident as she candidly reflects on her family's struggles and her own feelings of shame and discomfort, showcasing a profound level of introspection. These qualities collectively underscore Jeannette's conscientious nature, portraying her as a determined, self-reliant, and introspective individual who confronts life's challenges with remarkable resilience and clarity of purpose.

3.3 The Impacts of the Main Character's

Personality Used Dominantly in Jeanette Walls' *The Glass Castle*

The impact of dominantly personality making Jeannette's personality changed are: (1) Survival and Resilience: Her conscientious nature helped her manage the chaos of her upbringing, ensuring that she and her siblings had some stability and care despite the lack of support from their parents. (2) Achievement and Success: Jeannette exhibited these traits through her hard work to achieve personal and

professional goals. (3) Role Model for Responsibility: Jeannette often took on the role of caretaker and protector for her siblings, demonstrating these qualities consistently and attentively. (4) Conflict and Strain: In Jeannette's case, her structured and disciplined nature clashed with her parents' impulsive and chaotic behavior, contributing to familial conflicts and strain.

4. CONCLUSIONS

1. The types personality used by the main character in Jeannette Walls' *The Glass Castle* are: *Openness, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Agreeableness and Neuroticism*.
2. The most dominant type of personality used by the main character in Jeannette Walls' *The Glass Castle* is Conscientiousness type. The reason is because Jeannette is has dominant characteristics of Conscientiousness personality type which proved by her characteristics such as; hardworking, persistent, organize, diligent, independent, foresight, and optimist.
3. The impact of dominantly personality in the main character in Jeannette Walls' *The Glass Castle* are; (1) Survival and Resilience; (2) Achievement and Success; (3) Role Model for Responsibility and (4) Conflict and Strain

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