# PSYCHOANALYSIS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN DUBLINERS BY JAMES JOYCE

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#### Abstract

This study analyzes each short story's main character's id, Ego, and superego. In conducting this research, researchers used a qualitative descriptive method. Researchers used documentation as a data collection technique—all the data needed to be related to this study that collected by taking several steps. Namely, the researcher chose five short stories by James Joyce, then collected literary references related to the psychological approach. Based on the results, it concluded that from the five short stories by James Joyce there are the Id, Ego, and super Ego of each main character in each short story.

Keywords: Short Story, Psychoanalysis, Dubliners.

#### INTRODUCTION

Literary work is a collection of personal expressions of the author's feelings in the form of experiences, ideas, and thoughts. (Pulatova 2021) Literary works also contain the imagination of the author. (Spacks 2022) It makes literary works interesting, and many literary lovers enjoy doing. Of course, literary works have many benefits in our lives, one of which is the values written in them. We can take the wisdom behind the problems the author gives to the characters in literary works, or the author may convey messages. Essentially, literary works embody life, which results from literary recognition of the surrounding life. The author creates literary works based on the experience gained from the reality of people's lives that occur against figures in the real world and pour into literary works.

Short stories are one of the literary works favored by readers because they are shorter than novels with many problems. (Paul et al. 2021) In contrast, short stories only have one storyline so they look short. It makes it easier for readers to read and understand it. The short story also has the same background, plot, theme, characterization, message, point of view, and language style as the novel. (Hasby

and Islami 2020) What distinguishes it from novels is that the stories are shorter and have only one problem.

Character is one of the essential components of a short story. (Simanjuntak 2020) Without characters, there would be no short story. It follows what Junianto said: characterization is a clear picture of someone in the story. (Junianto, Malik, and Wahyusari 2021). Characters play an essential role in a literary work because they clearly describe the behavior of an action or behavior that encourages the story to look more alive. (Gracia et al. 2022)

In this research, the researcher focuses on the main character, who is the researcher's aim. The research uses Sigmund Freund's theory to find the id, Ego, and super Ego of the main character. Psychoanalysis is a personality theory created by Sigmund Freud. He believed humans have an id, an ego, and a superego to move humans. This theory used for those who suffer from mental disorders. However, over time many researchers have used this theory as a theory that can study literary works. This theory chosen as a theory that will study 5 short stories in the Dubliner book because the researcher saw the compatibility of each plot and character that made the researcher choose this theory. There are many feelings of wanting to rebel, desire to run away and others in this Dubliner book, so Sigmund Freud's theory of personality is the choice of researchers.

For this reason, this theory is used by researchers to study the literary works created by James Joyce, the title of his book is Dubliners. This book, first published in 1914, contains 15 short stories from Dublin life. These 15 stories aim to provide a realistic picture of Irish middle-class life in Dublin around the early 20th century. In this book contains about Dublin paralysis. Among the paralysis is the helplessness of a boy in the presence of a pastor who forces him to understand religious propositions that are still too heavy for him (The Sister). The affection of a girl who must be the backbone of the family and give money to her drunken father (Eveline). And there are still many other stories. In the Dubliner book, which contains 15 short stories, the researcher only took five short stories to examine the id, Ego and Super Ego. In the five short stories chosen by the researcher, there are id, Ego and Super Ego, it is possible that in these 15 short

stories, not only 5 have id, Ego and Super Ego. However, researchers prefer this short story because it is easy for both researchers and readers to understand.

#### 1. Id

Personality deviates every human biological impulse, a central instinct based on the principle of pleasure and inclination to meet all their needs. Selfish, immoral, and do not care about reality. Id is the essential personality system, which is in innate instincts. Id in carrying out operations and functions based on the intention to maintain the constant, which is shown to avoid unpleasant conditions and achieve pleasant states (Oktavia 2021). Id characteristics are:

- (1) It is a biological aspect of personality due to biological elements and instincts.
- (2) Is the most original system in humans because from birth and is not affected by outside interference.
- (3) It is a real psychic reality because it is only an inner world or subject and has absolutely no connection with the objective world.
- (4) Is a source of energy that moves the Ego and superego
- (5) The work principle of id to reduce tension is the principle of enjoyment which means reducing tension by eliminating impotence and pursuing pleasure. The pleasure principle is carried out through reflection and reaction, for example, flashing and sneezing. The two primary processes, for example, when again hungry, then imagine food.

#### 2. Ego

The Ego is a personality system that acts to influence individuals to the object of reality and perform functions based on their reality. (Perrotta 2019) Sigmund Freud explains that the Ego is part of the id, which then develops to face threats from the outside world. Ego is a psychological aspect of personality that arises due to the need to have a good relationship in the real world. (Padmanabhanunni and Pretorius 2021) The Ego is the origin of the id to serve as an intermediary to the need for sedition to environmental conditions to find the right object to reduce stress. The Ego can be seen as a directing aspect of

personality, because the Ego controls the path, chooses all the needs that can be met and how to fulfill them. But if the Ego weakens, where it cannot use psychic energy properly, inner conflicts will arise, expressed in abnormal and pathological behavior. Ego characteristics, namely:

- (1) This aspect of personality arises from the organism's need to connect well with the real world and mediates between the organism's instinctive needs and the environment's state.
- (2) Working with the principle of reality means eliminating tension by finding the right object in the real world to reduce tension
- (3) The ego process is through in finding the right object is a secondary process, namely by the process of thinking through the formulation of a plan of satisfying needs and testing it technically to find out whether it works through an action.
- (4) is an aspect of personality because it arises from needs
- (5) It is an aspect of the influence of personality because it is an aspect that controls and regulates the path that is fulfilled and chooses the right object to meet needs.

#### 3. Super Ego

Super Ego is a function of the sociology of personality, its function is to determine right and wrong, inappropriate or inaction. Thus the person can act according to morals in society. Encourage the Ego to pursue more moralistic things than realistic, meaning that the super Ego tends to oppose the id or Ego and make conceptions of the ideal. The super ego characteristics is:

- (1) Is a sociological aspect of personality because it represents the values of the traditional and the ideals of society for example parents to their children through various commands and prohibitions.
- (2) The moral aspect of personality because its function determines whether something is right or wrong, appropriate or not so that it can act according to the morals of society.
- (3) The main functions of the superego are: (1) hindering stimulation or impulse especially in sexual matters and aggression that is very much

about by the community (2) Encouraging the Ego to give more importance to matters of morality than reality (3) pursuing perfection.

The harmonious use and transfer of psychic energy between the three personality structures is essential, especially to overcome the conflict between the drivers and restraints of the three systems.

Based on the explanation of the psychoanalysis theory above, the basic understanding can explain that all abnormal and expected behaviors are not separated from aspects of personality id, Ego and super Ego. So all psychic behaviors and processes occur in us due to the power of restraints and impulses that affect the three personality systems. Sigmund Freud said that the key to a healthy personality is the balance of the id, Ego and superego.

#### RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses descriptive qualitative methods. According to Sugiono (2010: 9), qualitative research is research in which the researcher is the key, data collection techniques are combined, and data analysis is inductive. Poerwandari (2005) states that qualitative research processes and produces descriptive data, such as observations and interviews. The rationale for using this method is that the researcher wants to know the main character's id, Ego and super Ego of the main character in each short story.

In this study, the researcher used Sigmund Freud's theory to analysis the id, Ego and super Ego of each main character in each short story in the Dubliners book.

#### RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

## 1. Psychology of the Main Character in an Encounter

Id

#### Data 1:

Nevertheless, when the restraining influence of the school was at a distance, I began to hunger again for wild sensations, for the escape that those chronicles of disorder alone seemed to offer me. [An Encounter pg.21]

The main character in this short story is a child who is eager for the adventure sensation they read in the book "Wild West". Until one day his friend Joe Dillon is caught carrying a sheet of The Halfpenny Marvell by his teacher this causes an adventurous sensation in the mind of the main character. The quote above shows how the Id of the main character emerged because of his inner drive of thirst for savage sensations, thirst for escape that the muddled thinking of the Wild West story offers. This data is related to Koesworo's statement in Rustiana (1991: 32-33) that Id is part of the primitive unconscious in the mind that was born with us. It is a dark region, inaccessible, resides with human instincts and the only reality is its own selfish need. Id in carrying out its functions and operations to avoid unpleasant circumstances and achieve pleasant states. The main character in this story creates an instinct, a desire from within him to create a sensation that will cause comfort in him and does not think about what risks he will get if he leaves, moreover they are students who must be under the supervision of parents, and if they leave without thinking it will cause concern for their parents.

## Ego

#### Data 2:

In the morning I was first comer to the bridge as lived nearest, [An Encounter pg. 22] we walked along the north strand road until we came to the vitriol works and then turned to the right along the wharf. [An Encounter pg. 23]

The quotations above show how the main character and his friends start planning their IDs, their desire to let go of school stress which they find very unpleasant. From what the researchers read in this quote appears Ego from the main character that the Ego adheres to the reality principle and reacts with secondary processes, the purpose of the reality principle is to find the right object to reduce the tension arising from in organisms.(Aryani Dwi 2021) And the Ego is viewed as an executive or personality management aspect because it controls the path that is traversed and chooses which needs can be fulfilled.(Aryani Dwi 2021) Just as Suryabrata said what Ego is, the main character here is looking for the right object for his Id. The Ego controls the id desires of the main character and chooses which needs can be fulfilled by looking at the principle of reality, the Ego

of the main character here is to go to fulfill his id, the Ego only thinks of the desires of the id by manifesting them into the real world, with them leaving then the desires of the id fulfilled. The Ego deals with reality, it tries to fulfill the id in a socially acceptable way.

## Super Ego

#### Data 3:

It was late and we were too tired to carry out our project of visiting the pigeon house. We had to be home before four o'clock lest our adventure should be discovered. [An Encounter pg.25]

As written in the quote above they have gone on an adventure, but in this quote the main character feels worried if not go home, the main character feels Super Ego in him, he feels his parents will worry and will scold him if this adventure they knew, moreover, they were still under the age to start their adventure without an adult accompanying them. Super Ego is a legal or moral branch of personality, Super Ego is an individual moral code whose main concern is whether an action is good or bad, right or wrong (Ibis., P. 15) As said, the super Ego of the main character in the quote this is when he feels worried if they come home late because it will make their parents worry and will scold him, moreover if they do the wrong thing for that they have to go home before four in the afternoon to avoid it all.

## 2. Psychology of Main Character in Araby

Id

#### Data 4:

"If I go" I said, "I will bring you something" [Araby pg.34]

According to Latipun (Latipun 2019) Freud said that the working principle of the id is the principle of pleasure. The id always wants to find pleasure and avoid discomfort. The place of the id is in the subconscious and unconsciously affects human behavior without realizing it. This happens to the main character Id where Id is the principle of pleasure by going to Araby and bringing gifts to the girl so it is likely that the main character will get the girl's heart.

## Ego

#### Data 5:

"I held a florin tightly in my hand as I strode down Buckingham Street towards the station. The sight of the streets thronged with buyers and glaring with gas recalled to me the purpose of my journey. I took my seat in a third-class carriage of a deserted train. After an intolerable delay the train moved out of the station slowly. It crept onward among ruinous houses and over the twinkling river" [Araby pg.37]

Gerald Corey says that the Ego is the executive of the personality who regulates, controls and rules.(Corey 2011) The Ego's job is to mediate the instincts of the world around them. The Ego controls consciousness and exercises censorship. Regulated by the ego principle, reality applies reality and logical thinking and formulates action plans for satisfying needs. The Ego of the main character can be seen in the above quote. To realize his Id, the main character buys gifts for the girl he likes. It clarifies his Ego which moves on the principle of reality. Going there satisfies his id and he can prove his fondness for her.

## **Super Ego**

#### Data 6:

Gazing up into the darkness I saw myself as a creature drive and derived by vanity; and my eyes burned with anguish and anger. Araby [pg.39]

In the quote on page 39, this boy encountered many obstacles: he was late in arriving because he was waiting for his uncle to give him money. Even though the night was getting late this boy forced him to leave, but he was the night market another stall was closed he couldn't give anything to the girl because all the stalls were closed. He regretted himself forcing away just because he wanted to be admitted, he felt himself like an object that was pushed and ridiculed by pride. The super Ego is the moral or legal branch of personality. Super Ego is an individual moral code whose main concern is that his actions are good or bad right or wrong (Ibid., P. 15). The super ego that this boy does is the wrong thing because just because he wants to be admitted by the girl in his love he is forced to leave even though the night is getting late. It can be seen from here that the super

Ego from page 39 quotes that this boy feels sorry for his arrogance, he is unfortunate and angry with himself for forcing him away even though it was late and he did not listen to his aunt's words that the night was getting late and he had to delay he to leave.

## 3. Psychology of Main Character in Eveline

Id

#### **Data 7:**

She had consented to go away, to leave her home [Evelinepg.41]

Eveline tells of a girl who feels pressured by her father, and is eager to leave her house, as seen in a quote on page 41 of how Eveline's Id appeared. Calvin S. Hall (1995: 29-30) says the Id instinct is the original or first principle of life, which Freud called the pleasure principle. The goal is to free someone from tension or reduce the amount of tension so that it becomes less and to suppress it as much as possible. May be fixed. Tension is felt as suffering or resentment while relief from tension is felt as pleasure. It can be seen here that Eveline feels that leaving the house will free herself from her father's pressure and it makes her feel the tension as suffering with her leaving the house so she will no longer feel pressured against her father.

## Ego

#### Data 8:

The evening deepened in the avenue [Eveline pg.44]

In the quote above Ego from Eveline appears, this is following Minderop (2013: 22) saying that the Ego helps humans to consider whether they can satisfy themselves without causing difficulties or suffering for themselves. The Ego is between the conscious and the subconscious. The Ego tasks give a place to major mental functions, such as reasoning, problem-solving, and decision making. For this reason, the Ego is the foremost leader in personality, like a company leader who can make rational decisions for the company's progress. The id and the Ego have no morality because they do not recognize good and bad values. This can be seen how Eveline ego satisfies itself so as not to cause trouble and suffering for him. He will no longer feel tortured by his father by leaving his house.

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## **Super Ego**

#### Data 9:

Strange that very night to remind her of the promise to her mother, her promise to keep the home together as long as she could. [Eveline pg.44] "She felt her cheek pale and cold and, out of a maze of distress, she prayed to god to direct her, to show her what war her duty [Eveline pg.46]

The quotes above show the Super Ego from Eveline, as Minderop (2013: 22-23) said that the super Ego is in full control of justice or as a filter of the two personality systems, so that it knows right or wrong, good or bad., may or may not and so on. Super Ego refers to morality in personality. Super Ego is the same as a conscience that recognizes bad and good values (conscience). Like the Id, the super Ego does not consider reality because it does not struggle with realistic things, except when the sexual impulses and aggressiveness of the id can be satisfied in moral considerations. This case, the super Ego Eveline gets is bad or wrong because she left her old father alone at home. We can see from the quotes above how Eveline started remembering what she promised her mother to look after her house if she left, of course she would break her promise to her mother and that's something wrong. Eveline begged god for guidance on the path she was taking. And also at the end of the story Eveline surrendered to her decision, she realized that she had promised her mother and also that she couldn't leave her old father, that's not a good thing. That is the super Ego of Eveline.

#### 4. Psychology of Main Character In The Boarding House

ID

## **Data 10:**

His instinct urged him to remain free, not to marry. Once you are married you are done for, it said. [The Boarding House pg.77]

In the above quote, Mr Doran cannot avoid his Id. Mr Doran feels uncomfortable about marriage, Minderop (2013: 21) says that Id is a psychic energy and instinct that presses humans to fulfilled basic needs, for example the need to eat, rejects pain or discomfort. According to Freud, the id is in the subconscious, not in contact with reality. The way id works is related to the

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pleasure principle, which always looks for pleasure and avoids discomfort. What Minderop said shows how Mr. Doran's attitude shows his Id. According to Mr Doran, if he gets married there is no more extended freedom, he has to take care of his wife and children if he gets married. This made Mr. Doran avoid marrying because he felt he would no longer feel comfortable. His freedom is no longer there.

## Ego

## **Data 11:**

He stood up to put on his coat and waistcoat, more helpless that ever. When he was dressed he went over to her to comfort her. It would be all right, never fear. [The Boarding House pg. 79]"

Mr Doran's Ego is in accordance with what Effendi, Muchsin, Faizah, (2006: 45) said that the Ego has contact with the outside world from reality, the Ego is the executive of the personality who controls, orders, and regulates as traffic cop for Id. super Ego, and the outside world, the main task of the Ego is to mediate instincts with the environment. The Ego controls consciousness and exercises censorship. Ruled by the principle of reality, the Ego is realistic, thinks logically, and formulates plans and actions for satisfying needs. Mr Doran's Ego connected him to reality. When his id does not want to get married, his super Ego drives him to warn him what will he get if he is not responsible. For that his Ego processes how to satisfy the id's impulses based on reality. Namely by being responsible for his actions.

## Super Ego

#### **Data 12:**

But the sin was there; even his sense of honour told him that reparation must be made for such a sin. [The Boarding House pg.79]

Corey (2005; 15) states that super Ego is a branch of morals. The law of personality or what we often call conscience. The super Ego is formed from environmental guidance or guidance from an early age. The super Ego gives a moral code to humans in determining good and evil or right and wrong. This leads to perfection not pleasure. Mr Doran's super Ego is a good and right thing to do

because he chose to take responsibility for his mistakes. This can be seen in the above quote.

## 5. Psychology of Main Character a Mother

Id

## **Data 13:**

She called Mr Fitzpatrick away from his screen and told him that her daughter had signed for four concerts and that, of course, according to the terms of the contract, she should receive the sum originally stipulated for, whether the society gave the four concerts or not. [A Mother pg.167]

A mother tells about an ambitious mother. The above quotation shows the Id of Mrs Kearney was so eager to pay for his daughter's appearance now that he couldn't wait. Gerald Corey (2009: 14) says that an Id is a place where instincts live. The id is less organized, demanding, blind, and urgent. Like a crater constantly boiling and churning, the id cannot tolerate tension, and works to release tension as soon as possible and attain a homeostatic state, governed by the pleasure principle directed at reducing tension, avoiding pain and obtaining pleasure, the id is illogical, immoral and driven by one interest: satisfying all instinctive needs according to the pleasure principle. The id is never mature and is always a spoiled child of personality, does not think, only wants or acts, is unconscious. What Gerald Corey said was the same as the id Mrs Kearney shows where she demands or presses for payment of her daughter's performance according to the contract whether or not her daughter is appearing at four concerts, all she wants is the one on the contract.

## Ego

## **Data 14:**

"Mr Holohan, I want to speak to you for a moment" she said ". [A Mother pg.170]

Suryabrata (2002: 127) says that Ego is the executive aspect of personality because Ego controls the path taken, chooses which needs can be met and how to fill them. The ego function often unites the opposing id and super Ego, and its role is to mediate between instinctive needs and environmental conditions. Mrs

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Kearney showed his Ego to ask Mr Holohan is doing well so she can get the money. His Ego addresses instinctive needs and environmental conditions. By asking Mr Holohan, his desire to get the money may be fulfilled.

## Super Ego

#### **Data 15:**

Mrs Kearney's anger began to flutter in her cheek and she had all she could do to keep from asking: "and who is the Cometty pray?" [A Mother pg.167] "But she knew that it would not be ladylike to do that: so she was silent [A Mother pg.167]

The quote shows the super Ego of Mrs Kearney, as said by Drs Irwanto et al (1989: 238) that super Ego is a personality system that contains moral values that define good and bad. According to Freud, super Ego is an individual's internalization of society's values, because in this section there are moral values that define good and bad boundaries. This is Mrs. Kearney realizing that if she said something harsh, it would be considered a bad thing and the super Ego that Mrs. Kearney did was the right thing. Mrs Kearney realized that it would be immoral to say something rude, for that Mrs Kearney limits himself from saying bad things.

## **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

The conclusions in this research that researchers examined in the book collection of short stories by James Joyce used Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis theory. In the five short stories taken by the researcher, id, Ego, and super Ego are contained in the Dubliner's book. Some want adventure, to admit the woman they love, to leave home, freedom not to marry, and to thirst for money. Some have filled their egos without seeing the super Ego, and some are fulfilling them by seeing the super Ego. Furthermore, his super Ego is in terms of good and right. It is also harmful and wrong. Various ids, egos and superegos of various characters in the short story make it easier for the author to research the book.

This research is not necessarily perfect, and many things are still lacking. The drawback of this research is that the researcher did not thoroughly examine the 15 short stories in James Joyce's Dubliners book. Researchers only took five short stories in the Dubliner's book.

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