

**AN ANALYSIS OF AMY DUNNES'S PSYCHOPATH PROBLEM IN *GONE GIRL* MOVIE VIEWED FROM PSYCHOANALYSIS THEORY  
BY SIGMUND FREUD**

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**ABSTRACT**

The study aimed to analyze psychopathic problem of Amy Dunnes, the main character of *Gone Girl* movie, viewed from psychoanalysis theory by Freud. This study, employing qualitative method, explained the personalities of the main character in general and her psychopathic problem that she had. The dialogs and the scenes were analyzed to unfold the personalities and the psychopathic problems of the main character. The result showed that the main character had the following personalities: The main character wanted to have the perfect personality, Amy wanted revenge when she was hurt, experiencing anxiety and being afraid of being punished, and Amy has paranoid thoughts about defeat. The result also showed that the psychopathic problems of the main character were: Amy has a complicated behavior, Amy behaves manipulatively while planning revenge, Amy has a lack of empathy, Amy behaving sadistically to her husband, and Amy often lie to protect herself.

**Keywords :** Amy Dunnes, Psychopath, *Gone Girl* Movie, Psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Movie is a communication medium that is audio visual to convey a message to a group of people who gather in a certain place. (Effendi, 1986: 134). In this modern era, movie has developed into an attractive industry people who want to express their creative thinking and skills. Most of cineaste considers movie as a medium for sharing their ideas and opinions about several phenomena in real life. Usually, movies are adapted from prose literary works, especially novels which are portraits of human life that are presented in a long story. Novels can also be used as material to study human nature. Various kinds of human nature and phenomena of life are reflected in a novel, including the phenomenon of psychopathic behavior. Psychopaths are interesting as a theme in literary work because the stories are emotional and inspire the psychology of the reader. I'm trying to examine a little more about what if psychoanalysis theories related to personality structures, egos, and superegos, are raised in figures in a literary work.

Psychoanalysis is one of the theories of Sigmund Freud or more specifically he is better known as the scientific of psychoanalysis. Psychoanalysis focuses on how conscious and unconscious thinking was developed by Sigmund Freud in his psychoanalysis theory to determine the problems of human psychology in the form of their anxiety. Thus, along with the development of psychology that Sigmund Freud studied and developed, he then applied a model of thought in relation to id, ego and superego precisely in 1923.

The personality structure in Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis is known as id, ego and superego, each of which has functions, traits, components, working principles, individual dynamics, but all three are related. Dealing here in an inseparable sense has an effect on human behavior. This association, for example, is that human nature is the nature that everyone has and is usually associated with pleasure and displeasure, this is what is called id. Whereas ego is a human trait that affects their behavior in the form of indifference going around. The point is that people are more selfish than they are. While superego is one form of thinking to be in the human subconscious that stems the ego. The result is that people will think positively about what they are doing in the form of egos.

Of the many movies that tell the story of a psychopath, researchers are interested in researching director David Fincher's *Gone Girl*. I analyzed by Amy Dunne's psychological problems in the *Gone Girl* movie directed by Gillian Flynn will be analyzed in terms of Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis theory. *Gone Girl* is a 2014 American psychological thriller movie directed by David Fincher and written by Gillian Flynn, based on her 2012 novel of the same name. The movie stars Ben Affleck, Rosamund Pike, Neil Patrick Harris and Tyler Perry.

## **2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

The researcher here discussed *the id, the ego and the super ego* of the psychoanalysis theory that the data will be found in the movie. Freud divided personality into three levels of consciousness, namely conscious, pre-conscious, and unconscious. The author analyzes that the *Gone Girl* movie focuses more on the unconscious, which is a stimulating desire to protect oneself. Amy Dunne's behavior is driven by impulsive subconscious impulses. The impulse comes from the Id, the part of personality that is born from birth, which is considered the evil part of humans who is at risk of harming others and themselves.

Amy Dunne's personalities showed in this movie, the writer applies it to the

dynamicsof personality. Personality dynamics, according to Freud's is how psychic energy is distributed and used by id, ego, and superego. Personality dynamics are related to the process of instinctive fertilization, distribution of psychic energy and the impact of the ego's inability to reduce tension when transacting with the outside world namely anxiety. Instincts are a collection of desires and desires. In fact, instincts only reflect the sources of bodily satisfaction or needs.

Freud's personality theory writer as a whole uses personality dynamics in that Amy's personality is dominated by the id. Personality dynamics consist of the way psychic energy is distributed and used by the id, ego, and superego. Amy's worry stems from her husband's affair, Amy wants to take revenge by manipulating all of her crimes so that Nick is trapped and accused of being a suspect in Amy's murder. The worry that arises in Amy is that Amy does not get energy from the ego and superego. Amy will be trusted by the public and Nick will be jailed and then sentenced to death because his manipulation made Nick guilty. But unfortunately his wishes did not go according to his plan, he lost a lot of money and had difficulties in carrying out the action.

To analyze Amy Dunne's psychopath problems through all of Freud's theory of psychoanalysis. The author analyzes the psychopath problem in terms of the factors and characteristics in Freud's theory. Amy's psychopathic problems occur because her ego is overly driven by the id. An adult human whose id is more dominant will become a psychopath. Here are the list of Amy Dunne's psychopath problem seen from Freud's psychoanalysis theory. In this case the id is very dominant, so it cannot be controlled by the ego and the superego. Amy is known as a psychopath, which is a psychopathic disease that can threaten the people around her. Psychopaths are a symptom of a personality disorder that has long been considered dangerous and disturbing in society.

### **3. METHOD**

#### Method of Data Collection and Research Approaches

Looking the questions and the research objectives, I decided to conduct a study entitled Analysis of Amy Dunne's Psychopath Problems in Gone Girl Movie Viewed from Theory Psychoanalysis Sigmund Freud's.

The study uses a qualitative approach where data will be collected using descriptive methods. This method is used because it is based on theory and literary facts in accordance

with the data found in supporting this literature research, then it is analyzed based on the available data. In addition, a qualitative approach is the most appropriate approach to answer questions in the formulation of the problem in this study.

In this study, researchers took the first step in watching the film *Gone Girl*. After that the researcher watched the film several times, found transcripts, dialogues, conflicts, and wrote important things using the note technique. In analyzing the data, the researcher categorizes the problems from the conflicts that occur in the film, and applies psychoanalytic theory, especially those related to Id, Ego, and Superego discovered by Freud (1949).

#### 4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Here are the list of Amy Dunnes's personalities described in the *Gone Girl* movie. :

##### 1. The main character wanted to have the perfect personality

Amy is smart like the character Amy Amazing. Amy manipulates a story about herself with Dessi Collings, Amy's ex-boyfriend. Amy makes a scenario that she has been kidnapped by Dessi, Amy kills Dessi at Dessi's residence, then Amy creates fake wounds all over her body so that it is as if she was actually being kidnapped and held by Dessi. Then Amy comes back to Nick with her fake wound, Amy defends her so it doesn't seem like she's the wrong person. It can be seen on the citation below.

“Correct,Amazing Amy is always, always one step ahead of me.”-Amy (00:13:46)

All of Amy's crimes are acts that occur beyond human reason and beyond humanity. This is applied to real life in the film *Gone Girl* through the character Amy who cannot be

controlled by the ego and superego because the id uses too much psychic energy. This happens because there is no stimulus from outside such as parents which makes the id more focused. Amy tends to be a perfectionist Amy. So that the ego and superego find it difficult to control their behavior when Amy gets into trouble in life. It causes Amy to feel that she has never failed, she has always been loved by society since she was a child because of children's books by Rand and Marybeth Elliott that Amy is the inspiration for

the children's book character.

## 2. Experiencing anxiety and being afraid of being punished

The disturbance started from an argument between Nick and Amy in the household, one of which was about the opinion about having children to faking the death of the main character which led to murder. The big problem that occurs when Nick has an affair with another woman and Nick's attitude begins to turn violent for Amy makes Amy feel worried if Nick will behave even more cruelly to Amy. Here is the author's analysis of Amy's anxiety and fear according to Freud's theory.

Firstly, Reality anxiety occurs because of a fear of danger in the real world, as experienced by Amy Dunnes in the *Gone girl* movie. Amy is afraid of being betrayed like a bad husband and wife out there. It can be seen on the conversation below.

Let's swear we will never be like them. -

Amy Who? -Nick

Every other couple we know. Wives who treat their men like hapless puppies: to be trained and broken.- Amy

Husbands who treat their wives like eccentric dictators: to be appeased and contained. -Nick (00:32:10-00:32:17)

Secondly, there is neurotic anxiety, fear involving the id and ego. The id has dominated the ego so that when Amy is stressed or frustrated she cannot think long. It started with an argument that often arose in the household until Amy decided to take revenge by trapping Nick to be accused of being Amy's missing killer. Amy was afraid that her husband would hurt her more and she would lose. It can be seen on the citation below.

“What scared me wasn't that he pushed me. What scared me was how much he wanted to hurt me more. What scared me is that I'd finally realized: I am frightened of my own husband.”-Amy (00:46:47)

Finally, moral anxiety, fear due to conflict between id and superego. When Amy expresses impulses that go against morals. Amy manipulates all of her crimes beyond the moral limits of humanity. However, she is afraid of being judged for her actions, which is

what makes her confession to the police as a victim of rape.

“He push inside, n grab me, but i go away and run to the kitchen n he hit me with stick, he tied me like a dog, he punish me.”-Amy (02:10:00)

Reality anxiety, neurotic anxiety, and moral anxiety are formed because the source of the id is too strong in Amy. Uncontrolled anxiety will form a desire that is stimulating and impulsive. it aims to protect oneself from being punished and blamed.

### 3. Amy wanted revenge when she was hurt

In the Gone girl movie, Amy wants to get love and sex from her husband sincerely and build a harmonious household. When Amy's wish is not fulfilled she feels betrayed and disrespected as a wife. To meet her needs, she took revenge on her husband so that her hurt paid off. It can be seen on the citation below.

“Nick Dunne took my pride and my dignity and my hope and my money. He took and took from me until I no longer existed. That's murder. Let the punishment fit the crime.”  
– Amy Dunnes (01:06:35-02:06:45)

In the citation, it was explained a person's life instinct is to fulfill his own needs. In this instinct Freud stated that the most important thing is sex because it runs naturally in the human body. that Amy had felt devastated because of her husband's doing. His desire for revenge is very strong, it happens because of the impact of anxiety and excessive thoughts that cannot be controlled by the ego. A very weak ego makes a person's soul unable to think about the harm a person is doing.

### 4. Amy has paranoid thoughts about defeat

In the film Gone Girl, Amy wants to kill her ex-boyfriend Desi because her plan doesn't work out as expected. Amy goes to her ex-boyfriend so she can get help, because when she disappeared she lost money. It can be seen on the citation below.

For 20 years now, you've kept me dangling. Finally, last night you came to me, and you chose me. Follow that instinct. Don't trust the instinct that left you beaten and homeless, sleeping in your car, fearing for your life. –Desi (01:55:45)

The authors analyzed the instinct of death when a person has an aggressive urge, a compulsion to destroy and a desire to kill. In this citation, you can see how Desi begins to

organize Amy and becomes an obstacle to her revenge plan against Nick. Amy doesn't want to depend on men anymore. The way to get rid of Desi from the scene is by killing Desi and manipulating the tracks so that Amy is innocent. Amy cruelly killed her ex-boyfriend who had saved her after Amy experienced an incident that made her death scenario almost stopped because all of her property was robbed by her neighbors while hiding.

The life instinct and the death instinct can occur due to the impact of the ego's inability to reduce tension when dealing with the outside world, namely anxiety. The disturbance originated from hints between Nick and Amy in the household, one of which was about the opinion about having children. But distraction is what makes it all up. The big problem is when Nick has an affair with another woman and Nick's attitude starts to turn violent for Amy by pushing her down. The author analyzes that anxiety develops from the conflict of id, ego, and superego. According to Freud, there are three concerns that cause Id not to be controlled by the ego and the superego.

The following is an explanation of the psychopathic characteristics contained in the *Gone girl* movie:

1. Amy often lie to protect herself.

Amy decided to disappear into the Ozarks. There he has a new neighbor and lies about his real identity. It was Amy's doing so that her identity was unknown to others and her actions to disappear could go uninterrupted. It can be seen on the citation below.

“Your glasses are fake. Your roots are blond, not. You say your name’s Nancy but you don’t answer to it half the time. You’re hiding.” –Greta (01.38.24)

Apart from that, Amy also gave a false confession to the police when she disappeared. She lied about the act of rape that happened to her. It happens because superego can not control id. He'll continue to lie without a conscience.

“Desi raped me that night. Every night. He’d tie me up like a dog. Punish me. Starve me. Shave me. Sodomize me. Cameras everywhere. You’ve got to find the tapes.” –Amy (02.07.18)

Lying is a conscious act of data manipulation so that the other person believes what we are saying. Lying is a complex process, because one statement will require another

statement. Therefore, Amy commits one lie and is followed by another lie. This is because lies are new facts that the perpetrator is trying to construct, which needs to be corroborated by other facts. This was done to avoid punishment and being blamed by others.

## 2. Amy has a complicated behavior

Psychopaths usually have anti-social behavior and are detrimental to those closest to them. Psychopaths can be characterized, among others, initially displaying an attractive attitude, tend to be artificial, charming and spread a warm attitude. This is what makes it easy for people to believe it and with that belief they abuse or deceive their victims. Men are attracted by Amy, who is considered a beautiful, smart and beautiful woman friendly to women. But things changed when they got married. There Amy's character is considered to begin to change where she does strange things that make Nick distrust her. This citation for analyze :

“Amy Elliott, you are beyond amazing. You are incredibly smart but entirely unsnobby. You are kind but never a martyr. You surprise me. You challenge me.”-Nick (00:14:31)

“We’ve had a problem with the homeless in our neighborhood. she’s complicated. She has high expectations.”-Nick (00.16.49)

A psychopath who perceives Freud's usually tends to be complicated and can't read what he thinks. Amy is good and looks perfect because she wants to lead public opinion that she is extraordinary. Behind his innocence, he was very cruel. However, the opinion that assumes Amy is good can cover up the crimes that are made even though it is beyond the limits of human thought.

## 3. Amy behaves manipulatively while planning revenge

For trying to frame her own husband, Nick. This problem arises when they get married and their relationship is tested with temptations that make Amy feel betrayed and hurt. In this story Amy is really depicted as a woman who is evil, cunning and likes to kill, unlike women in general. Amy tries to frame Nick just because she doesn't trust him. The following is proof of the manipulation that Amy carried out in a monologue.

“To fake a convincing murder you have to have discipline. You befriend an idiot and cram her, with stories about your husband’s temper. You create some money troubles. You bump up your life insurance. They run into another PREGNANT woman;



NOELLE and the woman compare bellies. And then you realize the piece de resistance your story was missing. America loves pregnant women. As if it's so hard to spread your legs. You know what hard? Faking a pregnancy. Invite pregnant idiot for lemonade. Steal pregnant idiot's urine. Voila. A pregnancy is now part of your legal medical record.”-Amy (01:06:46 – 01:09:30)

Amy started talking with her pregnant neighbor. In this conversation, Amy tries to influence her friend to hate Nick with her fake story that she has prepared, to make it appear convincing that Amy tells the whole incident from the beginning of their marriage to further strengthen the story, Amy plays with her emotions so that the friend is also carried away with her emotions.

”You befriend an idiot and cram her, with stories about your husband's temper.”-Amy (01:06:56)

Day after day Amy designed everything the scenario, but Nick without realizing that he was being monitored and used negligence, such as signing a credit card on him. Nick's everyday laziness that can make it easier for Amy running all of this. The plan turned out to be quite successful when the problem disappeared.

“You create some money troubles.”-Amy (01:07:09)

Amy began to be revealed and the friend who had been the victim of Amy's lies shouted in public if Amy was pregnant. Because with her condition that looks pregnant, Amy will get sympathy from many people around her and in America itself really loves and appreciates people who are pregnant.

“And then you realize the piece de resistance your story was missing. America loves pregnant women. As if it's so hard to spread your legs. You know what hard? Faking a pregnancy. Invite pregnant idiot for lemonade. Steal pregnant idiot's urine. Voila. A pregnancy is now part of your legal medical record.”-Amy (01:07:35)

After that, She starts staging her murder scene, tossing tables, upturning the ottoman. Throwing herself around violently. So, Amy injected her veins with a stolen medical needle until her blood pooled on her kitchen floor. That Amy drew her own blood and with deliberately poured it in the kitchen area and work place, after which the place was cleaned with still leaving blots as if he had been brutally murdered by Nick then the place was cleaned hastily by him. In Amy's mind, you have to bleed, a lot, a lot,

like blood from a head wound, like crime scene blood.

“You need to bleed.”-Amy

She consults her FORENSICS FOR DUMMIES: blood spatter. (01:08:42)

#### 4. Amy has a lack of empathy

Amy does not have empathy because she repeatedly tried to hurt people who tried to bother her, including her own husband and killed her ex boyfriend.

When Amy killed Desi by slashing Desi's neck on the bed. (02:04:17)

The superego is too weak to handle the id. Whatever Amy wants must be fulfilled, including killing someone. Nervous anxiety makes Amy unable to think long. He is worried that the police will find out about his crimes. The only way according to Amy is to kill Desi so that he can make excuses when investigated by the police. Amy made an excuse to kill Desi because Desi had raped and abused her.

#### 5. Amy behaving sadistically to her husband

The environment is a major factor in Amy's crime because Amy takes advantage of a well-known figure in society for making up a fake story about Nick so that everyone hates her husband. It can be said that Amy's attitude or evil has happened for a long time. Amy traps Nick in order to make Nick a suspect in Amy's murder and sentenced to death, then he will close his treasure hunting game by drowning himself in the Gulf of Mexico.

“The world will hate Nick for killing his beautiful, pregnant wife. And when I’m ready, I’ll go out on the ocean with a handful of pills and a couple of stones. If they find my body, they’ll know.”-Amy (01:09:53)

Seen from the author's analysis in the Gone Girl movie, Amy Dunne has a personality disorder that leads to psychopathic behavior. This psychopathic behavioral symptom is illustrated in Amy's behavior and traits. A person who is categorized as a psychopath tends not to follow the existing rules. In addition, other symptoms of psychopathic behavior are difficulty controlling emotions, full of deceit, not having feelings of remorse even for a while he will feel satisfied, not afraid, irresponsible, but has an intelligent and spontaneous nature. People who have psychopathic symptoms also

tend to act naturally and calmly to cover up their true nature and have an attractive appearance. In the film *Gone Girl*, Amy has several characteristics of the symptoms of this psychopathic behavior.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

### Conclusion

After analyzing the findings and discussion in the previous chapter based on the data *Gone girl* movie. The researcher concluded that the research found the answer from the research. It combines and outlines Freud's psychoanalytic theory of the psychopathic problem of the main character in the *Gone girl* movie. After the researcher examines through data analysis. The researcher can conclude that the psychoanalysis experienced by Amy Dunnes is; In this film Amy plays the character of the Antagonist Id. She wants to take revenge on her own husband named Nick, she is the type of person who always gets what she wants. The ego and Superego in Amy are very weak, so they cannot control Id. The researcher examines the personality described by Amy by using Freud's theory of personality dynamics. The anxieties described above cause the id to become uncontrollable and lead to undirected desires. Here Amy's desire is to achieve her goal by faking her death. Amy's actions, which the researcher has analyzed, tend to refer to psychopathic traits. Where the characteristics described above show that the id that forms Amy's personality is more dominant and creates greater psychological energy for Amy. Adult humans whose id is more dominant will experience psychopathic problems, which are difficult to cure if the ego and superego are not highlighted.

### Suggestions

Through this final project, the researcher gets enlightenment through Amy's character as a wife and as a woman should be able to use her conscience more in doing an action, because whatever problems that occur in the household will be solved, if we can use common sense. Family is an important thing that can support us to succeed. A suggestion to fellow students is that learning English literature is an interesting thing. Very useful for getting lots of messages from him. An example is a true story film. Researchers hope that this research can provide benefits for fellow students who are

interested in English literature. I hope my fellow students can provide better explanations and elaborations for a broader study, especially Freud's Psychoanalysis.

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