

## DISSOCIATIVE IDENTITY DISORDER REFLECTED IN FREDERICK CLEGG'S CHARACTER IN *THE COLLECTORS* NOVEL

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### ABSTRACT

This paper discusses dissociative identity disorder as seen in John Flowless' novel entitled *The Collectors*. The main purpose of this research is to reveal the causes of dissociative identity disorder and the symptoms of dissociative identity disorder in the novel. The writer focuses of the main character who named Frederick Clegg. The writer arranges the literary review by discussing about theory and approach. The theory that is used dissociative identity disorder by Pierre Janet. Dissociative identity disorder is characterized by the presence in one individual of two or more alternative personality states (alters). For such individuals, the memory representation of a particular event can have full episodic, auto noetic status for one alter, while having the status of knowledge or even being inaccessible to a second alter this analysis applied qualitative and library research to depict clearly about the problem by using the words. The result of this analysis shows some causes and symptoms that exist in the novel. For the causes it was started from capacity for dissociation, traumatic experiences, perpetuating factors. Meanwhile for the symptoms are start from memory loss (amnesia), mental health problems, such as depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts and behaviors. The writer hope that by conducting this research it can be use full for the future reader that are interested in the same theory.

**Keywords:** *The Collectors*, dissociative identity disorder, cause, symptoms

### Introduction

Psychology is truly the study of all behavior and mental process over the entire life spend .Psychology is the study of human and animal behavior normal and abnormal behavior conscious and unconscious influence of behavior, and behavior from the conception to the dead. Witig (2001, p. 9). From that quotation, it is known that psychology is the study that relates human's minds and behavior which concerned about how human can work, behave or interact in the situations that they are in. Psychology is also the science that studies the human behavior and mental process that involves science in order to identify the disease and categorized it with some term. Through this,

we can see understand the human behavior more deep.

There is a very strong correlation between literature and psychology for the fact that both of them deal with human beings and their reactions, perceptions of the world, miseries, wishes, desires, fears, conflicts and reconciliations; individual and social concerns, by means of varied concepts, methods, and approaches. Clearly, literature enables individuals to know and question their identities by raising consciousness and awareness. It is to be noted that man and existence have always been fundamental elements in most scientific studies, fine arts and literature (Goksen Aras, 2014).

The novel is a debut novel of John Fowles released in 1963. It tells the reader about the psychological problem that the main character has. The main character is Frederick Clegg. He is a man in his mid-20s who grows obsessed with Miranda Grey, a beautiful teenager whom he watches from afar. He takes the steps necessary to kidnap Miranda, though at the time he tells himself that he is not necessarily preparing to abduct her. Clegg buys a secluded house in the country and readies a small basement room as an inescapable cell; he also buys a van with which to follow and snatch Miranda. Miranda is alternately kind to Clegg and exasperated with him, now conciliatory and now furious. She desperately wants to be set free. While at times she feels defeated, by the end of her narration she is full of life and ready to experience the world outside. Her section ends as she descends further into sickness, beginning to rave and worrying that she will die. Clegg reveals that he never got a doctor for Miranda and that, after an agonizing several days of severe pneumonia, Miranda died. Clegg contemplates killing himself, thus lending their story have a tragically beautiful ending, much like the conclusion of *Romeo and Juliet*. However, Clegg has a change of heart. He buries Miranda without much emotion and sets his sights on a new victim, one who will be more pliable once captured.

From the summary above it can be seen that the main character, Frederick Clegg has Mental Disorder. He suffers Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID) or previously known as Multiple Personality Disorder (MPD), where the person who suffers of this illness has two or more personalities within one body. In this case Frederick Clegg as the main characters in the novel portrayed that he is the one who suffers from it, he has a strange behavior and always thought that he is just like the other normal people but actual not, he has more than personality. Sometimes he seems fine, good, but sometimes he is mean and sometimes he look like a frustration guy. This novel also

tells about how Ferdinand Clegg tormented by this illness started from he cannot handle himself, and he unconscious what he done. By this novel, the writer intended to analyze the psychological issue of Frederick Clegg as the main character. The use of this analysis is to know and to observe the behavior of the main character about the disease that he has and able to describe how Dissociative Identity Disorder happens in the character. In this analysis the writer will focus in two things, first is about the causes of Dissociative Identity Disorder and the second is about the symptoms of Dissociative Identity Disorder and how it is describe in the novel.

#### 1. Research Question

According to the background of the study which has been elaborated previously, the writer formulates the problem into:

- a. What are the causes that make Frederick Clegg suffers from Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID)?
- b. What are the symptoms that make Frederick Clegg suffers from Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID)?

#### 2. Research Objective

From the research question above, the objective of this research are:

- a. To reveal the causes that make Frederick Clegg Suffers from Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID)
- b. To reveal the symptoms that make Frederick Clegg from Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID)

#### 3. Research Uses

There are two uses of study, theoretical use and practical use.

#### 4. First Theoretical Use

Theoretically, this research is expected to support and to contribute the field of literary study especially in a novel. So it will be advantageous for the readers who are interested in novel and the topic of discussion. Hopefully, this research is able to

enrich the reader knowledge and to give brief information and understanding about Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID) issue through John Fowless' *The Collectors*.

#### 5. Second Practical Use

Practically, this research is to give information about Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID) in the novel. This research is expected to be reference for reader or researcher who needs information about how the content of the novel according to the DID theory is and how to apply the theory to their relevant research.

#### 6. Research Scope

Based on the research question, the writer focuses on analyzing what are the causes that make the character suffer mental disorder (Dissociative Identity Disorder) and the symptoms of becoming transgender as seen in Frederick Clegg character. Thus, the approach and the theory used in this research are psychology studies approach and Sigmund Freud theory.

#### 7. Theoretical Framework

The previous studies are related to the topic discussed and become as the writer's references and guidelines in constructing this research. In order to understand and comprehend the discussion of A Psychological Analysis of Dissociative Identity Disorder of Frederick Clegg in John Fowless' *The Collectors*, the writer looks at a certain study previously done by other researchers. Here, the writer found 5 previous studies that could help the writer to do the research.

The first is Analysis of Dissociative Identity Disorder in R. L. Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Siti Maesyah.

This thesis was written in 2016. The object in this research is a fiction prose that entitled *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1991). It was written by Robert Louis Stevenson. Like in the human social life, there is also a problem or issue that was

adapted in the novel. One of common problems is psychological problem. The writer attempted to portray the main character psychological problem by identifying the intrinsic elements (plot, character and setting). The novel talked about the main character that was Dr. Jekyll. This paper also used the psychoanalysis theory by Sigmund Freud in order to find the causes of the main character's psychological problem. The writer found that the main character's psychological disorder that he has two personalities. In general psychological field, the psychological disorder that suffered by the character, it is referred into Dissociative Identity Disorder.

The second, Nina's Dissociative Identity Disorder in Aronofsky's Movie *Black Swan*: a semiotic analysis by Linda Sugesti.

This research, therefore aims to interpret the meaning of signs that represent Nina's dissociative identity disorder in *Black Swan*. This research employs semiotic theory by Peirce. Semiotics is the study of signs. Everything can be signs while it is interpreted as a sign. According to Peirce, sign is divided into three: icon, index and symbol. Dissociative identity disorder concept is also applies to find in the scenes that indicate Nina's dissociative identity disorder.

The result of this research found that there are three modes of signs in *Black Swan*. Those three modes of signs show that *Black Swan* tells about Nina's Dissociative identity disorder. Nina's dissociative identity disorder signs portray three symptoms of dissociative identity disorder which come from Nina's appearance changes, Nina's behavior changes, and hallucinations.

The third, The Main Character's Multiple Personality in Daniel Keyes' *The Minds of Billy Milligan* by Faiqothul Latifah. This thesis was written on 2008 this paper emphasizes to analyze the forms of psychological conflicts of Billy Milligan, the main character of *The Minds of Billy Milligan*, it is causes and effects to Billy's

personality and behavior. In the second part of analysis, we also analyze kinds of Billy's personalities. This part presents and analyzes 10 of the most dominant from 24 personalities which Billy has.

As the result of this analysis that emphasize to analyze the kinds of Billy's personalities by using Jung's theory conclude that from 10 of 24 personalities which are being analyzed by the researcher, we find only three types of personality among them, introversion thinking, introversion feeling and extroversion feeling. This study also proves that child abuses which are experienced by Billy is the most responsible thing to all the entire of Billy's psychological conflicts and also his Multiple Personality.

The Fourth, Dissociative Identity Disorder of Main Character in *Sybil* Novel By Flora R.S Based On Psychological Perspective. By Rizky Milani Pratama, S.S, M.Pd.

This thesis was written on September 2016, this paper intends to find out the characterization of the sixteen personalities and psychological problems in that novel, in this case, dissociative identity disorder. The writer wants to know about the symptom, the causes, and the treatment of dissociative identity disorder that found in *Sybil* novel. *Sybil* as the main character suffers from dissociative identity disorder because she got physical and sexual abuse from his mother and she has no one to share and solve her problems. It forces her to get another solution by making other personalities to share her problems. Suffering dissociative identity disorder makes her losing her time. She does not know what she has done and what she told about until she meet with Dr. Wilbur, the psychiatrist who give her psychotherapy to bend all her personalities.

The fifth, Dissociative Identity Disorder of Ashley Patterson as the Main Character in Sidney Sheldon's *Tell Me Your Dreams* by Safira Ambar Sari.

This thesis was written on 2013 this thesis discusses the psychological conflict of

the main character of Sidney Sheldon's novel *Tell Me Your Dreams*. This thesis uses the method of literature and using a psychological approach with the theory of Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID) Davison and Nale. The intrinsic aspects analyzed are character, characterization, and conflict. Such intrinsic aspects are used to support the overall analysis. Meanwhile, the DID theory is used to analyze the extrinsic aspect, i.e., the psychology of characters or characters in the story.

And the results of novel *Tell Me Your Dreams* are as follows; based on intrinsic analysis can be expressed that the main character is a beautiful woman, but she hates her appearance. Social status of the main character is a smart girl who gets scholarship and reliable in his work. The social status of the main character is a child who is from the family of world-renowned surgeons. The results of external analysis in the novel *Tell Me Your Dreams* shows that the conflict is the main character experienced traumatic experience due to rape committed by his biological father. As a result of his traumatic experience, the main character experienced multiple personalities. Based on the analysis of the psychological approach (DID), DID occurs when childhood is caused by severe physical or sexual abuse and this results in dissociation and the formation of other personalities as a way to overcome trauma. The solution of the main character to overcome the conflict that occurs against him is to create multiple personalities that are contrary to his personality, such as being a killer and loving art.

Generally, there are some approaches that are used in analyzing literary works, such as structuralism approach, psychological approach, sociological approach and genetic structuralism approach to analyze an object. By some of these approaches, the writer chooses Psychological approach because this approach is more effective with the research question and in answering the research question.

“Psychology is generally concerned with studying the mind, the brain and the human behavior.” Psychological approach assumes that many disorders result from mental, behavioral, and social factors, such as personal experiences, traumas, conflicts, and environmental conditions. Psychological approach can be fascinating and rewarding. Novel can be analyzed by psychology approach to knowing about the character’s psychological problem.” (Ramaraju 2012, p. 2)

#### 8. The Dissociation Theory

Dissociation is the core feature of the dissociative disorders. Furthermore, dissociative experiences are among the diagnostic criteria for acute stress disorder (ASD) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as well as borderline personality disorder. It has been linked to traumatic experiences and seems to be an important predictor for poor treatment response and high relapse rates, at least in patients with panic and obsessive-compulsive disorders. In the dissociation theory, there are 4 types of dissociations those are: Dissociative Amnesia, Dissociative Identity Disorder, Dissociative Fugue and Depersonalization. In this case the main character suffers from Dissociative Identity Disorder.

#### 9. Dissociative Identity Disorder

*Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder (DSM-5)* defines mental disorder is “...a syndrome characterized by clinically significant disturbance in an individual's cognitive, emotion regulation, or behavior that reflects a dysfunction in the psychological, biological, or developmental process underlying mental functioning. Mental disorders are usually associated with significant distress in social, occupational, or other important activities.” From that quote, it is known that a person can be categorized mentally disorder when he or she suffers emotionally and mentally disturbed.

In the novel, Frederick Clegg who suffers DID has a mental trouble and

unstable to maintain his mood and behavior when he meets somebody. Clegg shows the characteristic as a person who suffers of DID. The personality that appear in the person who suffers DID can be various, each of them has its own characteristics just like the normal people, they have they own preferences, abilities and skill and interest in some aspect that they like.

The definition of DID above gives the writer more understanding in analyzing the object that the writer has choose earlier. The main issue that the writer wants to discuss is about DID where the character of this novel suffer this psychology because his trauma in the past.

DID is not something that is caused by birth congenital. If we look deeper to the definition that already mentioned earlier if DID developmental process underlying mental functioning. Mental disorders are usually associated with significant distress in social, occupational, or other important activities.

As the writer has explained in the background of the study also Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID) is the person that has more than one personality. Dissociative Identity Disorder is not happening by itself, there is several causes also that make the reason who someone suffers Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID). And the symptoms are also shown by someone that identified as Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID).

According to Richard Kluft, there are 4 main earlier causes of Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID) sense, which are:

1. The capacity for dissociation.
2. Precipitating traumatic experiences that overwhelm the child’s non-dissociative coping capacity.
3. Specific psychological structuring of the DID alternate personalities.
4. Perpetuating factors such as lack of soothing and restorative experiences, which necessitate individuals to find their own ways of moderating distress.

So from all the quotation, it is known that there is relation between childhood

events that become the reason people suffers from DID. The abuse and other stuffs make this people tormented and splitting the personality in order to out from that situation. And there is several symptoms also that shown by someone that identified as Dissociative Identity Disorder. According to (DSM 5), there are seven main earlier symptoms of Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID) sense, which are:

1. Memory loss (amnesia) of certain time periods, events, people and personal information
2. A sense of being detached from yourself and your emotions
3. A perception of the people and things around you as distorted and unreal
4. A blurred sense of identity
5. Significant stress or problems in your relationships, work or other important areas of your life
6. Inability to cope well with emotional or professional stress
7. Mental health problems, such as depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

In the simple way, the main causes of dissociative identity disorder (DID) itself is because of someone who has a deeper traumatic in the past. And the symptoms of the Dissociative identity disorder (DID) is by understanding other symptoms above, mental health problems, such as depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

And here the sample analysis of cause:

“My father was killed driving. I was two/ that was in 1937. he was drunk, but Aunt Annie always said it was my mother that drove him to drink. They never told me what really happened, but she went off soon after and left me with Aunt Annie, she only wanted an easy time.” (Fowless, 1963, p. 3)

“Uncle Dick died when I was fifteen. That was 1950. we went up to Tring Reservoir to fish, as usual I went off with my net and stuff. When I got hungry and came back to ware I left him, there were a canot of people. I told he’d caught a

whopper. But he’d had a stroke. They got him home, but he never said another word or properly recognize any of us again.” (Fowless, 1963, p. 3)

So from all the quotation, it is known that there is relation between childhood events that become the reason people suffers from DID. The abuse and other stuffs that make this people tormented and splitting the personality in order to out from that situation.

And here the sample analysis of symptoms.

“She was like all women, she had a one-track mind. I never respected her again. It left me angry for days. Because I could do it. The photographs (the day I gave her the pad), I used to look at them sometimes. I could take my time with them. They didn't talk back at me. (Fowless, 1963, p. 49)”

The symptoms of the Dissociative identity disorder (DID) is By understanding other symptoms above, mental health problems, such as depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

### Methodology

The writer use qualitative and library study to support the writer’s research. From internet research, the writer browsed some journals and articles then figured out some theories from some books related to the research. The writer uses the qualitative method to explore the behavior, perspectives, experiences, and feelings of people and emphasize the understanding of these elements.

#### 1. Data and Data Source

Data is important element to support the writer in doing research; data are factual information, information often in the form experiments or survey, used as a basic for making calculating or drawing conclusion. By this data, the writer can complete this research to prove the evidence about this research. In this research, the writer has data sources. Data in this research are words,

quotation, and dialog from novel which describe about Dissociative Identity Disorder analysis of the main character in novel by John Fowless

## 2. Data Collecting Technique

In data collecting technique, the writer uses these steps in order to collect the data that dealing with the discussion, The data of this study collected from the novel *The Collectors* by John Fawless. There are three steps in collecting data: (1) Reading the novel; (2) Finding and selecting the function of the main character's role; (3) Note taking and classifying.

## 3. Data Analyzing Techniques

Data analysis is a process of organizing the data into description, so the writer could find the theme and the issues. The data which the writer got in data collecting technique will be analyzed by following the stage. Here the writer uses several steps in analyzing the data:

### a. Selecting Stage

This stage aims the writer to select the data whether or not the data that chosen is relevant and significant or not with the research. Selecting data also relevant with choosing the data whether or not the data is match with the issue that the writer wants to analyze.

### b. Interpreting Stage and Classifying Stage

The points of this stage is to interprets the data that been chosen by the writer and construct how is queer character contained in the novel. In this stage, the writer uses the theory and the approach that the writer have choose to analyze the discussion.

### c. Concluding Stage

This is the final stage of the analyzing technique. Every data that has been selected, classified and analyzed will be concluded after relate it with the explanation and description toward the issue. The

concluding stage also has function as the answer of the research question that the writer has elaborated earlier. The conclusion will be putted after those steps earlier have been done.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, *The Collectors* novel by John Fowless, the writer discussed about Someone who suffers Psychology Disorder we called it Dissociative Identity Disorder in one of character, which is Frederick Clegg, by using DID Theory the writer found the Cause and also the symptoms that makes someone suffers Dissociative Identity Disorder, for the cause they are The capacity for dissociation, Precipitating traumatic experiences that overwhelm the child's non-dissociative coping capacity, Specific psychological structuring of the DID alternate personalities, Perpetuating factors such as lack of soothing and restorative experiences, which necessitate individuals to find their own ways of moderating distress. And for the Symptoms there are Memory loss (amnesia) of certain time periods, events, people and personal information, A sense of being detached from yourself and your emotions, A perception of the people and things around you as distorted and unreal, A blurred sense of identity, significant stress or problems in your relationships, work or other important areas of your life. Inability to cope well with emotional or professional stress can cause mental health problems, such as depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

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