

## PSYCHOANALYSIS OF “DESDEMONA” CHARACTER ON OTHELO

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### **Abstract**

*This research is an analysis of one of the characters in the drama Othello, namely Desdemona. The analysis used is a psychological approach. Psychoanalysis was taken by the researcher because it was considered capable of explaining Desdemona's character in more detail. The purpose of this study is to find out how Desdemona's character in Othello is seen from a psychological point of view. This research method is descriptive qualitative and uses a literature study design. Data is taken from various sources; drama transcripts, articles, and others. Researchers use literature study because researchers indirectly analyze drama scripts, then use library research to obtain appropriate data as research information. The researcher chose Othello's drama as a data source, while the data for this study were all sentences and dialogues between characters in the drama script. The personality development of the character “Desdemona” shows that she is an independent woman who has the power to make some changes in her life. Her death is a symbol of her honesty and loyalty to her husband.*

**Keywords:** psychoanalysis, Desdemona character, Othello

### **Abstrak**

*Penelitian ini merupakan analisis salah satu karakter dalam drama Othello yaitu Desdemona. Analisis yang digunakan menggunakan pendekatan psikologi. Psikoanalisis diambil oleh peneliti karena dianggap mampu untuk menjelaskan karakter Desdemona secara lebih detail. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui bagaimana karakter Desdemona dalam Othello dilihat dari sudut pandang psikologi. Metode penelitian ini adalah deskriptif kualitatif dan menggunakan desain studi pustaka. Data diambil dari berbagai sumber; transkrip drama, artikel, dan lain-lain. Peneliti menggunakan studi pustaka karena peneliti secara tidak langsung menganalisis naskah drama, kemudian menggunakan penelitian kepustakaan untuk mendapatkan data yang sesuai sebagai informasi penelitian. Peneliti memilih drama Othello sebagai sumber data sedangkan data untuk penelitian ini adalah seluruh kalimat dan dialog antar tokoh dalam naskah drama. Perkembangan kepribadian karakter “Desdemona” menunjukkan bahwa dia adalah wanita mandiri yang memiliki kekuatan untuk melakukan beberapa perubahan dalam hidupnya. Kematianannya adalah simbol kejujuran dan kesetiiaannya kepada suaminya.*

**Keywords:** psikoanalisis, karakter Desdemona, Othello

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Each person in the world has a different personality. Each personality has its complexity and uniqueness. According to Long (2000:99), personality refers to those stable characteristics by which individuals differ from each other and which acts as the basis for what they do. It is a label normally applied to interpersonal behavior and we would for instance typically say that a person who is socially outgoing has an extraverted personality. McAdams (2015:15) stated that personality is: a unique variation on the general design of human nature. Human nature itself is what we human beings have in common with each other by virtue of the fact that we are all human beings. Personality is influenced by the society in which we live. It is the factor which make the personality is different from each other. It has a relationship with psychology. Personality psychology, is the theory and study of types, traits, and individual differences. It help us to analyze the characteristic of people such as how they behave, why they behave as they do, how they think, how they feel, and what they are like together. Analyzing characters' behavior and personality especially in the movie is not such an easy thing to do. We have to recognize them well in details.

There are a lot of ways to analyze the characteristic of people in the movie. One of them is by using psychoanalytic criticism. It focuses on the analysis of one's personality including the model of Psyche, the concept of repression, and the role of of sexual instinct. In this paper the writer did a psychoanalysis on Othello movie especially "Desdemona" character. It's caused she like "Desdemona" character in Othello movie. But, the writer doesn't like the way she is murdered. The writer, as a woman, feels disappointed to the "Othello" character who killed his wife by himself. She also doesn't like his attitude very much. She is a woman who has a fidelity to her husband, Othello. So that, she is interested in analyzing this character deeply by using psychoanalytic criticism. In reality, psychoanalysis is an effective technique of exploring repressed or unconscious impulses and anxieties, as well as internal conflict. This technique can often be quite effective when used on the characters in various fictional texts, such as Shakespeare's, Othello. By applying such a reading to the text, we can gain a much greater understanding of the characters, the ways their 'minds' work, and the effect their thought patterns have on the themes portrayed in the drama. When performing a psychoanalytic reading of characters in a text, we must consider the various physically presented manifestations of their minds' workings, just like in the psychoanalysis of 'real' people. These generally include signs such as resistance or transference of certain

ideas or suggestions. This sort of behavior could indicate a deep-rooted subconscious aversion to the ideas being discussed.

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

The research is designed to obtain the answers about the Desdemona characterization in the Othello. The design of this research is library research. According to George (2008:1) library research is not a mystery or a lucky dodge, but an investigation you control from start to finish, even though you cannot usually tell what sources you will discover. The data were taken from various sources; drama transcript, article, and etc. The method in this study is qualitative by using library research. The writer applies library research because the the writer indirectly analyzes the movie script, then used library research to get suitable data for information. The writers get the data from the data sources as the research data in the form of conversational fragments in drama script. The writer had chosen Othello drama as the data source whereas the data for the research comprised all sentences and dialogues among the characters in the drama script which were related to the characters' characterization and it could provide much information related to the conflict on characters which is very interesting to be analyzed.

## **3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Desdemona is a more plausible and well rounded figure. She is a young beautiful woman. In the movie the character of Desdemona changes at times. She has an independent personality especially when she wants to marry with Othello. Her father does not agree with her decision, but finally he allows her to marry with Othello although he is very angry with her. Her father said that Desdemona could lie her father, next time she would lie her husband too. Desdemona really loves Othello, so she does not care about what her father says. She follows her husband wherever he goes to. Desdemona is young, sexual, and recently married. She is a faithful wife. She likes to make her husband happy. She serves him very well. Beside she is a faithful wife, she is also a kind hearted person. It can be seen when Cassio has a problem, she wants to help him to convince Othello that Cassio is guiltless. But, Iago is very tricky. He does everything to make Othello does not trust Desdemona. Desdemona always tries to convince Othello that there is nothing wrong between her and Cassio. They are just friend. Desdemona is very honest. She will not lie her husband because she really loves her husband, Othello. But, Othello remembers what Desdemona's father says. It makes him more hesitate to trust his wife, Desdemona. Actually, she really respect her husband, but she is disappointed with him

because he does not trust her very much. She became an independent person like when she decided to marry with Othello without her father's knowing. She is in the position of defending her fidelity to her husband. She begins the play as supremely independent person, but she must struggle against all odds to convince Othello that she is not too independent. The manner in which Desdemona is murdered, smothered by a pillow in a bed covered in her wedding sheets, is symbolic that she is literally suffocated beneath the demands put on her fidelity. Tragically, Desdemona is apparently aware of her imminent death. The last time we see Desdemona before she awakens to find Othello standing over her with murder in his eyes, she sings a song she learned from her mother's maid. Like the audience, Desdemona seems to be able only to watch as her husband is driven insane with jealousy. Though she maintains to the end that she is "guiltless", Desdemona also forgives her husband. Her forgiveness of Othello may help the audience to forgive him as well.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

After analyzing the "Desdemona" character in Othello movie by using psychoanalytic criticism, the researcher can conclude that the character of "Desdemona" changes at times. She can be an independent woman especially when she decided to marry with Othello without her father's permission. She also can be a faithful wife especially when she becomes Othello's wife although in the middle of the story she gets conflict related to her fidelity to her husband. She is also a kind person especially when she wants to help Cassio. But she is not aware that it will make a big problem for her life. She cannot do anything to make Othello trusts her. Her husband killed her. Actually she has felt that she will die, before it really occurs. She thinks perhaps by her death, she can solve this problem, and it is also to prove that she is a woman who has a fidelity to her husband forever. The personality development of "Desdemona" character shows that she is an independent woman who has a strength to make some changes in her life. Her death is a symbol of her honesty and fidelity to her husband. Based on the conclusion above, the researcher suggests it would be more interesting if Desdemona is not murdered by her husband, Othello. It will give more moral values to the audience if in the end of the story Desdemona is still alive. And her husband, Othello, is aware of her fidelity to him. They live happily ever after. And also Iago gets his punishment. The movie will be more interesting and it gives us more moral values. But, so far the researcher agree "Othello" is a good movie.

**5. REFERENCES**

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