

Inner Conflict of Dewa's Character in the Novel Invalidite by Faradita: A Study of Humanistic Psychology

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Abstract

The objective of this research is to elucidate three key aspects related to Dewa's character in the novel "Invalidite": (1) the internal conflicts experienced by Dewa, (2) the various manifestations of these inner conflicts, and (3) an exploration of Dewa's unmet needs within the context of the novel "Invalidite." This research methodology uses a descriptive qualitative approach. Data collection techniques involve meticulous reading and note-taking, tailored to the primary data source, namely Faradita's novel "Invalidite." The researcher engaged in a thorough examination of the novel's text, systematically documenting all information about Dewa's inner conflicts. Additionally, relevant data such as words, sentences, or paragraphs depicting Dewa's inner conflicts, behaviors, and unfulfilled needs were identified and recorded. This research reveals distinct forms of inner conflict within Dewa's character, encompassing anxiety, trauma, fear, anger, and indecision. Furthermore, this research sheds light on Dewa's unmet needs as the primary drivers of his internal conflicts, specifically: (1) unfulfilled physiological need, (2) unmet need for security, (3) unmet need for love and affection, and (4) unmet need for recognition. In summary, this research provides a comprehensive understanding of the inner conflicts and unmet needs of Dewa's character in the novel "Invalidite," drawing on Abraham Maslow's framework. The identified forms of inner conflict and unfulfilled needs contribute to a nuanced exploration of Dewa's psychological landscape in the narrative.

Keywords: Abraham Maslow, Inner Conflict, Invalidite

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Introduction

The literary works written by authors are the result of the tumult within their souls, expressing ideas, thoughts, and emotions that the author intends to convey to the readers. Authors create such works because of the unrest they feel due to experiences in their own lives or the lives around them. When creating literary works, authors often attempt to convey their meanings and messages through words, stories, or poetry, so that the work can

influence, inspire, or provoke reflection in the readers. According to Sumardjo, Literature is the personal expression of man in the form of experiences, thoughts, feelings, ideas, passion, and belief in the form of concrete images that arouse charm with the means of language (Musrini, 2010). Literary works can serve as a reflection of the social, cultural, and emotional condition of their authors, acting as a medium to convey profound thoughts, values, or feelings. In other words, literature is an artistic expression rooted in the personal experiences and emotions of the author, which can then speak to many people who engage with it.

A work of fiction the author is written to, among other things, offer an idealized model of life (Nurgiantoro, 2010). Fiction incorporates the application of moral values in the behavior and actions of characters, in line with their views on morality. Literature presents various themes, characters, and conflicts, opening a window for us to delve into and understand the diversity and complexity of human nature. One form of conflict experienced by characters in literary works is psychological conflict. In the field of psychology, conflict is one aspect studied in personality psychology. Personality psychology focuses on the study of individual characteristics and factors that influence human behavior.

The goal of literary psychology is to understand the psychiatric aspect in literary works, although this is not true when the analysis of literary psychology is independent of the needs of society, but also provides an understanding of society through figures in literary works indirectly (Ratna, 2015). With psychology, one can better understand others. Literary psychology, in turn, focuses on the psyche of characters. In a novel, characters will confront situations that lead to inner conflicts. The novel "Invalidite" narrates the story of the main character named Dewa, along with all the inner conflicts he experiences.

Dewa is portrayed as a man with high emotional intensity, unable to control his anger. He exhibits selfish, irritable, arrogant behavior, often demeaning those who do not meet his standards. Dewa's traits are rooted in past trauma, stemming from witnessing the murder of both of his parents in front of his own eyes. Maslow also stated, When one of the needs of one has been met, then another need will arise. (Minderop, 2011). However, if these needs are not fulfilled, inner conflict will arise.

There are three relevant previous studies. Firstly, there is Amalia Oktaviani's research titled *Analisis Konflik Tokoh Utama Atlanta dalam Novel Pantomime Karya Sayyidatul Imamah dan Pemanfaatannya untuk Bahan Ajar di SMA* (Oktaviani et al., 2022). This study discusses the inner conflict of the main character Atlanta in the novel Pantomime. Similarities in this research are based on the humanistic psychology theory of Abraham Maslow. Secondly, there is Ilham Darmawan's research titled *Konflik Batin Tokoh Utama dalam Novel Shaf Karya Ima Madani: Teori Kebutuhan*. (Darmawan et al., 2023). This study explores the inner conflict and the causes of inner conflict that occur in the main character of the novel Shaf. Similarities in this research involve analyzing the inner conflict of the main character and the factors causing inner conflict in the character, and the similarity lies in using Abraham Maslow's humanistic psychology theory.

Thirdly, there is the research by Novia Nurkamila (2022) *Analisis Kepribadian Tokoh Utama dalam Novel Gemaya Karya Risma Ridha Anissa (Tinjauan Psikologi Sastra)* which examines the personality structure of the main character (S, Novia Nurkamila. P, 2021). The

difference in this research is that the researcher employs Sigmund Freud's psychological theory.

Method

The research method applied in this study is qualitative descriptive method. Qualitative descriptive method is a type of research conducted by collecting data (Sugiyono, 2021). This approach aims to understand and comprehensively describe various literary aspects in the novel without involving numerical or statistical analysis. Qualitative descriptive research emphasizes the collection of data in the form of words, sentences, or phrases with the goal of obtaining in-depth interpretation.

The data collection technique and method applied include the reading and note-taking technique, adapted to the main data source of this research, which is the novel *Invalidite* by Faradita. The researcher meticulously read and studied the text of the novel, then carefully recorded all information related to the inner conflict of the character Dewa. Additionally, the researcher conducted identification and recorded relevant data, such as words, sentences, or paragraphs related to the inner conflict, behavior, and needs of the character Dewa. *Invalidite* by Faradita was first published in 2018 on the online reading platform Wattpad, and later published as a book in the same year. The novel consists of a total of 276 pages, divided into 57 chapters, two epilogues, and an author's biography page.

Result and Discussion

Based on the formulation above, it can be concluded that the inner conflict experienced by the character Dewa in the novel *Invalidite* includes anxiety, trauma, fear, anger, and uncertainty. The factors causing the inner conflict of the character Dewa consist of unfulfilled physiological needs, unmet needs for safety, unmet needs for affection, unmet needs for esteem, and unmet needs for self-actualization. The discussion is as follows:

Factors Causing the Inner Conflict of the Character Dewa in the Novel *Invalidite* by Based on Abraham Maslow's Theory.

a. Unfulfilled Physiological Needs

Physiological needs are the most essential requirements for humans. This involves fundamental aspects such as the need for shelter, food, drink, breathing, elimination, and body protection. The fulfillment of physiological needs is a primary requirement before individuals can focus their attention on meeting higher-level needs in the hierarchy, exploring the social, emotional, and psychological dimensions of human life. In the novel "Invalidite," it can be observed that the physiological needs of the character Dewa are unmet in the following excerpt:

Di saat Pelita sedang menormalkan napas, Dewa kembali mengejutkannya dengan merebahkan Pelita di sofa, di atas bantal semula Dewa tempati. Cowok itu menunduk di atas Pelita, mencium dahinya lalu mengambil tangannya untuk diletakkan di atas dada Dewa, yang bedegup sangat cepat. "Lihat apa yang baru aja kamu lakuin," ujarnya. "Jangan pernah nawarin diri kaya tadi lagi, Ta. Aku bisa aja lepas kendali." (Faradita, 2018:157)

In the above excerpt, it is evident that Dewa's physiological needs are not fulfilled. Dewa, who stops his actions before touching Pelita further, requests Pelita not to do something that would make Dewa lose control. This refers to Dewa's unfulfilled sexual needs.

b. Unfulfilled Sense of Security

After physiological needs are met, the next dominant and demanding need is the need for security. However, this may not be entirely fulfilled. If the need for security is not well satisfied, it will impact the formation of inner conflict. Dewa also experiences this in the novel "Invalidite," as seen in the following excerpt:

Kakinya terlipat di dalam ruangan sempit itu. Tubuhnya terhimpit. Mengigil dengan kedua tangan kecil memeluk piala. Seluruh tubuhnya basah oleh keringat. Setelah mengintip pada segaris lubang di lemari, nafasnya semakin tersendat. "Jangan... itu mama Dewa... jangan bikin Mama nangis...," isaknya. Papa... Jangan pukul Papa..." (Faradita, 2018:229)

In the above excerpt, Dewa experiences fear while witnessing his parents being murdered in front of him. Little Dewa can only peek and squirm from inside the closet, locked by his mother who hopes her child will survive the robbery and murder. This excerpt clearly shows that Dewa's need for security is not fulfilled, triggering an inner conflict that negatively impacts his emotional growth and development.

c. Unfulfilled Love and Affection

The importance of the need for love and affection in human life cannot be denied. This need is a crucial aspect of human life and serves as the foundation for emotional well-being and healthy interpersonal relationships. It involves various dynamics, including family, social interactions, friendships, and romantic relationships. If this need is not met, a person may feel loneliness and a lack of confidence, affecting overall well-being. There is an inner conflict of the need for love and affection experienced by Dewa, as seen in the following excerpt:

"Dasar anak tidak tahu sopan santun!" Jeremy mengedikkan bahunya, mengibaskan tangan Dewa menjauh layaknya virus menular. "Menyesalah karena sudah menjadi keras kepala dari kecil dengan meninggalkan rumah ini sehingga perilakumu tidak berbeda jauh dari anak jalanan." (Faradita, 2018:197)

The data above explains that Dewa's need for love and affection is unmet. Since the death of his parents, Dewa no longer receives love and support as before. People around him often perceive him as a troublemaker who only knows how to cause trouble. This significantly impacts the inner conflict experienced by Dewa due to the unfulfilled need for love and affection.

d. Unfulfilled Need for Esteem

Another important need is the need for esteem. The need for esteem is crucial in a person's self-development and psychological well-being. Besides the need for love and affection, individuals also require recognition and appreciation from those around them. If this need is not well satisfied, it can lead to feelings of low self-esteem, awkwardness, a desire for attention, dependence, passive behavior, and difficulty in building interpersonal relationships in their environment. Dewa experiences this, as seen in the following excerpt:

"Kenapa kamu tidak bisa seperti Gilvy? Dia tidak pernah mengecewakan. Tidak pernah terlibat masalah. Tanpa diminta pun, dia sudah menjadi yang terbaik." (Faradita, 2018:11)

In the above excerpt, it is evident that Dewa's need for esteem is unfulfilled. Throughout his life, Dewa is often belittled and compared to his cousin Gilvy. This comparison makes Dewa feel unappreciated and unaccepted by his family.

"Selama ini Om hanya mendengar berita tentang kekacauan yang sering kamu lakukan," lanjutnya kemudian tergelak. (Faradita, 2018:173)

The lack of love and esteem is further illustrated in the above data. Casual remarks from Uncle negatively impact Dewa's psychological well-being and serve as a primary trigger for the inner conflict he experiences.

Forms of Inner Conflict Experienced by the Character Dewa in the Novel "Invalidite" by Faradita

a. Anxiety

Feelings of anxiety or unease represent expressions of inner conflict or psychological conflict experienced by the character Dewa. This anxiety is related to an excessive level of worry and fear about a particular situation. Dewa demonstrates inner conflict in the form of anxiety, as illustrated in the following quote:

Pandangannya kabur, tapi Dewa berhasil meraih tangan Pelita yang dingin, kemudian membawanya berenang naik ke permukaan. Udara yang ia hirup panjang, tak jua melenyapkan kecemasan. Matanya perih karena tidak bisa menghapus air dari wajah. Ia tidak ingin melepaskan Pelita. (Faradita, 2018:118)

From the above quote, it can be seen that Dewa feels anxious because Pelita fell into the swimming pool. Due to Pelita's paralyzed and immobile legs, Dewa's feelings of anxiety become even more challenging to control. With a sense of anxiety, Dewa brings Pelita up to the surface.

b. Trauma

Trauma is another form of inner conflict experienced by Dewa. Trauma is an intense and prolonged reaction to unpleasant experiences that make an individual feel unsafe. Traumatic experiences can include events such as sexual violence, war, natural disasters, or the loss of a loved one, such as death. The form of trauma experienced by Dewa is as follows:

Yang Dewa rasakan saat ini hanyalah tekanan di ulu hatinya akibat mimpi tadi. 'Teman tidur' yang tidak membiarkannya beristirahat selama tujuh belas tahun terakhir. Dewa lalu menyuruhkannya kepalanya di bahu Pelita. Mencari perlindungan di tempat yang tadi ia temukan ketenangan. Dewa lelah. Sangat lelah sampai ia tidak ingin menghadapi apa pun lagi. (Faradita, 2018:52)

Based on the above quote, Dewa experiences a recurring nightmare that has haunted him for the past seventeen years. The trauma of witnessing the murder of both of his parents in front of him continues to haunt him in his nightmares, making him emotionally exhausted. This prevents Dewa from leading a normal life.

c. Fear

Fear is an individual's emotional reaction when facing a threat or danger. Fear is a normal reaction in everyday life, but excessive fear can affect a person's life and disrupt their mental well-being. Dewa experiences fear, as seen in the following quote:

Ketakutan menyerbu ke dalam pro. Dewa mencengkram pialanya lebih erat. Pada suatu celah berbentuk garis panjang di depannya, ia mencoba mengintip keluar. Ada tiga orang membawa tongkat pemukul panjang berdiri di depan orang tuanya. Dewa berusaha melihat lebih jauh, namun mata kecilnya membelak ketika ketiga orang itu maju lalu memukuli kedua orang tuanya. (Faradita, 2018:165)

In the above quote, Dewa feels the emotion of fear when he perceives himself in danger. The robbery and murder happening in front of his eyes make him feel frightened, gripping the cup that is hiding with him inside the closet. Moreover, directly witnessing three robbers beating his parents can transform fear into trauma. This becomes the main trigger for the inner conflict experienced by Dewa in the novel "Invalidite."

d. Anger

Anger arises when an individual feels dissatisfaction with a situation or action. The emotion of anger can serve as a natural mechanism to express disapproval. Dewa can no longer endure, as seen in the following quote

Dewa sudah tidak tahan. "Tongkat lo patah, tangan lo berdarah, lo masih nggak mau ngasih tau gue tadi ada apaan?!" (Faradita, 2018:60)

In the above quote, Dewa expresses anger towards Pelita for not disclosing what happened, causing Pelita's walking stick to break, and seeing Pelita's bleeding hand. Pelita's stubbornness and patience become the main reasons for Dewa's anger.

Dewa menendang pintu ruang audio terbuka. Di sana sudah ada Gerka dan Rendi. Tanpa basa-basi, ia langsung menerjang seorang cowok berkemeja kotak-kota yang bertugas sebagai operator. Tangannya mencengkram leher cowok itu kuat, lalu kepalan tangan melayang di udara dan menghantam rahang keras. (Faradita, 2018:188)

Afterward, anger becomes another inner conflict experienced by Dewa. Dewa feels angry because someone leaked information about his bet with his friends on the campus radio, causing everyone, including Pelita, to know about the bet made by him and his friends. Dewa's anger is so intense that he even grabs the shirt of the person serving as the campus radio operator. The emotion of anger is quite dominant within Dewa.

e. Ambivalence

Ambivalence refers to a state in which an individual experiences complex and conflicting emotional feelings. Someone experiencing ambivalence may feel trapped between two or more contradictory or inseparable feelings. This situation can involve a combination of feelings of happiness and sadness, love and hatred, or other emotional conflicts.

Wajahnya menatap lurus ke depan. Ke arah layar menyala yang sedang menampilkan galeri foto kameranya. Sekali lagi tertegun dengan cara yang

sama seperti saat ia mengambil foto itu tadi siang. Sudut bibir Dewa tertarik begitu saja melihat wajah itu. Dewa kemudian menumpukan satu tangan di atas meja menyangga wajahnya, menatap layar menyala. "Masa gue suka sama lo, Ta?" (Faradita, 2018:81-83)

The quote indicates the inner conflict of ambivalence experienced by Dewa. Dewa, who still does not understand his feelings for Pelita, feels ambivalent. He wonders whether he likes Pelita, who is so different from his type, or if he prefers the women he has been involved with before. Ambivalent emotions can arise due to the lack of love and affection, making Dewa struggle to understand and recognize his own feelings. The lack of love and esteem is further illustrated in the above data. Casual remarks from Uncle negatively impact Dewa's psychological well-being and serve as a primary trigger for the inner conflict he experiences.

Conclusion

From the conducted analysis, it can be concluded that the inner conflict experienced by the character Dewa is due to the unfulfilled needs that trigger the emergence of his inner conflict. The analysis results indicate forms of inner conflict that occur in Dewa in the novel "Invalidite," including forms of anxiety, trauma, fear, anger, and doubt. The factors causing inner conflict in Dewa are the unmet needs, namely: (1) physiological needs, (2) the need for safety, (3) love and affection, and (4) the need for esteem. Although this research is not perfect, the researcher suggests that future research could delve deeper into the field of literary psychology, particularly focusing on the hierarchy of character theory in literary works and aspects of inner conflict.

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