

**PSYCHOANALYSIS OF VERONICA CALDWELL CHARACTER IN
MURDER ON CAPITOL HILL BY MARGARET TRUMAN**



A Thesis

*Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University
In Partial Fulfillment of Requirements to obtain an Undergraduate Degree in
English Literature Study Program*

BY:

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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES
HASANUDDIN UNIVERSITY**

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THESIS

**Psychoanalysis of Veronica Caldwell Character in *Murder on Capitol Hill* by
Margaret Truman**

BY

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Today, Friday, 14th April 2023, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by **MASWANDI SETYAWAN** (Student No. F21116308) entitled:

Psychoanalysis of Veronica Caldwell Character in *Murder on Capitol Hill* by Margaret Truman,

Submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements of undergraduate thesis examination to obtain Sasjana Sastra (S.S) Degree at the English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

Makassar, 14th April 2023

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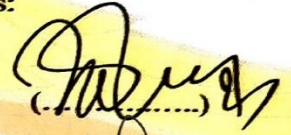
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DECLARATION

The thesis of **MASWANDI SETYAWAN** (Student Number: F21116308) entitled, "**Psychoanalysis of Veronica Caldwell Character in *Murder on Capitol Hill* by Margaret Truman** has been revised as advised during examination on 14th April 2023 and approved by the board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners:

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Makassar, 15th May 2023



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APPROVAL FORM


With reference to the letter of the dean of Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University No. 372/UN4.9.1/KEP/2020 regarding supervision, we hereby confirm to approve the undergraduate thesis draft by Maswandi Setyawan (F2116308) to be examined at the English Department of Faculty Cultural Sciences.


Makassar, March 1st, 2023

Approved by

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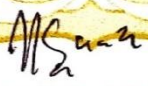
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STATEMENT LETTER

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Hereby, the writer declares that this thesis is written by himself. This thesis does not contain any materials which have been published by other people, and it does not cite other people's ideas except quotations and references.

Makassar, May 15th 2023



Maswandi Setyawan

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First, the writer would like to express the highest and the greatest gratitude and praise to Allah SWT who was always given strength, health, chance, patience, spirit, ways, and guidance to help the researcher finishing this thesis. Similarly, greetings and blessings always devoted to prophet Muhammad SAW, family, and his companions.

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The researcher recognizes that this thesis is still far from perfect. Therefore, the researcher would be truly glad to receive suggestion and criticism that can be useful to improve this thesis. The researcher hopes that this thesis will be helpful for the readers, whether for the students who just like to read or for the upcoming researchers who want to analyze a topic related to this thesis.

ABSTRACT

Maswandi Setyawan. *Psychoanalysis of Veronica Caldwell Character in Murder on Capitol Hill by Margaret Truman* (supervised by Abidin Pammu and Aldillah Khaerana).

This study aims to analyze the characters in Margaret Truman's *Murder on Capitol Hill* and to find the psychological factors that influence the actions of the characters in the novel.

This research uses the genetic approach of structuralism. This research method is used to analyze intrinsic elements such as character, plot, theme, and setting. In addition, the author also uses psychoanalysis theory to analyze the characters in the novel and the factors that influence the actions of the characters in the novel.

The results of this study show that, what is Veronica's personality according to Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis theory which contains id, ego and super ego. This research also explains how Veronica's id influenced her to kill her husband.

Keywords: psychoanalysis, genetic structuralism, *Murder on Capitol Hill*.

ABSTRAK

Maswandi Setyawan. *Psychoanalysis of Veronica Caldwell Character in Murder on Capitol Hill by Margaret Truman* (dibimbing oleh Abidin Pammu dan Aldillah Khaerana)

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis karakter yang terdapat dalam novel Margaret Truman *Murder on Capitol Hill* dan untuk menganalisis faktor psikologi yang mempengaruhi tindakan dari karakter di dalam novel tersebut.

Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan genetik strukturalisme. Metode penelitian ini digunakan untuk menganalisis elemen intrinsik seperti karakter, plot, tema dan setting. Selain itu penulis juga menggunakan teori psychoanalisis untuk menganalisis karakter yang ada di dalam novel dan faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi tindakan karakter di dalam novel.

Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa, apa kepribadian Veronica menurut teori psikoanalisis oleh Sigmund Freud yang berisi tentang id, ego dan super ego. Penelitian ini juga menjelaskan bagaimana id dari Veronica mempengaruhinya dalam membunuh suaminya.

Kata kunci: psychoanalysis, genetik strukturalisme, *Murder on Capitol Hill*.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of the background of study, identification of the problem, scope of the problem, research of question, objective of study, significances of study, and sequence of study.

1.1 Background of Study

Literature is the result of human's creative and imaginative thinking that is made into a written works. Literature is an art because literature makes language as a medium and the language used in literature is different from language commonly used in daily life. The language used in literature is a beautiful language like in poetry to entice the reader or audience. Literature can be described about the beauty of something, the problems in life, anger, sadness, experiences, event that happened in real life or event imaginative that only made by the author. Sapardi (1979:1) explained that literature is a social institution that uses language as a medium. Language itself is a social creation. Literature presents a picture of life, and life itself is a social reality.

There are two categories of literary works, namely fiction and non-fiction. The difference between fiction and non-fiction is that fiction is the result of the author's imagination which produces stories that do not really happen, for example novel, short stories, poetry, and drama. While non-fiction is a story that is really a real event or facts that are not made based on author's imagination, such as history, biography, and essay.

Among some literary works there is what is called a novel. Novel is a work in the form of writing which usually tells about the life of a human or creature which includes interactions with humans or other creatures and problems that arise. According to Tarigan (1997:164-165) the novel is a plot story that describes a chaotic and tangled situation that is moved by characters in real situations.

One of the novel's authors is Margaret Truman; her full name is Mary Margaret Truman Daniel. She was an American classical soprano, actress, journalist, radio and television personality, writer, and New York socialite. She was the only daughter of U.S President Harry S. Truman and First Lady Bess Truman and known as the author of bestselling mystery. Her first book was the autobiographical souvenir, *Margaret in the White House* (1956). The other books she wrote were *Murder in the White House* (1980), *Murder on Capitol Hill* (1981), *Murder in Supreme Court* (1982), *Murder in the Smithsonian* (1983) and more that included in the Capital Crime Series.

One of the works written by Margaret Truman is *Murder on Capitol Hill*, a mystery genre book. This novel tells about Lydia James who investigates the murder of Senate Majority Leader Cale Caldwell. The story begins with Lydia James attending Cale Caldwell's birthday party, and in the middle of the event the senator was found dead stabbed with an ice pick. Cale Caldwell's wife Veronica Caldwell asked Lydia to join the committee in charge of investigating her husband's death because she believes in Lydia who is an old friend of the Caldwell family. While investigating the case,

Lydia discovered many problems and mysteries on it. Finally, one by one mystery is solved and revealed the dark side of the Caldwell family.

After reading this work, the researcher decides to make Truman's *Murder on Capitol Hill* as the object of study. The research focuses on psychological state Veronica Caldwell, who was the murderer of Jimmie McNab and Cale Caldwell. The researcher intends to find out the relation of Veronica Caldwell's psychological state with her reason why Veronica Caldwell kills Jimmie McNab and Cale Caldwell. This research is important to conduct because there have been many previous studies that use psychoanalysis but none have used this novel as a source of data.

The reason for choosing the topic is because the actions of the characters in this novel are inseparable from psychological factor, especially the character of Veronica Caldwell. Psychological factors can drive Veronica to take extreme actions. Veronica's personality in *Murder on Capitol Hill* novel can be analyzed using Freud's Psychoanalysis. It is very interesting to discuss about Veronica Caldwell in *Murder on Capitol Hill* and psychological factors that drives Veronica Caldwell Killed her husband.

1.2. Identification of Problem

After reading *Murder on Capitol Hill* the researcher found several problems in

Murder on Capitol Hill:

1. The murder of Senator Cale Caldwell caused by several factors.
2. The main character's behavior in *Murder on Capitol Hill* is formed by the surrounding social circumstances.
3. The problem of church cults in *Murder on Capitol Hill* novel that do brainwashing to their followers and commit criminal acts.
4. Psychoanalysis of Veronica Caldwell character.
5. Cale Caldwell's affair with Jimmye McNab.
6. Mark Adam's inner turmoil that led to extreme cult.

1.3. Scope of Problem

Based on the problems above, the researcher limits to study on the psychological state of Veronica Caldwell character in *The Murder on Capitol Hill*. The writer applies psychoanalysis theory by Sigmund Freud through structuralism approach.

1.4. Research Question

Based on the problem above, the researcher deciding research questions:

1. What is Veronica's personality according to Sigmund Freud's theory of psychoanalysis?
2. How the Veronica's id influenced her in killing her husband?

1.5. Objective of Study

Based on the research question, the objective of the study:

1. To find out Veronica's personality according to Sigmund Freud's theory of psychoanalysis.
2. To elaborate the Veronica's id influenced her in killing her husband.

1.6. Significance of Study

The benefits expected from this study are as follows:

1. Practical Benefit

This study proposed to give a contribution to literature researches dealing with Margaret Truman's *Murder on Capitol Hill* and give researcher deeper understanding based on intrinsic element and psychoanalysis theory in the novel.

2. Theoretical Benefit

This study proposed to give contribution to the field of literature that leads to the aspects of psychoanalysis and structural contain in Margaret Truman's *Murder on Capitol Hill*.

1.7. Sequence of Study

The study about Psychoanalysis of Veronica Caldwell in *Murder on Capitol Hill* by Margaret Truman consists of five chapters. Chapter one is the introduction of the research. It consists of background, identification of problem, scope of problem, research question, object of study, sequence of study, and significance of study. Chapter two is literature review. It consists of previous related study and psychoanalysis approach. Chapter three is the research methodology. It consists of

method of collecting data, method of analyzing data and research procedure. Chapter four is the finding and discussion, which provides the analysis of the problems found in the novel. Chapter five is the conclusion and suggestion.

CHAPTER II

LITERARY REVIEW

2.1. Previous Study

In this part, the researcher wants to present several previous researches who have conducted studies that might related to this study. The first is research entitled *Psychoanalysis of the Dream Works to show Roy's despair toward Indian's Society in Arundhati Roy's The God of Small Things* by Dwi Utami (2006). The aims of this study are to find out the application of dreams, which can describe Indian's society and the realistic values behind the dream of the character. She uses descriptive analytic method using qualitative approach. The result of this study is in *The God of Small Things* the researcher found the dreams that represent about racialism, social matters, women discrimination, culture, and religion. The researcher found that *The God of Small Things* influence Roy's hopes in the case of making a better life in India. The difference between Dwi Utami's research and this research is that this research focuses on character's personality according to Freud's psychoanalysis by describing the id, the ego and the superego. While the Utami's research focuses on the application of dreams to describe Indian's society and the realistic values behind the dream of the character.

The second is research entitled *A Deconstructive Analysis of Man's Hegemony over Woman in Love in Oscar Wilde's Drama a Florentine Tragedy* by Teguh Tri Imana (2007). There are three problems that researcher wants to aim. The first is to find out any domination in love in the drama, second is the work of domination in love

in the drama and the last is to show how the deconstructive analysis help to interpret domination of love in the drama. The researcher uses deconstructive analysis and a socio-psychological approach in this study. The result that the researcher found in this study is that both woman and man have same capacity to show hegemony. The researcher expected after reading this study the reader would not practice hegemony over their love. The difference between Teguh's study and this study is that this study uses Freud's psychoanalysis while Teguh's study uses socio-psychology.

The third researcher is Rima Yunartati (2007) *Love as a Motivation of Life for the Main Character Reflected in Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Rappacini's Daughter"*. The aim of this study is to describe the kinds of love motivations and what ways love motivates the main character's life, named Beatrice in short story *Rappacini's Daughter*. The researcher uses a psychological approach and uses qualitative method in analyzing the short story. In this study the researcher found love motivation that motivate Beatrice's life. There are three love motivation that motivate Beatrice's life, first is lack of paternal love, second is loneliness and the last is the desire to be free from poison. There are also two types of motivation that researcher divided into, positive and negative motivation. The positive motivation is that Beatrice has a spirit to continue her life since she is poisonous girl and Beatrice wants to struggle to reach happy life beside Giovanni. The negative motivation is that she often forgets about her duty to serve and nurse the plant since she meets Giovanni, and she often acts illogically in creating her imagination about a happy life. Rima's research focuses on love

motivation that motivates character's life, while this research focuses on character's personality.

Those previous studies are used by the researcher to show the differences and similarities of this research with the previous researcher. The similarities of those studies and this study is on the approach which used is psychological approach. The differences are on the object of the research, the first one is novel *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy, second is Oscar Wilde's drama *A Florentine Tragedy*, and the last is Nathaniel Hawthorne's short story *Rappacini's Daughter*.

2.2. Literature Review

2.2.1 Psychoanalysis

The researcher uses psychoanalysis theory in this research. Psychoanalysis is a theory about personality development, and personality is formed because the conflict between three basic structures of the human mind namely id, ego, and superego.

Psychoanalysis is a theory that examine human personality. The term of psychoanalysis was first introduced by Sigmund Freud in 1896. Freud discovered psychoanalysis while treating a patient who was in hysteria and summarized all the conclusions and results of his research in the practical field (Bertens, 2006:3).

Sigmund Freud explained that personality is divided into three elements, namely id, ego, and superego. The id is the most basic and oldest psychic element that underlies the biological foundation of human personality. The id motivates human to seek pleasure by being driven by natural instincts, especially sexual drives. The ego is

modification of the id caused by the direct influence of the external world. It is the personality's "executive organ" in the sense that it coordinates the rival drive energy so that gratification matches the demands of reality. It has various defenses that can deflect, suppress, or alter the manifestation of the driven energy. The superego is a further ego differentiation that represents the ego's "ideal". The Oedipal drama, in which a child adopts the authority and splendor of parents through introjection or identification, leads to the development of the superego. The superego commands the psychic apparatus to pursue idealistic goals and perfection, whereas the id operates in pursuit of pleasure and is guided by the reality principle. Both moral censorship and conscience derive from it.

Oedipus complex is the libidinal cathexis of the phallic erotogenic zone causes a desire for union and contact with the parent of the opposite sex and a simultaneous desire to replace the parent of the same sex. Insofar as the rival's retaliation is feared, the competition for the opposite-sex parent causes anxiety (castration complex). The basis of the formation superego is an attempt to resolve this chase by suppressing the desire for incest and identifying with the same-sex parent. Although later formulations postponed the resolution of the oedipal conflict for girls until marriage and childbirth, Freud once proposed that the course of oedipal development between boys and girls was exactly analogous. The superego commands the psychic apparatus to pursue idealistic goals and perfection, whereas the id operates in pursuit of pleasure and the

ego is guided by the reality principle. Both morality and conscience derive from it (Daniel and Paul, 2011:1-2).

a. The id

The id is the only element of personality that exist from birth. This component of personality is completely unconscious and involves instinctive and primitive behavior. According to Freud, the id is the source of all psychic energy and thus the main building block of the personality.

The pleasure principle drives the id and seeks to satisfy all desires, wants, and needs. When these needs are not satisfied immediately, a state of anxiety and tension is created. For example, when hunger or thirst increases, we try to eat and drink immediately.

However, the immediate fulfillment of desires may not occur. If the pleasure principle completely overcomes us, we would probably take what we want that belongs to someone else to satisfy our own desire. This kind of behavior is destructive and socially unacceptable. According to Freud, the id seeks to resolve the tension created by the pleasure principle through the primary process of forming a mental image of desired object in order to satisfy the desire (Kendra Cherry, 2016).

b. The Ego

The ego functions within the conscious, preconscious, and unconscious mind. The ego is the element of personality that responsible for dealing with reality. According to Freud, the ego develops from the id and allows the id's impulses to be expressed in an acceptable way in the real world.

The reality principle underlies the operation of the ego; the ego fulfills the desire of the id in a realistic and socially acceptable way. The reality principle weighs the costs and benefits of action before deciding whether to act on or abandon an impulse. In many cases, id urges can be satisfied through a process of delayed gratification. The ego ultimately allows the action, but only at the right time and place. The ego also releases the tension created by unsatisfied impulses through the secondary process of trying to find objects in the real world that correspond to the mental images created by the id's primary process (Kendra Cherry, 2016).

c. The Superego

Freud claimed that the superego starts to form at the age of five. The internalized moral principles and ideals we assimilate from both our parents and society are all contained in the super ego, a component of personality. That is the basis of our morality. The superego offers standards for making decisions.

The superego has two parts:

1. The ego ideal consists of moral guidelines and expectations. These behaviors include ones that parents or other authority figures have endorsed. Respecting these guidelines produces feelings of pride, worth, and accomplishment.
2. The conscience includes information about things that parents and society judged harmful. These behaviors are generally restricted and cause serious consequences, punishment, or emotions of guilt or remorse.

The superego strives to make our acts perfect and polite. It fights to make the ego behave according to idealistic norms rather than on actual principles by suppressing all impermissible id urges. The conscious, preconscious, and unconscious all contain the superego (Kendra Cherry, 2016).

2.2.2. Structuralism Approach

Before conducting further research on literary works, an analysis and approach to the intrinsic elements or structure of literary works must be carried out. Structuralism approach is an intrinsic approach. It discusses the elements that build the literary work, regardless of things outside the literary work. This means the focus of the theory is discussing the theme, plot, setting, characterization, atmosphere, and others. Structuralism is an approach that analyzes the intrinsic structure and the narrative material by examining the underlying invariant structure, which is based on the linguistic sign system of Ferdinand de Saussure. Structuralism can be stated that there

is a structure in every text that can make both inexperienced and inexperienced readers understand the meaning of the text.

Structuralism is a philosophy and method that evolved from linguistic insights in the mid-twentieth century to study the underlying patterns of social life. In social science, the structuralists mode of inquiry is not simply about identifying structures and relationships *per se*, but looking behind or beneath the visible and conscious designs (beliefs, ideas, action) of active human subjects (surface manifestations) and these designs are actually a result, an effect, a consequence, a product produced by an underlying cause, a hidden mechanism, or a limited number universal to the human mind. Reveal them as they are “deep” structures. Although not directly visible or recognizable, structure is absolute and autonomous, despite having no subjective basis, and can only be accessed theoretically through the techniques of structuralist analysis (R.G. Smith, 2009:30-38).

Structuralism is a way of understanding nature and human life, concerned with relationships rather than individual objects, or defined by the set of relationships that the objects belong to rather than the properties that separate them (Mauro W. Barbosa de Almeida, 2015: 626)

Strictly speaking, structuralism is the program Lévi-Strauss attempted to introduce into anthropology, following structural linguistic. In a broad sense, structuralism can refer to authors’ work worthy of discussion regarding approaches that

have emerged in different ways in different places at different times (R.H. Barnes, 2001).

Intrinsic Elements

1. Plot

The plot in a literary works, film, story, or any other narrative is a set of events, each of which will affect the events that will occur next through the principle of cause and effect. Plots can vary from simple to complex in structure, sometimes called subplot or imbroglios. Subplot is a part of the story of a book or film that develops separately from the main story. Plot is an important component of literary work which is a series of events from the beginning to the end of the conflict of the characters. A good plot will bring the reader or the audience to the crisis that the writer wants.

According to Foster (in Tuloli 2000) the plot is a series of events in a fiction (novels and short stories) arranged in a timeline and based on the law of cause and effect. Plot is the same as the story frame, which becomes the structure of the story.

In general the plot have five elements in this order:

a) Exposition

The exposition is the beginning of the story that introduces the characters and contains sufficient explanation related to the characterization and conflict that will occur.

b) Complication

In the complication will start the beginning of the conflict that will occur in the story. Protagonist and antagonist will emerge along with the values and ideas they will bring in the story. Such as good and evil, love and hate, childhood and age and more.

c) Climax

Climax is the most important part that will show the main character will make a decision that will have an effect on the next storyline. This is a critical moment where the story of the reader or the audience feels the high tension expected by the writer.

d) Resolution or denouement

The resolution or denouement is a series of decisions and actions that lead the reader or the audience to the ending and conclusion.

2. Character

Character is a person, animal, being, creature that made by writers in story and writer uses it to perform the action and speak dialogues, moving the storyline. There are two types of character based on the complexity of the characteristic, namely flat characters, and round characters. Flat characters are simply known as characters that has only one characteristic and that characteristic will not change by any circumstances.

Role-based character distinctions in plot development are divided into main character and supporting character (Nurgiyantoro, 2002:178). The main character is the

majority of the plot or events that occur in the story. Character who do not play a significant role are called supporting character because their presence in the story only complements and support the main character.

The distinction of character based on the function of its role can be divided into the protagonist and the antagonist. In case of human-human conflicts, the protagonist can be seen as a good man or a hero, and the antagonist can be seen as a bad guy or a villain (Nurgiyantoro, 2002:178).

3. Theme

Theme is the subject or message that underlies the story. Theme and main idea are two different things. The theme is the message the author wants to convey to the reader or the audience that underlies the whole story. In other hand the main idea is just what the story is about. Main idea is also a brief summary of the content of the story.

Nurgiyantoro (2005:82-83) divided the themes into two, namely major theme (main theme) and the minor theme (additional theme). The major theme is the main meaning of the story which forms the basis or general idea of the literary work, while the additional meanings are called minor themes.

4. Setting

Setting is all descriptions of the place, time and atmosphere at the place where the event occurs. Setting affects the subject matter, theme and atmosphere of the story because the setting is very closely related to the characters and actor.

According to Stanton (2007:35) setting is the environment that surrounds an event in the story, the universe that interact with ongoing events. The setting is an element that shows the reader where and when the events in the story occur. The setting is the environment in which the characters exist and which affects their behavior. The setting is the environment in which the characters exist and which affects their behavior. Setting refers to the times and locations where the story's events take place. The author usually creates several settings for their novels in order to tell the story. To identify the setting, begin by naming the town and year in which the story takes place (if these are identified by the author), and then move on to the more specific locations in the story where the action takes place.

There are three kinds or types of setting as follow:

- a. The setting of time is the time of occurrence of events in the story where the characters do something at the time of events. Such as : at day, at night, in the past and others.
- b. The setting of place is the place where the characters experience events in the story. For examples : at home, in the park, at school, at library and so on.

c. The setting of atmosphere is what circumstances happen when the characters do something during the events, like : happy, sad, tense, angry and others.