

**MULTIPLE IDENTITY IN OSCAR WILDE *THE IMPORTANCE OF  
BEING EARNEST* (PSYCHOANALISIS APPROACH)**



**A THESIS**

**Submitted To The Faculty of Cultural Science Hasanuddin University in  
Partial Fulfillment to Obtain Bachelor Degree in English Department**

By

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2021

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Yang menyatakan



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# LEGITIMACY

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EARNEST* (PSYCHOANALYSIS APPROACH)

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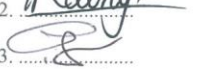
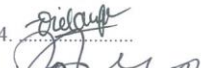
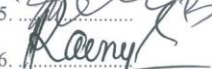


## AGREEMENT

On Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup> 2021, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by Muh Rum Firsadi (F21116306) entitled *Multiple Identity in Oscar Wilde The Importance of Being Earnest (Psychoanalysis Approach)*, submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements to obtain Sarjana Degree in English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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# DECLARATION

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## DECLARATION

The thesis by Muh Rum Firsadi (F21116306) entitled *Multiple Identity in Oscar Wilde The Importance of Being Earnest (Psychoanalysis Approach)* has been revised as advised during the examination on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and is approved by the Board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners:

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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 Muh Rum Firsadi (F21116306) to be examined at the English Department of Faculty of Cultural Sciences.

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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

In completing this thesis, the researcher found so many problems and hindrances in the process, especially in this difficult time during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, those problems and hindrances could be solved with the massive support and help by the good and caring people around the researcher. Hereby the researcher would like to express his thanks to:

- 1) **Prof. Dr. Dwia Aries Tina Pulubuhu, M.A.** as the Rector of Hasanuddin University supported by four vice-rectors who during their leadership continue to make Hasanuddin University even closer to be a world-class university.
- 2) **Prof. Dr. Akin Duli, M.A.** as the Dean of Faculty of Cultural Sciences of Hasanuddin University supported by three vice-deans who during their leadership continue to make Faculty of Cultural Sciences some improvement to follow the goals of the campus to become a world-class university.
- 3) **Dr. Abidin Pammu, M.A., Dipl. TESOL** as the Head of English Literature Study Program, **St. Sahraeny, S.S., M. AppLing.** as the Secretary of English Literature Study Program, and all the **English Literature Study**

**Program’s lecturers** who have given their teachings and also moral values.

The researcher will always remember their kindness and affection.

- 4) **Dr. Muh Syafri Badaruddin, M.Hum.** and **St. Sahraeny, S.S., M. AppLing.** as supervisors who have given their time to supervise and guide the researcher by providing knowledge, advice, and support so the researcher can complete this thesis despite all of the limitations.
- 5) **Suardy Bandung** and **Fitriani** as his parents who give their greatest love, motivation, moral support, and material support for the researcher.
- 6) **PRESIDEN** group in which the researcher also included alongside **Muhammad Naufal, Reinhard Fenxye Huwae, Muhammad Ilham Nur, Raja Muddin, Qais Zhafran Reyhan, Madeline Yudith, Elinda Gayatri,** and **Nurnaningsih** who always there to give their thoughts in a discussion, from the important discussion such as assignment from the lecturer until the “mind-blowing” one.

The researcher recognizes that this thesis is still far from being perfect. Therefore, the researcher would be truly glad to receive suggestions 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 love to read or for the upcoming researchers who want to analyze a topic related to this thesis.

Makassar, 16 August 2021

The researcher

Muh Rum Firsadi



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## ABSTRAK

**Muh Rum Firsadi. *Multiple Identity in Oscar Wilde The Importance Of Being Earnest* (dibimbing oleh Muh Syafri Badaruddin dan Sitti Sahraeny)**

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis identitas ganda yang terdapat dalam novel Oscar Wilde *The Importance of Being Earnest* dan untuk menemukan alasan dibalik penciptaan identitas lain yang ditampilkan dalam drama

Penelitian ini menggunakan teori hierarchy needs untuk menganalisis tindakan seperti apa yang diambil oleh karakter utama untuk memenuhi kebutuhan hierarkinya dan untuk menemukan alasan dibalik penciptaan identitasnya yang lain yang dapat ditemukan setelah menganalisis tindakan yang dilakukan karakter utama untuk memenuhi kebutuhan hirarkinya.

Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa, untuk memenuhi kebutuhan hirarkinya karakter utama melakukan beberapa tindakan seperti bekerja dibagian investasi, menunjukkan tekadnya untuk dibaptis, melalui pengaruh dari Thomas Cardew, mencari informasi tentang orang tua aslinya, dan mengakui segala kebohongan yang dia buat serta membuat identitas yang lain.

Kata kunci : psycoanalisis, kebutuhan hierarki, *The Importance of Being Ernest*

## ABSTRACT

**Muh Rum Firsadi. *Multiple Identity In Oscar Wilde The Importance Of Being Ernest* (supervised by Muh Syafri Badaruddin and Sitti Sahraeny)**

This study aims at analyzing multiple identity in Oscar Wilde *The Importance of Being Ernest* and to find the reason behind the creation of the other identity that shown in drama.

This study applies the theory of hierarchy need to analyze what kind of action that main character do to fulfill his hierarchy need and to find the reason behind the creation of other identity which can be found after analyzing main characters action to fulfill his hierarchy needs.

After conducting this study, it is found that in order to fulfill his hierarchy needs, the main character does several actions, with his carrier in investment he fulfills his psychological and safety needs, for love and belonging needs his achieve it by want to be christened. The influence of Thomas Cardew makes him fulfill esteem needs, seeking the information about his real parents to fulfill his understanding needs, confess all the lies he do makes him fulfill self-actualization needs, and in order to fulfill his aesthetic needs he creates other identity.

Keyword: Psychoanalysis, Hierarchy need, *The Importance of Being Ernest*

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background

Literature is a written work produced based on the imagination of the author that is made up of a group of words. Literature is usually considered as an art form because literature has an artistic or intellectual value and literature also uses language in different ways of ordinary usage. Literature can also be described as a culture of one person or a group, a document of fact, reflection of a real events in the real world, a social fact, and an imaginative event.

When talked about literature work, there are three countries that famous for their literature work, England, the United States of America, and Australia the most known literature in the history of literature is the epic *Beowulf* which was written in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, William Shakespeare with his *Romeo and Juliet* and *Animal farm* which was written, George Orwell.

literature is classified according to whether it is fiction or non-fiction. It can be further distinguished according to its types like poetry, prose, and drama. All three types have different forms and characteristics, they have their way to apply language for their purpose.

The novel has a broad story and the complexity of plot and characterization because of that, a novel can make their world in the story, from that statement novel is an interesting and challenging thing to analyze.

A novel is a story with prose form in long shape with a complex plot, character, and various settings. The novel is not limited because based on the human experience and writer's minds and can be considered as historical evidence.

There are so many famous literature works in England history and one of them is Oscar Wilde in full name Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde was an Irish poet and playwright he became one of London most popular playwright in the early 1890s. He is best to remember for his epigrams and plays, Oscar Wilde also writes other literature work such as *The Decay of Lying*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *The Portrait of Mr. W.H.*, *A House of Pomegranates*, *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Salome*, *A Women of No Importance*, and *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

One of the most successful works that made Oscar Wilde famous is *The Importance of Being Earnest*, a satire of Victorian social hypocrisy and contains a few references to contemporary historical events. The play itself is about a man named Jack Worthing. Jack Worthing is a pillar of the community in Hertfordshire where he is also a guardian to Cecily Cardew grand daughter of Thomas Cardew, when he was young Thomas Cardew found little Jack in a handbag in the cloakroom of Victoria station. In London Jack has responsibilities. He is a major landowner and a justice of the peace with tenants, farmers, servants, and other employees all dependent on him but he also has an irresponsible imaginary brother named Ernest who later leads in the scandalous life of Jack Worthing. Jack Worthing is in love with Gwendolen Fairfax the cousin of his best friend Algernon Moncrief, Algernon know that Jack has a double life from Jack cigarette case

Looking at the critic that Oscar show in his play the researcher decides to analyze one of this literary work which is *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Despite being the most known literature work from Oscar Wilde and there so much previous research that makes this work an object of studies, the researcher still conducted this research. Because of that, the researcher will conduct a new kind of research and will fill the gap of the previous research. The research will focus on the psychology of the main character, which makes another identity despite being a success as a landowner and consider a rich man based on the social condition. The researcher will try to find the reason why this main character makes another identity such as to fulfill his need or just to have fun. That makes this research is important to conduct

The reason for choosing this literary work is because the social life of all characters is hedonist, based on their behavior, and also to show people that there is deception in this play. A deception is an act or statement that misleads or hides the truth, deception is a major relational transgression and often leads to a feeling of betrayal and distrust between others. In this play, Jack Worthing hide the truth that he does not have a brother named Earnest

## **1.2 Identification Problem**

After reading *The Importance of Being Earnest*, the writer found several problems in *The Importance of Being Earnest* play :

1. Social influence to the main character in *The Importance of Being Earnest*
2. The social condition that reflected in *The Importance of Being Earnest*
3. Imaginary places in *The Importance of Being Earnest*
4. The reason of multiple identities in *The Importance of Being Earnest*
5. Effect of social class on the plot

## **1.3 Scope of Problem**

Based on the problem above the writer determined to study further of the reason of multiple identities in the *Importance of Being Earnest*

## **1.4 Research Question**

Based on the problem above the writer deciding a research question

1. What kind of action does Jack do to fulfill his hierarchy needs?
2. What are the reasons that Jack creates another identity?

## **1.5 Objectives of Study**

Based on the research questions, the objectives of the study :

1. To describe what kind of action Jack do to fulfill his hierarchy needs
2. To describe the reasons that Jack creates another identity

## **1.6 Significance of Study**

Through this study, the writer hopes this research would be helpful for :



1. Becoming the resources of other studies
2. Helping to develop the theory from this study

### **1.7 Sequence of study**

This study about psychoanalysis of the main character in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, this thesis consists of five chapters :

Chapter one is the introduction consists of background, identification problem, the scope of problem, research question, objective of study, significance of study, and sequence of study.

Chapter two is a theoretical background on which the writer bases his analysis, it consists of some definitions of the structural approach and elements of drama. It also describes the theory that uses to analyze this drama.

Chapter three is dealing with the research method, which the writer uses in his analysis, and how the writer conducts the research, it consists of the method of collecting data, method of analysis data, and research procedure.

Chapter four is analysis, in this chapter, the writer uses the theory that has been mention in the previous chapter to analyze the drama. This chapter consists of two parts first, the writer analyzes the intrinsic element of the drama using structuralism theory second, the writer analyzes the psychology of the main character using Hierarchy of needs, the writer separates the events that show the main character action in fulfilling his needs

Chapter five will be a conclusion and suggestion, in this chapter the writer concludes all analysis in chapter four and the writer also gives suggestion

## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Previous study

The writer uses several theses that have a similar object or methodology as a previous study to help the writer analyze this literature work. They were written by Atdnan Susanto S (2006), Siti Aminah Umar (2010), and Mahasia Noor (2001)

In Adnan Susanto thesis (2006) entitled *pengaruh latar terhadap karakter tokoh dalam dram “The Importance of Being Earnest”* his using a structural approach by classifying the intrinsic of the drama then determined what element will be analyzed. The writer finds that the meaning of the name shows the personality of the people who used it

In Siti Aminah Umar thesis (2010) entitled *social class influence to the main character in Oscar Wilde’s “The Importance Of Being Earnest”* the writer uses a genetic structuralism approach by separating the intrinsic and extrinsic and find the influence of social class on the main character. The writer finds that a change in the attitude of character caused by the existence of social class through the other character in the drama

In Mahasia Noor thesis (2001) entitled *multiple identity in “Tell Me Your Dreams”*, he uses a structural and psychological approach the writer finds that frustration and depression can cause a psychological effect on the person which has been proved in the novel. The writer also find that the multiple identities that the main character have helped to characterize the story

## **2.2 Literature and Psychology**

Literature and psychology have a correlation because both are the study of human beings and social concerns, in order to understand the characters consciousness, fears, desires, and perception of the world in literature the reader could know all the information by reading the characters conversation and intonation.

In Abrams (1999:248) literature is a work that have a correlated with its author distinctive mental and emotions, it reference to the author personality to explain and interpret a literary work or the capability of a literary work to establish the personality of the author.

It can be said that literature is the reflection of some experience in such emotions, feelings, and reality of the social life that author have, which has connection to the author psychological condition.

In Wellek and Warren (1956:93) psychology may have an impact to some artists, psychology can tightened their sense of reality, sharpened their observation. But in itself psychology is only a preparatory to the act of creation, or it might just an odd values along with the function as if it strengthens the consistency and ambiguity.

The difference between literature and psychology, can be seen in the object that will be researched. In literature the object will only focus on what is written in literary work which only shows how the characters behavior, while in psychology, the object will be the entire aspects of human behavior and psychic activities

## **2.2 Hierarchy of Needs**

The theory that the writer use is Hierarchy needs. Hierarchy needs is a theory that focused on individual needs that show how the human fulfill their needs, assuming that every human has the motivation to fulfill their needs.

Abraham Maslow was an American psychologist born on April 1, 1908, in Brooklyn New York where he grew up, Abraham was the oldest of seven children from his Jewish parents who emigrated from Russia known as one of the founders of humanistic psychology and for his famous hierarchy needs theory. Maslow hierarchy of needs suggested that human has several needs

To understand human motivation Abraham Maslow develop the hierarchy of needs model in 1940-50s USA and was published in his book Motivation and Personality in 1954, Abraham Maslow who was a famous researcher in the study of human needs interpreted, That people are motivated by seven levels of needs. Maslow thinks that human needs can be organized into a hierarchy. However, the order of this hierarchy is not nearly as rigid. Maslow (1987:68) noted that the order of the needs might be flexible bases on internal circumstance or individual difference.

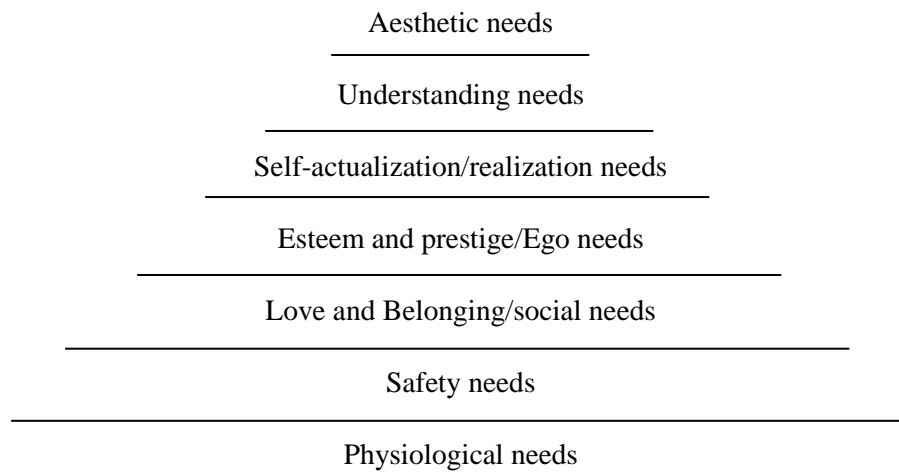


Chart 1.0 the seven level of needs from Abraham Maslow theory Hierarchy of needs

First is physiological needs these needs are human basic needs which are critical for human living in various participating communities in the society, these refer to physical needs such as food, water, clothing, and shelter. Physiological needs include basic needs like food, water, shelter, sleep, clothing, and reproduction. Without these basic needs, the human race or human society will extinction or in small impact, if these needs are not satisfied, the human body cannot function optimally.

Maslow (1943:373) considered this need is more essential than any other needs because the human cannot gain other needs before fulfilling their physiological needs. in Abraham Maslow's theory of needs are some needs that are basic and more urgent than others, therefore basic needs and pressing human needs are more considered first before any other need is given consideration.

Safety needs, when the physiological requirement is met the next hierarchy needs is safety, safety needs deal with protection and survival from chaotic situations, social disorder, social disturbance, and physical dangers in a human

environment. The emphasis on safety needs to ensure the survival of people in such a situation as protection from war and crime. Apparently, safety needs happen in early childhood when children need safe and predictable environments and tend to feel fear and anxiety when these needs are not met. Maslow also says that in adults living safety needs can be more seen when in an emergency.

Love and belonging or social needs, when people in various communities feel secured and safe enough in the environment, people often need to identify and belong in a social organization. Once people feel reasonably safe, that is when they tend to worry about belonging to the social group where they are loved in society. Love and belonging help people to have confidence in their abilities to contribute to the various community in society.

Esteem needs can be referred to as Ego needs in a human environment, it is always natural if people seek esteem in a human environment. Maslow (1943:381-382) classified Esteem needs in two categories, esteem for oneself like dignity, achievement, mastery, and independence. The second category is the desire for reputation from others like status and prestige. In addition, to gain respect and appreciation, people need to achieve something and be recognized by other people such as academic achievements, participation in professional activities, and personal hobbies. People who can satisfy their Esteem needs tend to feel confident in their abilities.

Self-actualization refers to how people develop their talent and potential that are hidden in them in society, Maslow (1943:384) interpreted that self-actualization

is based on people seeking fulfillment and change through personal growth self-actualized people are those who were fulfilled and doing all they were capable. Self-actualization becomes a reality when people develop the desire to exploit all the talents, gifts, and potential that are hidden in them

Understanding needs is the sixth level of Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs which deal with the desire of people to know in a human environment, this reminds human beings of the urgent need to acquire relevant knowledge, skills, information, and attitude to enable them to function very efficiently and effectively in various social settings in a human environment.

Aesthetic needs refer to the human desire to enjoy and promote the beauty of a human environment, people are encouraged to love, understand, appreciate, and promote the efficiency of beautiful things like art, music, flower, and painted background in a human environment. The focus of aesthetic needs is to consciousness people on the need to love, understand, and promote the beauty of human surroundings in society.

### **2.3 Structuralism Approach**

Structuralism is a theory that is used for analyzing literary work, it refers to the structure and genetic aspect in analyzing the literary works. This means this theory focuses on intrinsic elements of literary work, like characterization, plots, setting, atmosphere, themes, and others. these intrinsic elements are seen as a link that carries a universal meaning Teeuw (1984:135). According to Goldman when analyzing a literature work it has to start with analyzing the structure before

analyzing another structure, this approach is the development of the pure structuralism approach Welleck (1989:141). The structural approach consists of the material and structure of the text of the literary work, Welleck and Warren (1989:140 means that the structure of the literaray work is composed of form and content. The form is the way the author writes and the content is how the of author expresses his idea in writing.

Fananie (2000:112) also say that an objective approach is an approach that sees a literature work as a whole, the approach is assessed from the existence of the literature itself, without any other elements outside the literary work. Structuralism theory was developed through sociological literature since it found, literary work is a great fact of culture and a massive mind realization as the work was created.

Base on all the expert statement above, the writer discuss that the structure of literary work consists of character, plots, settings, and theme built by the writer to show the realization of real life in the literary work, so that reader can know social meaning contained in the literary work.

### **2.3.1 Intrinsic Elements**

#### **1. Plot**

The plot is a chain of event that formed by phases of events that make up the story and connected to each other through cause and effect, plot also carried a big role in delivering the story which is presented by different kind of characters. Stanton (1965:14) suggested that a plot is a story that contains the sequence of events, but each incidents only connected to cause and effect, and events that caused



or led to the occurrence of other events. Many people consider that plot is an important fiction element in literary works. Because the clarity of plot and the sequence of events can make the readers easy to understand the story of literary work

According to Reaske (1966:28), one of the most important theories about structure is that classify certain tragedies. To view the events in more detail the readers need to take a diving approach which separates the events of the play into five categories as follows :

- a. Exposition is the part in which the author introduces the character, setting, situation, and to show some certain facts about the story
- b. The rising action is the part when conflict start to grow and the situation becomes complicated and prepared for some disaster
- c. The climax is the part when all the situation that has been build come in one same place or a turning point for the main character, climax also is the sign of the end of rising action
- d. The falling action is the part when all the situation that happens in climax proceeds toward resolution
- e. Resolution is the part when all the situation has been solved and usually the story ended with happy or bad

## 2. Character

Character is the individual creation of the author who experienced the events or treatment of the story as in the real-life, character has a major role in develop the story because of the capable of creating a problem, Gill (1995:127) states that

character is someone who has some identity and identify which is made up by appearance, conversation, action, name and thoughts going on the need.

The characterization of character in a literary work can be seen by how the character talks, the appearance of the character, his social life, people that close to the character, and what is being done or done by the character. According to Perrine in Renaldy (2013:12), each of the characters has a different role, the character who has a significant role in a story called the main character or mayor character, while the character that has less role and just supports the main character called minor character. While the characterization of the character can be divided into two as follows :

- a. The protagonist is a character that have a positive value and often gave a positive dispotition
- b. The antagonist is a character that gives a contrary disposition to convey the protagonist

Stanton (2007:35) also states that characters can be divide into main character and minor character. The main character is the most important and has a big part in the story, this character will be the one who involve in everything that happens along the story, while the minor character are those who less important but has a role to complete the story.

### 3. Theme

The theme can be interprets as an element that underlines and constructs the story in literary work, the existence of the theme depends on other elements like character, setting, and plot. A theme can be a way for the author to deliver the