

**PERSONALITY OF EVELYN AS THE MAIN CHARACTER IN
REID'S *THE SEVEN HUSBANDS OF EVELYN HUGO***



**Syifa Az-zahra
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**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITAS HASANUDDIN
MAKASSAR
2024**

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MAKASSAR, INDONESIA
2024**

LEGITIMATION

THESIS

**PERSONALITY OF EVELYN AS THE MAIN CHARACTER
IN REID's *THE SEVEN HUSBANDS OF EVELYN HUGO***

BY

SYIFA AZ-ZAHRA

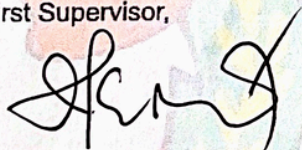
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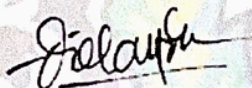
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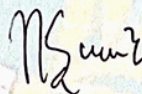
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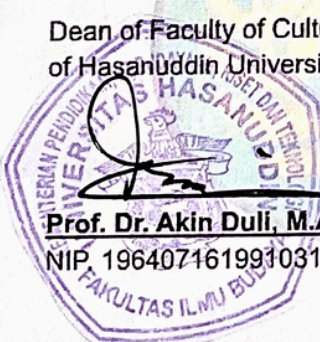


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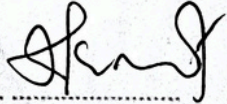
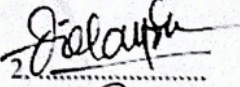
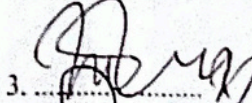
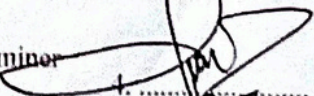
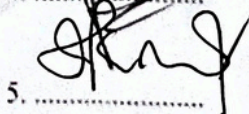
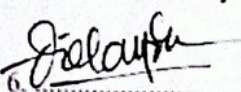
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AGREEMENT

On 30th August 2024, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by Syifa Az-Zahra (F041201012) entitled *Personality of Evelyn as The Main Character in Reid's The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements to obtain Sarjana Degree in English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

Makassar, 30th August 2024

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DECLARATION

The thesis by Syifa Az-Zahra (F041201012) entitled *Personality of Evelyn as The Main Character in Reid's The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* has been revised as advised during the examination on 30th August 2024

and is approved by the Board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners:

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Hereby, the writer declares that this thesis is written by herself. 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, 30th August 2024



Syifa Az-Zahra

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APPROVAL FORM

With reference to the letter of the dean of Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University No. 027/UN4.9.1/KEP/2024 regarding supervision, we hereby confirm to approve the undergraduate thesis draft by Syifa Az Zahra (F041201012) to be examined at the English Literature Study Program of Faculty of Cultural Sciences.

Makassar, 24th July 2024

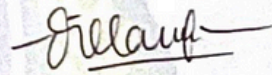
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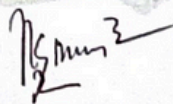
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Finally, the writer realizes this thesis is imperfect and needs much improvement. Therefore, the author is open to all criticism and suggestions from

readers. The author hopes this thesis can be a reference and provide useful significance for readers.

Makassar, 30th August 2024

Best Regards,

Syifa Az-Zahra

ABSTRACT

Syifa Az-Zahra. **Personality of Evelyn as The Main Character in Reid's The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo** (supervised by Herawaty and A. St. Aldilah Khaerana)

This research delves into the personality development of Evelyn Hugo, the main character of *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* novel. This research applies Karen Horney's social psychoanalysis theory that focuses on neurosis to analyze whether the main character of the novel portrayed as a neurotic person. The aim of this research is to examine the neurotic personality experienced by Evelyn Hugo. In this research, the researcher uses qualitative methodology. The main data is sourced from the novel of *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* that published in 2017 by Washington Square Press. The data are collected in the form of words, phrases, and sentences from the novel by taking notes of the evidence regarding neurotic personality elements. This research focuses on four basic elements of neurosis: basic hostility and basic anxiety, neurotic needs, and neurotic trends.

The researcher discovered that Evelyn positively grew as a neurotic person. Based on Horney's theory, Evelyn's actions and decisions represent 6 out of 10 neurotic needs: needs of affection and approval, needs of power, needs of social recognition, needs of personal admiration, needs of ambition, and needs of personal achievement. These needs are categorized by Evelyn's attitudes that have a tendency in moving towards people and moving against people. Evelyn's behavior are the result of the social and cultural influences and childhood trauma that made her grow as a neurotic person.

Key words: Evelyn; personality; neurotic

ABSTRAK

Syifa Az-Zahra. **Personality of Evelyn as The Main Character in Reid's The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo** (dibimbing oleh Herawaty dan A. St. Aldilah Khaerana)

Penelitian ini menganalisis perkembangan kepribadian Evelyn Hugo, karakter utama dalam novel *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori psikoanalisis sosial Karen Horney yang berfokus pada neurosis untuk menganalisis apakah tokoh utama pada novel digambarkan sebagai seseorang yang dengan kepribadian neurotik. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis kepribadian neurotik yang dialami Evelyn Hugo. Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti menggunakan metodologi kualitatif. Data utama bersumber pada novel *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* yang diterbitkan pada 2017 oleh Washington Square Press. Data yang dikumpulkan ialah berupa kata, frasa, dan kalimat dari novel dengan mencatat bukti-bukti mengenai elemen kepribadian neurotik. Penelitian ini berfokus pada empat elemen dasar neurosis: permusuhan dasar dan kecemasan dasar, kebutuhan neurotik, dan tren neurotik.

Peneliti menemukan bahwa Evelyn secara positif tumbuh dengan kepribadian neurotik. Berdasarkan teori Horney, tindakan dan keputusan Evelyn menunjukkan 6 dari 10 kebutuhan neurotik: kebutuhan akan kasih sayang dan penerimaan, kebutuhan akan kekuasaan, kebutuhan akan pengakuan sosial, kebutuhan akan kekaguman pribadi, kebutuhan akan ambisi, dan kebutuhan akan prestasi pribadi. Kebutuhan-kebutuhan tersebut dikategorikan berdasarkan sikap Evelyn yang memiliki kecenderungan bergerak mendekati orang dan bergerak melawan orang. Tingkah laku Evelyn merupakan akibat dari pengaruh sosial budaya dan trauma masa kecil yang membuatnya tumbuh menjadi pribadi yang neurotik.

Kata kunci: Evelyn; kepribadian; neurotik

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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Psychology is important in studying individual behavior and personality. Psychology studies how people's mental conditions affect their social interactions, emotions, and decision-making abilities. It also observes the individual experience, including how culture and environment impact the development of someone's personality. Individual personality development is a complex process that is influenced by many different things, such as biological factors, family environment, childhood experiences, and social relationships.

Childhood experiences play an important role that influence the process of personality development. According to Horney (1939), childhood experiences have a long-term impact on a person's personality development, even when the person has grown up. A healthy personality is formed from childhood experiences filled with affection and a sense of security. Children should be protected and shown genuine love by their family, especially by their parents. As the family is the first environment that will fulfill individual needs, one of which is emotional needs. The family is the first social environment for individuals to develop their ability to socialize with other social environments. When the child's emotional needs are met, they will develop a healthy personality and become their true self.

If a person is raised in an insecure and unaffectionate environment, they will grow into a neurotic personality, which is a condition when a person has a tendency towards negative emotions. Horney in Feist contends that the inability or unwillingness of parents to love their children could have a significant effect (Horney in Feist & Feist 2008:173). A lot of parents are still hesitant to show affection to their children. This can be influenced by prestige, not being used in expressing their love, or power. Parents often provide dominating, controlling, ignoring, or rejecting behavior. These circumstances may have an impact on the development of an individual's personality and may lead to basic hostility and basic anxiety. Childhood experiences conflict and anxiety can result in the development of neurotic behavior that lasts throughout life.

Since literature is a portrayal of the real world, these conditions can also be found in literary works. Literature is a person's ideas or imagination expressed through language. Literature can be influenced by the author's experiences, sentiments, ideals, and culture. It has a variety of genres and writing styles, from entertaining to enlightening. Literature also has the purpose of inspiring, entertaining, or permeating the deep meaning of the human experience.

Literary works frequently reflect human psychological situations, such as complex personalities, portrayal of various emotions, or inner conflicts faced by the characters in the story. Authors can portray lots of aspects of human psychological life into a single story. Many literary works show the development of a character's

personality over time. Through literature, readers can understand different points of view, explore human emotions and experiences, and reflect on the meaning of life.

Taylor Jenkins Reid in her novel *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*, follows the life of Evelyn, a legendary movie star who fights for her career while also protecting her complex life after seven marriages. The story of Evelyn's life is portrayed from childhood to adulthood, reflecting the dynamic between parents and children. The novel also explores topics such as difficult personal lives, love, friendship, and the struggle to find true happiness. The story's conflicts are clearly obvious. Evelyn has gone through an unhappy childhood. Her mother died when she was 8 years old and left her with her abusive father. Her unpleasant childhood made her grow into a neurotic personality. As a result of her neurotic disposition, the main character displays numerous neurotic responses. Her lack of affection, security, and protection were what prevented her from having a healthy personality development.

Based on the psychological symptoms of the main character in the novel of *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*, Karen Horney's psychoanalytic theory is relevant if it is applied to analyze the phenomena and psychological symptoms of the main character more closely in this novel. The main character in this novel is interesting to analyze based on Horney's personality theory which explains that cultural and environmental factors especially childhood experiences affect the development of a personality. Horney states that difficulties in developing relationships with others can lead to conflict, which is defined as a tendency to show certain attitudes and behaviors.

Unhappy childhood experiences have a huge impact on a person's life. According to Johnson (2023), about 47% of behaviors learned as a child will carry over into adulthood. These experiences are traumatic events that could occur from early ages. According to the 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey (as cited in Johnson, 2023), approximately 61% of adults reported that they experienced at least one such event before the age of 18. This is also found in the novel *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*. Evelyn did not get the love that a child deserves which made her childhood unhappy, that had an impact on her personality.

The problem above is the main reason why the researcher chose this topic, where the main character has psychological symptoms in the form of basic human needs, and neurotic responses that are interesting to research. Another reason why researchers choose this topic is to understand human behavior and explore the complex relationships of people. Studying about this topic expected to be able to deepen understanding of how individuals deal with relationships, overcome challenges, and make decisions. Furthermore, studying character personalities can provide insight into the complex dynamics of interpersonal relationships, including themes of love, power, intimacy and betrayal.

B. Identification of The Problems

Based on the background above, the researcher sums up these problems as follows:

1. The effect of social class
2. The interplay of identity
3. Gender inequality
4. Women oppression
5. Violence and sexual violence
6. Exploitation
7. Neurotic personality
8. Marginalization of minority groups

C. Scope of The Problems

Based on the problems above, the researcher limits the discussion. The researcher focuses this study on analyzing the personality of the main character Evelyn. The researcher uses psychoanalysis theory by Karen Horney about neurosis. It includes neurotic needs and neurotic trends. This theory presents an alternative perspective compared to previous theories, suggesting that neurosis serves as an effort to cope with life's challenges. It is limited to the personality of the main character viewed from Karen Horney's theory.

D. Research Questions

According to the scope of the problem, the researcher has formulated the following problems that need to be discussed, that is How is the main character's personality viewed from Karen Horney's theory?

E. Objective of The Research

The objectives of the study are summarized as follows, that is to examine the main character's personality viewed from Karen Horney's theory.

F. Significance of The Research

The results of this study are useful both in theoretical and practical terms. On the theoretical side, this study can be used as a reference for literary studies, especially those related to the analyzed works. The study is expected to give additional information on the topic discussed by the researcher. Through this study, the readers are able to increase their knowledge about the characters' personalities, which will help to explore the characterization in literary works. The researcher hopes that this study will help readers to appreciate literary works as a reflection of human experience.

Practically, this study can be useful in providing information about the personality of the main character in Evelyn, which is someone that has a neurotic personality caused by her childhood experiences. By incorporating these insights into their life, the readers at least know their condition and to overcome the

situation. Furthermore, this study is also expected to be a reference for future researchers.

CHAPTER II LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Previous Studies

To support this writing, the researcher has found some previous studies with a similar object or approach.

1. Poorhabibi et al. (2020) "*Psychological analysis of children's personality in the stories of Houshang Moradi Kermani based on Karen Horney's theory*".

This study analyzed characters from selected stories by Houshang Moradi about children and adolescents. The purpose of the study is to identify personality and characterization in the stories of Houshang Moradi Kermani based on the theory of personality in Horney's theory. The results show that the fundamental antagonism of the characters has led them to fall into three types of secrets, supremacy and isolationism. All personality types have resorted to idealism to relieve suffering and neurotic abuse, masking themselves deliberately or unconsciously with others and feeling that they have concealed the true self from others.

2. Damayanti (2023) "*The portrayal of women oppression in Reid's The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*".

This study uses the 'Five Faces of Oppression' theory by Irish Marion Young to analyze the data. The aims of this study are to identify forms of oppression experienced by women characters (Monique Grant and Evelyn Hugo), and to describe women characters' struggle against oppression in the novel. This study revealed that Monique and Evelyn experienced oppression due to their gender and racial background. Monique was marginalized in the workplace, whereas Evelyn experienced the five faces of oppression mentioned by Young. Despite the oppression that Monique and Evelyn faced, they were struggling for their freedom and rights in order to take control of their own lives and careers.

3. Rahmani (2023) "*Sexism and Misogyny as Products of Patriarchal Society seen in Taylor Jenkins Reid's Novel The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*".

This study applied sexism theory by Glick and Fiske, as well as the misogyny concept by Kate Manne. The aims of this study are to find forms of sexism and misogyny experienced by the female characters in the novel and to examine Reid's influence as a female author from the gyno criticism perspective.

This study was conducted based on feminist literary criticism, specifically Gyno criticism by Elaine Show-alter. The study's findings consist of several points. First, the novel has two types of sexism: hostile and friendly. Second, female characters in the story faced misogyny in three ways: objectification, male privilege, and gender-based violence. Third, Reid, as a female author, distinguishes herself from other male authors who utilize sexism to explain abuse and discrimination of female characters as something natural and normal to be done in their writing. This conclusion is based on the writer's discovery of Reid's rejection of sexism and misogyny in the portrayal of her female characters.

4. Tamrin, Adveni, and Basri (2023), "*The Main Character's Neurotic Needs in The Novel The Invisible Man by H. G. Wells*".

The study analyzes the types of neurotic needs experienced by the character using psychoanalysis social by Karen Horney's theory about the types of neurotic needs, such as the neurotic need for power, the neurotic need to exploit others, the neurotic need for self-sufficiency, and independence. The aim of this study is to determine the types of neurotic conditions experienced by Griffin. This study found that the character (Griffin) experienced three types of neurotic needs: the neurotic need for power, the neurotic need to exploit others, the neurotic need for self-sufficiency, and independence, which proves that he has a neurotic disorder or mental disorder.

Based on the previous studies above, the researcher has found that all the previous studies have some joint study with this research. Even though the study by Damayanti and Rahmani studied the same object as this research, there is a slight difference in the issue that will be the main focus. Damayanti's writing focuses on the women's oppression portrayed in *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* novel; Rahmani's study analyzed the sexism and misogyny in *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*. Meanwhile, this research will highlight the neurotic personality of Evelyn's character in *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* novel. This research applies the same theory as Tamrin and Poorhabibi's study, namely Karen Horney's psychoanalysis theory. Tamrin's study focuses on *The Invisible Man* novel, whereas Poorhabibi analyzes the stories of Houshang Moradi Kermani. On the other hand, this study explores *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* novel.

B. Intrinsic Elements

Intrinsic elements of literary works refer to the components of a work that are essential in transforming an essay into a literary composition. This research examines the intrinsic elements that build a literary work (novel). These elements include characters, plot, setting, and theme.

1. Characters

One of the most important parts of a story is the characters, who carry the plot and tell the readers their messages through their dialogue. Abrams and Harpham (2013:48) stated that characters are people that appear in a dramatic or narrative work. Characters in literary works are persons introduced by the author, with each character having a different role and personality. Each character has a unique attitude and role. The reader figures out what the characters are like by interpreting their dialogues and their actions.

Henkle classifies the term "character" into two categories: main character and minor character. Main characters are more highlighted than minor characters (Qonita, 2023:10). Most novels highlight the main character's story to express the messages and emotions in the story. On the other hand, minor characters have fewer and limited parts, not as complex as the main character's story. The minor character helps the main character by being a contrast to them.

Characters are divided into several types based on their role and complexities: protagonist, antagonist, dynamic, and static character. Each type of character plays an important role in the development of the story, but with different levels of importance.

a. Protagonist

Protagonist or as known as the main character is the main focus of the story, the one who plays a significant role. Protagonist is someone who drives the story with the goal that needs to be achieved. They fight with the situation and are involved in conflict that affects their personality growth. As the center of the story, the protagonist tries to keep the readers interested by showing their heroism and fight against evil or the opposite character. Nevertheless, the protagonist does not always play as a good guy, they also sometimes play as a bad guy depending on their actions and motivations. They have various complexities with positive and negative traits in dealing with conflicts which make them more realistic.

b. Antagonist

Antagonist is the opposite of the protagonist. They are playing as the one who prevents their rival from achieving the goal. When the protagonist plays as a good one in the story, the antagonist would be the opposite against the heroic character. The antagonist does not always come out as a person or a group of people, it also can be a difficult situation or a disaster that works against the positive character. Similar to the protagonist, antagonists also do not always play as the evil one in the story. They only need to be in direct opposition of the protagonist.

c. Dynamic Character

Dynamic characters are the type of characters that significantly develop in the middle or the end of the story. They change whether positively or negatively depending on the need of the story. The transition of the character's personality is usually the result of the experiences and conflicts they face. The changes can be seen in their personality, perspective, behavior, and understanding of life.

d. Static Character

This character does not change or develop that much. Contrary to the dynamic character who is significantly developed, static characters rather stay the same in response to the story's events. They experience no internal change, but they still can be complex and serve a particular purpose in the story.

2. Plot

Abrams and Harpham (2013) define plot as a series of events that influence the development of the story from the beginning to the end. It is the way the author writes the storyline that unfolds someone's or the main character(s) journey. Plot is essential in creating conflict, emotions, and character development throughout the story. Plot can also be divided into many different types of genres. Some stories are meant to be tragic, while others are meant to be comedic, romantic, satirical, or some other genre. Each of these types has its own way to be told and can be written in either drama or narrative form, in poem, or prose.

Bell (2004) emphasizes the cause-and-effect relationship between these events to build dynamics and make the readers interested. Each scenario in the story brings to the growth of characters by showing their personalities, motivations and reactions to different situations. Furthermore, the storyline gives context for character development, allowing readers to follow the development of characters throughout the story. The plot events provide readers with insight into the complexity of human nature and behavior. Characters are brought to life by their actions, allowing readers to make connections, empathize with their difficulties, and engage more deeply with the plot.

There is a specific plot structure most stories apply. The structure can be divided into five basic elements: Exposition or introduction, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.

- a. **Exposition or introduction:** The beginning of the story, where the characters, setting, and background of the story are introduced. The readers started to get to know who is who, where or when the story occurs, and what is the story going about. In this stage, the readers are introduced to the universe of the story and the relationship between the characters.
- b. **Rising action:** The plot begins to develop in this stage, where the character's life starts to get complicated. Conflicts are introduced and the tension gets higher and higher, leading to the climax of the story.
- c. **Climax:** The climax the peak of the plot, which puts the character in a crucial situation. They have to deal with the conflicts and make decisions that might affect the rest of the story. The drama, excitement, and action occur at this stage.
- d. **Falling action:** In this stage, the story begins to slow down, and the conflicts begin to resolve. The characters started to understand the consequences of the decisions they made in the climax.
- e. **Resolution:** This is the end of the story where the conflicts of the story have been resolved and wrapped up. The story will be concluded, and the character's life brought to its happy or tragic ending.

3. Setting

Setting has a crucial part of creating the atmosphere, tone, and storyline of a novel. According to Lynch-Brown and Tomlinson (1999), setting is basically to identify when and where the story occurs. It refers to things such as the physical location, specific time, the weather, social environment, and historical period. It also used to explore the themes and ideas of literature work. The setting of a story may provide readers with a detailed and realistic portrayal, leading them to imagine a situation that is similar to the actual events. Setting is classified into three categories: setting of location, setting of time, and setting of environments.

- a. Setting of place describes the specific location where the story takes place. The description of the setting is necessary in order to help the readers to visualize the circumstances in the story. The setting of the story can be located in various places according to the author's preferences.

- b. Setting of time refers to a specific period of time in the story, including the present, past, or future. The depiction of social and cultural conditions in the story can be influenced by the time setting.
- c. The setting of the atmosphere depicts the story's overall mood and atmosphere. This environment creates the sense of an emotional and psychological experience for the readers.

4. Theme

Connor (2014) stated that theme is the element that underlies the idea of a story. It is the attempt of how the author conveys the messages and values they have. Theme delves into a deeper issue, underlying meaning or insights about life the author explored. The theme can be abstract and universal, often exploring concepts about love, justice, power, or any other issues. It also can be critical to the real condition that is happening, such as critical to the environment, society, or the human situation. Theme is usually not explicitly stated in the story. Rather, it is expressed through sentences and needs to be interpreted by the readers through the plot, conflicts, character's experiences, and other literary elements the author uses.

Kennedy and Gioia (2010:184) state that stories frequently have more than one theme. The complexity of the story leads the various emotions, ideas, and human experiences to be deeply explored. Furthermore, the interaction between various themes can create layers of meaning, allowing readers to reflect on the relevance of literary works to aspects of life.

C. Psychoanalysis

Psychoanalysis is a psychological theory developed in the 1980s by Sigmund Freud. The theory emphasizes the impact of the unconscious on human behavior and emotions. Freud, who was a neurologist at the time, developed psychoanalysis to help his patients who were suffering from mental illness. Glassman & Hadad (2009) stated that Freud believed that the unconscious has an important role in the development of someone's personality.

Freud developed his theory about human personality consisting of more than one component, that are id, ego, and superego. The id is considered as the basis of the unconscious impulsiveness such as the need for food, aggression, and sexual drives. The id urges someone's needs and desires as it serves the pleasure principle. Since the id is driven by the pleasure principle, the demands are sometimes irrational and unrealistic. On the other hand, ego is the conscious part of the mind that is responsible to maintain the balance between reality and demands. As it serves the reality principle, ego strives to satisfy the demands of id and superego in a realistic and appropriate way. It is the part that keeps someone grounded in reality and morality.

Superego is the last part of personality that strives for social values and moral behavior. The values are internalized by the family and the culture. Superego serves the morality principle and works for both conscious and unconscious levels.

It controls the id's impulses that are forbidden by society, such as sex and aggression. Superego plays an important role in judgment and decision-making.

Although the three elements have a different function and principal, they do not work separately and independently. Viney & King (2003) stated that id, ego, and superego are dynamic and interact with each other to influence someone's behavior. Each component has its own ways in contributing to personality and has a powerful impact.

Freud's theories have made significant contributions to the knowledge of human psychology, although that psychoanalytic theory has been heavily criticized and debated throughout history. According to Feist & Feist (2009:67) one of the main criticisms about psychoanalysis is a lack of strong evidence to support Freudian concepts. Some experts criticize the accuracy of Freud's ideas, which were mostly based on his observations of patients and case studies. Critics also argue that the theory oversimplifies the complexities of human behavior and ignores the impact of genetic, social, and cultural factors.

In addition to Carl Jung and Alfred Adler, Karen Horney also offered criticism of Freud's psychoanalytic theory. Horney was originally impressed by Freud's psychoanalysis. However, her perspective changed after two years when she became Associate Director of the Chicago Institute of Psychoanalysis. Horney criticized Freud's idea that personality development is influenced by biological factors. In contrast, Horney emphasized the important role of social and cultural factors that impact the growth of personality (Hergenhahn, 2009:226).

D. Psychoanalysis by Karen Horney

Karen Horney, a well-known psychoanalyst, was born in the 1880s in Germany. She grew up in an unhappy family. She resented her father but remained close to her mother. Her older brother was four years older than her. Horney's childhood trauma grew from her parents' favoritism toward her brother. This encouraged her interest in psychology, encouraging her to pursue a profession as a psychiatrist. Horney contributed significantly to psychoanalysis by creating her own ideas emphasizing the role of cultural and social factors in shaping human's personality (Feist & Feist, 2009:170-171).

Horney's psychoanalytic social theory assumes that culture and social conditions, especially childhood experiences, are responsible for shaping someone's personality. Individuals who did not receive emotional needs during childhood will develop basic hostility to their parents, and the hostility will lead to basic anxiety. Horney agreed with Freud that childhood traumas have impacts, but she heavily emphasized that social influences are the most significant in personality development. As she mentioned in her book (Horney, 1939:73), "Man is ruled not by the pleasure principle alone but by two guiding principles: safety and satisfaction". She stated that neurotic personalities did not come from the instincts, but from the person's "attempt to find paths through a wilderness full of unknown dangers" (Horney, 1939:10). The wilderness was not created by instincts or anatomy but created by society.

Horney's theory focuses on the concept of neurosis, which she considered as a result of unfulfilled individual needs and societal demands. Feist & Feist (2009:169) stated that Horney recognized a number of neurotic coping techniques of how people against anxiety and attain a sense of security, such as moving toward, away from, or against people. While normal people can relate to others in any of these ways, neurotics are forced to strictly stick to only one. Horney's psychoanalytic theory, which underlines the relevance of childhood experiences in personality development, provides a holistic framework for understanding human behavior and coping with psychological issues.

1. Impact of The Culture

Horney said that modern culture provides a strong basis for individual competitiveness. People who live in a potentially hostile world would experience the feelings of isolation as a consequence of the competitiveness and basic hostility that exists in the world. As people experience isolation, they will develop an excessive begging for love, which leads them to believe that love is the answer to all of their problems. Genuine love may grow in a healthy way, but excessive needing for affection can lead to neurosis. People with neurosis often use their need for affection negatively rather than positively, leading them to pursue unhealthy and unhelpful means of finding love (Feist & Feist, 2009:172).

Their pathological efforts frequently have negative impacts, such as lowered self-esteem, increased hostility towards themselves and others, and deepened anxiety. Unmet needs for affection constantly can lead to an unproductive cycle in which people are always looking for reassurance and satisfaction from others, without ever being satisfied or truly fulfilled. In general, trying to meet the need for love in a bad way often leads to a never-ending cycle of psychological distress and unhelpful actions.

2. The Importance of Childhood Experiences

Horney (1939) assumed that childhood trauma is responsible for neurotic needs. Although Horney admitted neurotic conflicts can arise at any stage of development, she claimed that childhood is where most problems begin. In this early phase, individuals are particularly vulnerable to the influence of various traumatic events that impact their personality development. This trauma might appear in several forms, such as sexual abuse, physical abuse, rejection, or neglect. Each of these experiences has the potential to shape a person's psychological conditions that will affect their growth in the future.

3. Basic Hostility and Basic Anxiety

Basic hostility and basic anxiety are the two components in Horney's theory that play a significant role in understanding individual psychological dynamics. Basic hostility refers to the anger and hostility that children feel towards their parents. Children should be given love and support by adults so they can grow to be themselves. But when children feel neglected, insulted, or abused by their

parents, they will develop a deep sense of anger towards their parents. This anger will develop neurotic behavior patterns in adulthood, such as aggressive or hostile behavior, and difficulty in establishing healthy relationships.

However, children rarely express their hostility openly to their parents. Instead, they keep their hostility to themselves. The hidden hostility then grows anxiety and feelings of insecurity. This condition is called basic anxiety. Horney (1950:18) defined basic anxiety as "a feeling of being isolated and helpless in a world conceived as potentially hostile". Basic anxiety is fear that children feel when they are in an unsafe or unsupportive environment.

Horney (1937) stated that basic hostility and basic anxiety are not only connected, but also interact with each other. Basic hostility, which is the anger that a child feels towards their parents, is considered to be the main cause of basic anxiety. When a child feels threatened in the family environment, the hostility against their parents might become strong. This condition can lead to basic anxiety.

On the other hand, basic anxiety can also increase the feelings of basic hostility. A child who grows up in an insecure environment may feel a sense of fear and anxiety towards the world around them. This could make them even more hostile to the people who make them feel unsafe. As a result, the interaction between basic hostility and basic anxiety creates an unhealthy habit and complicates someone's psychological dynamics.

4. Neurotic Needs

Karen Horney identified 10 types of neurotic needs that may arise as a neurotic's attempt to deal with basic anxiety. These 10 categories might collide, depending on someone's needs. It is possible for someone to have more than 1 needs.

- a. Need for affection and approval.** Neurotics would do anything to please others to gain the affection and approval they need. They strive to fulfill other people's wishes and are often afraid to express themselves. The need for affection and approval from others is a source of security and self-esteem.
- b. Need for a powerful partner.** As neurotics lack self-confidence, they try to attach themselves to a powerful partner. People with this need seek a controlling or dominating partner who will take control of their lives, often to avoid making decisions or taking responsibility for themselves. These needs include a high value of love and a fear of abandonment.
- c. Need to restrict one's life within narrow borders.** Neurotics dislike being the focus of attention, so they put limits to themselves to decrease uncertainty and anxiety. They often put themselves in second place, did not try to stand out or achieve much.
- d. Need for Power.** People with this neurotic need will place power and affection as the center of their life. They seek to control and dominate others as a way to against inferiority or insecurity. People with this need will use manipulative behavior to increase their authority.

- e. **Need to exploit others.** Individuals with this need will exploit or manipulate others for their own needs. Neurotics may use others to fulfill their needs in order not to be exploited by others.
- f. **Need for social recognition or prestige.** People with this need will demand for social status or recognition to validate their self-worth and importance. They might try to be first, prioritize appearances and achievements to get attention from others.
- g. **Need for personal admiration.** Neurotics need to be admired by people for what they are. Admiration and approval they get from others will raise their self-esteem.
- h. **Need for ambition and personal achievement.** People who experience this kind of need have the desire to be the best. They try to prove their worth by personal achievement and success so they can gain recognition from others. They may set ambitious goals and work endlessly to accomplish them.
- i. **Need for self-sufficiency and independence.** This need will make neurotics move away from people, seeking independence and to avoid relying on others. They wanted to prove that they can get along without others.
- j. **Need for perfection and unassailability.** Neurotics are afraid of making mistakes, so they always push themselves to achieve perfection and superiority. They hide their imperfections to fight insecurity.

5. Neurotic Trends

Horney then developed her theory, the list of 10 neurotic needs grouped into three general categories. Each of the categories could relate to someone's attitude toward themselves or others. People might apply any neurotic trend to solve problems they have.

a. Moving toward people

This trend does not mean approaching people with genuine love. Instead, it refers to neurotics protecting themselves against the feeling of helplessness. People with this trend will act in a submissive and obedient manner, and they will avoid conflict by risking their wants and needs for the sake of affection and approval from others. They are willing to prioritize the desires and expectations of others over their own to maintain a harmonious relationship with others. Neurotics with this trend will apply one or both the first two neurotic needs, which is fight for affection and approval from others, or seek a powerful partner that will take responsibility for their lives.

b. Moving against people

Contrary to moving toward people who try to act passively and submissively, neurotics with this trend actually move against people to treat others cruelly. They assume that everybody is hostile. They express aggressive, dominant, or manipulative behavior in an attempt to gain power or control over others. They are unwilling to admit their mistakes and are compulsively driven to show perfection, power, and superior. There are five neurotic needs included in this trend: the need to be powerful, to exploit others, to receive recognition and prestige, to be admired,

and to achieve. They may try to be hard working and passionate on the job, but they rarely enjoy what they do since their basic motivation is for power, prestige, and personal ambition.

c. Moving away from people

People with this trend will separate themselves from personal relationships and emotional feelings in order to solve the basic conflict of isolation. They become introverted and have problems socializing with others. This trend is an expression for privacy, independence, and self-sufficiency. They were encouraged to stay away from people and create their own world. All neurotics have the need to feel superior from others, but detached people need to be more powerful and stronger on their own. They are able to tolerate the sense of isolation by convincing themselves that they are perfect. Moving away from others is a strategy to solve the basic isolation conflict that exists.

E. Synopsis

The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid is a novel that explores the glamorous and sensational life of Hollywood icon Evelyn Hugo. The story begins when Evelyn, the film legend, decides to tell her life story to an unknown journalist named Monique Grant. At her age of 79, Evelyn is finally ready to reveal the truth of her life that she has been hidden from the public for decades. Through a series of interviews, Evelyn narrates her journey from being a Cuban immigrant named Evelyn Herrera to becoming one of the most popular actresses in Hollywood.

Evelyn grew up in a poor Cuban family in Hell's Kitchen in Manhattan. Her mother died when she was at a very young age, leaving her alone with her abusive father. Evelyn was so close to her mother to the point she shared the same dream with her, to become an actress. She had the ambition to pursue her dreams and left her father behind. However, because of the poor and unprivileged life she had, Evelyn used her sexual appeal to seduce people to get what she wants. Eventually, she married Erne Diaz, a neighbor who took her to Hollywood.

Evelyn then quickly succeeded in connecting with Hollywood producers, namely Harry Cameron at Sunset Studios. She casted smaller parts at the beginning, but she slept with a much-older producer to get herself a big role. It was quite hard for her as a Cuban woman to start starring in the movie. Evelyn had to dye her hair blonde, stop speaking Spanish, change her name, and tell a false story about her past to the public. As she got her first leading role, she divorced her first husband Ernie and started publicly dating a few famous actors.

As Evelyn recounts her life, the readers are taken and dive into the journey of her seven marriages with its own secrets and complexities. Her relationship with her husbands is full of betrayal and heartbroken loses, but also portray genuine connection and intimacy. Evelyn's story delves into the theme of love, fame, and scandal in the world of Hollywood, as she struggles with the popularity and the sacrifices she took to achieve success in a male-dominated industry.