

SELF IDENTITIES STRUGGLE IN VIRGINIA WOOLF'S *MRS. DALLOWAYS*

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Abstract

In this research the writer will discuss a novel by Virginia Woolf, entitled *Mrs. Dalloway*. It is aimed to examine the issues of finding self identity, it is shaped through internal and external conflict in the novel. There are two main characters inside the novel discussed in this research, Clarissa Dalloway and Septimus Warren Smith. The focus of this research is to find out self identities struggle in Virginia Woolf *Mrs. Dalloway*. This thesis deals with self identity, so the writer employs theories dealing with conflict and characterization to analyze the issue. The writer applied library research and descriptive qualitative methods to elaborate and to perform the data that have logic correlation to the problem statement. The data and the data source are in the forms of sentences and narration inside the novel *Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf. As the result of the analysis, the writer concluded that, Clarissa as the main character in the story has succeeded to find her self-identity as a wife and as a member of society. Meanwhile, Septimus is failed in finding his self-identity because Septimus's resolution from his conflict is committing suicide. Besides, the writer concludes that a person can find his/her self identity from the conflict he/she faces when he/she comes up with a right resolution that solve the his/her conflict and make him/her able to continue the life.

Key words: : *Conflict, Characterization, Identity, Self-Identity.*

INTRODUCTION

In finding self identity, all people need times, some people needs their whole lives to find their self identities, meanwhile there are some people who can define their self identities in their young age (Mertania & Amelia, 2020). It means that there is no specific time for a person to define his/her self identity. But everyone comes to the day he/she need to make a decision about his/her self identity after found the resolution from the conflict he/she faces. The process of finding self identity is also happened in the novel of Virginia Woolf entitled *Mrs. Dalloway*. In this novel, there are two main characters (Amelia, 2021), (Mertania & Amelia, 2020), (Amelia & Dintasi, 2019), Clarissa Dalloway and Septimus Warren Smith who are not related to each other in the story but they are portrayed as two characters that have same problem which is having conflict about finding their self identities.

Clarissa Dalloway is 42 years old lady who really cares about what people think of her, but she is also often questions about the true meaning of life. In the day while preparing for her

party, Clarissa remembers the summer when she chose to marry her husband, Richard, instead of her friend Peter Walsh who has asked her to marry him once but Clarissa refused. Clarissa still does is not sure whether she has made the wrong decision about Peter or not. Meanwhile, Septimus Warren Smith is a World War I veteran who suffers shell shock and called insane by psychiatrist. Septimus was a young, idealistic, aspiring poet before he went to the war. After the war he thinks human as evil and believes he is guilty of not being able to feel. In the day Clarissa prepares her party is the day when the psychiatrist came to pick Septimus to psychiatric hospital but Septimus refused and committed suicide.

The writer is interested to discuss about the self identity because it is shaped through internal and external conflict which faced by certain person in his/her life. The writer will find the self identities struggle between Clarissa and Septimus in finding their self identities in Mrs. Dalloway novel because both of two major characters really thinks about their past memory and relate it to their current life. Moreover, Clarissa and Septimus are two major characters who are really different in the term of sanity. Clarissa is character who is surely sane while thinking about her past memory and while facing her current life, but Septimus is character who is considers as insane character just because of the shell shock he suffers from the war. Moreover, the writer interests to use Mrs. Dalloway novel because in the story Clarissa and Septimus came with their own decision after having only one day full of problematic conflict which lead these two major characters to define their self identity through the conflict and their past memories (Nani & Safitri, 2021).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Self Identity

Self-identity is sense of uniqueness as a person and distinctiveness from others, equivalent to answer the question “Who I am?”. Self-identity is one concept of him/her and image of himself/herself. It is an individual's view of himself/herself consisting of attitudes, feelings, beliefs, perceptions, and behaviors which are uniquely his/hers (Gulö, 2014b). Based on two definitions of self-identity above, the writer can conclude that self identity is concept that portray the uniqueness of certain person in the form of attitudes (Puspaningtyas & Ulfa, 2021), (F. M. Sari, n.d.), (Muliyah et al., 2020), (Sinaga & Pustika, 2021), feelings, beliefs (Mandasari, n.d.), (Mandasari, 2016), (Berlinda, 2015), (Muliyah & Aminatun, 2020),

perceptions (Erya & Pustika, 2021), (S. N. Sari & Aminatun, 2021), (Rahmania & Mandasari, 2021), (Muliyah et al., 2020), (Mandasari & Aminatun, 2019), and behaviors (Novita et al., 2020), (Novita & Husna, 2020), that will answer the question “Who I am?” for that person in his/her life.

Every people who were born and live in this world have their own self identities and everyone has difference way in finding their self identities. Everyone can find their self identities when they are children (Febriantini et al., 2021), (Saputra et al., 2020), (Pustika, n.d.), (Aguss, 2021), when they are young, when they are adult or even can be when they are about to die (Dhiona Ayu Nani, 2021). Everyone who is in the process of finding self identity will face conflict in their lives and the conflict will puts these people to the phase to define their self identities in their life or even their purposes as individual who live in the social community (Eva Tuckyta et al., 2021). Every person is forced to decide his/her purpose in the life when facing a conflict because it influences (Ruyani & Matthews, 2017), (Ambarwati & Mandasari, 2020), (Novita & Husna, 2020), (Gulö, 2014a), (Purba et al., 2019) his/her life in the future (Pustika, 2020). a struggle for determining self-identity is a process that needs time, before it reaches it is realization, which is why, the process itself is mostly followed by conflict that often leads the individual to confusion and pressure. In the following step, this confusion encouraged the character (Amelia & Dintasi, 2019), (Kardiansyah, n.d.), (Mertania & Amelia, 2020), (Yulianti & Sulistiyawati, 2020), to define him/her to find his self-identity. In addition, the choice that the individual makes will lead him or her to the understanding of the self identity. It means that people will find their self identities after having a conflict which can be conflict about their beliefs or conflict with other people in their environment (Zenissa et al., 2020).

METHOD

Data Collections and Data Analysis

Data collecting technique is conducted by researcher to arrange the step of research based on the arrangement of research (Aldino et al., 2021). In this first step the study create and organize files that can be used as data (Arnis et al., 2020). The second is Reading and Memorizing (Isnain et al., 2020), (Pustika & Wiedarti, 2019). There are dialogues and narration in the novel which can prove the topic choosen by the writer. The third is categorizing and arranging the

quotation from dialogues and narrations from the life principles of Bushido based on the novel (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2020), (Fitri & Qodriani, 2016), (Sasalia & Sari, 2020).

DISCUSSION

4.1 Self-Identity of Clarissa (Mrs. Dalloway)

4.1.1 Clarissa's Struggle for Her Self-Identity in Marriage

The struggle of Clarissa in finding her self-identity. Clarissa needs to face some conflicts in her life which lead her to defines her self-identity as a wife and as a member of society. One of the main conflicts shown in the story about Clarissa is conflict in her marriage. Clarissa married Richard, A Member of Parliament in the Conservative government in England. The conflict appear when Richard realized that Clarissa still thinking about Peter, who have fallen in love with Clarissa and once asked her to marry him but Clarissa refuse because she thought that she would face hard life if he marry Peter since Peter has an uncertain life. The reasons that makes Clarissa still thinking about Peter even though she already married with Richard is because simply she has ever fallen in love with Peter when she was young and even now Clarissa is still not sure whether she still love Peter or not.

For Hugh always made her feel, as he bustled on, raising his hat rather extravagantly and assuring her that she might be a girl of eighteen, and of course he was coming to her party to-night, Evelyn absolutely insisted, only a little late he might be after the party at the Palace to which he had to take one of Jim's boys she always felt a little skimpy beside Hugh; schoolgirlish; but attached to him, partly from having known him always, but she did think him a good sort in his own way, though Richard was nearly driven mad by him, and as for Peter Walsh, he had never to this day forgiven her for liking him. (Mrs. Dalloway: 3)

The quotation above shows that Clarissa is close with some men, which are Hugh Whitbread, Peter Walsh and Richard Dalloway. Clarissa is close with Hugh that makes Richard as her husband is jealous when seeing Clarissa close with Hugh that make Richard angry although Clarissa never really fall in love with Hugh. In other hand, Clarissa who has fallen in love with Peter thinks that she can never forgive herself for loving Peter. The

fact that Clarissa still thinking about Peter is becomes the main cause of marriage conflict between Clarissa and Richard.

4.1.2 Clarissa's struggle of self-identity in society

Since Clarissa marries Richard who is member of conservative parliament, Clarissa is really concern about her position in the eye of society.

She would not say of any one in the world now that they were this or were that. She felt very young; at the same time unspeakably aged. She sliced like a knife through everything; at the same time was outside, looking on. She had a perpetual sense, as she watched the taxi cabs, of being out, out, far out to sea and alone; she always had the feeling that it was very, very dangerous to live even one day. Not that she thought herself clever, or much out of the ordinary. How she had got through life on the few twigs of knowledge Fräulein Daniels gave them she could not think. She knew nothing; no language, no history; she scarcely read a book now, except memoirs in bed; and yet to her it was absolutely absorbing; all this; the cabs passing; and she would not say of Peter, she would not say of herself, I am this, I am that. (Mrs. Dalloway: 5)

From the quotation above, the writer knows that Clarissa experiences daily anxiety and sometimes faces terrible fear of tasks as small as crossing the street. Clarissa feels the oppressions of daily life in patriarchal England that have forced her to live a very limited life, to the point that she is afraid of everything the outside world has to offer.

4.2 Septimus's struggle for his self-identity from shell shock

The struggle of Septimus in finding his self-identity, Septimus faces conflict in his life which leads him to define his self-identity. Septimus, a veteran of World War I, suffers from shell shock and is lost within his own mind. He feels guilty even as he despises himself for being made numb by the war. His doctor has ordered Lucrezia, Septimus's wife, to make Septimus notice things outside himself, but Septimus has removed himself from the physical world. Instead, he lives in an internal world, wherein he sees and hears things that aren't really there and he talks to his dead friend Evans.

Septimus suffers from shell shock which is can be seen when he still remember his friend, Evan who is die in the war because of the explosion of a bomb that makes Septimus always afraid when he hears an explosion.

... the English people, with their children and their horses and their clothes, which she admired in a way; but they were “people” now, because Septimus had said, “I will kill myself”; an awful thing to say. Suppose they had heard him? She looked at the crowd. Help, help! she wanted to cry out to butchers’ boys and women. Help! Only last autumn she and Septimus had stood on the Embankment wrapped in the same cloak and, Septimus reading a paper instead of talking, she had snatched it from him and laughed in the old man’s face who saw them! But failure one conceals. She must take him away into some park. (Mrs. Dalloway: 10)

When Lucrezia and Septimus on their ways to meet Dr. Holmes who will check and try to find out the problem that is faced by Septimus, they heard an explosion which from the crash of car and motorcycle that makes Septimus scares and suddenly a strange and scary word which can be heard by many people in the crowd which “I will kill myself”. From the quotation above, the writer can see that Septimus suffers from trauma because of his friend, Evans who is death in the war. Septimus blames himself because can not save his friend from the explosion of the bomb when they were in the middle of the war. Septimus only can see his best friend’s body crumbled into pieces because of the bomb.

CONCLUSION

As the completion of the previous chapters, this study more likely driven to more specified term where it have to be concluded. The conclusion will be presented through the coherency between the application of the theories and concepts and the result of the analysis in the form of descriptive analysis to answer the problems that have been formulated in the early pages. The writer can concludes that Clarissa as the main character in the story has succeed to find her self-identity as a wife and as a member of society. First of all, as a wife, Clarissa who still has some doubt about her decisions that have shaped her life, Clarissa decides to marry Richard instead of Peter Walsh. She understands that life with Peter would have been difficult, but at the same time she is uneasily aware that she

sacrificed passion for the security and tranquility of an upper-class life. Clarissa has decided to continue her marriage with Richard and make sure herself that she is really sure the decision to marry Richard although she still needs support from Richard to strengthen her beliefs regarding her decision. Second of all, Clarissa as a member of society who really thinks her position in society, who really concerns his status as the wife of Member of Parliament. The anxiety of Clarissa on how other people see her puts her in the fear of the next day in her life, makes her think the possibility of death (Damayanti & Listyani, 2020). Just like Septimus, Clarissa also feels the conflict within herself and a problem surrounding, however she accepts that the life she has is all she'll get. And decided to endure all the effects of her decision in the future. As a conclusion, the writer can say that Clarissa succeeded in finding her self-identity because she comes with the resolution from the conflict she faces either from internal conflict or external conflict in her life. Clarissa's resolution from all of her conflicts is that she will endure all the results of her decision in her life.

On the other hand, the writer can conclude that Septimus failed in finding his self-identity because Septimus's resolution from his conflict is suicide which is not solving his conflict. Septimus who only faces one major conflict in his life which is the shell shock trauma that appears after his best friend Evans was killed in the war and makes him feel guilty. Septimus failed to find his self-identity in his struggle since he cannot endure the pressure from the doctor who told him that he is considered as a crazy person which forces him to be separated from his wife and he refused to do the suggestion from the doctor and chose to commit suicide rather than endure the pain of being separated from his beloved wife. Septimus gave up with the conflict he faces and makes him fail to find his self-identity. In the end, from this analysis, the writer can conclude that a person can find his/her self-identity from the conflict he/she faces when he/she comes up with a right resolution that solves his/her conflict and makes him/her able to continue his life.

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