

**THE INNOCENT KILLER: ETHAN'S MANIPULATION IN
A. J. FINN'S *THE WOMAN IN THE WINDOW***

THESIS



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added that the manipulator would give the victim a devious influence so the manipulator could take advantage of him (2013, p. 15).

So, it can be said that the manipulator tries to gain the trust of the victim by saying certain things or behaving in such a way and utilizing that trust to influence his attitude. Because belief or trust is one of the sources of attitude formation, as explained before, the victim may have attitudes as desired by the manipulator and shape his behaviors/actions under the manipulator's wishes. The manipulator will behave in such a way as to make the victim give what he wants (Coxall, 2013, p. 15). It does not rule out the possibility if he also uses several aspects of his archetypes as support to subdue his victims.

It is well known that every individual has archetypes that he shows explicitly in certain situations. One of them only for the world and the society around him, it has an aim of being able to fulfill the demands of his role in the environment. This archetype is called as persona side (Feist & Feist, 2006, p. 103). According to Jung, a politician can be an example of this. Many politicians change their lifestyles so the public would love them, and they could win the public's trust and voice. Even though the lifestyle will be different from their original one, they need to fulfill their role (cited in Feist & Feist, 2006, p. 107). Then, there is another aspect of an individual which he instead wants to hide from others, even for himself, it is called as shadow side. It is hidden because the content quality of that side is abnormal, and its ideas or actions tend to be unacceptable morally.

Furthermore, Feist and Feist (2006, p. 107) say two aspects of the archetypes named anima and animus show how humans are psychologically bisexual. A woman has a masculine side (animus), and a man has a feminine side (anima), which is normal. Other than that, there are many other aspects of being part of archetypes.

These aspects of the archetype, especially the persona and shadow sides mentioned earlier, might help the manipulator smooth his actions. The persona side as a mask usually functions to gain impressions (good impressions) and reputations (De Coster, 2010, p. 22). Also, it could help the manipulator to act following the victims' beliefs and expectations about him. Meanwhile, the shadow as the darkest side of human personality whose content is morally unpleasant, and the quality is creative, has a function to understand what kind of benefit he takes from his victims. Every individual needs to understand this side, and it will be more accessible by projecting to other individuals (Feist & Feist, 2006, p. 107).

The usage of persona and shadow aspects in manipulation acts underlies the creation of this present study. Moreover, Indonesian is straightforward to trust other people based on their behavior and physical looks that seem like a good person. As Berliana said in her article, in Indonesia, if the individual had a more beautiful visual than others, he would get easier access, more attention, and often even got ease in his life (2020, para 4-5). Then, many homicides in Indonesia cause a commotion among the people because the perpetrators are known to have good personalities. As proof, this kind of case was written in a news article belonging to Tribunnews. The neighborhood knew the murderer as a good, polite,

and religious person. He also had a handsome face. However, he killed his father with his own hands (Kurniawan, 2020, para 3-8). Society needs to know and be aware that everybody has a persona side and a shadow side in their life.

To support examining the persona side and the shadow side of the manipulator, the researcher uses archetypes theory from Carl Gustav Jung. The archetypes themselves are the contents of the collective unconscious (Jung, 1968, p. 04). They contain images or memories with the emotional value from early human ancestors' repeated experiences, and they are universal (Feist & Feist, 2006, p. 105). It can be said that the images and memories pass from the ancestors to modern humans.

By using this theory, a series of researches has been done by some scholars who intend to describe the personality of the main characters (Zhu & Han, 2013; Hanifah, 2015; Rizakiah et al., 2018; Hibtiyah, 2018), the persona and the shadow side of the character and finding something new related to it (Kurniawati, 2015; Fatmawati, 2018; Ekaputri, 2019; Raharto & Permatasari, 2019) and the application of the theory of Jungian's archetypes towards the characters of literary works (Amelia, 2014; Laksmanawati, 2016; Ardhiatyharsono, 2016; Covington, 2018).

All of the research mentioned above used literary works as the research's material, especially in novels and poetry, but none has used the novel *The Woman in The Window* by A. J. Finn. There have been two studies so far that have used this novel for its research material. Both of them analyzed the mental illness experienced by the main character (Anna Fox) in the novel, namely agoraphobia

(Sihombing, 2019; Pamungkas, 2019). Whereas no one has examined the novel using the Jungian theory archetype. This present study aims at filling in this gap by describing the manipulation acts of the antagonist character (Ethan Russell) in the novel and analyzing his purposes of manipulation towards the main character (Anna Fox).

The Jungian archetype theory has an essential role in this study. It was used to help the researcher analyze the persona and shadow sides of Ethan Russell, both sides being used to facilitate his manipulation of Anna Fox.

In recent years, the thesis that raised the archetype theme, precisely the persona side and the shadow side of a character, seem to be flourishing in undergraduate theses. This is proved by the high number of publishing (online) in the past three years (Covington, 2018; Fatmawati, 2018; Hibtiyah, 2018; Rizakiah et al, 2018; Ekaputri, 2019; Raharto & Permatasari, 2019). However, none of them used this theory for the character of *The Woman in the Window* novel. Therefore, by this study, the researcher intends to take this neglected area as an attempt to follow Sihombing's suggestion (2019, p. 40) to explore and discuss the relationship between psychology and literature in A. J. Finn's *The Woman in the Window*. Unlike the previous studies' results of persona and shadow, which revealed the character's personality, compared two main characters from different novels, or analyzed the characters' individuation, this research explores the negative trait (manipulative) of an antagonist character and his reasons for attacking the protagonist character by utilizing his persona and shadow.

characters do not always represent people and can also be objects in literary works or films (2001, p. 37). Meanwhile, characterization has the meaning of character in a literary work both directly and indirectly and invites the reader to interpret the moral quality of the character (Nurgiyantoro, 2018, p. 247). It can be said that characterization has a broader scope than character because it includes (a) what the character's name is, (b) the character's traits, (c) the character's placement, and (d) the character's description in the story to provide a clear image to the reader (Nurgiyantoro, 2018, p. 278).

Both character and characterization are divided into different types and techniques. The types of character are divided by;

(a) Differences in viewpoints and certain opinions (main character and supporting character). Based on those, the main character acts as the main person/object that runs the whole plot; he also determines the development of the whole plot in the literary work. Then, there is a supporting character who usually gets less attention but still influences the story's plot (Nurgiyantoro, 2018, pp. 258-259) and supports the main character (Resmini & Juanda, 2007, p. 13).

(b) Plot development (protagonist and antagonist).

Generally, the protagonist is the reader's favorite character because he reflects the ideal norm values (Altenbernd & Lewis, 1966, p. 59). Therefore the protagonist often gets empathy. In contrast with the protagonist, an antagonist acts as a conflict's cause in the story. His position always opposes the protagonist.

Nevertheless, he is still essential because he creates tension and conflict that affect the plot's development in the story (Nurgiyantoro, 2018, p. 261).

results were the appearance of the persona side as a ghost figure that was considered scary and unsettling to the public. The shadow side was an attempt to deal with the crimes he committed. Then, the protagonist character's anti-hero characteristics showed how the courage of the traditional hero figure managed to attract the reader's sympathy, even though the character's dark side was more dominant than the persona side.

Besides, this study also has relevance in the research's sources. However, there are still differences with current research, and it is a problem raised by the researcher. The previous study is the research of Sihombing (2019) entitled "*An Analysis of Agoraphobia through the Leading Character in A. J Finn's The Woman in the Window*" from Sumatra Utara University about mental illness called agoraphobia suffered by the main character in the novel, Anna Fox. Because of this disease, she was forced to stay at home. She could not go out of the house. The researcher tried to explore the causes and effects of agoraphobia in Anna's life. Then, he got results from the research that agoraphobia was triggered by post-traumatic stress disorder due to an accident that killed all of her family members. The effects were categorized into three types, namely (a) physical effects (hyperventilating, breaking out in a sweat, and accelerated heartbeat), (b) emotional effects (panic attack, fear of humiliation, and depression), and (c) effects on social life (reclusive person, a lost relationship of family, and a job could be terminated).

However, in the present study, the researcher analyzes the persona and shadow and the manipulation behavior of the antagonist character from *The Woman in The*

The third category is; by giving false testimonies. The purpose of this manipulation is to convince Anna that the false testimonies Ethan stated were fact. He did this to protect himself from Anna's suspicions. Some persona that he used, including; a good teenager and crybaby person.

There are several reasons behind Ethan's manipulative behavior. They are; (1) being attracted to older women and (2) protecting himself from the suspect allegation in Katie's homicide. The first reason had come since Ethan became a new neighbor in the neighborhood where she lived. He was attracted and curious about Anna because of her strange habit of never getting out of the house. This curiosity led him to meet and interacted directly with Anna. He realized that Anna was an adult woman with agoraphobia, and by chance, he tended to like adult women. It strengthened his reason to manipulate Anna by exploiting her unstable mental health. He did this because he wanted to approach and get to know Anna further without making her suspicious or threatened.

The second reason arises after the presence of Katie. Ethan was Katie's killer or the woman Anna knew earlier as Jane. That fact was initially only known to Alistair, but unfortunately, Anna also knew the murder scene even though she did not know the killer. To avoid her suspicions, he manipulated Anna by giving false testimonies.

The researcher concludes from the research findings that Jung's archetype theory is well applied to Ethan's personality sides. As Jung stated, humans have two sides of personality; the persona side and the shadow side so does Ethan. Furthermore, all of those sides are used by him to manipulate Anna.

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