

**SHERLOCK HOLMES'S SOCIOPATH CHARACTER
ANALYSIS IN DOYLE'S *THE VALLEY OF FEAR* NOVEL**

THESIS



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SHERLOCK HOLMES'S SOCIOPATH CHARACTER ANALYSIS IN
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ABSTRACT

Kafi, M. (2023). Sherlock Holmes's Sociopath Character in Doyle's *The Valley Of Fear Novel*. English Literature Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisor: Dr. Abu Fanani, SS, M.Pd.

This thesis focuses on the characterization of Sociopath from Sherlock Holmes as the main character. In this thesis uses the theory of Genetic Structuralism and New Criticism is also an intrinsic element, namely the plot, which is used to examine the character and also the social conditions in England when World War I occurred in the story. In this story tells the figure of Sherlock Holmes he is a detective who has a Sociopath character that rarely people know about. Although Sherlock Holmes is an experienced detective under investigation but he is stubborn and has a relatively high IQ. In this study, the authors used qualitative data where the authors found several the character of Sherlock Holmes who was a high IQ, genius, lacked empathy but he was considered a hero by the British at that time, because the occurrence of World War I had an effect on England.

In this study, the researcher used a descriptive qualitative method as a method for analysis. Because the data taken comes from novels, and researcher also read e-books, journals, theses, books in libraries, and also some are in articles from the internet for find the data and analysis it. A qualitative research method is a method in which one procedure produces descriptive data in the form of speech, writing and attitudes of people observed according to Boghdan & Biklen (1982).

The result of the thesis is that having the characterization of a sociopath is also beneficial for the people around Sherlock Holmes, especially at the time of World War I they really needed a hero who could solve cases. Especially the figure of Sherlock Holmes really likes puzzles and found solution of cases.

Keywords: character, social condition.

ABSTRAK

Kafi, M. (2023). Karakter Sosiopat Sherlock Holmes dalam Novel *The Valley Of Fear* karya Doyle. Jurusan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Adab dan Humaniora, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Pembimbing : Dr. Abu Fanani, SS, M.Pd.

Tesis ini berfokus pada karakterisasi sosiopat dari Sherlock Holmes sebagai tokoh utama. Dalam tesis ini menggunakan teori Genetic Structuralism dan New Criticism juga unsur intrinsik yaitu plot yang digunakan untuk menelaah tokoh karakter dan juga kondisi sosial di Inggris ketika Perang Dunia I yang terjadi di dalam cerita. Dalam cerita ini menceritakan sosok Sherlock Holmes dia adalah seorang detektif yang memiliki karakter sosiopat yang jarang diketahui orang. Meskipun Sherlock Holmes adalah detektif berpengalaman yang sedang diselidiki tetapi dia keras kepala dan memiliki IQ yang relatif tinggi. Penulis menemukan beberapa karakter Sherlock Holmes yang ber-IQ tinggi, jenius, kurang empati namun dianggap sebagai pahlawan oleh Inggris saat itu, karena terjadinya Perang Dunia I telah berpengaruh pada Inggris.

Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif sebagai metode analisis. Karena data yang diambil berasal dari novel, dan peneliti juga membaca e-book, jurnal, tesis, buku di perpustakaan, dan juga beberapa artikel dari internet untuk mencari data dan menganalisisnya. Metode penelitian kualitatif adalah metode yang salah satu prosedurnya menghasilkan data deskriptif berupa tuturan, tulisan dan sikap orang-orang yang diamati menurut Boghdan & Biklen (1982).

Hasil dari tesis adalah bahwa memiliki karakter sosiopat juga bermanfaat bagi orang-orang di sekitar Sherlock Holmes, terutama pada masa Perang Dunia I mereka sangat membutuhkan seorang pahlawan yang bisa memecahkan kasus. Terutama sosok Sherlock Holmes yang sangat menyukai teka-teki dan menemukan penyelesaian kasus.

Kata kunci: karakter, kondisi sosial.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The introduction consists of background of the study, problems of the study, significant of the study, significant of the study, scope and limitation, definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

Sociopath or *antisocial personality disorder* (ASPD) is a type of personality disorder characterized by antisocial behaviour and thought patterns. Sociopath (or antisocial) has a pattern of behaviour that is exploitative, deceptive, ignoring the law, violating the rights of others, and being violent (tends to be criminal), without a clear or logical motive. In addition, often all of his actions and thoughts are unpredictable. People who suffer from sociopath can be considered to have no empathy or conscience. This condition makes this person unable to distinguish between right and wrong, so they tend to ignore it. The mind-set of a sociopath is different from other people, because they think that they are special. people who have a sociopath disorder tend to be aloof and exhibit aggressive behaviour, lying, deceiving for personal gain (Walsh & Wu, 2008).

Each person has their character, and a person's character is determined by the nature of the mind, which will influence the behaviour, attitudes, and images of that person, because it affects our behaviour and attitudes (Ajzen, 2005). Usually, a person's personality is formed from interactions with other people and environmental factors around him. Even so, there is actually no specific condition

Professor Jim Moriarty, who is dubbed as the mastermind of world crime and he has Pshycopath character. The social condition in Britain at that time also affected Mr. Doyle in the making of his novel, the novel published in 1915 which is still in World War I era. Arthur Conan Doyle novels are very in demand and many people likes, besides being a writer, he is a medical doctor. The author of the novel *The Valley of Fear* lived during World War I which inspired him to write a novel based on what was happening around that time. The relation between the first and second questions is that the writer created a hero who could become a reality in the world at that time where there were lots of murders and thefts.

Based on research conducted by the researcher, not many people use novels from this famous detective for their research. Nurul Azizah (2018), the study is about the characterization of Sherlock's Holmes and how he successfully resolved his case in *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes's* novel.

The study by Zubaidi (2011) in *Kelleher's World View on Iron Star Novel* is about how Kelleher views the world in seeing terrorism. He uses genetic structuralism theory for his research. He said quite interesting with his topic because social life is part of us. Also, this novel is close with how Americans view their enemies (terrorism) in the war.

Genetic Structuralism research by Witri Nur'aini (2009), on "*Lucky Jim*" analysis by Kingsley Amis tells us about her study of the characteristics described in the novel by Jim Dixon, Professor Neddy Welch and Bertrand Welch. And how those characters reflect England's social condition after the Second World War.

There is another research under the title "The Ultimate Villain: Renditions of Professor Moriarty in Time by Arthur Conan Doyle" by Anna Formankova (2013). This study focuses on the representation of evil and also on the interpretation of the function of Professor Moriarty 's character in three different Holmes adaptations.

"Psychopath Characteristic on Amy Elliott Dunne as the Main Character in *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn" by Moh Syakir Rohman (2019) is about Amy Elliott's psychopath character in the novel. Because of the pressure that Amy got that she has this psychopathic trait.

Another thesis from Jakarta with title "Plot and Characters Analysis On Novel *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou" written by Ratu Aliyah (2010) discuss about the plot described and how the major characters can influence the plot development in the novel.

An Analysis from another studies with title "Villain Character In Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Valley of Fear*" by Indri Julianti Lestari (2022), this research examines the formation of the villain character and the pattern of heroism, often known as the hero's journey.

The Valley of Fear Novel that Sherlock Holmes as the main character and his partner Doctor Watson is about detective solves the problem premeditated murder by the nemesis of Sherlock Holmes. These two iconic legends often argue to solve the cases they get, but they always find a way out by reading books and observing around them. The main character in here is very unique because

unexpected things he did that make Doctor Watson as his partner feel confused sometimes when help the main character, that have sociopath character.

This thesis focuses on the characterization of Sociopath from Sherlock Holmes as the main character. In this thesis uses the theory of Genetic Structuralism and New Criticism is also an intrinsic element, namely the plot, which is used to examine the characters and also the social conditions in England when World War I occurred in the story. In this story tells the figure of Sherlock Holmes he is a detective who has a Sociopath character that rarely people know about. Although Sherlock Holmes is an experienced detective under investigation but he is stubborn and has a relatively high IQ. In this study, the authors used qualitative data where the authors found several the character of Sherlock Holmes who was a high IQ, genius, lacked empathy but he was considered a hero by the British at that time, because the occurrence of World War I had an effect on England.

The previous study that almost same just described Sherlock Holmes characterization as the main character detective and how to solve the case. In this research is more about Sociopath characterization of Sherlock Holmes that people did not notice. Hope this study brings different points of view about the character and the history background when this novel written. The reason why researcher took this object is to add research on genetic structuralism, usually people only analysis about psychopath in the studies. The difference from previous research is that the researcher analysis about the character being sociopath and the social condition in England when World War I time.

The researcher is focused on literary research of *The Valley of Fear* novel by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, this study is discuss about Sherlock Holmes's sociopath character in *The Valley of Fear* novel also explained the social condition of England when the first world war happened by using genetic structuralism by Lucien Goldmann (1975) and to analyse new criticism theory by John Crowe Ransom (1948).

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

- Sociopath: commonly known as the antisocial person. Often associated with psychopathy or compared. For example, in the novel *The Valley of Fear*, if we know about the novel, then we will know that the main character in this novel is Sherlock Holmes as Sociopath and his enemy is Professor Jim Moriarty as Psychopath. (Johnson, 2019)
- The Valley of Fear: This novel was created by a writer from England, named Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. This novel tells the story of the murder of a person named John Douglas, but this murder has been planned. John Douglas came from the town of Vermissa Valley, he had been targeted since then and he finally went to England. This planned murder according to Sherlock Holmes was planned by his rival name Professor Moriarty.

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 New Criticism

The new criticism is Anglo – America that originated in the twentieth to the 1960s, this new criticism is a concrete philosophy rather than a logical and analytical approach, both accept that literary works are automatically, Castle (2007: p.122). It is unity, and the meaning is made up of rhetoric and formal features. and free from the social world where it was produced or also by the authors who made it. New criticism likes poetic texts because it gives more ambiguity, irony and paradox. An approach to literature that gained popularity in the 20th century and emerged from formalist criticism is known as new criticism.

The term "New Criticism," which was first used in 1941 by John Crowe Ransom in his book *The New Criticism*, came to refer to a philosophy and method that dominated American literary criticism up until the late 1960s. The focus of closed-reading shifts to the text. A text analysis must be thorough and precise. The New Criticism movement rejects all information about a book that is personal, historical, moral, or biographical. The New Criticism analyzed without concern for the historical or political context of the text, focusing instead on the purity of a text and the purity of the act of reading. A text becomes significant for the sake of being significant, which serves an aesthetic goal. The concept of text as a separate cerebral process removed from politics, morals, history, etc. is central to New Criticism (Ransom, 1948).

1. The point of view of the first person to use the pronoun "I" refers to the narrator. Typically plays the lead role in the plot, or the main character. This allows the reader to be able to play from this point of view and to visualize what character is in the scenario.
2. The second viewpoint: another point of view is to retell the story using the word "you," this point of view means that the real narrator is "I" who wants to distance himself from the story told.
3. The third viewpoint: this viewpoint uses "He" and "She" which show more to describe a character in the story. And the third point of view also has a traditional shape, which is omniscient.

2.2 Genetic Structuralism

The theory of Genetic Structuralism by Lucian Goldmann is about the fundamental characteristic of human action. According to Goldmann, human life is based on three basic aspects. The first is that humans tend to adjust to their surroundings. They respond to this with 'rationalists', it is a human effort to solve problems around their environment. they respond with 'significance', which is a response that is suitable and useful for them.

Genetic structuralism theory is a branch of literary research that gives attention to both intrinsic and extrinsic element (Faruk, 2012, p. 14). It means that genetic structuralism is discussed about the historical background and author's background also. The genetic structuralism approach by Lucien Goldmann has

communities. Authentic value through literary works that embrace life. Authentic value is the value implicit in the work, the value that governs the shape of the world completely, conceptual and abstract.

2.3 Previous Study

"Psychopath Characteristic on Amy Elliott Dunne as the Main Character in *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn" by Moh Syakir Rohman (2019) is about Amy Elliott's psychopath character in the novel. Because of the pressure that Amy got that she has this psychopathic trait.

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CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

In this section the research discuss about research design, data source, data collection and data analysis. Here is how the researcher finds the data and the method, explain in below:

3.1 Research Design

In this study, the researcher used a descriptive qualitative method as a method for analysis. Because the data taken comes from novels, and researcher also read e-books, journals, theses, books in libraries, and also some are in articles from the internet for find the data and analysis it. A qualitative research method is a method in which one procedure produces descriptive data in the form of speech, writing and attitudes of people observed according to Boghdan & Biklen (1982).

3.2 Data Collection

The data collection from novel that the researcher bought in book store, download e-book from Internet and the modern version of the novel, read articles, journals, thesis from previous study that have related theories and almost same problem to support the data that the researcher needs.

3.1.1 Data Collection Technique

The researcher's steps to collect data are as follows:

1. The researcher rereads *The Valley of Fear* novel by Arthur Conan Doyle and understand every sentences

2. Read again from a different book publisher, only more modern publisher
3. The researcher analyzing the data collected and summing up some of the points in the novel

3.1.2 Data Analysis Technique

This is how the researcher analysis the data in novel:

1. The researcher determines the questions that will be used in research
2. Decided to use theories that would be used in research
3. Analysis the sociopath character in the novel and found the social condition of England when World War I happen where Arthur Conan Doyle make this novel.
4. Conclude the analysis and make sure that answered all the questions

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CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

4.1 Plot Analysis

This Plot section is to examine the character of Sherlock Homes from novel to understand well.

4.1.1 Exposition

The story begins with Doctor Watson saying that he tends to think and Sherlock Holmes replies that he always thinks. Before Doctor Watson realized that Sherlock Holmes stare a letter from a man named Fred Porlock.

“am inclined to think—” said I. “I should do so,” Sherlock Holmes remarked impatiently. I believe that I am one of the most long-suffering of mortals; but I’ll admit that I was annoyed at the sardonic interruption. “Really, Holmes,” said I severely, “you are a little trying at times.” He was too much absorbed with his own thoughts to give any immediate answer to my remonstrance. He leaned upon his hand, with his untasted breakfast before him, and he stared at the slip of paper which he had just drawn from its envelope. Then he took the envelope itself, held it up to the light, and very carefully studied both the exterior and the flap. “It is Porlock’s writing,” said he thoughtfully. “I can hardly doubt that it is Porlock’s writing, though I have seen it only twice before.” (Arthur Conan Doyle, 2002, 5)

'Porlock's' letter caught Sherlock Holmes' attention while he was deep in concentration. When Watson inquires as to who Porlock is, Holmes responds that he is a nom-de-plume; Porlock is significant because of his association with Professor Moriarty, a powerful figure. The general public doesn't realize Moriarty is a criminal, but Holmes is aware of this; anybody who tries to discredit the great man will be ridiculed.

Letters (1895), as well as the collection of medical short tales *Round the Red Lamp* (1894), provide further details on Conan Doyle's medical training and experiences.

It has always seemed to Conan Doyle that in short stories, accuracy of information doesn't really important as long as achieve the dramatic impact. Arthur Conan Doyle never tried to achieve it, and as a result he done some terrible things. He can keep the readers and he assert right to set his own terms, and he do so. In a few of the Sherlock Holmes tales, he have cheated. For instance, according to what Doyle's been informed, in "The Adventure of Silver Blaze," half the players would have spent time in jail and the other half would have been permanently banned from the turf. When the plot is obviously a fantasy, that doesn't bother him at all.

Before Sir Arthur Conan Doyle started writing a novel like "Sir Nigel" or "The Refugees," his method was to read as much as he could about the time and to write down everything that stood out to him. This information then be cross indexed by being organized under the headings of the various character kinds.

For him to write in a time of war is a work that will never be forgotten. Remembering the conditions in England at that time experienced a downturn. Conan Doyle was able to have a very diversified life, whilst Holmes was able to maintain his popularity and even be resurrected to experience fresh adventures. He participated in two conflicts at the turn of the century, first as a journalist in

Egypt and then as the administrator of a hospital in South Africa during the Boer War.

4.5 Social Condition of England when World War I happened

4.5.1 The Condition of England Society

The lives of people were significantly impacted by the World War I. People in England discovered that they were being progressively lured into a battle that had initially seemed distant. The First World War was viewed as a time when civilians were fair game. They were subjected to aerial attacks in addition to the fear of famine. Since 1915, German airships have attacked Britain, and two years later Gotha bombers have also started terrorizing the populace.

People in their 80s, 90s, and beyond still hadn't fully recovered from the South African War, which had begun in 1914 and was still a source of fear for many. People who have sons who have reached military age in particular often wonder where everyone will be and how things will turn out. Every war before was fought overseas, but this one was fought a little closer to home, in France. Additionally, the government was making false claims about how short-lived it would be. With navy and other resources.

Lack of food was one of the primary ways the conflict had an impact on civilians. Agriculture was impacted by the conflict, production fell and prices went up. So many people were starving that most of them must have been fall asleep from the hunger they were experiencing.

4.5.2 Social Economy

The British economy faced difficulties between 1914 and 1918 in distributing raw materials to and increasing output in a variety of war-related industries, coordinating the delivery of finished goods to fighting troops dispersed throughout the world, balancing the needs of industry, the army, and the navy for the scarce supply of physically fit male labor, and ensuring the ongoing support for the war effort among both employers and labor representatives. Tensions between the necessity for state intervention and the preservation of the pre-war economy emerged as the war dragged on and the size of the effort needed to win it grew.

By the middle of 1915, a staggering number of male workers had enlisted, including 23.8 percent of those in the chemical and explosives industry, 23.7 percent of those in electrical engineering, 21.8 percent of miners, 19.5 percent from the engineering trades, 18.8 percent from the iron and steel industry, and even 16.8 percent from the small arms manufacturing industry.

Overall, World War I had significant negative consequences on British income levels in the 1920s, manifesting in more unemployment, less trade, and a significantly larger public debt to GDP ratio.

There was a delayed economic recovery, a lack of housing, bread rationing, and other basic requirements. An "age of austerity" had begun. The economy was supported by American loans and grants under the Marshall Plan.

4.6 The Social Condition Reflected From the Main Character Sherlock Holmes

The main character Sherlock Holmes in the novel “The Valley of Fear” is a freelance detective who grows up during and after the World War I. In the book, Sherlock Holmes is portrayed as a sociopath with a high IQ who lacks empathy for others around him, plans for all possible outcomes, and is an antisocial individual who dislikes mingling with others. The whole Holmes family, including his mother, was a well-known mathematician. Sherlock Holmes was born into a rich household.

The setting of the place is in the Sherlock Holmes house with Doctor Watson as his partner to solve the case, they always together. The full address of Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson's house is at 221b Baker Street, Westminster, London, England.

In this novel there are lots of clients of Sherlock Holmes who want him to solve their cases, because there were many thefts and even murders that year because of the effects of World War I which made many people hungry and poor, hit by bomb explosions, but because of Holmes's nature not really caring about other people, most trivial cases he refused and sometimes settled on the spot.

He is very picky in handling the cases he will handle, most of the cases he takes are very complicated cases and make him think hard, because he loves solving missing puzzles. Most of the cases he handles are cases from famous people, wealthy, influential people and from underground organizations that very few ordinary people know about.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter concludes from the results of describing sociopathic behavior and reflecting social conditions in England when World War I happened to Sherlock Holmes in *The Valley of Fear* novel. There are 2 main topics, the first is the conclusion of this research, and the second is the suggestion from Conan Arthur Doyle's analysis, *The Valley of Fear*.

5.1 Conclusions

Based on the discussion in the fourth chapter, this section of the report will draw conclusions from the analysis. The analysis is focused on the characterization and social conditions reflected in England during World War I from the main character Sherlock Holmes in the novel "The Valley of Fear" by Arthur Conan Doyle. From the first research question about characterization, it can be concluded that Sherlock Holmes is a sociopathic detective who is very genius, from solving cases to guessing and analyzing what will happen because he can make deductive analyzes that people rarely can. Sherlock Holmes is a man who has thousands of ways to trick his enemies because he is manipulative and ruthless, his clever tricks are not easy to imagine.

From the second research question about the social conditions reflected in England during World War I from Sherlock Holmes. According to the story in this novel, researchers focus on the conditions that occurred in England during the First World War where there were many cases of murder, theft and starvation due

to a difficult economy. Because Sherlock Holmes comes from a wealthy family, he is not affected at all but he really likes to help the local police solve cases, so the intellectual sense inside him feels satisfied.

Researchers came to the conclusion that his capacity for observation and problem-solving makes him a more logical form of genius than others and in this case is that having the characterization of a sociopath is also beneficial for the people around Sherlock Holmes, especially at the time of World War I they really needed a hero who could solve cases. Especially the figure of Sherlock Holmes really likes puzzles and found solution of cases.

5.2 Suggestions

Based on the foregoing results, certain recommendations on the analysis of it are made in the hopes that readers can have a deeper grasp of literary study, particularly research on new criticism and genetic structuralism employing intrinsic and extrinsic literary analysis.

This final project is anticipated to be able to add to literary study, especially in the area of gratitude for living in a modern age when technology is becoming more advanced and capable of effectively resolving all the issues that arise in our environment. The author of *The Valley of Fear* since everything is more adaptable and accessible now than it was when Arthur Conan Doyle wrote and published his works during the war, he was successful. In the same field of study, this research might serve as a reference. I propose that educational

activities transmit and share life values in addition to the information found in dictionaries.

Thus, as an institution, the Department of English fosters the development of moral and spiritual qualities in individuals via literary works in addition to awarding undergraduate degrees. Last but not least, this research may be applied and utilized as an example for final project studies, particularly by students of the Department of English Literature at UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, as a reference in examining the personality and social circumstances of England at that time.



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