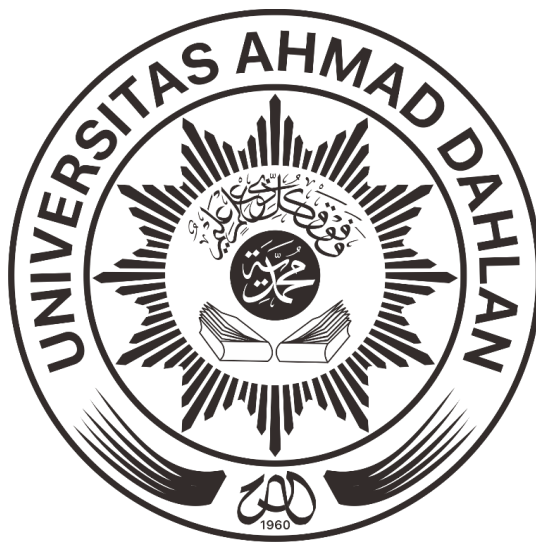


**THE PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT OF THE MAIN  
CHARACTER AS REFLECTED IN JOHN GRISHAM'S *THE  
RACKETEER*: A PSYCHOANALYSIS THEORY**

**A SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATION**

Submitted as a Partial Fulfilment of Requirement to Obtain *Sarjana Sastra*  
Degree of English Literature Department in Faculty of Literature, Culture, and  
Communication Universitas Ahmad Dahlan



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**ABSTRACT**

This research aims to reveal, the personality development of the main character as reflected in John Grisham's *The Racketeer* by using a psychoanalysis theory of Sigmund Freud.

The researcher analyzed and interpreted using the psychoanalysis approach by Sigmund Freud. According to Sigmund Freud is the result of conflict and reconciliation of the three personality systems. Factors affecting personality are historical factors of the past and contemporary factors, innate factor and environmental factors in ownership of individual personality. The method used in writing this research is a descriptive qualitative analysis method and theory. There are two kinds of data in this research: (1) the primary and (2) the supporting data which support the main data. The primary data is taken from *The Racketeer* novel by John Grisham. The supporting data are taken from some books and electronic sources which related to this study.

The finding the study short step the personality development of main character consist Id, Ego, and Superego that in managed to get a freedom and wealth. The main character has the Id Ego and Superego aspect. But in this case these figures to put aside ego aspects that exist in the main character.

Keyword: *Psychoanalysis, John Grisham, The Racketeer*

## **A. Introduction**

According to Wark (2007: 383-395), humans are social creatures. This means that every human being needs to interact with others. Social relationships can be developed because of the urge to know about everything in the world around it.

This study will discuss the personality development of the main character in the novel *The Racketeer* by using the psychoanalysis approach by Sigmund Freud. The researcher gives an opinion that by using psychoanalysis, we can understand literature based on its function. In other words, the researcher wants to discuss and ask the reader to find out more about psychological theory, the importance of behavior, and to learn about the personality of the main character. To get a better, equal and honest life is the main objective of this research. By writing this thesis, the researcher hopes this will be useful for readers.

John Grisham is an American writer, whose legal thrillers often top the bestseller list and are adapted into a film. Grisham is one of the fastest-selling modern fiction writers. Since its appearance from *The Firm* in 1991, his productive and popular, Grisham has been a fixture on the national bestseller list. It is not difficult to see why *The Racketeer* is Grisham's 30th book, and this book offers a comprehensive view of its characteristics, such as imaginative planning, smooth process style, easy cheats, and people's

views of our complex and often fatally flawed legal system. These works have confirmed Grisham's position as a chief legal officer.

## **B. Personality Development of the Main Character**

This novel tells the story of a lawyer named Malcolm Bannister, who has been imprisoned for ten years because of money laundering and was jailed for injustice. In other words, Malcolm was very skeptical of government employees, including law enforcement. While in prison, Malcolm served as a librarian and lawyer for other prisoners who intend to appeal by looking for loopholes in the law and the indictment to reduce the sentence and even get him out of prison. So, Bliss knows a lot of people and knows a lot of things. In addition to updates to the news as librarians, his existence as a lawyer for the prisoners made him aware of many criminal cases.

When Malcolm read the newspaper over the murder of Federal Judge Raymond Fawcett, he who had drawn up a plan for his release was immediately put into action. In this case, Malcolm had a fairly clean name during his imprisonment and good credibility, when he told prison officials that he knew who killed Judge Fawcett, the prison officer contacted the FBI. Finally, the FBI wanted to work with Malcolm. Under the name of the law, Malcolm will give the name of the killer Judge Fawcett and when proven

correct, he will be released from prison with the help of the FBI through a witness protection program.

Through a long process of fraud and traps, Max managed to bring Nathan to Jamaica with a fake passport and a marijuana suit. Nathan was detained by Jamaican police, while the bannister managed to return to the US to retrieve Nathan's stolen gold which he had forcibly obtained from Judge Fawcett's stash. In other words, Nathan is Judge Fawcett's killer.

After pocketing the gold bars and hiding them, Malcolm reported to the FBI that he had found the real Judge Fawcett killer and his motives. He will name the killer to the FBI with the Quinn release agreement. After all, in the end, Quinn was innocent. The FBI went after Nathan, who was confused because he was fooled into Jamaica and questioned Judge Fawcett's gold stolen by Malcolm. However, Bliss and his clever conspirators had gone far with hundreds of gold bars, disguising yourself and going somewhere that might not be detected by the FBI.

The definitions of *id*, *ego*, and *superego* have been explained in the previous chapter. The researcher can conclude that the *id* is a desire that satisfies the heart, the *ego* is a control mechanism in our body which is good or which is bad while the *superego* is a system outside the ego (good value).

The researcher wants to analyze the personality of Sigmund Freud's theory of the three structures namely *Id*, *Ego*, and *Superego* from Malcolm Bannister as the main character of John Grisham's *The Racketeer* in the main character in several as follows:

## **1. Id**

The id the only component of personality is present from birth. This aspect personality is entirely unconscious and includes of instinctive and primitive behaviors (Jess Feist and Gregory:2016:32) that id refers exclusive to primitively instinctive aspect of personality.

In this case, the id of Malcolm Bannister is seen when Bannister in the prison he felt trapped by the mistake that he has made, so he had been arrested because of money laundry case that brought him and his family in the problem and because of that his wife and his children decide to leave him. He still struggled for his right to be free, so he decided to take a revenge to the one that had been has prison him.

"However, in my little world i am known as a jail house lawyer and as such spend several hours each day helping my fellow inmates with their legal problems. I study their appeals and file motions. I prepare simple wills and an occasion land deed. I review some contracts for some of the white-collar guys. (John Grisham:2)

From the quote above, we can see that the structure of the Id of Malcolm Bannister works well. Malcolm Bannister awants to take revenge for the injustice of his case with law enforcement and the FBI who have wrongly arrested him. Mr. Bannister had been planning so long for his release from prison and he was the only person who knew about Mr. treasure. Fawcett, who was stolen by the judge's killer. So,

from that, after he got out of prison, he wanted to steal gold from Mr.'s treasure. Fawcet judge.

When Malcolm read the newspaper over the murder of Federal Judge Raymond Fawcett, he who had drawn up a plan for an agreement with the FBI and his freedom immediately acted. Because Malcolm had a fairly clean name during his imprisonment and good credibility, when he told prison officials that he knew who killed Judge Fawcett, prison officials contacted the FBI.

Finally, the FBI agreed to work with Malcolm. The first plan to show the structure of Id's personality from Malcolm Bannister was when his agreement between him and the FBI and his release were approved by the attorney general. That can be seen in the quote below when Bannister talked to one of the FBI:

“My boss thinks we should make a deal with you, so that’s why I’m here.” Assistant FBI said.

“I think you know them. We have a written agreement, approved by the U.S. Attorney’s offices in both the Northern District, Once we’ve agreed, then I’ll give you the name of the killer. You grab him, investigate him, and I leave here as though I’m being transferred, but instead I go into your witness protection program.” Bannister said. (John Grisham, P.84: 103).

In the quotation above, shows the conversation of FBI members who were finally forced to agree to all the wishes of Malcolm Bannister, they wanted to join Bannister because there was one thing that made federal prosecutors and the FBI asks questions who killed the prosecutor Mr.

Fawcet, and one of the people who knew it was Malcolm Bannister, a prisoner who was punished unfairly. The FBI and the congregation have been trying to find and examine the murder of the judge Mr. Fawcet for years but to no avail. Therefore, Bannister has secretly planned this for five fewer years, he will provide information on who killed the federal prosecutor. Besides, he also used the conditions at that time and applied his *id* as a desire to be free and everything he wanted could be done approved by federal prosecutors.

Another quotation that shows the freedom plan The *Id* succeeded when he was talking to himself can be seen in the quotation below:

“The agreement, in short, gives me everything I want. Freedom, a new identity, government protection, and the reward money of \$150,000” Bannister said (John Grisham:105)

The second plan for his *Id* is when Malcolm Bannister got out of jail to steal the treasure owned by Mr. Fawcet Judge and take revenge by deceiving the FBI and federal prosecutors. The first quotation that showed Bannister succeeded in satisfying his *Id* heart when he succeeded in carrying out his plan to steal treasure from Mr.Fawcet which can be seen from the quotation:

“With champagne flowing, the gold bars are stacked ten deep in the center of the den floor, all 524 of them, and we sit on cushions around the treasure. It’s impossible not to gawk and no one tries to suppress the laughter. We have before us 524 little bricks 5 were sold to a Syrian gold trader in Miami and 41 are now resting safely in a bank vault on Antigua. The total taken from our dear pal Nathan is 570, worth roughly \$8.5 million.” (John Grisham:390)



From the quotation above, Bannister and his friends were succeed in stealing the treasure that has been planned for approximately one year, with all kinds of ways and various trickery tricks taught by Bannister to bring a myriad of results that are not small even to the coffers of gold and the money he got. Glamorous life, sharing the gold bar because it helped to have launched his plans and meant to celebrate his success with his girlfriend and friends that night. The second quotation which shows that the Bannister has succeeded in taking revenge by deceiving the power of the FBI who have cooperated so far can be seen in the quotation :

“You can’t stop me. If you don’t investigate, I’m sure Mr. Bell would love to Frontpage. FBI cover-up. You have thirty days. If I hear nothing of an investigation, then I'll invite Mr. Bell down for a week on my little island.” Said Bannister.

“You’re just getting revenge, aren’t you, Max? One last shot at the government.” Said the FBI. (John Grisham:386)  
“These guys forget that I was once on the receiving end of federal prosecution, with FBI agents sifting through every aspect of my life and a U.S. Attorney's office threatening to incarcerate not only me but my two innocent partners as well. They think we're pals now, one big happy team walking lockstep toward another just verdict. If I could, I would knife them in the back and poison their case. (p.206)

All of Malcolm Bannister's quotations above show that his *Id* is trying to perfect his path. In his plan, he made an agreement with the FBI that he would provide information on who killed Judge Mr. Fawcet, so he had freedom, and he planned to steal the treasure from Mr. Fawcet Judge which in the end, he managed to satisfy all of his heart. As

mentioned before, his *Id* always tries to get all the desires that satisfy our hearts. It also shows that Malcolm Bannister is very smart and consistent with his *Id* who wants to get everything with all his cunning plans. The *id* is the satisfaction that exists in Malcolm Bannister works well. In this case, with his planning, all of that shows as his desire to satisfy his heart, which has been explained in terms of *Id* in the previous chapter. It can be imagined how terrible and dangerous it would be if we consisted only of the *Id*. A child who develops and learns that he does not behave as he pleases and must follow the rules that his parents apply. A child who wants to fulfill the strong demands and desires of reality will form a new personality structure, namely the *ego*. Even so, not with the main character who is a careful the researcher, everything in Malcolm Bannister has achieved all of his *Id's* nature, because all of that goes back to the revenge that Malcom bannister placed on federal prosecutors who had wrongly convicted him.

## **2. Ego**

Ego is a decision maker that controlled by Reality Principle. It's totally different from *Id* which only wants to seek for pleasure. As the decision maker, Ego has to make a decision based on reality, considering whether the plan can e made out not. (Jess Feist and J.Gregory, 2016:33).

When Malcolm Bannister was exercising in the morning while he watching the hills in the distance, rounded along the edge of the camp and followed the edge of the prison border without any prison walls. From there, it was Malcolm Bannister's responsibility to keep his will from running away.

Based on the researcher observation, Malcolm Bannister's *ego*-consciousness knows that his obligations as a prisoner make him have to hold his *ego* to escape. It can be seen on :

"I wish there was a wall, one ten feet tall, made of solid brick, with coils of glistening razor wire along its top, one that would keep me from gazing at the hills and dreaming of freedom. This is a prison, damn it! We can not leave. Put up a wall and stop tempting us. The temptation is always there and as much as I fight it, I swear it's getting stronger by the day" (John Grisham:18)

From the quotation above, it can be seen that Bannister's *ego* is trapped between two opposing forces and is guarded and obedient to the principle of reality by trying to fulfill individual pleasures that are limited by the reality of life that Bannister faces. In this case, the conversation with himself, Bannister is very controlling himself not to escape from prison. Bannister thinks and knows that if he goes running away when he goes for a walk in the morning he will get even more severe punishment. Therefore, the *ego* of the bannister works properly.

Another time, Malcolm Bannister's *ego* (unconscious) knew and imagined that his plan to be free was not easy. When he was talking to

himself in doubt about his plan to involve Quin as his friend in the circle of plans he had drawn up.

“I try to visualize the surreal setting of my testimony. I will be brought into the courtroom wearing a mask. I will sit behind a panel, the spectators from seeing my face once the mask is removed. I will look at the jurors. The lawyers will pitch questions over the wall, and I will answer my voice distorted. Quinn and his family and their hugs will be there. Of course, they will not see my face. Ascertain as it seems I seriously doubt if it will ever happen.” (John Grisham:207)

The reason why Malcolm Bannister planned something involving his friend to go to prison is his unconsciousness related to his *Id*. He was detained for ten years because of the case that Malcolm Bannister considered unfair. Since there, he suddenly thought of a plan to be free so it had to involve people around him, besides of that, there are also doubts from Malcolm Bannister of a plan that may not necessarily succeed.

From all of the quotations above, Malcolm Bannister's *ego* carries out his role as a decision-maker through two phases (conscious and unconscious). In this case, the *Ego* Malcolm Bannister is related to the *id* because of his *ego*, there is doubt and there is some control over each of his plans. In this novel, the researcher did not find any pre-conscious. So, there are only two phases that the researcher can analyze and explain. Therefore, all quotations above show that the self-doubt of Malcolm Bannister functions and works well.

However, the *ego* does help Bannister to consider, whether he can satisfy himself without causing difficulties or suffering for himself. The *ego* is between the conscious and the unconscious. The task of the *ego* gives place to the main mental functions, namely problem solving, reasoning, and decision making. *Id* and *ego* do not have morality because they do not recognize good and bad values.

### **3. Superego**

Superego which refers to morality in one's personality. The *superego* is like a conscience that values bad or good (conscience). It is similar to the *Id*, the *superego* does not consider the reality because it has nothing to do with realistic things, except when the aggressiveness of the *Id* can be satisfied in moral considerations. (Jess Feist and Gregory 2016:34). In this case, the researcher can explain the intent of Freud that, the *ego* of a person who is dating, for example, the guy wants to have free sex every time they meet, so that his longing can be fulfilled, but the *id* of the guy really wants his free sex relationship because he thinks that free sex is indeed delicious. Then the *superego* arises and intercedes with the assumption that the guy feels guilty by doing free sex that is not legally religious.

In this novel, there seems to be a bit of regret and longing from Malcolm Bannister towards his father and biological child who now has a new father.

“Instead, my mind drifts to thoughts of my father, who hasn’t had contact with me in over months. Even though, it would be nice to see my father again. I suspect he will not approve of my altered looks. And I can’t handle myself to think my son. It’s too painful to think that may I will never see him again, We can’t leave together as a father and son. That moment it will disappear. I might suddenly can’t appear in front of them, how can I reconnect a dead relationship?”.(John Grisham335:336).

In the quotation above, it shows that the structure of *superego's* regret in Malcolm Bannister is indeed true. The researcher can know it all from the piece above, maybe Bannister thinks if in his new appearance like he performs plastic surgery, the people he loves around can accept that he is not fugitive, he will feel happier and more desires of the *Id* can be achieved all. In this case, Malcolm Bannister must be able to accept the fact that he must disappear and forget from his family to gain wealth. Even though he had everything that he wanted like money, a myriad of gold bars, freedom, new woman, but deep in his heart, Bannister felt that he had regretted leaving his son and father, whom he loved so much. Even though he has a cunning and vengeful character, he has a good moral side. This can be found in the novel when Bannister said to himself, there are several that are quoted in the novel that shows good moral value:

“Of the three lawyers, I’m the only one willing to help other inmates with their legal problems. It’s challenging and keeps me busy. It also keeps my legal skills sharp. I can apply for reinstatement to the bar when I’m out. I occasionally teach a course in history for inmates pursuing their high school equivalency diplomas. So many of these guys can barely read and write. But I’m not here to fix the

educational system, I'm here to doing so maintain as much self-respect and dignity as possible". (John Grisham 17:43)

From the quotation above, it shows that Malcolm Bannister has a good personality, he wants to help innocent people in prison. It also has been proven that Malcolm's *superego* works well. He also teaches us that life is not always able to be a person who always evil, and he also teaches us that not to waste time just to think about the burden of life.

We must hone our skills every time so that one day we can become a great person like Malcolm Bannister as a lawyer for one of his prisoner's friends. He has helped and defended the cases of his convicted prisoner's dozens of times. In the prison law rules, if we do something good or can help solve cases that cannot be solved by the FBI, then he will be given a reduced sentence on him, that is one of the reasons Bannister helped the case of his criminal convict friend besides he had always been a lawyer defending his client for injustice in his clients' cases.

### **C. Conclusion**

In this chapter, the researcher presents the conclusion of the study in the novel *The Racketeer*. The use of the psychoanalysis approach by Sigmund Freud helps the researcher to find about the psychoanalysis aspects of the main character's problem based on the data that has been analyzed in the previous chapter.

The conclusion is the personality development of the main character in the novel *The Racketeer* is reflected in the three personalities namely id, ego, and superego. This is evidenced from the overall data obtained which have aspects of the id and the ego that always that in managed to get a freedom and wealth. The main character has the Id Ego and Superego aspect. But in this case these figures to put aside Ego aspects that exist in the main character. Malcolm Bannister, a prisoner who was jailed for injustice in his case for ten years, has a very interesting story. The main character of the novel has important roles throughout the story. Malcolm Bannister is successful to get his desire. Based on the psychology analysis of Sigmend Freud's theory of psychoanalysis to analyze Malcolm Bannister Personality. Malcolm Very sucseful in fullfing his desire. Malcolm is discovered in expressing his id. He know murdered Judge Fewcett, Quinn Rucker kills Judge Fewcett to serve his Id. Bannister revenge desire his ego, and this explanation matches with Sigmend Freud's theory when he says that the ego sometimes is. But all of his actions creating a personality of his superego who feels guilty and regret, he knows that what he has done is wrong.



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