

EGOISM OF THE MAIN CHARACTER AS SEEN IN THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS BY M.L STEDMAN : A PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT

This paper entitled “Egoism Of The Main Character As Seen In *The Light Between Oceans* By M.L Stedman : A psychological Study”. The objectives of the study is to describe the egoism of Isabel Sherbourne in the novel *The Light Between Oceans* by M.L Stedman. The type of the study is library research, in the sense that the researcher visited some libraries (Grahutama Pustaka Library, Universitas Ahmad Dahlan Library) to get the data. There are two kinds of data : 1) primary data is taken from the novel *The Light Between Oceans* and 2) the secondary data is taken from relevant books, journals, and internet. The subject of the research is focused in the novel *The Light Between Oceans*. The object of the research is egoism of the main character as seen in *The Light Between Oceans* by M.L Stedman using the psychological study. The collecting data steps are : 1) visiting a library, 2) critical reading, 3) making notes, 4) categorizing data, 5) selecting data. The research analyzes using descriptive qualitative method. Some of the important paper findings are presented as follows: egoism of the main character are 1) Isabel does not want to get medical treatment, 2) Isabel forbids Tom to report the incident, 3) Isabel blames Tom for the incident

Keywords: *Egoism, Psychological Study.*

1. INTRODUCTION

In the daily lives, people must often hear the term or word of egoism. Egoism is known as a less good traits found in a person because egoism is defined as "too selfish" or someone who cannot control their ego. May be it can unconsciously say that someone has an egoism character. This is usually

spoken in two situations, first when person realize their own mistakes and second when people realize someone else's mistakes. This is a common thing in this day and indirectly shows that egoism has become the basis of humans today.

In the Oxford Dictionary (2010:470) the definition of egoism is 'a theory that is selfish as a basis for moral behavior' this term refers to ethics. People who have an egoism character will think of his own interests, so what they are doing is only for personal gain. The egoism character is indeed a very human nature, but it should be noted that this trait can bring various kinds of problems to someone who has that trait or to others around him.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This research can be classified into library research because of the data sources are gathered from library. The sources of data are from the primary data sources and the secondary data. The primary data is taken from the novel *The Light Between Oceans*. The researcher uses different techniques in collecting data. They are visiting the library, critical reading, making notes, categorizing data and selecting data. The secondary data are taken from the relevant books, journals, and internet which are suitable to support this research. The data analyzing method is using descriptive qualitative . The descriptive qualitative research is the technique which is states by sentence or describe by explanation.

3. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

A. Theory Of Egoism

According to Sidgwick (1874:74) the term egoism occurs because it does not indicate the substance of the first behavioral principle and only implies putting the first behavioral principle Henry Sidgwick in his book *The Method of Ethics* (1874:75) also stated similarly, people must eliminate the final picture of egoism which has the principle and ultimate goal as an individual "good". because the term good does not necessarily refer to all the possibilities regarding the ultimate goal of rational behavior

Egoism is divided into two types, namely the first psychology of egoism and the second is ethical egoism:

1. Psychology Egoism

Ayn Rand In *The Elements of Moral Philosophy* by James Rachel (2003:77) state that the theory of egoism psychology deals with human nature that only cares about itself. psychological egoism says that in reality a person only puts their own interests first.

2. Ethical Egoism.

In *Ethical Theory An Anthology* (2013:193) James Rachels stated ethical egoism in the pursuit of an interest and pleasure, a person tends to do some selfishness that will give effect in the short term or only for a moment.

B. PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY

The researcher uses a psychological approach to support this research. The researcher put several theories in this research. Psychology is the science of behavior, including conscious and unconscious phenomena, as well as feeling and thought. Abrams (1999:247) states, there is a link in psychological criticism with literary fiction such as expression, individual state of mind, structure and personality.

4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The researcher tries to find out the egoism is by Isabel Sherbourne as the main character in the novel. The egoism of Isabel are :

1. Isabel does not want to get medical treatment

Isabel's egoism character began to appear when she suffered a miscarriage and did not want to get medical treatment from a doctor. It can be proved from the following quotation :

It had been two days since the dreadful storm. Two days since the miscarriage had begun. Still the blood came, and still Isabel refused to let Tom signal for help. (Stedman, 2012 :107)

The quotation above tells that Isabel suffered a miscarriage and when Tom wanted to find some helping but Isabel still refused; Isabel did not think that it was dangerous for herself.

Isabel always looked like a child when she was angry. Tom wanted to laugh, and his grin infuriated her even more. She

put her hands on her hips. 'I told you I didn't need a doctor, but you went behind my back. I'm not having him prodding and poking about to tell me nothing I don't already know. You should be ashamed of yourself! Well you can look after them, the whole lot of them.' (Stedman,2012:113)

From the quotation above it shows that Isabel is angry when she thinks that Tom is looking for doctor's help. She really didn't want to get medical treatment, she didn't want to hear the doctor's talk about her miscarriage.

2. Isabel forbids Tom to report the incident

One day, Tom and Isabel got a lifeboat stranded on Janus Island, there was a man who had died and a baby who was still alive. However, at that time Isabel was having a miscarriage and she wanted to adopt his baby, so Isabel forbade Tom to report the incident that actually happen. It can be proved from the following quotation.

'You were the talk of every woman in Partageuse, having your baby on your own like that. Of course, the farmers' wife didn't turn a hair – Many Linford said how she'd had three without any help. But them in town, they were mighty impressed. I hope Tom wasn't too useless?'

The couple exchanged a look. Tom was about to speak, but Isabel took his hand and squeezed it tight. (Stedman, 2012 : 150)

From the quotation above it can be seen when Ralph and Bluey came to the island of Janus they was shocked that Isabel had given birth to her baby without medical help. They think that Isabel is a great woman. When they were doing some conversation, Isabel and Tom looked into each other's eyes, Isabel learned that Tom wanted to tell the story.

On the day of Lucy's christening, Isabel and Tom learned the true identity of the child that they found. Lucy is the biological child of Hannah Potts and Frank. After Tom knows about it he wanted to reveal that the missing child was cared for by Tom and Lucy. It can be seen in the following quotation :

‘We’ve got to say something! Now! Call off the christening. . .’ Tom’s voice was low and urgent as he faced Isabel in the vestry while Bill and Violet showed off their granddaughter to the guests in the church.

‘Tom, we can’t.’ Her breath was shallow and her face was pale. ‘It’s too late!’ she said.

‘We have to put this right! We have to tell people, now.’

‘We can’t! Still reeling, she cast about for any words that made sense. ‘We can’t do that to Lucy! we’re the only parents she’s ever known. Besides, what would we say? That we suddenly remembered I didn’t actually have a baby?’ Her face turned grey. ‘What about the man’s body? It’s all gone too far.’ Every instinct told her to buytime. She was too confused, too terrified to do anything else. She tried to sound calm. ‘We’ll talk about it later. Right now we have to go through with the christening.’ (Stedman, 2012:181)

The quotation above shows that Tom realizes that what he did was wrong, he tried to straighten out all the lies that they had done. Suddenly Isabel's face turned pale, but she tried to stay calm. With her egoism Isabel persuaded Tom not to tell everyone about Lucy and she will talk about Frank's later after they doing christening. Another quotation to supports clearly the fact:

3. Isabel blamed Tom for all the incident

After all the secrets were revealed, Isabel blamed Tom because he had reported all the truth that happened. It can be proved from the following quotation:

‘He rushed to gather her into his arms. ‘Calm down, Izz.’ But she broke free and ran again, half hobbling when the pain got to bad.

‘Don’t tell me to calm down, you stupid, stupid man! It’s your fault. I hate this place! I hate you! I want my baby!’ The light scythed a path far above, leaving her untouched by its beam.

From the quotation above it can be seen the nature of egoism is visible when Isabel repeatedly blamed Tom. She doesn't care about anything and just wants the baby back. Isabel thought how stupid Tom would do such a thing like that.

5. CONCLUSION

In this paper, the researcher chooses the novel entitled *The Light Between Oceans* by M.L Stedman. It was published in 2012. The novel has 460 pages and it is divided into 37 chapters. After analyzing the novel through psychological study and based on research findings, the researcher makes conclusion In the novel *The Light Between Oceans* Isabel Sherbourne has some egoism character. She has egoism because when she marrying and get several times of misscariage she refused to got the medical treatment. The second egoism is when Isabel and her husband found the lifeboat in the Janus Island, there was a man who died and the baby who lived. When Tom wants to repport this accident she forbid because she wanted to addopted the baby. The third egoism is after all the actual events had been revealed, Isabel blamed Tom because he had reported it and caused Lucy taken away by her biological mother.

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