The Life Endurance of Tess Durbeyfield in Thomas Hardy’s *Tess of the d’Urbervilles*: A Psychological Approach

A THESIS

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ENGLISH LETTERS STUDY PROGRAMME
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SOEGIJAPRANATA CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
SEMARANG
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ABSTRACT

Tess of the d’Urbervilles is one of Thomas Hardy’s novel. This novel tells about the difficult reality and the gloomy side of a poor family’s life, where a young girl has to endure and overcome her problems.

The reason why the writer chose to read and analyze the character of Tess Durbeyfield is because the writer wants to know how Tess passes her difficulties of life after being raped, and also to know deeply what psychological effects experienced by Tess after losing her virginity. It means that the writer also wants to show Tess as a young strong and independent woman.

The approach used to analyze this novel is Alfred Adler’s individual theories. This approach is used to explain the psychological effects of Tess after being raped and also to analyze the life endurance of Tess in facing the problems of her life. By using Adler’s individual theory, the writer tries to find about Tess’ fictional finalism, Tess’ striving for perfection, Tess’ inferiority feelings and compensation, Tess’ social interest, Tess’ style of life, and the last Tess’ creative-self.

Based on the writer’s whole analysis, the reason why Tess could survive and passed her difficulties of life is mainly because of her family. Although many times she has wanted to end her life, she gradually realizes that her little brothers and sisters still need her, so Tess keeps hoping and wanting better lives for her little brothers and sisters. No matter how difficult her family’s financial condition and how cruel her past was, Tess was a strong, resolute, and independent young girl, even though she never actually got enough education that can help solve her problems that are so pressing.

Key words: Rape victim, struggle, endurance
ABSTRAK

Tess of the d’Urbervilles adalah salah satu novel karya Thomas Hardy. Novel ini bercerita tentang kesukaran hidup dan sisi gelap kehidupan suatu keluarga miskin, dimana seorang gadis muda harus mengatasi masalah.

Alasan pemilih memutuskan untuk membaca dan menganalisa karakter Tess Durbeyfield adalah karena penulis ingin mengetahui bagaimana ia mengatasi masalah-masalah hidupnya setelah peristiwa pemeriksaan itu, dan untuk mengetahui lebih jauh efek-efek psikologis apa sajakah yang membebani Tess setelah kehilangan keperawanananya. Ini berarti bahwa penulis juga ingin menunjukkan bahwa Tess adalah wanita muda yang tabah dan mandiri.

Pendekatan yang digunakan untuk menganalisa tokoh Tess adalah teori individu milik Alfred Adler. Pendekatan ini digunakan untuk efek-efek psikologis Tess yang dideritanya sebagai korban pemeriksaan, dan juga untuk mengamati ketahanan Tess dalam mengatasi berbagai persoalan hidupnya. Dengan menerapkan teori individu milik Alfred Adler, penulis mencoba untuk mencari tujuan final hidup Tess, kemampuan Tess untuk menggapi kesempurnaan, perasaan inferior Tess dan bagaimanaan gadis itu mengatasinya, minat social Tess, gaya hidup sehari-hari Tess, sisi kreatif Tess.

Berdasarkan analisa penulis, alasan mengapa Tess dapat bertahan dan melewati masalah-masalah dalam hidupnya adalah karena keluarganya. Walaupun sering kali dia ingin mengakhiri hidupnya, namun dia sadar bahwa adik-adiknya masih membutuhkannya sehingga Tess tetap mengharapkan dan menginginkan kehidupan yang lebih baik bagi adik-adiknya. Bagaimanapun juga Tess adalah seorang gadis muda yang sangat kuat, tabah dan mandiri, meskipun dia sebenarnya tidak pernah mendapatkan pendidikan yang cukup untuk dapat membantunya berpikir dalam menyelesaikan masalah-masalah yang menghimpinnya.

Kata Kunci: Korban pemeriksaan, perjuangan, ketahanan hidup.