Sandy Stranger’s Process of Sublimation in Muriel Spark’s ‘The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie’: A Freudian Psychoanalytic Criticism

A THESIS

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ENGLISH LETTERS STUDY PROGRAMME
FACULTY OF LETTERS
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2007
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A Thesis Presented as a Partial Fulfilment of the Requirement to Obtain The Sarjana Sastra Degree in the English Letters Study Programme

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Out of the depts, I cry to You, O Lord
O Lord, hear my voice.
Let Your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.
If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins
O Lord, who could stand?
But with You there is forgiveness;
therefore You are feared.
I wait for the Lord, my soul waits
and in His word I put my hope.
My soul waits for the Lord
More than watchman waits for the morning.
More than watchman waits for the morning.

(Psalm 130: 1-6)
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My first gratitude goes to the Almighty God, Jesus Christ, who has been kindly helping me through difficult times in my life, including when I was still struggling to finish my thesis. His holy words have been such strength to me to move on. It is incredible remembering how songs of praise and holy words of God have been such a help to me to recharge my spirit. Thank you, dearest Lord, for Your counsel’s guidance and patience to take care of my whole needs all these times. I would also like to thank Holy Virgin Mary for she has been kindly praying for my happiness. Mother Mary, you are always there when I need someone to talk to; I thank thee from the bottom of my heart that you also helped me finish this thesis.

My second gratitude goes to my family; my mother, my grandmother, and my little brother. My mother, thank you for keeping me an optimist person to move on with my thesis, no matter how difficult it looked. To my grandmother, thank you for your delicious cooking that kept my body fit. To my brother, thank you for fixing the computer I always needed to type this thesis.

My third and most important thanks goes to my Major Sponsor and Co-sponsor. Mr. Adhyanggono, thank you for your critical ideas and especially your optimism when I needed it the most. Thank you for teaching me about Sigmund Freud’s theories on human psyche, which came handy when I have to do this thesis research. I still vividly remember the first time you stood in class teaching us this eccentric Freud’s theory, it’s so interesting that I was encouraged to learn more about it. I also thank you for lending me your ‘The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie’ novel. To my Co-Sponsor, Miss Ike, thank you for spending your time to check thoroughly my thesis. Thank you for your brilliant ideas and most of all, understanding. I also remembered that you have lent me your thick books on Psychoanalysis. They have been much help for me to understand Freud’s theories. Million of thanks to both my beloved
lecturers, and of course, other Faculty of Letters’ lecturers and staffs who have created good atmosphere of education.

My next thanks go to my college friends. Thank you for your suggestions, and especially for the laughers we share as brothers and sisters in God. Last but not least, I hope this thesis will be useful for its readers. I hope that the readers will then be attracted to read Muriel Spark’s *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* and consider the appliance of Psychoanalysis on a literary work as an excellent tool to read beneath the lines. I realize that there are still many weaknesses in this thesis of mine, and thus all suggestions, corrections, and supports will be warmly received. Thank you!

--Maria Cindy Purnamasari--
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ABSTRACT

Freudian Psychoanalytic Criticism
on Muriel Spark’s ‘The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie’:
A Case of Sublimation

Maria Cindy Purnamasari

Abstract: ‘The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie’ is among Muriel Spark’s well-known novels which talks about education, religion, and love intrigues. The center character of this novel is Sandy Stranger, a girl involved in a special teaching of Miss Jean Brodie, an eccentric spinster teaching in Marcia Blaine School for Girls. Miss Brodie’s idealism and ambition were to make her girls ‘the crème de la crème’ (the best of the best), therefore Miss Brodie taught these girls various subjects on art, religion, and politic. As the passing of time, one of the Brodie girls—Sandy Stranger—noticed that the girls had become, more or less, Miss Brodie’s hands and feet to go and do whatever Miss Brodie told them. When gradually Sandy Stranger developed an interest on the Catholic mind of Teddy Lloyd, the art master, she finally decided to escape Miss Brodie’s fascist teachings and went away to be a Catholic nun living in monastery. From the beginning the writer chose this novel because this novel talks a lot about the world of education, which is similar to the writer’s environment. As every teacher has their own favorite students, so does Miss Brodie. By writing this thesis, the writer wants the readers to see chronologically how far Miss Brodie affects Sandy’s psyche and how this girl transforms her repressions into a dignified decision of becoming a Catholic nun. The approach used in this thesis is Sigmund Freud’s Psychoanalysis criticism, that is the theory of three human psychic elements: Id, Ego, and Superego. Furthermore, theories on Sublimation and Repression will also be used to analyze the psychic development of Sandy Stranger, the protagonist of the story. By Freudian Psychoanalysis criticism, it is traceable that Sandy Stranger has undergone a process of sublimation: a process of turning one’s repressed feelings into a nobler thing, or into a work of art. The first sublimation happens when Sandy channeled her jealousy and anger toward Miss Brodie into a lifetime dedication as a Catholic nun. The second sublimation happens when Sandy expressed her dreams and loneliness by writing a famous psychological book entitled The Transfiguration of the Commonplace, which told how ordinary world could be made extraordinary when seen through the eyes of a desolated girl. In a whole, this thesis describes and gives proves on how Sandy Stranger successfully got through a process of Sublimation.

Keywords: Prime, domination, hallucination, Catholic.
ABSTRAK

Penerapan Psikoanalisa Sigmund Freud dalam Novel karya Muriel Spark ‘The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie’: Perihal Sublimasi

Maria Cindy Purnamasari


Kata kunci: Prime/ masa terbaik, dominasi, halusinasi, Katholik.