

**POETIC EXISTENCE: WRITING POETRY AS THE
MANIFESTATION OF FREUDIAN THE RETURN OF THE
REPRESSED
IN MAGDALENA ZURAWSKI'S *THE BRUISE***

PAPER

*Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement to obtain the Strata One (S1)
Degree at English Department of FBS UNP*



By:

**Dia Anggraini
04747 / 2008**

Advisor:

Delvi Wahyuni, S.S., M.A

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND ARTS
STATE UNIVERSITY OF PADANG
2013**

HALAMAN PERSETUJUAN MAKALAH

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THE BRUISE (2008)

Nama : DIA ANGGRAINI
NIM/TM : 04747/2008
Jurusan : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris
Program Studi : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris
Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni

Padang, Agustus 2013

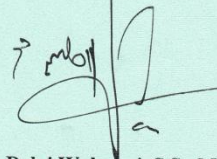
Diketahui oleh,
Ketua Jurusan



Dr. Hj. Kurnia Ningsih, M.A

NIP.19540626 198203 2 001

Disetujui oleh,
Pembimbing



Delvi Wahyuni, S.S., M.A

NIP.19820618 200812 2 003

HALAMAN PENGESAHAN LULUS UJIAN MAKALAH

Dinyatakan lulus setelah dipertahankan di depan Tim Penguji Makalah

Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni

Universitas Negeri Padang

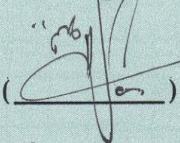
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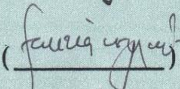
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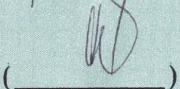
Padang, Agustus 2013

Nama	Tim Penguji
1. Ketua	: Delvi Wahyuni, S.S., M.A
2. Anggota	: Dra. An Fauzia Rozani, S, M.A
3. Anggota	: Muhammad Al-Hafizh, S.S., M.A

Tanda Tangan

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ABSTRAK

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Setiap individu memiliki masa lalu yang buruk dalam hidupnya. Sebagian individu mampu belajar dan merubah masa lalu yang buruk untuk mendapatkan kehidupan yang lebih baik di masa depan. Di sisi lain, sebagian individu menyimpan masa lalu yang buruk tersebut seperti represi terhadap suatu masalah yang tidak terselesaikan. Novel *The Bruise* (2008) yang ditulis oleh Magdalena Zurawski menunjukkan bagaimana represi yang dialami oleh protagonis muncul kembali di masa tertentu. Penganalisaan dalam novel ini berdasarkan *text-based interpretation*. Protagonis dalam novel ini memperlihatkan masalah yang tidak terselesaikan dengan ibunya menjadi penyebab utama represi dalam hidupnya. Masalahnya tidak terselesaikan oleh protagonis dengan ibunya memberikan dampak terhadap karakter lain. Karakter pertama yaitu dari saudara perempuan, protagonis menolak untuk berinteraksi dengan saudara perempuannya. Karakter kedua yaitu dari lingkungannya, protagonis memilih menjadi siswa yang pendiam karena ada kecemasan dalam dirinya. Kemudian, setting dapat terlihat ketika terjadi penolakan oleh ibu terhadap status protagonis sebagai seorang anak laki-laki serta perlakuannya terhadap lingkungan. Di sisi lain, setting yang mendukung membuat protagonis mencari jalan lain agar dirinya dianggap yaitu melalui menulis puisi sebagai bentuk pertahanan dirinya. Selain itu, penganalisaan unsur-unsur sastra tersebut juga dikaitkan dengan konsep *Repression* oleh Sigmund Freud yang mengemukakan bahwa *repression* adalah salah satu pertahanan diri individu untuk menolak masalah dari alam sadar manusia. Kemudian, pembahasan ini dilanjutkan dengan konsep dari Sigmund Freud *the Return of the Repressed* yaitu sebuah situasi dimana apa yang ditekan akan muncul kembali dalam bentuk lain. Penganalisaan novel yang berjudul *The Bruise* (2008) menunjukkan apa yang ditekan oleh individu terhadap suatu masalah yang tidak terselesaikan muncul kembali dalam bentuk puisi.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Each human has their own bad experiences in their life. Some people will learn from his or her bad experiences to be better in the future. In contrast, bad experiences will make it difficult for people to survive. One example of bad experiences is unresolved conflict. According to Meriam Webster Dictionary Online (2013) states that conflict is a controversy of actions, ideas, desires, or will that result in people struggling to deal with it. It means that, the conflict may be physical, emotional, mental or moral. Henderson (2009) states that conflict are opposite opinion between the main character, between that character and some force in nature, or between that character and another (p.11). In other words, there is different idea between one to another. Then, no matter how bad one wants to avoid the problem they are facts of life that must be deal with.

There are some people try to deal with it or try to find the solution. In contrast, there are some people who are unable to resolve the conflict for several reasons. For example, people keep the problem to prevent the conflict from increasing their own selves. Second, people keep the problem to prevent the conflict from increasing with other people. Third, People keep the conflict as mechanism of defending themselves. Mechanism to do is through repression. Freud in Erdelyie (2006) states that the essence of repression lies simply in function of rejecting and keeping something out of consciousness (p.500). In this

situation, it is very important to know that people will just repress the conflict as a mechanism of defending herself over anxiety which will keep the conflict unresolved. Then, there is no guarantee that the conflict passes. One day, what people repress will appear into another shape. Freud in Felluga (2013) states it called the return of the repressed which is the process whereby repressed elements, preserved in the unconscious, to re-appear, in the unconscious or behavior, in shape of secondary or more recognizable (p.141). One example of the returned of the Repressed is through writing poetry. People writes poem as a way to express their emotional, feeling or everything about their life.

People are unable to resolve their conflict. They find a way as mechanism of defending self. Related to this case also discuss in literature. It is narrated in the novel entitled *The Bruise* (2009) by Magdalena Zurawski. It is very important to the writer to explain the idea of it since the protagonist shows the characteristic the return of the repressed bases on Freudian concept.

1.1.1 Poetic Existence: Writing Poetry as the Manifestation of Freudian`s The Return of The Repressed

This novel describes unresolved conflict of the character. He is unable to deal with his conflicts. In this case, he keeps by himself as repression. Repression is mechanism of defending self. He represses his conflict with his mother who influences to his personality with others: sister, class mate and his love. What the protagonist represses will appear into another form. In this analysis writing poetry is a way to show what he has been repressed.

In this case, the existence is the fact or state of living or having objective reality. Furthermore, the existence is a condition of people feel to be someone that he wants in life. Then, there are many ways of people to be exist. One example is through writing poetry.

The existence of poetry becomes a way of the protagonist to show his feeling, emotional and everything about his life. He feels happy in writing, Then, he feels exist while he is writing a poem. In another words, poetry is media for the protagonist to make him as a real person.

1.1.2 A concise Literary Biography of Magdalena Zurawski

Magdalena zurawski was born in 1972 to polish immigrant in New Jersey, where she attended Catholics School for twelve years before escaping north to providence, Rhode Island to study literature class at Brown. Currently, she lives in Durham, North Carolina.

The Bruise (2008) is her first book. It is winner of the Ronald Suckenick Prize for innovative Fiction and the 2009 Lambda award for lesbian debut fiction. Her genres are literature and fiction. She is influences by Marcel Proust, Immanuel Kant, Gertrude Stein, Thomas Bernhard, Jack Spicer, Clark Sledge, Bruce Springsteen and Eileen Myle.

1.1.1 The Bruise

The Bruise (2008) a novel written by Magdalena Zuraswki showcases Freudian the return of the represses. The return of the represses means the process whereby repressed elements, preserved in the unconscious, tent to re appear, in unconscious or in behavior, in shape of secondary or more unrecognizable. It is

done by the protagonist. He is a literature student in college who gets repressed in his life.

Unresolved conflict as the trigger of the protagonist's repression with his mother. There is a rejection of his mother to his gender. The protagonist keeps the problem by himself without finding the solution with some else around him. The result of this is seldom listening to other member of family. One members of family that he ignores is her sister. He rejects the idea of his sister about himself. The protagonist is being private person in school. He ignores friends in school.

The status of the protagonist as literature student helps him to express his repression through his writing poetry. In other words, writing poetry is the manifestation of the return of the repressed. The protagonist feels as a real person when he writes a poem. Poetry is a way for him as a mechanism to defend himself.

1.2 Problem of Study

In responding the represses and those who are affected by the represses around his life. In order to reveal the repress of the protagonist in this novel, research questions are need. The questions that needed to be answered are:

1. What are unresolved conflicts faced by the protagonist leading him into repression?
2. How does the contribution of setting rearing unresolved conflict faced by the protagonist?
3. How does the protagonist's unresolved conflict re-appear or return?

1.3 Purpose of Study

The purpose of this study is to find out unresolved conflict faced by the protagonist leading him into repression. Then, the study will also analyze the contribution of setting rearing unresolved conflict faced by the protagonist. Finally, this study wants to elaborate how unresolved conflict faced by the protagonist re-appears or return.

1.4 Previous Study

The analysis about this novel which is focuses on The Writing as The Manifestation of Freudian Concept's The return of The Repressed. There are several studies in journal that can give contribution and inspiration in analyzing this novel.

The first studies which gives contribution to this analysis written by Erin McNight (2008) entitled *The Bruise* of Magdalena Zuraswki. In this analysis, McNight focuses on the character in the novel. He explains about the trauma in past time that the character gets. Then, there are concept of loneliness and isolation of the character through his life. After that, he explains that the poem writes by the character is a way of him to out of his problem. In other words, he mentions that the imagination of the character is a way of him to be a person in life.

The second study which gives contribution to this analysis is written by Simon Boag (2006) entitled *Freudian Repression, the Common View, and Pathological Science*. This analysis concerns primarily with Freudian repression, the general claim to be extracted from this is that as psychoanalysis's, the

conceptual ground work for attempting to discuss and test theories cannot be neglected. Then, Boag also discusses The Return of The repression as the seduction hypothesis and diphase Repression.

Another study that give contributions in this analysis is written by Matthew Hugh Erdelyi (2006) entitled *The Return of the Repressed*. In this analysis, Mathew influences by Simon Boag. He says that repression has become an empirical fact that is at once obvious and problematic. He brings the idea of the return of the repressed as a way to defense mechanism from unsolved conflict. Then, the repression is the widest sense of the defense mechanism itself.

The two analysis above become the references of this study to evoke the idea of Freudian`s The Return of The Repressed. However, this study focuses on keeping the originality of thought or ideas through the Writing Poetry as the Manifestation of Freudian`s The Return of The Repression. In other words, this study concerns only how writing poetry as the way to out from the repression.

1.5 Theoretical Framework

Psychoanalysis is a form of literary criticism which uses some of techniques of psychoanalysis in the interpretation of literature. This theory was introduced by Sigmund Freud (1850-1939). Freud in Barry (2002) explains that psychoanalysis works in investigating the interaction of conscious and unconscious element of the mind (p.96). In other words, it discusses human psyche and how human mind is reflected through their behavior.

Freud brings the important ideas of the unconscious. The conscious is our current thinking processes, behavior, and environmental awareness. Thus, the

unconscious is the area of psyche where known wishes and needs are kept. It plays a significant role in the conscious behavior. Related to the unconscious, Freud in Guerin (2005) explains that there are differences between the levels of conscious in mental activity

The oldest and the best meaning of word “unconscious” is the descriptive one; we call “unconscious” any mental process the existence of which we are obligated to assume-because, for instance, we infer it in some way from its effects-but of which we are not directly aware...If we want to be more accurate, we should modify the statement by saying that we call a process “unconscious” when we have to assume that it was active at a certain time, although at that time we know nothing about it (99-100)

From the statement above is shown that the unconscious means something we are not aware of it. Thus, the unconscious is the largest part of human mind to comprehend what things happen.

Freud believes that the unconscious is governed by three psychic's zone; id, ego and super ego. Each zone has its own influence on how human behave. The id does not pay attention on the value or moral. Then, the ego balances the id of human. Meanwhile, the super ego considers moral principle.

The id is irrational agent. It bases on pleasure principle. Rivkin (2004) states that the id is the side of the energy of human mind (p.391). The energy to fulfill or need such as baby is crying while she/ he is hungry. Furthermore, Freud in Rivkin (2004) states that the id characterizes it as a combination of sexual libido and other instincts such as aggression that It pushes human organism through life, moving it to grow, develop and eventually to die (p.391). In accordance to this premise, Eagleton (2005) states that it is through the id, unconscious desire has surged up and flooded the conscious mind with its

irrational (p.138). Thus, it shows irrational action without considering the action is good or bad to do

While the id bases on pleasure principle; ego is on reality principle. Rivkin (2004) states that the ego is part of the mind that regulates and controls the id's primitive desire (p.390). In this case, the ego maintains a balance in our impulses and our conscience. So, the ego never comprises of what we ordinarily think of as the conscious mind.

The third zone is the super ego. The super ego bases on moral principle. Guerin (2005) explains that super ego is moral censoring agency, the respiratory of conscience and pride (p.157). People censor the actions or behaves in life considers society. Furthermore, there is consequence for people to get reward or to get punishment. In another word, the super ego will guide the individual in interaction with society. The clear consequence of a powerful super ego is one has to force his/her personal need for the value of society. In other words, one has to prioritize the society, for example we sacrifice our holiday for volunteering in a public place.

As has been suggested above that the super ego bases on moral principle. The individual needs secondary. Some people agree with this idea. In contrast, some people disagree. It causes problems for individual. The individual needs protection for themselves. The individual needs to keep self. Based on Freud theory it called defense mechanism. Freud in Barry (2002) explains those defense mechanism are through displacement and condensation, projection and repression

(p.98). Thus, from what Freud suggests, there are some strategies or ability of human to protect them from the desire of society.

The first strategy of defense mechanism is displacement and condensation. It appears through another image. It means what she/he endures appear. Bertens (2001:159) states that the unconscious can be for instance hide a repressed desire behind an image that would seem to be harmless that Freud called displacement. In another word, it projects a whole cluster of desire onto an image in maneuver that Freud called as condensation. Thus, both of these aspects are kind of repressing of human into another image that called dream. The idea of Bertens also support by Barry. Barry (2002:98) state that:

These include displacement, whereby one person or even is represented by another which is in some way linked or associated with it, perhaps because of a similar sounding word, or by some form symbolic substitution and condensation, whereby a number of people, events or meaning are combined and represented by a single image in dream (p.98)

From the explanation above it shows that how unconscious of human work. Thus, the character is represented in dreams in another way. Dreams may be a best way to hide from the reality that human get and transfer it into symbol or metaphor

Another strategy of defense mechanism is projection. Eagleton (2001) states that projection is ascribing to others of feelings and wishes which are actually our own (p.138). What Eagleton address “projection is usually something negative one about our self such as fear, problem and even suffer are not recognized as part of ourselves but are perceived in or attribute to another; for example in projection he said “I hate her”, it said “She hated me”. Projection sometime has dual function. First is to reduce stress with replace the object with

someone else. Second is as way to show defense mechanism toward the enemy. So, projection is another way ascribes fear or unsolved problem of human.

As has been suggested before, repression is another strategy to defense self. Repression is a way to show what human hide from reality into another. Barry (2002) states that repression is a kind of forgetting or ignoring unsolved conflict or traumatic past event that forced into unconscious. It means human try to ignore the bad experience in reality. The idea of Barry is also supported by Rivkin (2004) which explains that

“Repression is the essential to civilization, the conversion of animal instincts into civil behavior. Furthermore, repression creates what might be called as a second self, a stranger within, a place where all cannot for one reason or another be expressed or realized in civil life takes up residence” (p.389).

From the statement above, it means repression may appear in different shape.

Thus, there is another self in human mind to express what they repressed. Then, Freud in Boag (2006) states that the essence of repression lies simply in turning something away and keeping it at a distance from the conscious (p.74)

So, there is no guarantee that repressed of someone will healing totally.

has been suggested before, there is strategy to express our defense mechanism, one of them is repression. People have been struggling to heal what they had repressed. In contrast, there is no assurance that it will re-emerge in another day or future. In this condition, our mind is unstable to filter the condition around us. One day what people had repressed will re-appear. It called returned of repressed. Freud in Feluga (2012) states that returned of the repressed is the process whereby repressed elements, preserved in the unconscious, tent to re

appear, in unconscious or in behavior, in shape of secondary or more unrecognizable (p.141). Meanwhile, the repressed example is bad experience in past time such as less of affection, broken home, or failed in class.

1.6 Methodology

The analysis of this novel is done through text based interpretation. In this respect, it is mandatory to consider the formal element of the text. Considering the element of the text; character is the most important aspect to be analyzed. For that reason, plot and setting becomes an inseparable part of the analysis.

As has been suggested above, by using Freudian concept, the writer will explain two stages to analysis the concept. Firstly, the writer will find what the unresolved conflict which lead to Freudian concept. Secondly, the writer will find the manifestation of unresolved conflict.