

**THE VICTORIOUS PERSONALITY  
IN KAREN LORD'S NOVEL  
*REDEMPTION IN INDIGO* (2010)**

**THESIS**

*Submitted As a Partial of Requirement to Achieve Strata 1 (S1) Degree*



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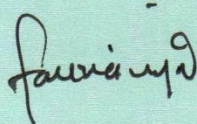
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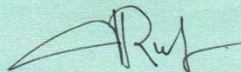


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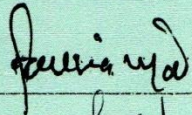
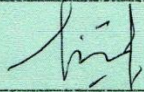

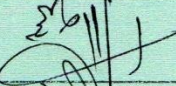

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## ABSTRAK

**Muthmainnah, Ranti. 2016. "The Victorious Personality in Karen Lord's Novel *Redemption in Indigo* (2010)". Thesis. Universitas Negeri Padang.**

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Skripsi ini merupakan analisa novel *Redemption in Indigo* (2010) karya Karen Lord. Permasalahan yang dibahas dalam skripsi ini adalah sejauh mana novel tersebut mengungkap *the victorious personality* yang dimiliki oleh karakter, serta seberapa besar fungsi fictional devices seperti karakter, setting, dan konflik berpengaruh untuk mengekspos *the victorious personality*. Tujuan analisa ini adalah untuk mengungkapkan *the victorious personality* yang dikembangkan oleh karakter dan kontribusi elemen fiksi dalam mengungkap *the victorious personality* pada novel ini. Data penelitian ini adalah teks tertulis yang dikutip dari novel. Kutipan teks tersebut kemudian diinterpretasi dan dianalisa menggunakan elemen fiksi (karakter, setting, dan plot/konflik) lalu dikaitkan dengan konsep *the victorious personality* oleh Gail Sheehy serta didukung oleh konsep *life instinct* oleh Freud dan konsep *plasticity* oleh Collin DeYoung. Metode yang dipakai adalah text-based dan context-based. Hasil analisa menunjukkan bahwa karakter memiliki *the victorious personality* dalam rangka mewujudkan keinginannya untuk hidup mandiri. Ada dua elemen dari *victorious personality* yang dimiliki oleh karakter, yaitu beradaptasi dengan baik dan percaya pada kemampuan yang dimilikinya. Keberhasilan karakter dalam beradaptasi dan mewujudkan mimpinya (menjadi koki) merupakan bukti bahwa karakter sukses dalam mengembangkan *the victorious personality*.

Keywords: victorious, personality, redemption in indigo

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## TABLE OF CONTENT

	Page
<b>ABSTRAK</b> .....	i
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b> .....	ii
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b> .....	iii
<b>CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION</b> .....	1
1.1 Background of the Study .....	1
1.2 The Victorious Personality .....	3
1.3 A Brief Description of Author's Biography .....	4
1.4 <i>Redemption in Indigo</i> .....	5
1.5 Problem of Study .....	6
1.6 Purpose of Study .....	7
1.7 Previous Study .....	7
1.8 Theoretical Framework .....	8
1.9 Methodology .....	11
<b>CHAPTER II THE VICTORIOUS PERSONALITY</b> .....	13
2.1 Bend According to Circumstance (Plasticity) .....	13
2.2 Self-trust .....	23
<b>CHAPTER III CONCLUSION</b> .....	29
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Every person has their own personality that makes them different each others. Personality creates individual differences. The difference can be seen in the patterns of thinking, feeling, and behaving. Therefore personality influences people behaviors. It influences every aspect of our lives including what we choose to do for a living, how we interact with family, and our choices of friends.

There are some variations in personality. In psychology, there are five basic variations of personality (the big five). The big five personality was first introduced by Lewis R. Goldberg in 1981. These big five are neuroticism, agreeableness, conscientiousness, extraversion, and openness/intellect. DeYoung (2007) defined *neuroticism* is negative emotion and anxiety, *agreeableness* is empathy, cooperation and politeness, *conscientiousness* is motivational and industrious, *extraversion* is outgoing, sociable, and talkative, *openness/intellect* is imagination, creativity, and intellectual creativity. DeYoung divided the big five into two, stability and plasticity. *Agreeableness*, *conscientiousness*, *neuroticism* are included into stability, while *extraversion* and *openness/intellect* are plasticity/flexibility. Thus, stability is a personality which is enriched by anxiety, empathy, and motivation. In the other hand, plasticity is the combination of behavioral and cognitive.

In addition, personality is the inner strength of human being. It is the basic power to overcome problems. People with good personality will survive in all



situations. They who succeed in their life mean they have victorious personality within themselves. According to Sheehy (1986), victorious personality is the power of survival. People who have victorious personality can overcome their problems and survive in life. Sheehy in Fuderich (2007: 137) stated that people with victorious personality are charismatic, resourceful, and hopeful. They have problem solving skill, good communication skill, and self trust. Sheehy stated that there are some elements that contribute to a victorious personality such as plasticity- the ability to bend according to circumstance- , self-trust, social ease (and the facility to put others at ease), and the understanding that one's plight is not unique.

One of the examples of a person who has victorious personality is Waris Dirie, an international supermodel. In her book, *Desert Flower: The extraordinary Journey of a Desert Nomad* (2012), Waris told her struggle to achieve her dream. She ran away from her parents when she was thirteen years old. Her father would force her to marry a very old man. In her society, women had to accept every situation that was given to them. Waris refused to be restricted. She escaped from desert to a city, even finally she succeed to fly from Somalia to London.

Waris worked hard to achieve her dream. She had self-trust and could adapt quickly in her new society. She learnt to read and spoke in English. She can be a famous supermodel and travel around the world. She always believes in her ability. Now she also works for UN to stand up for women right especially to against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). In addition, she has a foundation named Desert Flower Foundation which fights for the right of women in Africa. The victorious personality

that she has within herself (adapts quickly/bend according to circumstance and self trust) drive her succeed in achieving her goal.

Furthermore, it is interesting that the victorious personality is also found in the literary work, for example, a novel *Redemption in Indigo* (2010) by Karen Lord. This novel is chosen because it was Karen's first novel and it got many awards. There must be something new and really good in her first novel that leads it got awards. Karen as a new novelist could win some awards in her first novel because this novel contains good story which are unique and fresh. In this novel, the victorious personality is reflected by woman character, Paama.

## **1.2 The Victorious Personality**

The victorious personality is a person's characteristics (the way of thinking and behavior) that lead him succeed in life. According to American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language (2011) victorious is *being the winner in a contest or struggle*. In American Psychological Association (2015) personality refers to *individual differences in characteristic patterns of thinking, feeling and behaving*.

In addition, Gail Sheehy (1986) said that the victorious personality is the spirit of survival. It is the voice of survivor. People who have the victorious personality are the winner against adversity emerges. The elements that contribute to a victorious personality are plasticity- the ability to bend according to circumstance- , self-trust, social ease (and the facility to put others at ease), and the understanding that one's plight is not unique.

The victorious personality in this analysis refers to the way of thinking and behavior of a woman character, Paama, in achieving her dream. She achieves her dream by bending according to circumstance (plasticity) and having self trust.

### **1.3 A Brief Description of Author's Biography**

Karen Lord was born in Barbados in 1968. After completing a science degree at the University of Toronto, she realized that the course she had enjoyed most was History of the English Language. Several degrees, jobs, countries, and years later, she had taught physics, a diplomat, trained soldiers, worked in the Foreign Service, and gained a PhD in sociology of religion. She writes fiction to balance the nonfiction she produces as an academic and research consultant.

*Redemption in Indigo* which was published in 2010 is her first novel which has got some awards, such as Carl Brandon Parallax award winner, Mythopoeic Award winner 2011, Crawford Award winner, Frank Collymore Award winner, World Fantasy Award finalist, Longlisted for the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, Shortlisted for the Guyana Prize for Literature, Fantasy Award for Adult Literature, and was nominated for the 2011 World Fantasy Award for Best Novel.

In addition, Karen returned with a second novel that exceeds the promise of her first. *The Best of All Possible Worlds* (2013) is a fascinating and thoughtful science fiction novel that examines adaptation, social change, and human relationships. This second novel also got some good responds from several people and people said that it is as good as her first novel. *The Best of All Possible Worlds*



won the 2013 RT Book Reviews Reviewers' Choice Award for Best Science Fiction and was nominated for Book of the Year, and was a finalist in the 2014 Locus Awards Best Science Fiction Novel category. Furthermore, Lord's third novel *The Galaxy Game* was published in 2015.

In a Champbell interview (2012) for the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer, she said that:

“I'd like to keep challenging myself and improving as a result. I want to try different forms of storytelling, varying the length, the style and the medium. I hope I will always be able to keep the 'play' aspect of writing in whatever I do and however long I do it. I think that's where the core of my creativity lies.”

That statement shows that she is really interested in writing. She will improve her ability by writing some new different stories. She is a very creative writer and always wants to produce her own stories that really different from stories that were ever written by others.

#### **1.4 Redemption in Indigo**

*Redemption in Indigo* (2010), a novel by Karen Lord reflects the victorious personality. The victorious personality is a person's characteristics (the way of thinking and behavior) that lead him succeed in life. People with victorious personality can overcome their problem and survive in all situations. The victorious personality in this novel is represented by female character, Paama. She was famous for her cooking in her neighborhood. She was a wife of a rich and very glutton husband for twelve years. She wanted to develop her cooking talent by being a chef traveler but her husband did not allow her. After ten years of her marriage she

decided to achieve her dream. In this analysis there are two elements of victorious personality that was found in herself; bending according to circumstance (plasticity) and having self trust.

First, the character bent according to circumstance (plasticity/flexibility). Plasticity is the combination of problem solving skill, good communication and socialization. Paama had problem solving skill that lead her to analyze every problem that she got before taking action. She left her husband without any suspicion from him. In her new society, she attempted to adapt quickly by making people around her felt comfortable with her presence. People always trusted her because of her good communication skill.

Second, the character showed self trust. She showed self trust by kept practicing her cooking talent through her daily cooking and compiled her recipes. She believed that her cooking talent would lead her to be a chef. She became a good chef and could travel to some places.

### **1.5 Problem of the study**

This study is going to reveal the victorious personality in Karen Lord's novel *Redemption in Indigo* (2010). In order to reveal it, research question are needed. Those research questions are:

1. How far does the novel *Redemption in Indigo* (2010) reflect the victorious personality?

2. To what extent do the fictional devices, such as character, plot (conflicts), and setting give contribution to reveal the victorious personality?

### **1.6 Purpose of Study**

This analysis is intended to reveal the victorious personality in novel *Redemption in Indigo* (2010) by Karen Lord. This study also investigates to what extent fictional devices; character, plot (conflict), and setting give contribution in disclosing the victorious personality.

### **1.7 Previous Study**

The analysis about *Redemption in Indigo* that focuses on the reluctant toward restriction has not been found yet. However, there are two studies that have given contribution and inspiration in analyzing this novel.

The first study was written by JaeYoon Park (2014) entitled: The Unruly Woman in FX's *Justified*. JaeYoon Park analyzed The FX series *Justified* (2010–) which is the most recent reworking of the western genre on television. He analyzed two women characters using third wave feminist media theory. He analyzed the capacity and limitations of *Justified's* feminism by focusing on the central female characters in the series' first and second seasons, Ava Crowder (Joelle Carter) and Mags Bennett (Margo Martindale). This analysis focused on character and setting. The characters could be independent because they had self trust. They could survive



in a patriarchal society. In this analysis, both of them refused to be a helpless victim of unjust power relations and economic conditions.

The second study was written by Krisztina Lajterné Kovács (2011), entitled *Authoress and Businesswoman: Success, Money and Gender in Gone with the Wind*. In this analysis Kovács linked between author life and the book as well. Through the figure of Margaret Mitchell as an author and her heroine, Scarlett O'Hara as a businessperson, Kovács explored in the American and the Southern context what happens when a woman enters the public sphere, earns money and becomes famous. She analyzed it by using Jessica Benjamin's interpretation about Max Weber's economic ideology. She stated that both, author and her novel's character, survived to be independent financially in the patriarchal society. It was about autonomy and freedom. They trusted their own skill. They could enter the road that lead to autonomy, self-fulfillment, and independent in their own way.

The two analyses above give contribution and inspiration in analyzing the character. These studies also enrich the knowledge about the topic. However, this study has different focus from the previous analysis. This study focus on inner strength, the victorious personality, that is found and developed in overcome problems.

## **1.8 Theoretical Framework**

The concept of victorious personality was introduced by Gail Sheehy. Sheehy (in article "The Victorious Personality, 1986) stated that people who have the victorious personality are the winner against adversity emerges. The victorious

personality is the spirit of survival. Sheehy said that “*One may be born with a naturally resilient temperament, but one develops a victorious personality.*” It means, not all people have victorious personality within themselves. It takes time and it is achieved through a process. There are some elements that contribute to a victorious personality such as plasticity- the ability to bend according to circumstance- , self-trust, social ease (and the facility to put others at ease), and the understanding that one's plight is not unique. However, in this novel, the character only got two elements. They are the ability to bend according to circumstance (plasticity) and self-trust.

The ability to bend according to circumstance (plasticity) is the ability to adapt quickly, at least appear comfortable with the change. Someone who has this ability can make those around her/him feel comfortable as well. People with this ability have basic survival and motivation to pursuit their goal. DeYoung (2007) said that plasticity is the combination of two basic variations of personality, extraversion and openness. Extraversion is associated with behavioral, such as assertiveness, enthusiasm, outgoing, sociable, and talkative. Good communication and socialization are two skills which are found in extraversion. Openness is associated with cognitive, such as imagination, creativity, and intellectual curiosity. When behavioral and cognitive are combined it is called plasticity/flexibility.

Furthermore, self-trust is another canon of the victorious personality. Sheehy (1986) stated that survivors must rely on their own nature, acting and moving much of the time by *instinct*. Their self-trust will lead them to be quick character judgments and snap decisions. Freud in Abel (1989:48) said that “*life instinct (eros) is the*

*preserver of all things that which seek to force together and hold together the portions of living substances.*” It means the purpose of life instinct is to form living substance into ever greater unities, so that life may be prolonged and brought to higher development. Eros is associated with behaviors that support harmony among people, such as collaboration and cooperation. In addition, in Encyclopedia Britannica (2016) *instinct* ranges across behavioral, genetic, developmental, motivational, functional, and cognitive senses. Furthermore, Wall in Grohol (2013) said that “self-trust means that you can take care of your needs and safety.” It means you trust yourself to survive in any situations, and practice kindness, not perfection. People with self trust refuse to give up on their life goal. It is clear enough that people who have self-trust are the survivor because they do not give up easily.

The analysis of this novel is supported by text-based and context-based interpretation. According to Glenn and Gray (2014:178) text-based interpretation is the approach that based on the analysis and interpretation to text itself, which is nothing more than what is contained within the text itself. Meanwhile, context based interpretation is the approach that considers the historical period during which a work was written including the circumstances of culture, history political, and social. It means that the analysis will be not only focused on the text itself, but it also involved the phenomenon and circumstances which are existed in the real world.

The first device which is used in this analysis is character. According to Wheeler L. Kip (1998), character is “any representation of an individual being presented in a dramatic or narrative work through extended dramatic or verbal



representation. The reader can interpret characters as endowed with moral and dispositional qualities expressed in what they say (dialogue) and what they do (action).” In this analysis the focus of character is a woman character, Paama.

The second device that is going to be used is plot that focused on conflicts. According to Guirin (2005), conflict can be identified into two forms. They are internal conflict which occurs within a character and external conflict between two or more characters or a character and his/her environment. In this analysis, internal conflict is the character’s willingness to achieve her dream. The external conflict occurs between the character and other characters.

Another element of fictional device that is used to analyze the novel is setting. Setting does not only mean place and time in the novel but also has related to situation, condition, and atmosphere of the story. According to Wheeler L. Kip (1998), setting is “the general locale, historical time, and social circumstances in which the action of a fictional or dramatic work occurs. The setting is usually established through description but sometimes narration or dialogue also reveals the location and time.” In this novel, the name of place is not mentioned clearly where exactly Makendha is. Makendha is a village with people who still live well with forest around them. People in Makendha live harmoniously.

## **1.9 Methodology**

The analysis of this novel is done through text-based and context-based interpretation. The fictional devices such as character, plot, and setting are needed

during the process of analyzing. Character is used to evoke the victorious personality by analyzing character's action, way of thinking, and ideas. Then, setting gives contribution in evoking the meaning through the atmosphere and situation which created the conflict. Plot (conflict) in this novel play important role to reveal the meaning of this novel. These devices are analyzed based on the concept of victorious personality by Gail Sheehy which are supported by the concept of life instinct by Freud and plasticity by Collin DeYoung.