The Personality of Isa/Jose in the Novel *Saq al-Bamboo* by Saud Alsanousi: A Study of Sigmund Freud's Literary Psychology

Dinda Nurlatifah[1], Dedi Supriadi[1], Mohammad Rosyid Ridho[1]

[1]UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung, Indonesia
*Correspondence: dindanurlatifah07@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The novel Saq al-Bamboo by Saud Alsanousi presents various psychological issues that reflect the dynamics of human behavior. The psychological turmoil experienced by the main character in the novel demonstrates that the surrounding environment can be a significant factor infliensing the formation of an individual's personality. This study aims to examine: (1) the personality structure of the main character, and (2) the factors that influence the main character's personality in Saq al-Bamboo. This research employs a qualitative method with a literary psychology approach based on Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory. The data source for this research in the novel Saq al-Bamboo by Saud Alsanousi. Data collection techniques involve reading and note-taking methods, while data analysis is conducted using descriptive analysis by describing all classified data. The findings of the study indicate that the personality structure of the main character consists of the id, ego, and superego, which interact and form a unified whole in the character's life situations. The factors influencing the main character's personality are divided into two categories: (1) internal factors, including heredity and self-identity, attention and affection, as well as resilience and perseverance; and (2) external factors, including the influence of family environment, culture and society, and discriminatory treatment experienced by the main character.

1. Introduction

Literary works are a tangible manifestation of a writer's imagination and creativity. The creation process is individual in nature, meaning that each author has a unique and different way of producing their work. There is no standardized method, as each writer has different experiences, backgrounds, and styles (Waluyo, 2002; Windasari, 2017; Rahman, 2018; Junaid et al., 2025). Although literary works are imaginative, fictional, and full of the writer's expressive statements, they are still the result of an activity that remains closely connected to psychological aspects. Through the creative process, authors indirectly endow each character with traits and personalities that reflect the psychological realities of human beings (Chamalah & Nuryyati, 2023; Nursaadah et al., 2025; Abbas et al., 2023). The characters in a story are always given their own personalities to face conflicts that are intentionally created by the author. Generally, the main character is the one who faces the most obstacles or problems, as it is through this character that the plot develops and the story's message is conveyed (Nurgiyantoro, 2013; Muslimat et al., 2023; Rahman & Weda, 2018).

A novel is a form of fictional prose composed by an author through a series of words and sentences, which then form a story about life (Albanjari et al., n.d.). In a novel, various characters with diverse backgrounds and personalities are presented, thereby reflecting different psychological aspects of the characters that can be analyzed in depth (Sahriyah et al., n.d.). One novel that prominently highlights the main character's personality in depth is *Saq al-Bamboo* by Saud Alsanosi. This novel was published in 2012. *Saq al-Bamboo* by Saud Alsanousi is a literary work that brings psychological issues to the forefront as its main theme. The character Isa/Jose becomes the central focus of the novel and serves as the primary object of research centered on psychological aspects. With its compelling and inspiring storyline, the novel successfully captures the readers' attention. In addition to presenting an emotional narrative, the novel also offers deep reflections on society, culture, and identity in Kuwait, making it highly relevant for study from the perspective of literary psychology.

The novel *Saq al-Bamboo* by Saud Alsanousi explores the theme of identity search. The story centers around the main character, the son of a Filipino domestic worker and a young master from a noble Kuwaiti family where his mother was employed. Their relationship was not approved by the father's family, particularly the grandmother, which led Isa/Jose and his mother to return to their home country, the Philippines. They left with the father's promise that one day he would bring Isa/Jose to live with him in Kuwait. However, upon returning to his mother's hometown in the Philippines, Isa/Jose was treated poorly by his maternal grandfather, Mendoza. He was even labeled a "bastard child." Due to the ambiguity surrounding his personal identity, Isa/Jose received various nicknames—he was called "the Arab" in Manila and "the Filipino" in Kuwait. Faced with such treatment from both sides of his family, Isa/Jose continued to question his identity, including his name, religion, and nationality. In an effort to overcome his confusion and find the answers he sought, Isa/Jose eventually decided to return to Kuwait. He desperately hoped that he would be accepted there, as his mother had always glorified the place as a kind of "paradise" for him. Isa/Jose longed to be recognized by both his mother's and father's families. He wanted the acknowledgment and affection that every child deserves from their parents and relatives—without having to ask for it (Alsanousi, 2012).

In addition to being engaging to read, this novel is also worthy of scholarly study because it presents a main character who leads a modest life and possesses a strong personality. Despite having good character, the protagonist often receives little support and frequently faces discriminatory treatment from those closest to him. Nevertheless, he continues to fight hard to achieve what he desires. His efforts to change a life full of uncertainty reflect essential personality development, influenced by his perceptions and social experiences within his environment. These changes occur gradually over time, reflecting a complex dynamic of personality that is compelling and worthy of deeper analysis.

Psychoanalytic theory is one of the approaches that discusses the nature and development of human personality. This theory highlights elements such as motivation, emotion, and other psychological aspects that shape individual behavior. It is based on the assumption that personality develops through internal conflicts arising from various psychological components within the individual (Ardiansyah et al., 2022; Abbas et al., 2024; Suheri et al., 2025). In the context of literary studies, the psychological approach to literature views literary works as human creations that contain psychological elements, either directly or indirectly. This approach is used to examine the personality aspects of characters within literary works (Suprapto & Waluyo, 2014). One of the most widely used theories in literary psychology studies is the psychoanalytic theory proposed by Sigmund Freud. This theory is well-known for emphasizing the dynamics of personality through three main structures: the id, the ego, and the superego (Rohmah et al., 2023).

According to Freud, personality structure consists of three systems or aspects: the id, the ego, and the superego. The fundamental conflict among these three systems generates an individual's psychic energy, and each has its own mechanism, characteristics, and functions (Albertine Minderop, 2016). The id is the biological aspect or the original system of personality, often referred to as the inner world of a person that has no direct connection to the objective world. The id contains elements that are innate (instincts) and serves as the reservoir of psychic energy that drives both the ego and the superego. It operates based on the pleasure principle, seeking to avoid discomfort and pursue instant gratification without regard for reality or morality. The id may express itself through reflexive and automatic behaviors, such as sneezing or blinking, as well as through primary processes, such as imagining food when hungry. The ego is the psychological aspect of personality that develops from the individual's need to interact with the real world. It operates on the reality principle and functions through secondary processes, which involve logical and realistic thinking. The ego plans ways to satisfy the id's desires and tests these plans against reality to determine their effectiveness. The superego represents the sociological aspect of personality, reflecting moral values and social norms instilled by the environment, especially parents and society. It consists of two main components: the conscience, which punishes the individual with feelings of guilt, and the ego ideal, which rewards them with feelings of pride for achievements. The superego serves to restrain the id's sexual and aggressive urges that are incompatible with social norms. Unlike the pleasure-seeking id, the superego is oriented toward achieving perfection (Ardiansyah et al., 2022).

According to Hasanah (2018), personality encompasses the entirety of a person's attitudes, feelings, expressions, temperament, distinctive traits, and behaviors, all of which are manifested through their actions when faced with specific situations. Meanwhile, Eysenck (1969) proposed a concept of personality that is classified into two main types: extrovert and introvert. Extroverted personality is primarily characterized by sociability and impulsiveness. It is also marked by traits such as humor, cheerfulness, optimism, quick-wittedness, and other attributes that reflect individuals who are appreciated for their relationships with others (Riyanti et al., 2024).

Without realizing it, humans are influenced by their environment, which becomes one of the key factors in the formation of personality. In general, the factors that influence personality are divided into two categories: personal factors and situational factors (Baraka, 2024).

1. Personal or internal factors are those that originate within the individual. These factors are usually genetic or innate—traits inherited from one's parents.

2. Situational or external factors are those that come from outside the individual. These often include environmental influences such as family, friends, neighbors, and even exposure to various social media platforms.

Based on the explanation above, this research aims to examine the personality of the main character in the novel *Saq al-Bamboo* using Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic approach. Psychoanalytic theory is an approach that explains the nature and development of human personality. According to Freud, personality is formed through psychological conflicts that occur within the individual, involving the interaction among the three main structures of the human psyche: the id, ego, and superego.

Previous relevant research was conducted by Uswatun Hasanah, a student at the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Gadjah Mada University, in 2017 with the title "Moral Values in the Novel *Saq al-Bamboo* by Saud Alsanousi." In her study, she concluded that the novel *Saq al-Bamboo* contains three social moral values and one religious value (Uswatun et al., 2017). Another study was conducted by Adnan Arslan from Bilecik Şeyh Edebali University, titled "The Crisis of Sense of Belonging in Saud Alsanousi's *Saq al-Bamboo* Novel." His research focused on narrative structure, character portrayal, and symbolism used by the author to convey criticism of social norms. The study highlighted how religious and ethnic identity influence social acceptance in Arab society (Arslan, 2019). Furthermore, research conducted by Arefa Khmmarzaboli et al. from the University of Zabol, titled "Investigating the Triple Levels of Mental Health in the Characters of the Novel *Saq al-Bamboo* Based on the Enneagram Theory," used psychoanalytic and statistical methods to explore the levels of personality health of the characters in the novel *Saq al-Bamboo* based on the nine personality types of the Enneagram. The results showed that eleven characters were at a moderate health level, four characters were at a healthy level, and one character was in an unhealthy condition (Arefa Khmmarzaboli et al., 2021).

Based on the research mentioned above, there are differences between this study and previous studies, particularly in the research focus and the theory used. This study employs literary psychology theory to examine the personality structure of the main character through the id, ego, and superego. The focus of this research is to analyse the personality structure of the main character and identify the factors that influence it. Using data obtained from the research object, the novel *Saq al-Bamboo* by Saud Alsanousi will be analysed in depth to gain a comprehensive understanding.

2. Methodology

In terms of methodological foundation, this study uses a qualitative research approach. Qualitative research methods rely on deep interpretation and description of data through narratives rather than numbers or statistics. Therefore, this research emphasizes an interpretative presentation (Arif Rachman et al., 2024). According to Sugiyono, qualitative methods are research approaches that focus on gaining a deep understanding of real and meaningful data. This study not only collects data but also examines the contextual meaning within it to obtain a comprehensive picture of the research object (Abdussamad, 2021).

The approach used in this study is the literary psychology approach, employing the psychoanalytic theory developed by Sigmund Freud. This theory is considered relevant for revealing aspects of characters' personalities in literary works. The data source for this research is a literary work, namely the novel *Saq al-Bamboo* by Saud Alsanousi, published by Matabi' ad-Dar al-'Arabiyyah li al-'Ulum, Beirut, in 2012. The data analyzed include sentences, excerpts of paragraphs, and dialogue quotes that depict the personality of the main character in the novel and align with Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic concepts (Nuryanti & Sobari, 2019).

The data collection technique used in this study is the note-taking technique, carried out through the following stages: (1) Reading the entire text of the novel *Saq al-Bamboo* by Saud Alsanousi repeatedly, word by word and sentence by sentence; (2) Marking data related to psychological aspects, especially the personality structure of the main character; (3) Rewriting the collected data onto data sheets; (4) Grouping the data related to the personality structure, namely id, ego, and superego, as well as the factors influencing the personality of the main character (Sugiyono, 1992).

The data analysis technique used in this study is descriptive analysis, following these steps: (1) Applying the theory to the classified data to facilitate the analysis process; (2) Interpreting the data using a literary psychology approach. The interpretation process requires clear indicators and data (Suwardi Endraswara, 2013), then the data is analyzed in depth to form a comprehensive meaning in accordance with the research objectives; (3) Drawing conclusions as the result of the data analysis based on the theory used, namely Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1 Structure of Personality

a. Id

The id is a part of human personality that resides in the subconscious. It contains instinctual drives such as lust, instincts, and unconscious desires, and it functions to seek instant gratification without considering reality or social norms. The following are excerpts that reflect the characteristics of the id in the novel Saq al-Bamboo by Saud Alsanousi, based on Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory.

Data 1

<div dir="rtl">

كنت عندما كبرت، أكره جدي بشكل فظيع وأتمنى له الموت رغم تبريرات أمي

</div>

"When I grew up, I deeply hated my grandfather and wished for his death, regardless of all the justifications given by my mother." (Page 61)

The data excerpt above illustrates the id-driven impulse. The character's statement, "I deeply hated my grandfather and wished for his death," reflects the dominance of the id, which Freud described as the center of instinctual drives and raw impulses. In this quote, the character expresses an unfiltered emotional outburst, a deep hatred, and even a death wish toward his grandfather—something generally seen as extreme or inappropriate in moral terms. However, for the id, such impulses are natural. The id does not distinguish between right and wrong; it only recognizes what it desires and demands immediate gratification. This example shows how deep psychological wounds can give rise to destructive urges that are difficult to control, making the id an intense emotional escape zone.

Data 2

<div dir="rtl">

لو انهما اتفقا على شيء واحد .شيء واحد فقط .بدلا من أن يتركاني وحيدا أتخبط في طريق طويلة باحثا عن هوية واضحة الملامح ..اسم واحد التفت لمن يناديني به ..وطن واحد أولد به أحفظ نشيده

</div>

"If only the two of them could have given me a clear identity, I wouldn't have drifted for so long trying to find it. I would have just one name that would make me turn my head whenever someone called me by it. I would have just one homeland whose national anthem I could memorize." (Page 63)

The data excerpt above illustrates a drive originating from the Id. In the sentence fragment, *"if only the two of them could have given me a clear identity, I wouldn't have drifted for so long trying to find it…"*, we see a strong desire for a singular, clear, and universally acknowledged identity. The expressions about having one name, one country, and one nationality reflect a deep longing for certainty and a sense of belonging—something the character lacks due to his divided cultural background. The Id resists uncertainty and instability, pushing the character to seek clarity as a form of escape from the alienation he feels toward his own self. In other words, this is an Id-driven demand for the fulfillment of a unified identity, aiming to achieve internal comfort and freedom from the exhausting internal conflict he experiences.

Data 3

<div dir="rtl">

لو ولدت لأب وأم كويتيين، مسلما أسكن في بيت كبير تحتل غرفتي فيه مساحة لا بأس بها في الدور العلوي، غرفة فيها تلفاز 46 بوصة وغرفة ملابس وحمام .أستيقظ صباح كل يوم لأذهب إلى عملي الذي اخترته بنفسي، مرتديا تلك الثياب البيضاء الفضفاضة مع غطاء الرأس التقليدي، أشكل جزءا من الكل من دون أن أظهر بصورة الكومبارس الذين يقومون بأدوار العرب في أفلام هوليوود

</div>

"If only I had been born a Muslim to both a Kuwaiti father and mother, I would be living in a spacious room on the second floor of a large house, with a 46-inch television, a walk-in closet, and a private bathroom. I would wake up every morning to go to the job of my choice, wearing loose white clothes with a traditional head cover, living my life at ease, instead of looking like an Arab extra in Hollywood movies." (Page 64)

The data excerpt above illustrates the drive of the Id. In this quote, the main character expresses a strong unconscious desire to live an ideal life and be accepted as part of Kuwaiti society. The imagination of a large house, traditional clothing, and a dream job is not merely an empty fantasy, but rather an expression of the id, which is the part of the personality that pushes humans to pursue pleasure, comfort, and recognition regardless of reality. The id rejects fragmented identity and low social status, thereby creating a fantasy of a life filled with ease, acceptance, and pride—juxtaposing this with the image of being just an Arab extra in Hollywood films.

Data 4

تتملكني رغبة في أن أتبعهم ..أن أناديهم" :هيي !اتوقفوا ..إسمي عيسى ..أنا واحد منكم ...انتظروني.

"There is a burning desire within me to be able to join them, to be able to call out to them.
'Hey, stop! My name is Isa. I am one of you, wait for me.'" (Page 176)

The above excerpt illustrates a strong id drive within the main character. It reveals a deep emotional urge to be recognized and accepted as part of a group, which is a basic human need stemming from the id. The phrase "There is a burning desire..." indicates that this feeling arises spontaneously and intensely, without rational consideration. The desire to shout, "Hey, stop! My name is Isa. I am one of you," represents an innate longing for identity and togetherness, something the character has lacked due to their alienated background. This urge does not take into account whether the others will accept him or not; rather, it demands immediate fulfillment of the need for social attachment and acceptance, consistent with the impulsive and irrational nature of the id.

Data 5

انظروا يا شباب ..سأكشف لكم سرّا!

واصلت. لم يفه أحدهم بكلمة:

أنا كويتي...

رفعت رأسي بصعوبة أشاهد وجوههم. الدهشة تعلوها.

اسمي عيسى..

"Listen, friends. I will tell you a secret." No one said anything. I continued, "I am a citizen of Kuwait.

My name is Isa." (Page 182)

The above excerpt demonstrates the drive of the id. In this passage, the character Isa firmly asserts his identity: "I am a citizen of Kuwait. My name is Isa." This statement is not merely a formal acknowledgment but a reflection of a strong id drives to be socially recognized and accepted. The id urges Isa to reveal his true self with courage, as the basic human need for acceptance and belonging is an impulse that cannot be ignored. Isa seeks to end the uncertainty and alienation he has experienced by directly affirming his existence and identity. By stating his name and nationality, he attempts to claim his place of origin while asserting, "I exist, I belong to your group."

b. Ego

The ego acts as a controller to manage the id's impulses by orienting them toward the reality principle. The following are excerpts that represent the id personality in the novel Saq al-Bamboo by Saud Alsanousi, according to Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis.

Data 6

رغم كل الظلم الذي أعانيه اعتدت أن أقابل الإساءة بالغفران وأن أدير خدي الأيسر لمن يصفع الأيمن

"Despite all the injustices I have experienced, I am accustomed to repaying evil with forgiveness and offering my left cheek to someone who slaps my right cheek." (Page 65)

The above excerpt demonstrates the drive of the ego. In this sentence, the main character shows the ego's function as a regulator and balancer within the personality. The act of offering the left cheek when the right cheek is slapped reflects the ego's control over the aggressive impulses of the id while simultaneously adhering to the moral values instilled by the superego. This indicates the character's psychological maturity in dealing with inner conflicts and social pressures, as well

as the ego's ability to maintain balance for personal and social harmony. Thus, the ego acts as a mediator that prevents the character from falling into destructive actions, instead choosing a wiser and more peaceful path despite facing injustice.

Data 7

انه قدري أن أقضي عمري باحثا عن اسم ودين ووطن. رغم ذلك، لن أنكر لوالدي فضلهما
في مساعدتي، من دون نية منهما، في تعرفي على خالقي.. بطريقتي

"It has been my destiny to spend my entire life searching for a name, religion, and country. Even so, I will not deny the services of my parents who have helped me, unintentionally, to be able to know my Creator in my own way." (Page 66)

The above excerpt demonstrates the drive of the ego. The phrase "It has been my destiny to spend my entire life searching for a name, religion, and country" reflects the mature ego awareness in facing a long journey of self-discovery. The ego functions as a reality regulator capable of accepting difficult truths. Although experiencing confusion in his search for identity, the character Isa does not reject or resent his parents. Instead, he acknowledges their contribution, which unintentionally helped him to know his Creator in his own way. This shows a wise ego that appreciates the role of the past without being trapped in anger. The ego within the character plays a role in maintaining emotional and intellectual balance, managing internal conflicts, and accepting the identity journey as part of life's process that must be lived with full awareness and acceptance.

Data 8

حسنا .. !أتمنى أن تنبت لك ألف عين كي تتمكن من رؤية الأشياء بوضوح

بهدوء أجيبه:

يصمت جدّي.. سأصلي للرب كي يلبي لك أمنيتك.

"All right. I wish you had a thousand eyes so you could see things clearly," he said, raising his voice. "I will ask God to grant your wish, uncle," I replied calmly." (Page 137)

The above excerpt demonstrates the drive of the ego. In this passage, the character Isa shows strong ego control in facing an emotional situation. When his grandfather spoke loudly, he responded calmly and patiently. The ego functions as a mediator that controls the spontaneous reactions of the id, which might otherwise provoke anger or excessive emotion. This calm and wise attitude reflects the ego's ability to maintain emotional balance and not allow negative impulses to dominate, choosing instead a more constructive and rational way of communicating.

Data 9

كنت في السادسة عشرة. تركت المدرسة فجعت أمي، ولكنني كنت قد اتخذت قراري:
"سأبحث عن عمل".

كنت قد نويت في اتخاذي لهذا القرار أن أحرر نفسي من ذل ميندوزا وحسب، ومن طلباته
التي باتت لا تطاق بعد مرضه كنت على استعداد للقيام بالأعمال نفسها التي يكلفني بها
شريطة أن تكون في مكان آخر، مقابل أجر أتقاضاه.

"At that time, I was sixteen years old. I decided to quit school. My mother was disappointed, but my decision was firm. 'I will look for a job,' I said. I made that decision solely to free myself from the humiliation and all of Mendoza's increasingly unbearable demands after he fell ill. I was ready to do the same work Mendoza ordered, as long as it was somewhere else and with payment." (Page 149)

The above excerpt demonstrates the drive of the ego. In the phrase "I will look for a job," the ego acts to fulfill needs and avoid emotional pressure in a socially acceptable way—by working. This shows that the ego does not follow impulsive drives but seeks solutions through responsible actions. When he decided to quit school, it was not a decision dominated by emotional impulses but a realistic response to life pressures, especially the mistreatment from Mendoza. Although aware of his mother's disappointment, he chose a logical path—working for independence and maintaining his self-respect. The ego within him mediates the conflict between the desire for freedom and moral demands, then directs his decision toward a more rational and socially acceptable outcome.

Data 10

إيمان ماما آيدا المفاجئ أشعرني بأنني لست وحيدا، أخذت أستمد من إيمانها شعورا
بالاطمئنان. تخليها عن إيمانها سلب مني ذلك الشعور، وزعزع إيماني الضعيف. لأول مرة
أشعر بأنني وحيد، وبأنني أملك مصيري بيدي شعور بالفزع انتابني حين شعرت بأن لا ملجأ
إلي.. سواي.

"Mama Aida's faith made me feel that I was not alone and gave me a sense of peace.
When she let go of her faith, she took away my peace and undermined my weak faith.
For the first time, I felt alone and realized that my fate was in my own hands. Fear struck
me as I realized I had no refuge except myself." (p. 149)

The above excerpt demonstrates the drive of the ego. Isa/Jose realizes that he cannot always depend on others for a sense of security, as there will come a time when all of that slips out of his control. The ego, which previously felt at peace by "leaning on someone," now loses its support. He feels alone and begins to understand that there is no protective figure except relying on himself. In this context, the ego is required to mature and must reorganize its position in facing the harsh realities of life, learning that true protection comes from within, not from others.

c. Superego

The superego is a part of the human personality structure that functions to reject impulses or behaviors that violate norms. The superego can be considered the foundation of conscience and is closely linked to moral values. The following are excerpts that represent the superego personality in the novel *Saq al-Bamboo* by Saud Alsanousi, according to Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis.

Data 11

أفكر أحيانا في تلك الدقائق التي استغرقها الإثنان معا، راشد وجوزافين، على ذلك المركب،
قبل أن يصبحا أبي وأمي. أي جنون هذا الذي يخلق من دقائق متعتهما بؤس حياتي بأكملها؟!

"Sometimes I think about the few minutes that Rasyid and Josephine spent together on
that boat before they eventually became my parents. It's really crazy— their few minutes
of pleasure have created a lifetime of misery for me." (Page 63)

The above excerpt demonstrates the drive of the superego. The character reflects on how a brief moment of togetherness between Rasyid and Josephine on the boat has had a significant impact on the course of his life. He judges his parents' actions as a form of irresponsible momentary pleasure. The character's superego acts as a moral voice that judges and questions the justice of his origins. This judgment arises from feelings of disappointment and anger but is expressed in the form of moral reflection.

Data 12

لأول مرة أشاهد خالتي آيدا تبكي..

شيء بداخلي يقول إن لا أحد سواي يستحق تلك الصفعات. ورغم أن وجه خالتي تلقاها فإنني
شعرت بحرارتها على.. وجهي.

"For the first time, I saw Aunt Aida crying. Something inside me said that no one but me
deserved to receive those blows. Although Aunt Aida was the one receiving the blows, I
could feel the heat on my face." (Page 97)

The above excerpt demonstrates the drive of the superego. It depicts a strong feeling of guilt and a sense of responsibility, as Isa/Jose feels that he alone deserves the punishment of the blows that Aunt Aida received from his mother because he caused his sibling's condition. The superego makes him feel that only he is worthy of receiving the punishment, even though physically he is not the one hurt. This strong sense of guilt and moral responsibility makes him almost experience the suffering as if it were his own. This shows that the character's superego instills high moral standards, as he feels he must bear the consequences of his mistakes.

Data 13

،لا بد وأن تنسى أخطاء كنت قد ارتكبتها في حق الغير زمن الطفولة، أما وبقاء الغير أمامك
لا يتزحزح يكبر معك وأثر الخطأ فيه لا يزال ..فكيف السبيل إلى النسيان؟

...كنت طفلا لا أدرك ..لا مسؤولية علي ولا ..لوم

..أعذار مقنعة تلك التي أرددها بيني وبين نفسي ..ولكن !أن تقنع عقلك وعاطفتك في آن
.....أحدهما يأبى التصديق

أستلف قول أمي "..كل شيء يحدث بسبب ولسبب .."اللجوء إلى الإيمان، بحد ذاته، يحتاج
..إلى ..إيمان

"We should be able to forget the mistakes we made when we were children. But if the victim of those mistakes is still in front of you, growing up with you, and those mistakes leave real marks, how can we forget them? I often look for excuses. I was still a child, I didn't know anything, I had no responsibility, that what happened wasn't my fault. Those excuses are acceptable, but if you want to convince both your mind and your feelings, one of them will refuse. I borrow my mother's words, 'Everything that happens must have a reason, and surely has a purpose.' To believe those words, I need faith." (Page 92)

The above excerpt demonstrates the drive of the superego, depicting Isa/Jose's feelings of guilt over his negligence when he was tasked with taking care of his younger sibling, which led to the sibling drowning in a ditch and causing nerve damage. Although the mistake happened when Isa/Jose was a child, his guilt has not diminished in the slightest, and he cannot forgive himself because the marks of his mistake are still visible and they live together under one roof. The character's superego acts as the inner voice demanding responsibility for his childhood mistakes. Even though the character tries to justify himself with excuses of being a child and not fully aware, the superego rejects these justifications due to the moral demand to acknowledge and face the consequences of every action taken.

Data 14

"لو أنني قابلته قبل موته لأقول له" :سامحتك ميندوزا

"If only I had met him before he died, I would have told him: I have already forgiven you, Mendoza." (Page 192)

The above excerpt illustrates the drive of the superego, as the phrase "I have already forgiven you" expresses the character's guilt for not saying it while Mendoza was still alive. Despite the mistreatment he received from Mendoza, with a generous heart, he chooses to forgive him. The character's superego functions as the source of moral values and humanity that urges forgiveness, even toward someone who once treated him badly. The superego no longer demands revenge or holds grudges but encourages the character to release old wounds for inner peace.

Data 15

.. كنت أريد لـميندوزا أن يتطهر من ذنبه تجاهي قبل رحيله، وبتطهره من ذلك الذنب أتطهر
.أنا

"I want my grandfather's sins against me to be forgiven before he leaves forever. That way, my conscience can be clear." (Page 192)

The above excerpt demonstrates the drive of the superego. Isa/Jose wants to free his life from feelings of guilt caused by his selfishness in not wanting to forgive the sins his grandfather committed against him. Isa/Jose's statement reflects the part of his personality that governs morality and conscience. His desire to forgive his grandfather's sins shows that he seeks not only emotional peace but also to cleanse the moral and spiritual aspects within himself.

3.2 Factors Influencing the Behavior of the Main Character

There are several factors that influence the personality of the character Isa/Jose in the novel *Saq al-Bamboo* by Saud Alsanousi, including internal and external factors, as explained below.

a. Internal Factors

1) Heritage and Self-Identity

Isa/Jose is of mixed descent, Kuwaiti and Filipino. He is the product of a secret marriage opposed by his father's side due to social gaps. Besides the rejection of his existence, the cultural mix between Filipino and Kuwaiti also causes him to reflect and question his true identity, name, religion, and origin.

2) Care and Affection

Growing up in a family with limited means, Isa/Jose lacks the proper affection a child should receive at his age. Both after his mother divorced Rasyid and before she remarried, to support the family needs, his mother spent much time working. Since childhood, Isa/Jose has never felt complete love from his family, neither from his mother nor his father. He only received affection from his aunt, Aida. However, the love of an aunt cannot fully replace a mother's love.

3) Resilience and Persistence

Isa/Jose is an introspective person, sensitive to injustice, and highly empathetic. This is reflected in his attitude of maintaining human values even when in an environment that rejects his existence. Such an attitude enables Isa/Jose to endure complicated situations and persistently fight for his rights to be acknowledged as a human being.

b. External Factors

1) Family Environment

In the Philippines, Isa/Jose grew up with the love of his mother's family, although limited economically and emotionally. On the other hand, when he returned to Kuwait, his father's family strongly rejected him because his mother was a maid who once worked in their household. This rejection strengthened Isa's feelings of alienation and helplessness.

2) Culture and Society

Kuwaiti society applies strong social stratification and tends to be discriminatory, especially towards migrant workers. As a child born from a Filipino maid, Isa/Jose is regarded as low status by Kuwaiti society. Meanwhile, in the Philippines, he is considered "Arab-blooded" and different. These differences in values and culture influence Isa's understanding of who he really is.

3) Social Discrimination

As a Bidoon (stateless person), Isa/Jose faces various direct and indirect forms of discrimination. He is often disregarded both in the Philippines and Kuwait. Consequently, he frequently questions, "Who am I? Where do I belong?" This affects others' trust in him and can cause psychological wounds and deep insecurity. Insecurity here refers to the feeling of doubt and instability in one's identity and existence. As a stateless person, he is not legally recognized, making it difficult to access rights and a sense of belonging to any nationality. This can lead to self-doubt and a fear of rejection.

4. Conclusion

In Sigmund Freud's literary psychology study, the main character's personality in a novel is analyzed based on three personality structures: id, ego, and superego. This analysis aims to understand how the interaction of these three personality components shapes the behavior and motivation of the main character in the story. By understanding these personality components, we can understand how the conflicts experienced by the main character shape the behavior and character development in literary works.

Based on the data analysis conducted, it was found that the personality aspects of the character Isa/Jose in the novel *Saq al-Bamboo* include the id, ego, and superego. The id aspect in Isa/Jose is illustrated by his strong determination and desire to have a clear identity, such as his name, religion, and origin. The ego aspect of Isa/Jose includes his struggle, persistence, and self-defense, shown when he was opposed by his father's family to live under the same roof and be acknowledged; he remained determined and fought hard for it. The superego aspect in Isa/Jose includes feelings of guilt when his grandfather passed away but he was late in forgiving him, feelings of guilt when his family in Kuwait felt ashamed because of his presence, and his awareness of the social norms prevailing in Kuwait and the Philippines.

The factors influencing the personality of the main character in the novel *Saq al-Bamboo* by Saud Alsanousi are divided into two categories: internal and external factors. The internal factors affecting Isa/Jose include ancestry and self-identity, attention and affection, as well as resilience and persistence. The external factors influencing Isa/Jose include family environment, culture and society, and social discrimination.

References

Abbas, A., Pattu, M. A., Rahman, F., & Pammu, A. (2023, June). The New American Women Concept as Modern Women in the Novel My Mortal Enemy by Willa Cather: A Feminist Literary Criticism. In *3rd International Conference on Linguistics and Cultural (ICLC 2022)* (pp. 20-29). Atlantis Press.

Abbas, H., Arafah, B., Rahman, F., Pattu, M. A., Junus, F. G., Fachry, M. E., ... & Manaf, A. (2024). Ecological Literacy and Local Wisdom of Australian Aboriginal People in Welcome to My Country Written by Laklak Burarrwanga and Family. *Theory & Practice in Language Studies (TPLS)*, *14*(5).

Alsanousi, S. (2012). رواية ساق البامبو [*Saq al-Bamboo*].

Ardiansyah, A., Sarinah, S., Susilawati, S., & Juanda, J. (2022). Kajian psikoanalisis Sigmund Freud. *Jurnal Kependidikan, 7*(1), 25–31.

Arefa Khmmarzaboli, A., Habibi, A. A., & Behroozi, M. (2021). Investigating the triple levels of mental health in the characters of the novel *Saq al-Bamboo* based on the Enneagram theory. *The Journal of New Critical Arabic Literature*. https://mcal.yazd.ac.ir/article_2112_en.html?lang=en

Arslan, A. (2019). The crisis of sense of belonging in Saud Alsanousi's *Saq al-Bamboo* novel. *Cumhuriyet Dental Journal, 23*(2), 993–1008. https://doi.org/10.18505/cuid.528677

Baraka. (2024, December 17). Pengaruh faktor genetik dan lingkungan terhadap pembentukan kepribadian. *BARAKA*.

Burhan Nurgiyantoro. (2013). *Teori pengkajian fiksi*. Gadjah Mada University Press.

Chamalah, E., & Nuryyati, R. (2023). Kepribadian anak dalam novel *Sesuk* karya Tere Liye: Analisis psikologi sastra Sigmund Freud. *Jurnal Sastra Indonesia, 12*(2), 138–147. https://doi.org/10.15294/jsi.v12i2.70585

Firdaus Albanjari, N., Muna, N., Adawiah Mubarokah, N., Studi Bahasa dan Sastra Arab, P., & Islam Negeri Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung, U. (n.d.). Structural analysis in the novel *Renaissance* by Kinoysan. *Aksis*, 8. https://doi.org/10.21009/AKSIS

Hasanah, M. (2018). Dinamika kepribadian menurut psikologi Islami. *Jurnal Ummul Qura, 11*(1).

Junaid, S., Andini, C., Satria, S., Alwi, W., & Amalia, A. N. (2025). The Analysis Of Culture Shock Experienced By Erin Gruwell In Freedom Writers (2007) MOVIE. *Journal of Islamic Culture and Literature (JICel)*, *4*(1), 85-108.

Minderop, A. (2016). *Psikologi sastra: Karya sastra, metode, teori, dan contoh kasus*. Yayasan Pustaka Obor Indonesia.

Muslimat, M., Rahman, F., & Faisal, A. (2023, June 27). *Women's resistance to religious values in the novel Adam Hawa by Muhidin M. Dahlan: Feminist literary criticism review*. In 3rd International Conference on Linguistics and Cultural (ICLC 2022) (pp. 465–476). Atlantis Press.

Nursaadah, S., Rahman, F., Hasyim, M., & Arsyad, D. (2025). Cultural Identity and the To Lotang Belief System in Sajak Rindu: Lontara Cinta dari Sidenreng: A Literary Anthropology Perspective. *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*, *15*(5), 1626-1634.

Nuryanti, M., & Sobari, T. (2019). Analisis kajian psikologi sastra pada novel *Pulang* karya Leila S. Chudori. *Analisis Kajian Psikologi Sastra Novel Pulang Karya Leila S. Chudori*, 501.

Rachman, A., Samanlangi, A. I., & Purnomo, H. (2024). *Metode penelitian kuantitatif, kualitatif dan R&D* (B. Ismaya, Ed.).

CV Saba Jaya Publisher.

Rahman, F. (2018). The constraints of foreign learners in reading English literary works: A case study at Hasanuddin University. *Journal of Arts and Humanities, 7*(2), 1–12.

Rahman, F., & Weda, S. (2018). Students' perceptions in appreciating English literary works through critical comment: A case study at Hasanuddin University and Universitas Negeri Makassar. *Asian EFL Journal*, *20*(3), 149-172.

Riyanti, R., Nurmalisa, Y., & Rohman, R. (2024). Faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi pembentukan kepribadian peserta didik. *JALAKOTEK: Journal of Accounting Law Communication and Technology*.

Rohmah, I. F., Sari, Y. L., & Fajriati, M. (2023). Psikoanalisis Sigmund Freud dalam tokoh utama novel *Marrying Mr. Perfect* karya Milea. *Kala: Jurnal Bahasa dan Sastra, 1*(1). https://jurnal.umk.ac.id/index.php/kala/index

Sahriyah, N. A., Parmin, D., & Hum, M. (n.d.). Kepribadian tokoh utama pada novel *Merdeka Sejak Hati* karya A. Fuadi: Kajian psikoanalisis Sigmund Freud.

Sugiyono. (1992). *Metode penelitian pendidikan*. Alfabeta.

Suheri, H., Sosrohadi, S., Sulastri, T., Adinda, R., & Andini, C. (2025). Semiotic analysis of signs and symbols in digital instant noodle advertisements: A Marcel Danesi approach. *International Journal of Research and Innovation in Applied Science*, *10*(4), 545-554.

Suprapto, L., & Waluyo, B. (2014). Kajian psikologi sastra dan nilai karakter novel *9 dari Nadira* karya Leila S. Chudori. *Sastra Indonesia dan Pengajarannya, 2*(3).

Suwardi Endraswara. (2013). *Metodologi penelitian sastra*. CAPS (Center for Academic Publishing Service).

Uswatun, O., Budaya, F., Gadjah Mada University, I., & Sosiohumaniora, M. J. (2017). Nilai moral dalam *Sāq al-Bambū* karya Saʿūd al-Sanʿūsī. *Jurnal Bahasa dan Sastra, 1*(1), 112–138.

Waluyo, H. J. (2002). *Apresiasi sastra*. PT Hanindita Graha Widya.

Windasari. (2017). Analisis tokoh utama dalam novel *Dua Tanda Kurung* karya Handoko F. Zainsam: Kajian psikoanalisis Sigmund Freud.

Zuchri Abdussamad, H. (2021). *Metode penelitian kualitatif*. Syakir Media Press.