

# THE PERSONALITY OF THE MAIN CHARACTER AS REFLECTED IN KHALED HOSSEINI'S *AND THE MOUNTAINS ECHOED* : A PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH

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## **ABSTRACT**

*This novel contains many problems that can be studied more deeply. One of them is the personality of the main character. Everyone has a different personality and we have to know about it. Personality is important case because it will affect how we to interact and communicate with others. By knowing the character of every person, we will find easier in interaction and communication each other. The objectives of the research are : (1) to describe the personality of the main character (2) to describe the plot of the novel, (3) to describe the moral values that can be taken from the main character in the novel .This research is categorized into descriptive qualitative. The subject of this research is the novel entitled *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini, and the object of this research is the personality of the main character. In collecting the data, the researcher uses documentary study by reading and observing the novel, visiting some libraries, noting and searching the internet to get more informations. After the data are gathered, they are analyzed by using the theory of Psychology and personality by Cattell. The research findings of this research are: first, the personality of the main character are intelligent, suspicious, apprehensive and uncontrolled. Second, the plots of the novel are exposition, rising action, crisis, falling action, and catastrophe or resolution. The moral values that can be taken from the novel are the positive and negative moral values.*

**Keywords** - *personality, psychological approach, value, and the mountains echoed*

## **Introduction**

People have many different characters and personalities that distinguish between one person to another. As an example there is someone who has personalities of being close, quiet, short-temper with others. Such people will find difficulties to tell their problem and will be avoided by another, friends, and parents. Meanwhile, people have open personality more flexible. Usually people like this have many friends because of their goodness, easy to tell and willing to accept suggestion or criticism of others.

People have unique personality. Even each person also has different characteristics too. The characteristic is built by the personality, so they are different from the other. They have different hobbies and habits. These kinds are caused by the personality difference. Jung stated, “personality can be divided into two types, namely extraverts and introverts. The extraversion attitude orients a person toward the external world. The introversion attitude drives a person toward the inner, subjective world.”

Personality is divided in two types. They are extraverts and introverts. People have extravert personality such as easygoing, cheerful, helpful, thankful, optimistic, kindhearted,

and sociable. Moreover, the kinds of introvert personality are aggressive, selfish, irritable, talk-active, and unsociable. People prefer someone that have extravert rather than introvert personality. Extravert is more flexible than introvert. Not only that, the extravert person has a lot of friends.

According to William Stern in Sujanto (1984:5) the personality in every human is formed by some factors. There are two factors that affect personality of human. They are inner factors and outer factors. Inner factors come from inside of human soul. It is something that has been brought by a person since s/he was born. They are mind, feeling, willing, fantasy, memory, and so on. Outer factors are the factors that come from the outside of human soul, for example plants, animals, human, stones, mountains, temples, books, painting, picture, wind, season, the kinds of food, the parent's occupation, etc. Moreover, personality is one of the most familiar concepts in Psychology. Personality as studied by psychologist, can be defined as the characteristics and ways of behaving a person's unique adjustment to the environment.

Personality in this novel is shown in many ways like dialogue, attitude, and behavior through thought, and characteristic that influences the personality. From this point, it can be concluded that in the novel *And the Mountains Echoed* is rich in the aspects of personality. The personality itself is the phenomenon in Psychology. Psychology is the science about mind or thought and its process. In Psychology, one can explain or interpret the characters of the novel.

## **Methodology**

Data analysis that used by the researcher is descriptive qualitative method. This method use observation, manuscript of interview, research document. The qualitative resource, the collected are words, picture and not number. It means that the data explanation given by the researcher uses some statement, sentence, quotations, description or manuscript of interview, photo, videotape and so on (Moleong, 2006: 11).

The analysis uses descriptive and qualitative method in this subject. That means the researcher describes the data and the content of the novel carefully. Qualitative analysis is used to analyze this research because it is appropriate with this research. In this qualitative analysis, the data are presented in descriptive form. Besides that, the researcher analyzes the topic by using word and sentence. The data analysis is done after needed data have been collected. The result of this data will be able to answer of the question as presented in

formulation of the problem related to the psychology approach. The collected data are identified and classified into appropriate fixed categories.

The subject of this research is the novel entitled *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini. This novel consists of 446 pages, published by Riverhead Books, New York, in 2013. The object of this research is the personality of the main character. In collecting the data, the researcher uses documentary study by reading and observing the novel, visiting some libraries, noting and searching the internet to get more informations. After the data are gathered, they are analyzed by using the theory of Psychology and personality by Cattell.

In determining the validity of the data, the researcher will conduct some ways: 1) intrarater, will be done through repeat observation by reading the novel carefully and focus on the both novel that has been selected; 2) interrater, will be conducted with the supervisor, asking for views from an expert in the field of this study.

## **Finding and Discussion**

### **The Personality of the Main Character**

Personality is one of the most popular concepts in psychology. Personality is a consistent pattern of behavior based on individual's thoughts, feelings and perceptions to others and to the environment. If a person wants to describe an individual's personality, this person can look at the behaviour in different ways, from different angles, or in different social settings. That are the statement about the personality from the experts:

- a) Sujanto (1984:10) said that personality is a word from the Latin "persona" which means mask. Among the Romans, drama's actors wore mask based on the character their portrayed.
- b) Allport in Hall and Lindszey (1985:345) state that personality is the dynamic organization within the individual of those psychophysical system that determines his unique adjusment to his environment.
- c) Levin in Subhan (2010:64) said that personality has been defined as a consistent pattern of behavior based on an individual's thoughts, feelings, and perceptions, and it has been viewed in terms of adjustment and the general manner in which an individual meets the demands of his or her environment.
- d) Maddy (1968:10) said personality is a stable set of characteristics and tendencies that determine those commonalities and differences in the psychological behavior (thoughts, feelings, and actions) of people that have continuity in time and that may or may not be

easily understood in terms of the social and biological pressures of the immediate situation alone.

- e) Calvin S. Hall and Garder Lindzey (1985:4), personality is seen by some as centered on the individual's effort to adjust to his or her environment.
- f) Carl Jung in Hall and Lindzey (1985:119) said that there are two main features of personality, these are introversion and extraversion. The introversion orients a person toward subjective experience or focus on the inner, private world. Whereas the extraversion only focuses on objective experience or external world.

Personality is not as natural as talent, but is formed by a process of socialization which become the psychological tendency for someone to perform a specific social behavior, whether in the form of feeling, thinking, acting, and wills and deeds. If a person want to describe an individual's personality, this person can look at the behaviour in different ways, from different angles, or in different social settings.

Cattell in Subhan (2010:65-66) said,

Cattell advocates a trait theory to describe personality. There are sixteen basic traits of personality. They are: (1) reserved <> outgoing, (2) less intelligent <> more intelligent, (3) affected by feelings <> emotionally stable, (4) submissive <> dominant, (5) serious <> happy-go-lucky, (6) expedient <> conscientious, (7) timid <> venturesome, (8) tough-minded <> sensitive, (9) trusting <> suspicious, (10) practical <> imaginative, (11) forthright <> shrewd, (12) self-assured <> apprehensive, (13) conservative <> experimenting, (14) group-dependent <> self-sufficient, (15) uncontrolled <> controlled, (16) relaxed <> tense.

In this research, the researcher analyzes the personality of the main character, Pari, using Cattell's theory. The researcher tries to find out that theory of personality in the novel *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini. There are some Pari's personality as follows :

### **Intelligent**

The nature of *intelligent* means "having a high level of ability to learn, understand, and think about things, or showing this ability." (Longman, 2008: 837). It can be concluded that people with more intelligence are clever or smart. Pari is an intelligent woman. Pari took her studies related to mathematics in one of the most famous and prestigious universities at the Sorbonne in Paris. Only selected people can enter and join in this campus. A high intelligence person who could join in this campus. This university is categorized into old university because it was established in 1257 by

Robert de Sorbon and it produce many of scientists, politician, well known artist, and so on. Pari can joined in this university because she has a high intelligence and now Pari becomes a mathematician. Pari was very happy to learn mathematics. Shedid it sincerely. It can be seen in the quotations below:

“Nila: my daughter, Pari. Like the city but no s. It means “fairy”. That picture is from a trip to Normandy we took, the two of us. Back in 1957, I think. She must have been eight.

Étienne: Does she live in Paris?

Nila: She studies mathematics at the Sorbonne.” (Hosseini, 2013: 211).

After Pari graduated and she gained a degree in previous, Pari has ambitions and desire to continue her studies into a higher level to get a Ph.D in mathematics. Ph.D is the highest title in academic.

“They decide they will travel that summer, when school is out for Eric and Pari can take a brief hiatus from her Ph.D. work. Eric registers them both for Farsi classes with a tutor he has found through the mother of one of his pupils. Pari often finds him on the couch wearing headphones, cassette player on his chest, his eyes shut in concentration as he mutters heavily accented *Thankyou* and *Hellos* and *How are you?s* in Farsi.

A few weeks before summer, just as Eric is looking into airfare and accommodations, Pari discovers she is pregnant.

“We would still go,” Eric says. “We should still go.”

It is Pari who decides against it. “It’s irresponsible,” she says. They are living in a studio with faulty heating, leaky plumbing, no air-conditioning, and an assortment of scavenged furniture.” (Hosseini, 2013:243).

After Pari completed her study and obtain a Ph.D., Pari accepted jobs as a lecturer to teach at a reputable university in Paris. She has an outstanding intelligence. Pari was an unparalleled woman. No one who could equal Pari’s intelligence. The intelligences of Pari becomes a discussion subject in academic. Pari was appointed as a lecturer to teach in one of famous and prestigious universities in Paris. Not all of people are given a chance to teach at that well know university. Only a person who has good ability and high integrity can teach there. Persistence, diligence, perseverance, and spirit of Pari make she was satisfied. Pari has been named to be one of the youngest woman who became a professor in the department. Pari did not only has the ingenuity in learning

mathematics, but Pari is also proficient in speaking. Pari's intelligences are shown in her mastering two languages, French and English, and taking the decision quickly.

“Pari accepts an offer to teach at a prominent university in Paris. She becomes subject, for a time, to the expected academic jostling and pettiness—not surprising, given that, at thirty-six, she is the youngest professor in the department and one of only two women.” (Hosseini, 2013: 247).

### **Suspicious**

*Suspicious* means, “feeling that somebody has done something wrong, illegal or dishonest, without having any proof.” (Hornby, 2000:1312). Pari is always suspicious to the woman who adopted her, Nila Wahdati. Pari suspects there is something hidden by Nila, something related to Pari's past life. Pari is curious and wonders over all attitude of Nila to Pari. Pari felt there was a different thing between her and her adoptive mother. Beauty owned by Nila is disproportionate to Pari. Pari was jealous because her mother is more beautiful than her. Nila has an ideal body and a charming face, while Pari did not. Those facts make Pari surprised.

“She marveled again at how young and beautiful Maman was—Maman, who was only twenty years older than herself. Her long dark hair, her full chest, her startling eyes, and a face that glowed with the intimidating sheen of classic regal features. Pari marveled further at how little resemblance she herself bore to Maman, with her solemn pale eyes, her long nose, her gap-toothed smile, and her small breasts.” (Hosseini, 2013:204).

Pari also feels the difference between Pari and her adoptive father, Suleiman Wahdati. Pari does not feel resemble with her adoptive father. It can be proved in the photograph of his father along Pari.

“She didn't resemble her father much either, Pari believed. He had been a tall man with a serious face, a high forehead, narrow chin, and thin lips. Pari kept a few pictures of him in her room from her childhood in the Kabul house.” (Hosseini, 2013:204-205)

Suspicion is not only seen from her physical appearance, but Pari sees that there is a difference other which is felt by Pari. The difference was obvious from passion or interest between Pari and Nila. Pari was so suspicious and wondered why Nila got confused and tended to dislike Pari's choice. Pari thought about Nila why she did it to

her. Pari assumed that she should have same passion with her mom, but in fact Nila did not like it. Pari's desire in learning mathematics is not liked by Nila. Nila preferred to be a poet. That was made Pari suspicious. Pari was disappointed to be treated like that. Nila's attitude tends to regulate and curb Pari's life in accordance with wishes of Nila.

“Later, he asked, and she told him, about her studies and her focus on complex variables. He listened in a way that Maman never did—Maman, who seemed bored by the subject and mystified by Pari’s passion for it. Maman couldn’t even feign interest. She made lighthearted jokes that, on the surface, appeared to poke fun at her own ignorance. *Oh là là*, she would say, grinning, *my head! My head! Spinning like a totem! I’ll make you a deal, Pari. I’ll pour us some tea, and you return to the planet, d’accord?* She would chuckle, and Pari would humor her, but she sensed an edge to these jokes, an oblique sort of chiding, a suggestion that her knowledge had been judged esoteric and her pursuit of it frivolous. *Frivolous*. Which was rich, Pari thought, coming from a poet, though she would never say so to her mother.

“Julien asked what she saw in mathematics and she said she found it comforting.”

“I might have chosen ‘daunting’ as a more fitting adjective,” he said.

“It is that too.”

“She said there was comfort to be found in the permanence of mathematical truths, in the lack of arbitrariness and the absence of ambiguity. In knowing that the answers may be elusive, but they could be found. They were there, waiting, chalk crumbles away.” (Hosseini, 2013: 221-222).

### **Apprehensive**

*Apprehensive* means that “worried or frightened that something unpleasant may happen.” (Hornby, 2000:50). It can be concluded that someone feel anxious and scared that bad incident will occur. Pari is a apprehensive woman. Pari is a young woman who has a high respect and worries. Pari got panicked and worried about her adoptive father’s condition. Pari was afraid that something bad might happen to her adoptive father. Pari’s heart was unstable at that time. She did not know what she should do with her father. Pari can only bewail her sadness about her adoptive father.

“Mr. Wahdati was sitting up in bed, dressed in a white undershirt. He was making strange guttural sounds. His face was pale and drawn, his hair

disheveled. He was repeatedly trying, and failing, to perform some task with his right arm, and I noticed with horror that a line of spittle was streaking down from the corner of his mouth.

“Nabi! Do something!”

Pari, who was six by then had come into the room, and now she scampered over to Mr. Wahdati’s bedside and pulled on his undershirt. “Papa? Papa?” He looked down at her, wide-eyed, his mouth opening and closing. She screamed.” (Hosseini, 2013: 116).

Not only that, Pari really worries with her adoptive mother, Nila. Pari worried because Nila felt ill and needed medical treatment in a hospital. Pari was really worried with her adoptive mother’s condition. Pari’s worry became higher when her adoptive mother is hospitalized in emergency room. She found out about the condition of adoptive mother. Pari met the doctor who examined and cared for Nila. Pari asked about the condition of her adoptive mother, Nila. She asked how worse the condition of Nila was and whether she can she be alright or not. Then doctor calm Pari's mind by explaining the conditions Nila at that time. Doctor also recommended that Nila to reduce her drinking for the sake of her mother.

“How bad was it?”

“She was quite ornery,” he says. “And, I should say, rather theatrical.”

They share a brief grin.

“Will she be all right?”

“Yes, in the short term,” Dr. Delaunay says. “But I must recommend , and quite emphatically, that she reduce her drinking. She was lucky this time, but who’s to say next time . . .”

Pari nods. “Where is she?”

He leads her back into the emergency room and around the corner. “Bed three. I’ll be by shortly with discharge instructions.”

Pari thanks him and makes her way to her mother’s bed.” (Hosseini, 2013:199).

Pari has personality, apprehensive to her pet. She worries about her dog, Shuja. She thinks that someone will harm the dog.

“Pari said, “Abollah?”

“Yes.”

“Do you think Shuja is sad?”



“I think he’s fine.”

“No one will hurt him?”

“He’s a big dog, Pari. He can defend himself.” (Hosseini, 2013:26).

## **Uncontrolled**

*Uncontrolled* (of emotions, behaviour, etc.) means that “somebody cannot control or stop.” (Hornby, 2000:1409). Someone who cannot control their emotion, that person can be easily angered and sad. Sometimes, person who cannot control her/his emotion will become anarchist to others. Pari belongs to people who cannot control her own emotions. Pari struggled when she is separated with her brother Abdullah and forced to live with Wahdatis. The condition when Pari got separated with brother straining. Pari was hysterical, she can not control her own emotions. Pari struggled and insisted, that she did not want to be separated with her brother. Pari shouted by calling the name of Abdullah. Pari was thrashing by kicking her feet. Nila shut Pari’s mouth off to prevent her further screaming about her brother, Abdullah.

“Pari slung over my shoulder, panic-stricken, kicking her legs, shrieking, *Abollah! Abollah!* as I whisked her away. Abdullah, screaming his sister’s name, trying to fight past his father. Nila, wide-eyed, her mouth covered with both hands, perhaps to silence her own scream.” (Hosseini, 2013:112).

## **The Plot of the Novel**

In a novel, a plot is the whole event in a story, especially towards the achievement of some particular artistic or emotional effect. Schwiebert (2005:163) stated, the plot of a story refers to the pattern of actions and events that combine to produce a total effect in readers. The novel *And the Mountains Echoed* uses progressive plot. It is because the author describes a story with a sequence of events would come or chronologically (progressive). According to Tennyson in Subhan (2010:23) plot consists of exposition, rising action, crisis, falling action, and catastrophe or resolution. They are the plot in the novel *And the Mountains Echoed*. The exposition of the novel when Nabi told about his past life in Shadbagh and Nila wanted to visit Nabi’s hometown. The rising action when Saboor and Pari went to Wahdati’s home in Kabul. Pari was separated from Abdullah. Pari cried and screamed her brother’s name, Abdullah. The crisis when Pari was suspicious with adoptive parents. Pari felt that there

were different things about her adoptive father and mother and also her past life. The falling action when Markos told the truth about Pari's past life based on Nabi's letter. The catastrophe when Pari met her brother, Abdullah. She was enough happy because her brother did not remember Pari and his past life with Pari.

### **The Moral Value of the Novel**

Moral values in a literary work means the principles of right and wrong behaviour, which are important to be conveyed to the readers to improve their moral standard (Hornby, 1995:755). In a novel, moral values can be seen through the analysis of the novel. There are two kinds of moral values. First, positive moral values refer to the criteria of right and good values. Second, the negative moral values refer to the criteria of wrong or bad values. There are some moral values that can be taken from the novel of *And the Mountains Echoed*. They are:

#### **Positive Moral Values**

The researcher finds some positive moral values that can be taken for the readers to be a good people in the future. The positive moral values are:

- a) Having a friendship makes someone do not feel lonely. It means a relationship between friends (Hornby, 2000:516). Friend is people who know about us, and care when we have some problem and give support. Friendship is a beautiful relationship. Nabi as a Pari's stepuncle had a good relationship.
- b) Caring makes someone respected and liked by other people around him/her. Care is giving a lot of attention to others people who she/he loves (Hornby, 2000:176). Pari was fortunate to have a brother like Abdullah. Abdullah was so care to Pari. He tried to do what Pari wants. Abdullah has a willing to take care of Pari because of his care.

#### **Negative Moral Values**

Negative moral values refer to wrong attitude and bad moral values that should be avoided and never done by the readers. It will be bad for the person who apply them in real life. Negative morals are stated as follow:

- a) Being dishonest makes someone distrusted by other people around him/her. Dishonest is not honest, intending to deceive people (Hornby, 2000:360). Nila Wahdati was a dishonest woman. She lies to Pari about her past life in Kabul. She does not want to tell or explain about the fact. She withheld the fact about Pari's adoptive father.

- b) Being a drunker makes someone avoided by others. Drunk means feeling the effects of alcoholic drink (Hornby, 2000:360). Drunk makes someone doing cruelly and brutally. This person will doing something as one likes. He or she does not think it will be harmful or not. Nila is a drunkard.

## Conclusion

Khaled Hosseini is an Afghan-American novelist and physicist. She was born on March 4, 1965 in Kabul, Afghanistan. One of his popular literary work entitled *And the Mountains Echoed*. *And the Mountains Echoed* is an interesting novel because it presents the relationship between young people, named Abdullah and his sister, Pari. They care each other. Their father, Saboor, decided to sell Pari to a couple that do not have a child in Kabul. The novel also explains the personality of the main character. The main character of the novel is Pari. Abdullah was care to Pari since their biological mother, Masooma, was passed away when she bore Pari. Abdullah always protects and take care of Pari. Abdullah substituted as the mother role in taking care of Pari while she was a baby. The financial of Saboor's family is not good. Then he decided to sell Pari to fulfill their daily needs. The personalities of the main character are:

The first is the personality of the main character. There are four personalities of the main character. Firstly, the main character has more intelligent than others. Secondly, Pari has suspicious personality that Nila Wahdati as a adoptive mother do not trust about Pari's past life. Third, she was apprehensive to her pet and her adoptive parents, Suleiman and Nila. Fourthly, the main character has uncontrolled emotions. Pari cannot control when she did not want to be separated with her brother, Abdullah.

The plot of the novel. In the novel *And the Mountains Echoed* used progressive plot. It is because the author describes a story with a sequence of events which would come or chronologically (progressive). Plot consists of exposition, rising action, crisis, falling action, and catastrophe or resolution. The last problem of the novel has several moral values. Moral values which can be taken from in this novel are positive and negative. The positive moral values from this novel are having a friendship makes someone do not feel lonely and caring makes someone respected and liked by other people around him/her. Whereas, the negative moral values are being dishonest makes someone distrusted by other people around him/her and being a drunker makes someone avoided by others.

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