

## PHSYCOANALYSIS LACAN IN HEROINE CHARACTERIZATION ON “BLOODY CHAMBER” BY ANGELA CARTER

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**Abstract:** The Novella title "The Bloody Chamber" is a fairy tale story that is a fairy tale novel that takes a feminist point of view. This study aims to explore the characterization of the Heroine in the story through psychoanalysis Lacan. the method used in this analysis is the library research method with feminist criticism. The researcher found that the three-phase pass by Heroine in the story 1. the real phase when Heroine first feels married and feels an undescribed feeling. 2. Imaginary phase, when Heroine begins to identify her surroundings and discover her identity. and 3. the symbolic phase, when Heroine discovers the reality of the Marquise and the Bloody Chamber

**Keywords:** Feminist criticism, Bloody Chamber, Psychoanalysis Lacan

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Submissions : February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Revisions : March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Publications : April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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### PENDAHULUAN

Historically, women are often in a disadvantageous position (Cortis & Cassar, 2005; Eagly, 2007; Nwoye, 2007; Zdravomyslova, 2014). They are marginalized, not considered, and even worse exploited. Women do not have the autonomy to speak up and decide what they want (Deuze, 2005). This is all motivated by the existence of a stigma, a constructive social culture, and the assumption that women are weak, second-class beings. As declared by Aristotle “women are women by virtue of a lack of certain qualities”, and St. Thomas Aquinas believed that women were imperfect men”

Women are created as creatures with all the beauty that is often exploited by men (Gruen, 2018). The beauty that is owned is commercialized both in the form of goods such as in advertisements for shampoo, soap, cigarettes, and even cars, as well as in other forms of services such as Lobby boy, flight attendants, and so on. This commercialization also penetrates into world literature such as poetry, novels, or novella. From poetry to novels, almost all of them describe women with their beauty with other sensual descriptions. Women are used as sexual objects solely for the purpose of satisfying men's desires (Drew, 2003; Haselton & Gangestad, 2006; Homey, 2018). Such as in the woman at point zero by Nawal El-Sadaawi.

However, the Bloody Chamber by Angela charter is one of it is one of the novels that are able to overhaul the depiction of a woman, especially in a fairy tale (Cardillo, 2018; Fatima, 2019; İşler, 2022). Like other feminist stories, this novella presents the power relation between man and woman through the Heroine and her husband; Marquise (Barrio Caxide, n.d.; Hong, 2022). However, Carter brought a different characterization of women. In a fairy tale story, women are usually described as pretty, graceful, innocent, and

submissive. The traits embedded in women have a lot to do with their physical characteristics. They are passive characters. Meanwhile in this story women describes as strong, talented, actively has decisions in their own life.

This novel was written in 1979, a time when there was a movement to eliminate sexual discrimination. Through her novel, Carter brings the reader to a woman's perspective on the relationship they had with men at that time. patriarchy is still entrenched and men still have full power over women.

### **LANDASAN TEORI**

Many previous researchers analyze this novella through feminist criticism. Such as a research title "Specularizing Myth: (De)Constructing Feminine Identity In "The Bloody Chamber" And "Wolf-Alice" by Angela Carter" that focuses on the conflation of feminine heterosexual desire and mortal danger through a Freudian lens. (Aggarwal, 2020). Or "feminist re-writing in Angela Carter's The Bloody Chamber" by (Priyanka, 2019). Katarina (2018) also explained deeply how a woman struggles to give close attention to the second-wave feminism agenda, a movement to which Angela Carter belonged herself in her thesis title "a feminist revision of the fairy-tale in an Angela Carter's "The Bloody Chamber". And many more.

In this case, the author focuses on the character of Heroine as the main character in the story. The author uses the approach of Psychoanalysis as a tool for analyzing the psychological behavior of the Heroine in Carter's novella. Psychoanalytic Theory which will be used is Lacan's Psychoanalysis. Lacan is a French psychoanalyst who developed the psychoanalysis of Sigmund Freud based on semiology. The main focus of his studies is unconsciousness, the previous one introduced by Freud. According to Lacan, the unconscious realm is a structured realm like language. In fact, the subconscious is present along with language. On the other hand, language shows the underworld of someone's unconscious mind and he divided it into three-phase there are the real, the imaginary, and the symbolic (Fitri, 2019).

So, this writing aims to analyze the passion and characterization of the Heroine in the novella The Bloody Chamber by Angela Carter using psychoanalytic Lacan theory. Discussion regarding the character and the character's desire with analysis unconscious (subconscious stream) which is the relationship between the emergence of desire and mechanism defense to acquire objects of desires

### **METODE PENELITIAN**

This study uses a literary psychology approach, psychoanalytic feminism. a critique that is concerned with the impact of gender on writing and reading. This research was conducted to find out the description of women in the symbolic world based on the desire of the main female character in the novella the Bloody Chamber. The method used in this research is the descriptive analysis method. The data collection technique is done by a literature study..

### **HASIL PENELITIAN**

This novel uses the first-person point of view to explore the protagonist character (Heroine). It was a media that Carter used to deliver her point of view about women; women's feelings, position, doubt, and thought through the protagonist created, the first-person point of view in Bloody Chamber is how feminist perception started (Priyanka, 2019).

The Story is opened with Heroine; the main character in the story who will marry the Marquise. In this case, Carter clearly described the difference between the Marquise and the Heroine. The marquise was rich, educated, and aged. whereas she is a virgin young girl, poor and uneducated. She is married at 17th years old. In this initial scene, Carter introduces the figure of a good and educated Marquis, so that it is able to make Heroine

want to marry him at a very different age. Her mother's doubts about the marriage which she dismissed illustrate Heroine's own hopes for a beautiful marriage.

He was rich as Croesus. The night before our wedding--a simple affair, at the Mairie, because his countess was so recently gone--he took my mother and me, curious coincidence, to see Tristan. And, do you know, my heart swelled and ached so during the Liebestod that I thought I must truly love him. (Carter, 1979, p. 4)

If it refers to the discussion of the Psychoanalytic Triad Lacan, the hypothesis that emerged from this stage of exposition is the Heroine as the driving force of the story is in the territory of The Real. In the Real phase, humans are like when they were in the mother's womb, where no one was able to explain the atmosphere and discuss the feeling of comfort at that time (Prabhawita, 2019). Like the Heroine, at the time after married, she is not able to describe how the feeling she was the first time she married. The only thing she knows is She must truly love Marquise.

The second phase of development of the character of the Heroine in the story is when she is already living in the Castle with the Marquise. the phase where she is far from his mother. Carter mostly described the physical condition of the Marquis' house and the activities in it. The adaptation process carried out by Heroine is what then leads her to the discovery of her identity. Like the scene where Heroine looks in the mirror and finds herself there, not as her mother's girl, but as the Marquis' Wife. The identification process represents the phase of "Imaginary". according to Lacan, in the Imaginary region or stage in a mirror, humans have not been able to directly coordinate the movements of their organs. This stage teaches humans to identify forms or individual forms. In the scene, the heroine had many experiences that made her realize her true self.

I dropped my eyes but, in glancing away from him, I caught sight of myself in the mirror. And I saw myself, suddenly, as he saw me, my pale face, the way the muscles in my neck stuck out like thin wire. I saw how much that cruel necklace became me. And, for the first time in my innocent and confined life, I sensed in myself a potentiality for corruption that took my breath away. (Carter, 1979, p. 5)

In this long imaginary process, the researcher discovered the Heroine's perceptions of the Marquise. An educated person married her. he served her well in her majestic castle. However, those perceptions will be broken and will lead Heroine to the real reality. The third phase begins with the Marquise having to leave Heroine during their honeymoon due to business matters. then the Marquise handed all the keys to the room of his house to Heroine with the prohibition of one room that was not allowed to be opened. out of ego and curiosity, after the departure of the Marquise Heroine opened the forbidden room. She found the three bodies of her husband's ex-wife, which were beautifully preserved and arranged in a coffin.

My mother's spirit drove me on, into that dreadful place, in a cold ecstasy to know the very worst. I fumbled for the matches in my pocket; what a dim, lugubrious light they gave! And yet, enough, oh, more than enough, to see a room designed for desecration and some dark night of unimaginable lovers whose embraces were annihilation.

In this scene, At the time Heroine is aware of the reality around her, her perceptions that have been wrong all this time led Heroine to enter the third phase, namely "Symbolic", a phase where she actually has language, and social order, and has undeniable laws. Another evidence that marks that the Heroine has come out of the Imaginary phase is the emergence

of desire in the Heroine. It starts when she began to disobey Marquise's prohibition and decided to explore the forbidden room.

At the end of the story, Heroine Realizes the end of her life. The Marquise would decapitate him and make her like his three former wives. and luckily, because of a mother's instinct Heroine was finally saved from the execution.

Overall, the development of Heroine's psychological condition as a 17-year-old girl who is initially innocent becomes a brave, and critical woman is the feminist point of view that Carter uses. Moreover, the presence of a mother figure who is the hero of the protagonist implies that women can also be as tough as men

## **PENUTUP**

The novella title "Bloody Chamber" is one of the media used by Carter uses in rewriting the character of a brave, independent woman in a fairy tale that is rarely brought up. In this story, the researcher found that there are three phases that Heroine goes through in finding her true self. 1. the real phase, is when Heroine first feels marriage and feels an undescribed feeling. 2. Imaginary phase, when Heroine begins to identify her surroundings and discover her identity. and 3. the symbolic phase, when Heroine discovers the reality of the Marquise and the Bloody Chamber.

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