



**AIBILEEN'S PERSONALITY IN TATE TAYLOR'S
THE HELP (2011) MOVIE**

A THESIS

In Partial Fulfillment of the requirements for S-1 Degree
Majoring American Studies in the English Department, Faculty
of Humanities Diponegoro University

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SEMARANG
2022

PRONOUNCEMENT

I hereby declare that this submission is my own work and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains no material previously published or written by another person that has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma of the university or other institute of higher learning, except where due acknowledgment has been made in writing.

Semarang, 28 November 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Azzahratul Humaira', written in a cursive style.

Azzahratul Humaira

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“Everything in this world has its own time, so there is no need to rush, just enjoy the process”

-Anonymous

“I am not in competition with anyone but myself. My goal is to improve myself continuously”

- Bill Gates

*This thesis is dedicated to my
beloved family, those who I
love, and of course to myself
who have attempted to complete
this thesis.*

APPROVAL

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In the name of Allah, the most Gracious, the most Merciful

May peace and blessing of Allah be upon all of us.

First of all, the writer would like to thank Allah SWT, for His blessing and guidance all this years, so the writer could finish this thesis. Then, may peace be upon to our beloved prophet Muhammad SAW, his family, his companion, and all his followers.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my advisor, Rifka Pratama, S.Hum., M.A for his great patience, time, guidance, kindness, and contribution in correcting and helping me to finish this thesis. The writer is very grateful for all of his advices and efforts that have been given to me without which the writer would be doubtful to accomplish this thesis successfully. May Allah SWT bless him and his family.

My greatest thank also goes to following:

1. Dr. Nurhayati, M.Hum, as the Dean of Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University.
2. Dr. Oktiva Herry Chandra, M.Hum as the Head of the English Department of the Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University.

3. All lecturers of English Department of the Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University. Precious knowledge and their advice would be unforgettable for the writer.
4. My beloved family who are the biggest reasons and motivation for the writer to finish this thesis.
5. My beloved best friend, Yeni, Iyang, and Janur, for their encouragement and affection that encouraged the writer to continue to be enthusiastic in writing this thesis.
6. Other friends in arms who either indirectly or directly gave their support to the writer to complete this thesis.

This thesis, of course, needs to be improved because the writer recognized that it is far from perfect. As a result, any recommendation or constructive suggestion would be welcomed and appreciated. Finally, the writer hopes that this thesis will be useful to anyone interested in learning about personality structure or any other related field in general.

Semarang, 28 November 2022



Azzahratul Humaira

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ABSTRACT

Tate Taylor's 2011 movie, *The Help*, is based on Kathryn Stockett's novel of the same name. This movie is about black women in Jackson, Mississippi, who work as maids in white households. This study is written by using qualitative method where the data was collected by using library research method, which the data is *The Help* movie as the primary source, and some supporting sources such as books, journals, e-books, and website articles as a secondary source. The purpose of this study is to examine the performance of the personality structure of Aibileen, one of the main characters in this movie. Furthermore, the author examines how Aibileen's social life influences the performance of her personality structure. The writer uses the theory of personality by Sigmund Freud, the Id, Ego, and Superego, to analyze Aibileen's personality structure, and the theory of defense mechanism to analyze the effects of her social environment to her personality structure performances. The writer also used the narrative approach to analyze the intrinsic aspect of the movie, namely the conflict that Aibileen faced, the characterization of Aibileen, and the social environment setting in this movie. As a result of this research, the author discovered that Aibileen's personality structure can be seen in Aibileen's behavior and reaction to an event she faced. Then, in its realization, her social environment has a very visible effect. In the beginning her personality structure was worked properly, but once the conflict appear, she began to experience psychological conflicts both internal and external and her ego start to create some defense mechanism to protect her.

Keywords: *The Help*, Aibileen, Personality Structure, Sigmund Freud, Psychoanalysis.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Human beings are social beings. It is obvious from the moment a child is born, when he or she is introduced to the social world by the parents, who are in charge of taking care of the child. Every action or inaction a person takes in society is influenced by his social life, which includes his way of living, thinking, seeing the world, and personality. It just like what Robert Golding stated on his journal article that society has an impact on every aspect of life, even the most private and intimate ones (1982, p. 546). As a result, it is emphasized that society comes before any idealistic viewpoint that links pre-social existence to the person.

Psychoanalysis is one of many methods that can assist us in understanding the complexities of the relationship between society and the individual. Psychoanalysis can provide us with a portrait of the person as flawed and conflicted regarding society, influenced by but at odds with societal expectations (Golding, p. 545).

Avshalom Caspi and Brent W. Roberts (2001, p. 56) in their article that published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc., *Psychological Inquiry*, stated that socio-environment has a correlation with how someone's personality is develop. They stated that several longitudinal studies have found significant continuities in the "psychological press" of children's and adults' socialization

environments; significant continuities have also been found in observational studies as well as parents' reports of childrearing practices from childhood to adolescence. Furthermore, they also added that according to Warren & Hauser (1997) the socio-environmental conditions of adult life that affect material, physical, and psychological well-being exhibit remarkable intra-generational persistence.

The Help (2011) movie is based on Kathryn Stockett's 2009 novel of the same name. It tells the story of a Black servant who worked in the early 1960s in a White Southern home. The plot revolves around two black servants named Aibileen and Minny, as well as a white young woman named Skeeter. It's also the story of how Skeeter was inspired by the maids to write a book about them.

The writer is interested in using a psychological approach to analyze the personality of one of the characters in this film, Aibileen. The author is curious to see how Aibileen's personality structure, which is based on Sigmund Freud's theory, works, and how Aibileen's social life affects the performance of her personality structure; the id, ego, and superego. In addition, the writer is also interested in analyzing the application of intrinsic elements contained in the story told by *The Help* movie.

1.2 Research Problems

Based on the description above, the problem of the study are:

1. How does Aibileen's personality based on Sigmund Freud's theory of personality structure work?
2. How does Aibileen's social life affect the performance of her personality structure?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The writer formulates that the objective of the study are as follows:

1. To describe Aibileen's personality by using Sigmund Freud's personality theory, the id, ego, and superego.
2. To analyze how Aibileen's social life affect the performance of her personality structure.

1.4 Previous Studies

In writing this thesis, the writer uses several previous studies in which some of them have the same research object as the research object in this thesis and some of them are research that uses the same theory as the theory that the writer uses in writing this thesis.

Nurindah Khusnul Khotimah (2013), the student of Education in English Department, School of Teacher Training and Education of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, conducted undergraduate thesis entitled "*Racial Discrimination Reflected in Tate Taylor's 'The Help Movie (2011)': A Sociological Approach*". The study concludes that there is racial discrimination in

the film based on the sociological approach she used. Taylor demonstrates that the White employer is discriminatory. On the other hand, structural analysis reveals Tate Taylor's desire to present his point of view on the distinction between whites and blacks.

Hartatik (2013), the student of Education in English Department, School of Teacher Training and Education of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta , used feminist approach to the movie in her undergraduate thesis entitled “*Race and Gender Discrimination Reflected in the Tate Taylor’s “The Help” Movie (2011): A Feminist Approach*”. Based on the structural analysis of the film, she came to the conclusion that Tate Taylor intends to demonstrate that women have the same rights as White women, and that there is discrimination of race and gender in this film.

An undergraduate thesis entitled “*Psychological Problems Suffered by Anna and Sara in Jodi Picoult’s Novel “My Sister Keeper” (A Freudian Psychoanalysis)*” by Zsa Zsa Padilla (2015), student of English Language and Letters Department, Humanities Faculty of Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University of Malang, analyzes psychological problems of two characters in the story of the novel, Anna and Sara. This study reveals that the psychological issues that arise in Anna and Sara's lives are caused by a conflict between their Id, Ego, and Superego. Their id’s drive and their super ego's moral compass influence

them to take one action consciously of their ego is building their personality over the course of the story.

Two students from English Language Education Study Program Department of Language and Arts Education, Faculty of Teachers Training and Education of Sanata Dharma University Yogyakarta, also conducted a study on *The Help* novel by Kathryn Stockett. First is the study by Regina Novelisa Gusmanthi (2017) entitled “*The Meaning of Racism Issues Faced by The Three main Characters of Kathryn Stockett’s The Help*”. The author explained the personalities of the three main characters, Aibileen, Minny, and Skeeter, in this study. Aibileen is an introvert who is mature and generous; Minny is an extrovert who is bold and caring; and Skeeter is an introvert who is passionate and open-minded. She also discusses the surface and deeper meanings of the racial discrimination depicted in this movie. The surface meaning of racism describes the three main characters' problems with racism: Aibileen's loss of her only son, as well as her relationship with Mae Mobley Leefolt; Minny's dreadful chocolate pie for Hilly, as well as her relationship with Celia Rae Foote; and Skeeter's relationship with Constantine, as well as her attitude toward the paradigm created by people in society.

The other study is conducted by Lorensius Leonaraguna (2017) entitled *Aibileen’s Clark Motivation in Helping Euginia Phelan as Seen in Kathryn Stockett’s “The Help”*. From this study he found two conclusions: (1) Aibileen's

characteristics are caring, patient, brave, and smart, and (2) the motivation of Aibileen that explained by using Lahey's theory of motivation is psychological motives in achievement to have a better life.

Noviyana Rusmanila (2019), a student of English Literature Department, Adab and Humanities Faculty of State Islamic University Sulthan Thaha Saifuddin Jambi, in her thesis entitled "*Racial Discrimination as seen in 'The Help' Film by Tate Taylor*" The study describes Aibileen's social background, the types of racial discrimination that occurred in her life, and the cause and impact of racial discrimination that occurs on the black housemaid as seen in the movie. The study shows that: (1) Aibileen's social background is divided into two parts: Aibileen's parents and Aibileen herself, (2) Personal Discrimination, Institutional Discrimination, Verbal Antagonism, and Segregation are examples of racial discrimination that occurred in the movie, and (3) Racial discrimination is caused by two factors: racial and economic factors. The impact of racial discrimination on Aibileen's life includes depression, paranoia, helplessness, frustration, sadness, fear, and violence in her personal and social life.

The last study is the journal article by the title "*Psychoanalysis of Main Character's Personality in the movie Moana*" in the Journal of Language and Literature entitled *Pioneer* (2019) conducted by Izzah Afkarina and Dwi Taurina Mila. The study found eleven data in this thesis, which include the structural personality and the main character's personality, and the factor of personality

development in the movie Moana (id, ego, and superego). They discovered some factors that influence Moana's personality development, such as heredity from individual factors and the physical environment, family environment, cultural environment, and social role from the environment.

Finally, considering as far as the writer has found in the literature review that no one has used a psychological approach in analyzing the same object of study as the author, Aibileen's personality structure in Tate Taylor's *The Help* movie, the writer proposes to analyze Aibileen's personality structure by using Sigmund Freud's theory of personality. In analyzing the personality of Aibileen's character, the writer sees that her personality is influenced by her social environment, so the writer also decided to prove this conjecture by analyzing if there is any influence or whether there is something that triggers the formation of Aibileen's personality and how the form of this influence takes, which the writer think will be the thing that distinguishes this thesis from previous studies.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The writer focuses on describing Aibileen's personality using Sigmund Freud's theory of personality, the id, ego, and superego, in this thesis. The writer also focuses on analyzing how her social life affects her personality structure performances. Besides, this study also analyzes the intrinsic and cinematic aspects of the movie. For the intrinsic aspects, the writer focuses on the plots, characters

and characterizations, and setting in this movie. While for the cinematic aspects the writer focuses on camera shot and camera angle.

1.6 Writing Organization

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

This chapter includes the following sections: background of study, research problem, study objectives, previous studies, scopes of study, and writing organization.

CHAPTER II: THEORY AND METHOD

In this chapter, the writer explains the underlying theory that was used in writing this research. It elaborates the theory of intrinsic element of literary work, plot and character and characterization, theory of cinematography, and theory of personality according to Sigmund Freud.

CHAPTER III: RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This chapter contains an explanation and description of the data analysis results obtained through data analysis using the theory employed.

CHAPTER IV: CONCLUSION

This chapter provides a summary of the analysis's findings as well as recommendations for other writers who are interested in conducting research on the same topic or object as this study.

CHAPTER II

THEORY AND METHOD

2.1 Theoretical Framework

2.1.1 Intrinsic Elements

2.1.1.1 Character

Characters are the persons involved in the story. M. H. Abrams (1999, p. 32) stated that people depicted in a dramatic or narrative work who the reader interprets as having specific moral, intellectual, and emotional attributes based on what they say and how they say it in dialogue as well as what they do in action are called characters. There are two kinds of characters in the story, major character and minor character (Terms, 2015).

2.1.1.1.1 Major characters

This kind of character is the characters that take the important role in the story. There are two kind of major character, protagonist and antagonist. Protagonist is the character who also can be called as main character and support how the story continues and will affected by the conflict in making decision. Antagonist is a character or a group of character who conflict with the storyline; usually they are those who cause conflict (Terms, 2015).

2.1.1.1.2 Minor characters

Minor characters are not as important as major character but they still help to drive the story forward by their action. They might have an impact on the

protagonist or antagonist in making decision, and helping or interfering with the conflict of the story (Terms, 2015).

2.1.1.2 Characterization

In creating characters, an author needs a method used to give an idea of the characters in the story. This method usually called as characterization. Holman (1972, p. 91) explained characterization is the author's method of creating credible images of the story's imaginary characters so that they can exist for the reader as real within the confines of fiction. So characterization can be interpreted as a way which the authors use to reveal the personality of the characters in their story. According to Abrams (2016, p. 47), there are two methods that commonly used by the authors in revealing their characters, **showing** and **telling**. In the **showing** method, by simply presenting the characters talking and acting, including the character's inner thoughts, feelings, and responsiveness to events, the author allows the reader to infer the motivations and disposition that lie behind what they say and do. In **telling** method, the author interjects authoritatively to describe, and frequently evaluate, the characters' motivations and dispositional qualities.

2.1.1.3 Setting

In literature, setting refers to the location and time frame in which the action of a story takes place (Britannica, 2016), just like what Abrams (2016, p. 363) stated that the overall setting of a narrative or dramatic work refers to the

general location, historical time period, and social circumstances in which the action takes place.

William Kenny (1966, p. 40) explained that there are four elements that composed setting: 1) the actual geographic location, including topography, scenery, and even interior design details; 2) the characters' occupations and modes of daily existence; 3) the time period in which the action occurs, such as historical, period, or season of the year; 4) characters' religious, moral, intellectual, social, and emotional environments.

Based on the explanation above, it can be understood that one of the elements of setting is setting of social environment. The social setting refers to the behavior of a community's social life in a setting described in a work of fiction. It can take the form of habits, customs, traditions, beliefs, life perspectives, ways of thinking and behaving, and so on. Furthermore, the social background is linked to the character's social status, which can be low, medium, or high.

The social and cultural environment in a story is automatically determined by the writer's choice of setting and time period. Descriptions of a place setting must be accompanied by a description of social background, life behavior and community in the area concerned. A place setting has to be distinctive and typical or is it typical and more functional, with words other to be typical and more functional. The description can be strengthened by using the regional language or

a dialect common in the area. Aside from the use of regional languages, the problem of naming characters is also related to social background in many ways.

2.1.1.4 Conflict

According to C. Hugh Holman (1972, p. 118), conflict is the struggle that arises from the interactions of two opposing forces in a plot. At least one of the opposing forces is usually a person who is the story's protagonist, or if it is an animal or an inanimate object, it is treated as if it were a person. Michael Meyer (2016, pp. 51-52) explained that there are two kind of conflict that appears in the story, external and internal conflict. Internal conflict occurs when a moral or psychological issue within the protagonist is resolved, while when the protagonist is pitted against another person, nature, or society, external conflict arises. External conflicts are often accompanied by internal conflicts.

2.1.2 Cinematography

When discussing film, one of the topics that will not be left out is the cinematography of the film. Cinematography is the art of visual storytelling. Cinematography consists of all the visual elements on screen, including exposure, framing, composition, camera movement, camera angle, and film and lens selection, depth of field, zoom, focus, color, exposure, and filtration. In making a film, we are not only recording some actions by using camera, but also need to take attention to how the actions are presented to the audience (Heiderich, 2012, p. 3)

2.1.2.1 Camera Shot

In filmmaking, there are many types of shots, but in this research the writer only take three types of shot. In his book, Blain Brown (2012, p. 17) stated that the shots would represent the vocabulary in a language of cinema, and how we edit them together would be the syntax.

2.1.2.1.1 Long Shot

Any frame that contains the entire scene is considered a long shot (Brown, 2012, p. 17). The audience is not as emotionally invested in what is happening as they would be if they were close, and this distance between the camera and the subject reflects this.

2.1.2.1.2 Medium shot

The audience begins to connect with the characters on a more personal level with this shot. This is an estimate of how close someone is in a casual conversation while displaying character from the waist up. The audience(s) can see people's expressions, clothing details, and other nuances because they are closer to the action. Without focusing on any one specific character or element, the audience(s) becomes more invested in what they say and do. (Brown, 2012, p. 21)

2.1.2.1.3 Close up

This shot is a shot that is close to the face of a character or object. A close-up shot would typically cover the area from the top of the head to just below the shirt pockets. (Brown, p. 21). Character expressions and emotions are more visible and impactful, and are intended to engage the character directly and personally. Blain Brown (2012, p. 21) explained that there are several variations of this shot; medium close-up, close-up (head and shoulders), Choker (big head close-up), and Extreme close-up. The difference between each angle can be seen in the image below.

2.1.2.2 Camera Angle

Blain Brown (2012, p. 60) explained that besides being effective as a purely compositional tool, variations from eye level have ramifications for film space and psychological overtones. The viewer is being prompted to interact with the scene in a way that is different from how they typically do so when it is not at eye level. There are three types of camera angle that Blain described in his book; High angle, Low angle, and Dutch Tilt.

2.1.2.2.1 High angle

The camera is placed higher than the character or object. This angle makes the character or object appears smaller and, in some contexts, closes off from its surroundings. High angles are useful for establishing or expository shots where the audience must understand the layout of the scene. This perspective

serves to remind the viewer that when viewing a subject from a high vantage point, gazing down on it, the general structure and scale of the scene, including any streets, buildings, or landscape, can be seen (Brown, 2012, p. 64).

2.1.2.2.2 Low angle

In this camera angle, the camera is placed lower than a character or object. A low angle can give a character a threatening and menacing appearance. The audience shares the character's astonishment or feeling of mystery when a character approaches something from a low angle because only the character's perspective is revealed. When a character is portrayed from a low angle, viewers might feel his anxiety (2012, p. 65).

2.1.2.2.3 Dutch Tilt

This type of camera angle can elicit a wide range of emotions and is frequently used to add drama to a film. To accomplish this, the cameramen must tilt the camera to one side, causing the frame to be off-level. Blain (2012, p. 66) explained that camera's lens is slightly off in this angle. As a result of it, walls, doorways, telephone poles, and any other vertical feature will appear out of plumb. Off-level vertical and horizontal views are substantially more perceptually sensitive than views that are vertical or horizontal.

2.1.3 Extrinsic Elements

2.1.3.1 Freudian Psychoanalysis

Psychology of literary was born as one type of literary study used to read and interpret literary works, authors of literary works, and readers using various concepts and theories that exist in psychology. Psychological criticism of literature is concerned with literary works primarily as an expression, in the form of fiction, of the individual writer's state of mind and personality structure (Abrams, 2016, p. 319).

Psychoanalysis was originally known as a method of healing people with mental illnesses by learning about the conscious and unconscious elements of the mind. It is also a technique for comprehending a person's behavior. The founder of psychoanalysis is Sigmund Freud (1856-1939). His psychoanalysis theory was inspired by a case study of a patient known as Anna O, a woman named Bertha Pappenheim, who suffered from physical symptoms without a physical cause. This case stimulated Freud's interest in the unconscious mind and helped to shape some of his most influential ideas.

In 1923, Freud presented his book *The Ego and The Id*, which developed the structure of human personality into three parts, the id, the ego, and the superego. Certain aspects of personality, according to Freud, are more basic and may exert pressure to act on most of the basic drives. Other aspects of the personality work against these desires, attempting to force people to conform to reality's demands (Cherry, 2020, p. 1).

2.1.3.1.1 The Id

The term "id" refers to inborn drives and sexual and aggressive drives which are impulsive parts that need to be directly and immediately respond. According to APA (American Psychological Association) Dictionary (dictionary.apa.org), id (n) is “*the component of the personality that contains the instinctual, biological drives that supply the psyche with its basic energy or libido*”, so that the id is the personality component that is present in human life since their birth.

Primary thought processes involving the id are primitive, illogical, irrational, and fantasy-oriented. This type of process thinking is self-centered and wishful thinking, with no grasp of objective reality. It does not think about anything else other than the satisfaction of the "desire" itself and is instinctual. A person will experience pleasure when the id fulfills its demands, and when rejected someone will experience 'displeasure' or tension (McLeod, 2019), for example, when someone is in hunger he should immediate attempt to eat no matter how, the important thing is that he can get rid of his hunger.

The pleasure principle of Id can be processed in two ways, *Reflect Action* and *Primary Process* (ustpsikologiadmin, 2015). *Reflect action*, like eye blinking, is an inborn automatic reaction that is used to treat simple gratification of stimuli and is usually immediate. While The *Primary process* is the reaction of imagining something that reduces or relieves tension - used in response to complex stimuli such as a hungry baby imagining food or its mother's nipple. In this case, the id

can only imagine something that truly satisfies the need, without being able to distinguish between fantasy and reality. The id is morally deficient, unable to judge or distinguish between what is truly wrong. This reason prompts the id to summon the ego.

2.1.3.1.2 The Ego

Anthony Bateman and Jeremy Holmes (1995, p. 36) stated that: The term "ego" refers to the conscious and unconscious rational, reality-oriented, and executive aspects of personality. The ego in human personality is the one that in charge of regulating how a person makes decisions. It works as the mediator and controller between the unrealistic and impulsive id and the external real world. It operates on the reality principle, which seeks to satisfy the desires of the id in a realistic and socially appropriate manner. Freud (1923, p.15) gave an analogy about the id and the ego where the id is being a horse while the ego is the rider, he said that: *“like a man on horseback, who has to hold in check the superior strength of the horse”* (McLeod, 2019). For example, when someone really wants to get a high score in a subject, his id will suggest doing anything to get that grade no matter how it is, such as cheating. But the ego will reject the desire because cheating is a bad action, so the ego suggests him studying hard to get that score.

2.1.3.1.3 The Superego

The term superego refers to conscience and ideals; like ego ideals, some are passed down through internalization of parents or other authority figures,

as well as cultural influences from childhood onwards, which develops around the age of 3 - 5 years (Bateman & Holmes, 1995, p. 35). The superego is morals, principles and ethics. It considers social standards for social behavior and guides us about what is right and wrong. It is heavily influenced by what children learn from adults. Finally, people accept this training as a part of their identity. People pressure their selves to live the way they think they should behave. The function of the superego is to control the id, especially that which is prohibited by society. It also has the function of persuading the ego to turn to moralistic goals rather than simply being realistic and striving for perfection.

According to Kendra Cherry (2020, p. 4), the conscience and the ego ideal are two parts of the superego. The conscience contains information about things that parents and society consider to be bad. This type of behavior is frequently prohibited and results in negative consequences, punishment, or feelings of guilt and remorse. The ego ideal is the set of rules and standards that the ego inspires. It is a fictitious representation of how one should be, how one should treat others, and how one should behave as a member of society.

2.1.3.2 Self-defense Mechanism

When there is a conflict between the desires of the id and the superego, the ego will cause humans to experience inner conflicts, feelings of guilt, fear, and depression. According to classical psychoanalysis, there are two possibilities for how this occurred. The first is a conflict between desire and external reality,

which causes inner tension and anxiety; the second is the emergence of conflict between different mind agents (Bateman & Holmes, 1995, p. 76). When this occurs, the ego assumes the role of mediator. To combat the feelings caused by the conflict between the id and the superego, the ego will construct a defense system. There are many forms of defense mechanism. In 1894 and 1896 Freud noted a number of defense mechanism through his work, after that his daughter, Anna Freud, also developed the idea of defense mechanism to elaborate his idea. Besides that, there are also many psychoanalysts add a further type of ego defense.

2.1.3.2.1 Repression

According to Anthony Bateman and Jeremy Holmes (1995, p. 77), repression occurs when a person pushes an unacceptable desire away from consciousness. It is used by the ego to keep disturbing or threatening thoughts from becoming aware (McLeod, 2019, p. 2). The person will hide the feeling such as painful memory, fact that upset them, and unsavory thoughts, instead of facing them.

2.1.3.2.2 Sublimation

This type of defense is an action where someone is redirecting his strong emotion into an object or activity that is appropriate, safe, and acceptable. This type of defense mechanism is considered as mature defense mechanism by Freud for their capacity to allow partial expression of underlying desires in a socially

acceptable manner, while enriching society (Bateman & Holmes, 1995, p. 92). For example, many composer or musician that express their feeling, their emotion through their works.

2.2 Research Method

2.2.1 Method of Data Collection

In this study, the writer collects data through library research which can helps the writer to comprehend the text. Mary W. George (2008, p. 1) explained that library research is an investigation that the researchers direct from start to finish, even though they cannot always predict which sources will be discovered. It is a type of structured inquiry with its own set of tools, rules, and techniques. The data in this method are taken in the form of primary source with other source as the support source or secondary source. A primary source is evidence that is created by or near the subject of study, and can be anything shareable, such as a speech, a sonnet, a photograph, a law, or any other type of information (George, 2008, p. 41).

The writer uses data from Tate Taylor's film *The Help* which the writer uses a film from her personal collection as the primary source of this study. The data is in the form of dialogues and scenes. To support this study, the writer also consults some secondary sources that include E-books, dictionaries, articles, journals, the internet, and other relevant sources.

2.2.2 Research Approach

The writer applies a psychological approach to analyze this movie. The psychological approach is chosen as the study's approach because it contributes significantly to the understanding of literature and offers conceptual clarity that literature alone cannot provide. Sigmund Freud believed that literary works should be treated like dreams, with psychoanalytic techniques applied to text to reveal the author's hidden motivations, repressed desires, and wishes (Blessler, 2011, p. 130).

In approaching literary works using a psychological point of view, psychological criticism is concerned with figures that become symbols of the world and existence to be presented as exemplary figures to reveal the meaning of life. According to Md. Mahroof Hossain (2017, p. 44), psychoanalytic literary criticism can focus on one or more; among the author, that analyzing the author and his life and literature, the character(s), that analyze a person or more character, psychological theory is a tool that describes the characters' behavior and motivation, and the audience(s), explaining the appeal of the work to those who read it, and the text, analyzing roles language and symbolism in work. In this case, the writer used Sigmund Freud's theory of personality and defense mechanism to analyze and to describe Aibileen's personality structure performance and how her social life affects the performance of her personality structure.

CHAPTER III

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Intrinsic Aspect

3.1.1 Aibileen's Characterization

3.1.1.1 Aibileen's Characterization by Telling Method

Aibileen is one of the major characters in the movie *The Help* (2011) by Tate Taylor. Aibileen is a middle-aged African American lady who supports herself by working as a maid in white families household, most notably the Leefolt family. She was born in 1911 in Chickasaw, Piedmont Plantation, as she said herself in the dialog: *"I was born in 1922, Chickasaw County, Piedmont Plantation"* (00:01:23-00:01:27).

Directly recounting her background, Aibileen said that she came from a family that had worked for whites for a long time. She told Skeeter that her grandmother was a slave and her mother was a maid, just like her. This background made her realize that she would become a maid just like her mother since she was a child.

Skeeter: And did you know, as a girl growing up, that one day you'd be a maid?

Aibileen: Yes, ma'am, I did

Skeeter: And you knew that because...

Aibileen: My momma was a maid. My grandmamma was a house slave

(00:01:30-00:01:45).

This dialogue indicates that Aibileen's family was a family that has no educational background and they are not a wealthy family, so that this is what led her to become a maid following her parents.

3.1.1.2 Aibileen's Characterization by Showing Method

Aibileen's physical appearance endowed with black skin, slightly fat body, a pointed nose, and curly black hair, like what depict on image 3.2 that taken with close-up shot.



Image 3.1
Aibileen's physical appearance (00:01:23)

As a maid, Aibileen enjoys looking after the kids of the family she works for. Mae Mobley, Elizabeth's daughter, is the 17th kid that Aibileen has raised. Being the first kid Aibileen has risen since the passing of her son, Treelore, Mae Mobley and Aibileen share a special affinity. For the children, Aibileen invents tales to illustrate the similarities between Black people and White people. Aibileen works to give Mae Mobley, whose mother frequently treats her harshly and criticizes her self-assurance and value, as can be seen from the dialogue: "*You is kind...You is smart...You is Important* (00:02:40-00:02:57). From image 3.2 that taken in medium shot technique, it can be seen how Aibileen reading the story

book for Mae Mobley, the audience can see the warm relationship between Aibileen and Mae Mobley.



Image 3.2
Aibileen and Mae Mobley (01:18:16)

Aibileen is also shown as a woman who is obedient in the exercise of her beliefs. In some scenes, Aibileen is seen attending weekly services at the church and she also says that she often prays. In some scenes, Aibileen also explains that she God is one of the factors that make a decision. She was a devotee who always came to church to attend weekly services. As seen in image 3.3, taken using the close-up technique, Aibileen is seen listening to a lecture given by the priest at a weekly service. She also likes to write down the prayers she has in her special notebook, as seen in the dialogue below:



Image 3.3
Aibileen attending weekly pray at church (00:40:02)

***Aibileen:** ... I don't say my prayers out loud. I can get my point across a lot better writing them down. I write an hour, sometimes two, every night.*
(00:44:16-00:44:27)

Aibileen is generous and kind person. Her generosity can be seen through some of her scenes in the movie. First, it can be seen from how Aibileen is willing to assist Skeeter in answering questions concerned with the cleaning and other homework that Skeeter needed for the newspaper column she held.

***Skeeter:** Do you think you'd be willing to help me with those Miss Myrna letters?*
***Aibileen:** Miss Myrna get it wrong a lot of times. Be good to get it right.*
***Skeeter:** Thank you, Aibileen.*
(00:16:34-00:16:48)

From the above conversation, it can be concluded that Aibileen immediately agreed to Skeeter's request to help her by answering the questions for the Miss Myrna column. With her generosity, she accepted the request because she felt she could help Skeeter by giving the correct answers because so far she often found the wrong answers in the column.

Aibileen's kindness is also evident when she helps her black friends when they need help. When Minny, Aibileen's best friend, is fired by Ms. Hilly, Aibileen advises Minny to go to Ms. Celia Foote because she happens to be looking for a maid to work at her house.

***Aibileen:** Leroy had made Sugar quit school to help him with the bills. And every day Minny went without a job, migh have been a day Leroy took her from our world. But I knew, I knew the only white lady Miss Hilly hadn't gotten to with her lies.*
(00:48:52- 00:49:27)

The above piece of dialogue is Aibileen's narration which explains that she knows someone who will not be affected by Ms. Hilly's lies, namely Ms. Celia. This is what underlies her to recommend Minny to Celia, because she knows that Minny will be safe if she works with Celia and will not be fired again.

Aibileen also attempts to help Yule Mae as she is arrested by the police as they are about to leave for work. They had just got off the bus when suddenly a few policemen came to them and immediately took Yule Mae. Aibileen immediately put her hands together to take Yule Mae's bag and purse and remind Yule Mae not to fight the police.



Image 3.4

Aibileen reminds Yule Mae not to fight back (01:28:16)

From Image 3.4 above, which was taken using the medium shot technique, it can be seen how Aibileen still reminds Yule Mae even though she is in a position that is also being held by the police. The incident of Yule Mae's arrest motivated the maid to share their story with Skeeter in the end.

3.1.2 Setting

3.1.2.1 Setting of Social Environment

The story in this movie is set in the 1960s. This can be seen from how the characters dress, the vehicles used, and the social life that occurs in the movie. The audience can see some of the types of vehicles that were commonly owned in the 60s in image 3.5 below, which was taken using the medium shot technique, which is certainly rarely owned by people in the present era. According to Tolulupe Akinshete (2020) in the article he wrote on hotcars.com, the American market is dominated by American brands. This year marks the emergence of the "Big Three" company – the trio of General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler. From the 3.8 picture, it can be seen several car brands such as Ford Mustang, Buick Riviera, and more.

In image 3.6 below that taken with medium shot technique, it can be seen how the women dressed in that era. Women tend to wear short dresses with various models for their daily lives, which of course these models are called vintage models today. Karina Reddy (2019) on fashionhistory.fitnyc.edu explained that there are three main trends in 1960s womenwear, one of them is the lady-like elegance inheritad from the previous decade like what can be seen from the image 3.6. In this style, the women usually use a boxy skirt-suits, sheat and A-line dresses, or cocktail dress.



Image 3.5
Some cars used in 1960s in America
(00:04:30)



Image 3.6
Women fashion at 60s (00:09:49)

For social circumstances, in this movie, it is still visible that there are still strong acts of discrimination between Whites and Blacks. Referring to history, Mississippi experienced turbulent times in the early 1960s. Blacks' social, political, and economic rights were suppressed through violence and other forms of intimidation, and society was strictly segregated along racial lines (Bryan, 2014).

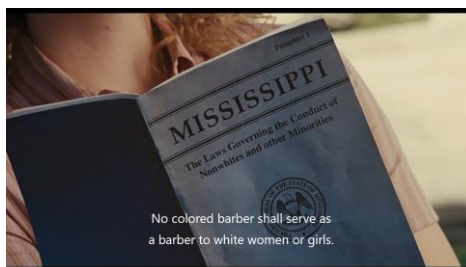


Image 3.7
A pamphlet of The Laws Governing the Conduct of Non-whites and other Minorities in Mississippi (00:37:42)

*“No person shall require any white female to nurse in ward or rooms in which Negro men are placed
Books shall not be interchangeable between the white and colored schools, but shall continue to be used by the race first using them.
No colored barber shall serve as a barber to white women or girls.
Any person printing, publishing, or circulating written matter urging for public acceptance or social equality between whites and Negroes is subject to imprisonment.”*

(00:37:17-00:37:57)

In image 3.7 above, taken using the close-up technique, it can be seen the appearance of a pamphlet containing the rules that govern minority people and non-white people in their daily actions. The above narrative pieces are some of the rules mentioned by Aibileen in her narrative. It can be clearly understood how these rules strongly restrict, distinguish, and separate between the whites and the non-whites.

In the image 3.8, it can be seen how Blacks have to use different facilities or facilities separate from whites. The majority of these Black people worked as helpers in white people's homes, as shown in image 3.9, which was taken using medium-shot techniques. In the Image, the Black helpers stood up while serving their masters who held charity events where they need to be ready when the Whites need their help. Not infrequently, these black people get life-threatening treatment. As seen in image 3.10 taken using long-shot and high-angle techniques, it can be seen how black people ran in fear to save themselves after a shooting incident against a Black man.



Image 3.8
The Blacks are given different access
in public place (00:04:45)



Image 3.9
Black maids in Whites charity event
(01:42:57)



Image 3.10
The situation when black people fled to avoid being shot (01:22:06)

The white people of this era are very much looking down on those who are black. As Hilly Holbrook did in image 3.11 below, which was taken using the long shot technique, she promotes the movement she pioneered to invite other white women to build separate toilets for their black helpers. She did it because for her black people would bring diseases for those who were white, so that by using different toilets they could avoid the diseases brought by black people. She also did this because of the "Separate but Equal" doctrine introduced by the U.S. Supreme Court at the time which underpinned the use of separation laws by state and local governments.

Hilly: Aibileen, are you enjoying your new bathroom over at Elizabeth's?. Nice to have your own. Isn't, Aibileen?
Aibileen: Yes, ma'am. And I thank you.

Hilly: Separate but equal. That's what Ross Barnett says and you can't argue with the governor.
(01:11:19-01:11:20)

In the conversation above, Hilly questioned Aibileen's feelings when she had a special toilet for her at Elizabeth's house. With the answer from Aibileen, she increasingly felt that the initiative she was thinking of was very true and supported by what the government said and it was not something that was wrong.



Image 3.11

The meeting for the Whites women held by Hilly (00:53:11)



Image 3.12

The news about Civil Right Movement
(01:20:01)



Image 3.13

Some newspaper and magazine that
give the news about the movement
(01:24:09)

A historical event that is also highlighted in this movie is the existence of the Civil Rights movement in America. This movement has become a topic that is widely discussed in various media. Skeeter can be seen following the development of this movement by watching the news about it in her home in

image 3.12, which was taken using the medium shot technique. In addition, it can also be seen how various newspapers and magazines reported on this movement, as seen in image 3.13 above that taken using the close-up technique.

3.1.3 Conflict

3.1.3.1 Aibileen's Internal Conflict

An internal conflict occurs in Aibileen when she encounters an incident that offends her feelings and thoughts. First, this can be seen when Aibileen is questioned by Skeeter about her goals. She replied shyly that she used to have aspirations to work in addition to being a maid, like what can be seen from the dialogue below:

Skeeter: Do you ever dream of being something else?

Aibileen: (smiled shyly and nodded)

(00:01:49-00:01:56)

However, this could not be achieved because she had to give up this ideal and become a maid in white's house since she was a teenager. She had to bury these ideals because she realized that she would not be able to achieve these goals, considering that she had to drop out of school and become a maid to help her family's finances.

Furthermore, Aibileen's internal conflicts are seen when she is asked by Skeeter about what it is like to raise someone else's child while her own child is taken care of by someone else.

Skeeter: *What does it feel like to raise a white child when your own child's at home being looked after by somebody else?*

Aibileen: *It feels...*

(00:01:56-00:02:07)

From the conversation above, it can be seen how Aibileen is at a loss for words to explain what it is like to live such a life, when her own child is taken care of by others when she has to take care of someone else's child.

When her only child died, Aibileen experienced emotional upheaval. Devastated by the death of her son, Aibileen faced a deep sorrow. This incident made her want to give up on living life, but luckily she still believed that there would be a God who would always accompany her through all these things, and also of course with the presence of Minny, her best friend, who always accompanied her. This is evident from the narration given by Aibileen at the beginning of the movie:

Aibileen: *I lost my own boy, Treelore, four years ago. After that, I just didn't want to live anymore. It took God and Minny to get me through it. Minny my best friend, old lady like me lucky to have her. After my boy died, a bitter seed was planted inside of me. And I just didn't feel so accepting any more.*

(00:08:17-00:08:58)

Aibileen had little trauma to whites. Her uncle and her child got bad treatment from white people, even her son died, thus making Aibileen always pay attention to all her actions and decisions related to white people.

Skeeter: *I promise we'll be careful*

Aibileen: *This already ain't careful, Miss Skeeter! You not knowing what's scaring me the most. Scare me more than Jim Crow.*

(00:36:38-00:36:55)

In the dialogue above, it can be understood how Aibileen conveyed her fears to Skeeter, although at that time Skeeter did not understand what danger lurked Aibileen and other black aides if they shared their stories with Skeeter.

3.1.3.2 Aibileen's External Conflict

Aibileen experiences external conflict when she has to deal with a choice that intersects with the second party that encompasses the conflict with the other character and the social conditions in which she lives.

The first conflict is seen when Skeeter repeatedly asks Aibileen to be willing to recount her experiences as a maid in a white man's home. Aibileen repeatedly rejected Skeeter because she feared the consequences she would have if she had been caught sharing her experiences in the book, recalling how some of her family died from getting mistreated to the point of causing the death of a white person.

Furthermore, Aibileen also had to face a conflict with Miss Hilly. This happened when Hilly realized that the story in the book by Skeeter was a story about the helpers in her neighborhood. She immediately persuades Elizabeth to fire Aibileen by accusing Aibileen of having removed the silverware she lent to Elizabeth. Aibileen, who was accused, felt unacceptable about the treatment and defended herself. She mentioned that even though Hilly would later put her in jail,

she would still be able to write down and share her story, especially since she had Hilly's embarrassing secret that Hilly herself did not want this to be known to the public because of course it would lower her reputation if the secret was revealed.

Aibileen also felt the external conflict of the various acts of discrimination she received. Aibileen's discrimination can be seen when she gets a special toilet at Elizabeth's house because Elizabeth is incited by Hilly to build a special black toilet so that her family avoids the disease she says is brought by black people, like what can be seen from image 3.14 that taken with long shot technique.



Image 3.14

The appearance of blacks toilet at Elizabeth's house (00:34:04)

Mae Mobley: *That's Aibee's bathroom, Mama. Hey Aibee! (Walked close to Aibileen's special toilet door)*

Elizabeth: *No, no, no, honey. Promise me you won't go in there, Ok? (00:34:11-00:34:16)*

From dialogue above, it can be seen how Elizabeth forbade her daughter, Mae Mobley, to approach the toilet. She did this because he thought that the toilet would have a negative impact in the form of illness for her family.

Aibileen also experienced discrimination when she was about to return to her home after a long day at work. In figures 3.15 and 3.16 taken using the long-

shot technique below, it can be seen that in the bus ridden by Aibileen distinguishes sitting positions for white and black people. White people are placed at the front of the bus, while black people occupy the back of the bus.



Image 3.15
Aibileen as a black sits in the seat of the bus section (01:20: 39)



Image 3.16
The white sit in the front section of the bus (01:21:26)

3.2 Extrinsic Aspect

3.2.1 Aibileen's Personality Structure performance

3.2.1.1 Aibileen's Id

Aibileen was a mother, before her son died at age 24 year old for an accident he had at his work place. The maternal soul she had she channeled to every White child she took care of. She took care of them as if they were her own children. She always instilled good morals in them and taught them not to grow up to be a white racist like their parents. By always teaching the slogan "You is kind. You is smart. You is important" to the children she cares for, Aibileen hopes that they can grow up by always remembering these words. In image 3.17 below, taken using the close up technique, it can be seen the scene where Aibileen teaches the words to Mae Mobley, the daughter of Elizabeth Leefolt.

Growing up as someone who had known that she would be a maid since she was a child did not make Aibileen become someone who did not have her own dreams. In image 3.18, taken using the medium shot technique, it can be seen how Aibileen's expression is when Skeeter asks if she has a dream to become someone different from her current self. Despite looking shy, Aibileen still answers at the question with a shy nod and smile.



Image 3.17
Aibileen teaches Mae Mobley the slogan (00:02:43-00:02:57)



Image 3.18
Aibileen's expression when Skeeter asking about her dream job (00:01:52)

On another occasion, Aibileen explained that her son, Treelor, used to frequently say that someone in their family would become a writer, and that this statement might be achievable given how Aibileen liked to write down her prayers on a daily basis, as seen in the dialogues below.

***Aibileen:** Treelore would like me doing this. He always said we were gonna have a writer in the family one day. I always thought it was gonna be him. Maybe it's gonna be me.*
(00:57:16-00:57:23)

Aibileen's unconsciousness power (id) also manifests itself in the form of fear of the treatment she will receive from Whites. Seeing how the acts of racism at that time that were still very thick, this is very natural because fear is a natural feeling that a human being has towards something that will hurt or threaten them.



Image 3.19
Aibileen falls while escaping
(01:22:17)



Image 3.20
Aibileen goes to Minny's house
considering she lives alone (01:22:57)

At image 3.19, which was taken using a medium shot, it can be seen how Aibileen fell as she ran in a hurry because she wanted to take cover immediately. She ran in fear because that night there had been a shooting of a black man that led to the man's death. Even with an injured leg, Aibileen still ran as hard as she could to Minny's house because she realized at that time she needed a friend to get through the night. As seen in image 3.20, taken using the medium shot technique, it can be seen how Aibileen's expression is; sad, pain, and fear when she talk to Minny about the accident.

Coming from a minority group, Aibileen became a woman who cared for her fellow man. This sense of concern made her feel unacceptable if one of her friends received the wrong treatment. Like when one of her friends who both worked as a helper, Yule Mae Davis, who at the time was working for Hilly was suddenly caught by several policemen as they just got off the bus that took them to work.



Image 3.21

Aibileen is detained by a policeman while trying to chase Yule Mae (01:28:04)
In image 3.21, which was taken using the medium shot technique, it can be seen how Aibileen who was beside Yule Mae at the time, immediately moved to chase Yule Mae who had been ripped off by two policemen. Even though she was stopped by another policeman in the end, she still tried to stop the two policemen from releasing Yule Mae because her subconscious did not accept the fact that one of her friends was suddenly arrested like that.

3.2.1.2 Aibileen's Ego

To meet her daily needs, Aibileen worked as a maid as mentioned in previous discussions. Her ego works by responding to her id desire to meet her needs by working as a helper. Aibileen has spent her entire life working as a house maid, managing all housework such as cleaning, cooking, and child care. She started working as a maid when she was 14 years old, in 1925, to help her mother pay the bills. She is recently employed as a maid in Leefolt's family home, where she looks after their daughter, Mae Mobley. She was required to work six days a week from eight to four, for a fee of ninety-five cents per day, which accumulated to

one hundred and eighty-two dollars in one month, as she herself says in the narrative she says at the beginning of the movie below:

Aibileen: I work for the Leefolts from eight to four; six days a week. I make 95 cent an hour. That comes to \$182 every month. I do all the cooking, cleaning, washing, ironing, and grocery shopping. But mostly, I take care of baby girl.
(00:03:06-00:03:30)

In one scene, Aibileen heard Hilly's words about her reluctance to use the bathroom at Elizabeth's house because she was afraid of contracting the disease brought by black people and had told her friends about the initiative she had designed to provide a separate bathroom for black maids. Aibileen could only listen to it even though it could be seen from the look on her face, as in image 3.22 taken using close up technique and the Dutch tilt angle, that there is sadness that she feels at the time of hearing that. Her ego restrains her id which certainly does not accept the statement by restraining the feeling and it is better to just listen to it without having to refute.



Image 3.22

Aibileen's sad expression hearing Hilly's statement (00:15:56)

After repeatedly refusing Skeeter's invitation to write her story as a black maid into a book, Aibileen finally agreed to the invitation. She explained to Skeeter that what could have changed her decision were God and Hilly Holbrook,

since Hilly fired Minny just because using her bathroom and after that she accused Minny of stealing candelabra from her home and spreading it to all the white women in the city so that it could keep Minny from getting a job again.

Skeeter: I can't tell you how much I appreciate you doing this with me. What changed your mind?

Aibileen: God and Miss Hilly Holbrook.
(00:45:52-00:46:05)

She agreed to the invitation on the condition that there would be no mention of her name in the book, so Skeeter had to change her name and all the people involved in the story given how the social conditions at the time would certainly threaten her if her name was known as she said herself to Skeeter: “*You gonna to change my name. Mine, Miss Leefolt's. Everybody*” (00:42:30-00:42:33).

At one time in the middle of their process of compiling the book, Aibileen recounted how her son, Treelore, died to Skeeter. She said that at the time, her son had an accident at his workplace.

Aibileen: They killed my son. He fell carrying two-by-fours at the mill. Truck run over him, crushed his lung. That white foreman threw his body on back of a truck. Drove to the colored hospital, dumped him there and honked the horn.

There is nothing they could do, so I brought my baby home. Laid him down on that sofa right there. He died right in front of me.
(01:08:50-01:09:46)

From the dialogue above, it can be seen how Aibileen's ego suggested her to immediately bring Treelore home once she learned that her son would not survive at that time. She could have insisted on urging the doctor at the hospital to save

her child, but her ego realized that it would not change anything, until finally she faced the death of her son in front of her own eyes, on the sofa of their house.

After some time, finally the book that Aibileen, Minny, Skeeter, and the other helpers compiled was published. The book immediately became a best seller and became a hot topic in the city. Hilly, once she learned that the secret of the most embarrassing incident she had experienced because Minny was written in the book, felt unacceptable and very angry. She went to Leefolt's residence and accused Aibileen of stealing cutlery from the silver she lent Elizabeth. Aibileen tried to deny this, because she didn't take any of the things. So when Hilly said that she would call the police and would imprison Aibileen, Aibileen immediately refuted Hilly by saying that she was not afraid of Hilly and that she had what could bring Hilly down. In image 3.23 that taken with close up technique, it can be seen how Aibileen's expression when she refuted Hilly.

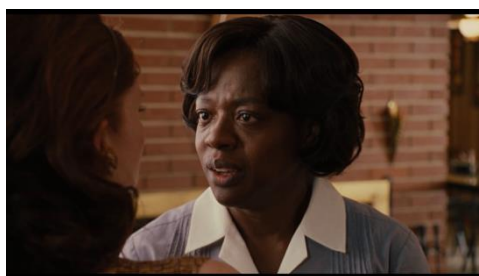


Image 3.23

Aibileen denies Hilly when she wants to imprison her (02:15:17)

Hilly: *Maybe I can't send you to jail for what you wrote, but I can send you for being a thief*

Aibileen: *I know something about you. Don't you forget that. From what Yule Mae says, there's a lot of time to write letters in jail. Plenty of time to write the truth about you. And the paper is free.*

Hilly: *Nobody will believe that you wrote!*

Aibileen: A don't know. I been told I'm a pretty good writer. Already sold a lot of books.

Hilly: (shock and crying) call the police, Elizabeth

Aibileen: All you do is scare and lie to try to get what you want. You a godless woman. Ain't you tired, Miss Hilly?
(02:14:33-02:15:23)

From this, it can be seen how Aibileen's ego has been cracked down to counter the accusations Hilly has given her. Aibileen also said that even if she goes to prison, she can still write down all the stories, so indirectly what should be afraid here is that Hilly is not Aibileen.

3.2.1.3 Aibileen's Superego

The story is set in the 1960s in Jackson, Mississippi, America, as discussed in the previous discussion, where acts of racism at that time were very strong. This leaves minorities, the blacks, in a lower position than those who are white, whether legally, economically, or socially, subordinate to whites. They were treated differently by procuring various facilities specifically for them, in order to avoid mixing whites and blacks in the same facility.

This social setting was the reason Aibileen refused to accept an offer from Skeeter to share her story as a black who worked with whites at first. She is fear of the punishment she will get if she is discovered. As Aibileen said to Skeeter when Skeeter first invited Aibileen:

Skeeter: Aibileen, there's something else I want to write about. I would need your help. I want to interview you about what it's like to work as a maid. I'd like to do a book of interviews about working for white families. And we could show what it's like to work for, say, Elizabeth?

Aibileen: *You know what Miss Leefolt do to me if she knew I was telling stories on her?*
(00:28:29-00:28:54)

From the above dialogue, it can be seen how Aibileen's superego rejected the invitation because of the existence of values and norms in their social environment that she would violate if she accepted the invitation. She will accept the consequences that will certainly harm her. Thus, even though Aibileen was aware that she was chasing acts of racism from her employers, she had to withhold this for herself because that was how she was at the time.

Once again when Skeeter again tried to get Aibileen back, as can be understood from the below snippet of dialogue, Aibileen again refused because she was afraid of what she would experience later as a consequence. Her superego rejected the idea, because it would certainly harm her.

Skeeter: *... We never finished our conversation at Elizabeth's; about that book I want to write? I'd really like to interview you, Aibileen. I know it's scary*

Aibileen: *They set my cousin Shinelle's car on fire, just 'cause she went down to voting station.*

Skeeter: *A book like this has never been written before.*

Aibileen: *'Cause there's a reason. I do this with you, I might as well burn my own house down.*

Skeeter: *I promise we'll be careful*

Aibileen: *This already ain't careful, Miss Skeeter! You not knowing what's scaring me the most. Scare me more than Jim Crow.*

(00:35:57-00:36:55)

As a maid, Aibileen must also pay attention to all her behavior. She must obey all the orders of her employer and perform all her duties without offending her employer. For example, at a time when Elizabeth had provided a special toilet

for Aibileen to avoid the illness she said was carried by black people as said by Hilly, Aibileen had to receive such treatment even though it offended her pride for having been considered a person carrying the disease. Then when she uses the toilet, it can be seen that she is not comfortable with the toilet because the air circulation in the toilet is not good, making the air in the toilet stuffy and hot.



Image 3.24

Aibileen overheats when using the maids' special toilet (00:33:55)

From image 3.24, that taken by close up technique, can be seen how Aibileen wiped her sweat from the heat while using the special toilet for the maid that had been provided by Elizabeth at her home. Then, when Elizabeth asked how nice it is to have her own toilet, Aibileen could only say yes, even though she was uncomfortable with the toilet, because her superego made her to. Hilly had also asked Aibileen the same question when she saw Skeeter carrying a pamphlet on the rules of law for non-white people at her pool party.

Hilly: Aibileen, are you enjoying your new bathroom over at Elizabeth's? Nice to have your own, Isn't it, Aibileen?

Aibileen: Yes, ma'am. And thank you.

Hilly: Separate, but equal. That's what Ross Barnett says, and you can't argue with the governor.

(01:10:58-01:11:20)

From the fragment of dialogue above, it can be seen how Aibileen answered Hilly's question. Even though it can be seen before that she is not comfortable with the toilet provided by Elizabeth. However, due to her lower position than Hilly or Elizabeth's in the social strata, Aibileen's superego acts by making Aibileen reply that she likes it and is grateful for the facility.

3.2.2 The Effect of Aibileen's Social Life to Her Personality Structure Performance

3.2.2.1 Aibileen's Psychoanalytical Conflict

3.2.2.1.1 The Internal Conflict between Aibileen's Id and Superego

Aibileen's id wants to pursue her dream to become someone else besides being a maid, just like what her family did for a long time. However her superego cannot actualize it because she is from black family, so that she had no other choice but to be a maid, working for the whites. Her superego has been formed since childhood that as a black man she has a lower position than white people. Those who are black as minorities do not have the moral power that allows them to be more than white people.

3.2.2.1.2 The Internal Conflict between Aibileen's Ego and Superego

The internal conflict between Aibileen's ego and superego appeared when Aibileen cannot help Yule Mae when she was suddenly arrested by polices. Her ego needs to fulfill her desire to help Yule Mae, since she knew that Yule Mae has no fault at that time. While her superego believes that she had no power to help Yule Mae

and fight the police back. This made Aibileen only able to see Yule Mae who was led by the police towards the police car and reminded Yule Mae who kept rebelling at the police not to fight the police.

3.2.2.1.3 The External Conflict between Aibileen's Superego and Skeeter's Ego

Skeeter's ego wanted to realize her desire to write a book that told the lives of black people who worked for white people, especially those who worked as helpers by asking Aibileen and other helpers for help. However, Aibileen's superego rejects the idea because if Aibileen does this and is discovered, she will receive consequences that will certainly hurt her, be it social or legal sanctions. Therefore, every time Skeeter attempts to persuade Aibileen to agree to her invitation, Aibileen will resolutely refuse the invitation by constantly reminding Skeeter that she was not in a position to allow her to do so.

3.2.2.1.4 The External Conflict between Aibileen's Ego and Hilly's Superego

This conflict occurs when Hilly realizes that the story in the book by Skeeter is the story of the black helpers in their neighborhood. In addition, Hilly does not accept the book because one of the stories contained in the book is an incident about her that she really wants to hide from people. Because she knew anyone involved in the writing of the book, she went to Elizabeth's residence to give a reply to Aibileen. Her superego believes that as a white woman, she can do anything to black people, especially those who have the status of a maid. She went to

Elizabeth's house, and accused Aibileen of removing her silverware that she lent to Elizabeth. Aibileen did not accept the accusation, so in order to fulfill her disapproval, Aibileen's ego acted by replying to Hilly's words. She says that she is not afraid of Hilly and although she will eventually be detained and go to jail, she will still continue what she has started, writing, so it should be Hilly who is afraid of her because she holds Hilly's secret.

Since Aibileen fought Hilly, she was eventually subtly fired by Elizabeth. Although Aibileen, feeling sad about the decision because she had to leave Mae Mobley, she still accepted the decision.

3.2.2.2 Aibileen's Ego Defense Mechanism

At the beginning of the story, Aibileen's personality structure performance can work in a balanced way, which can be seen from how Aibileen runs her days as a black maid who works for white people's families well. Although she received some racial and social discrimination, she was still able to carry out his days well. She can carry out the work she has been engaged in since she was a teenager. She can also socialize with others well.

When Aibileen heard Ms. Hilly's comments about how black people carry illness with themselves, Aibileen was able to contain her feelings and ignore the comments as an attempt by her ego to avoid anxiety. By the time Elizabeth had built a toilet specifically for her, Aibileen still accepted the treatment

wholeheartedly as a form of her super-ego reminding her that she had to obey what her employer said and accept the treatment even though she personally seemed uncomfortable with the toilet.

When Skeeter begins to get Aibileen to share her experiences, Aibileen begins to lose control of her feelings. The feeling of fear of the consequences she would have had if she had been caught sharing her story and making it a book, gave rise to Aibileen's trauma of white people's mistreatment of black people. She recalled how her uncle's car was set on fire by white people when her uncle was caught participating in the election. She also recalled how her only child died because he did not get help after an accident at work. She was afraid just because she thought about what Elizabeth, her employer, and society would do when she remembered the social conditions at the time did not allow her to be free in speaking out. Although the fear did not affect Aibileen's daily routine, still her super-ego repeatedly reminds her of the consequences as Skeeter also repeatedly tries to persuade Aibileen to be willing to share her experiences.

After repeatedly rejecting Skeeter's invitation, Aibileen finally agreed to tell her experience as a black maid. This decision she made after he listened to what happened to Minny. She was fired by Ms. Hilly and she was accused of stealing candelabra from Ms. Hilly's house. The news had spread among the white people in their city so it would be difficult for Minny to get a job back. Aibileen's decision was also strengthened after listening to pastor's lectures at her weekly worship service.

“... See, courage isn't just about being brave. Courage is daring to do what is right in spite of the weakness of our flesh. And God tells us, commands us, compels us, to love. Amen?.

See love, as exemplified by our Lord Jesus Christ, is to be prepared to put yourself in harm's way for your fellow man. And by your fellow man, I mean your brother, your sister, your neighbor, your friend, and your enemy. If you can love your enemy, you already have the victory.”

(00:39:55-00:40:40)

The content of the lecture above strengthened Aibileen's heart to do something to help others. She felt she had to do something after hearing Ms. Hilly's treatment of her best friend, Minny.

As a form of **sublimation**, Aibileen's ego decides to accept Skeeter's invitation to publish her experience because this method is considered a safe and acceptable way because the story will be written by changing all the names involved in the story. In the process of writing the story, Aibileen also showed the annoyance that she had been harboring towards Elizabeth. Aibileen was always upset when she found Elizabeth not taking good care of her child. Once she found Mae Mobley, Elizabeth's daughter, still using a diaper that she had been using for more than 10 hours. In image 3.25 below, taken using the close-up technique, Aibileen's expression is seen as she tells Elizabeth. She told the story with a flat look, without expression, as if she was already very upset about Elizabeth's attitude. When telling this, Aibileen said that Elizabeth should not have children, because she was not ready to assume motherhood.

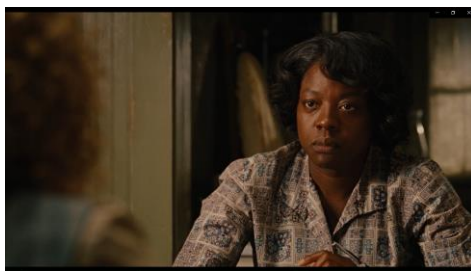


Image 3.25

Aibileen's expression when she told the story about Elizabeth (00:57:06)

In addition to creating defenses through sublimation, Aibileen's ego also appears to create defense in another form, namely **repression**. Aibileen's ego seems to create repression when Aibileen is asked by Skeeter about her childhood ideals. At the time of questioning, Aibileen only responded with a smile and nod without explaining to Skeeter what her ideals were. From this answer, it can be understood that Aibileen's ego creates repression by not explaining what her ideals are because this could make Aibileen sad because she cannot realize her ideals because she has to be a maid since she was a teenager. Aibileen's ego also seems to create repression when Aibileen is questioned by Skeeter about her feelings when she has to take care of someone else's child when her own child is being taken care of by someone else. Getting the question, Aibileen's face immediately turned somber, as seen in image 3.26 below taken using the medium shot technique.



Image 3.26

Aibileen's expression when Skeeter asks her about her feeling of caring other's children when her own child was taken cared by someone else. (00:02:15)

She was silent for a few seconds thinking about the answer to this question. But in the end she chose not to answer the question and harbored her feelings so that she would not feel sadness and return to the thought of her late son. Aibileen immediately diverted the topic by asking Skeeter to move on to the next question, because she was unable to answer the question.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

4.1 Conclusion

Using Sigmund Freud's theory of personality structure, the writer analyzes how Aibileen's personality structure performs. Aibileen's id can be seen from her dream and from various form of her reaction toward something. Even though Aibileen has worked as a maid, she still has her own dreams. She told Skeeter that she had dreamed of becoming someone else besides being a maid, though she didn't say what she wanted to become. She gained her spiritual needs by becoming a devout Christian, who regularly attended church services every week. She channeled her maternal instincts to every child she cared for, especially Mae Mobley because she was the child she cared for after the death of her biological child so she had more closeness than the children she had previously fostered

Aibileen's ego is concerned with satisfying the id while remaining safe. Her reaction and behavior in various situations demonstrate this. She met her needs by being a maid since she was a teenager because she had to drop out of school in order to help her mother support their family. Her ego also depicted when she finally agree with Skeeter invitation to tell her story as a black maid in whites household in the she writes because he doesn't accept what Hilly did to her friend, Yule Mae.

Aibileen's superego controlled her id with an awareness of the values and norms that exist in their environment. Her superego is quite has a domination toward Aibileen's behavior since it gave awareness of what Aibileen had to do and what not to do. She must pay attention to all her behavior so that she can stay safe living her life in the middle of the social environment where there is a very strong act of racial discrimination. As a maid she must obey and accept every action given to her by her employer. When Skeeter invited her to turn her story as a maid into a book, her superego firmly rejected the idea because it would have a devastating impact on Aibileen.

After analyzing Aibileen's personality structure, the author also found that Aibileen's social life had a very strong effect on the performance of her personality structure. At the beginning of the story, Aibileen's personality structure was work well. By the time Skeeter appears and invites Aibileen to tell the story of her experience as a black maid, the balance of performance of Aibileen's personality structure begins to falter and it appears that there are some psychological conflicts experienced by Aibileen. She experiences internal conflicts between her personality structure and experiences external conflicts between her personality structure and the personality structure of other characters.

Aibileen was frightened by the shadow of the consequences she would get if she agreed to Skeeter's invitation. By the time she finally accepted Skeeter's invitation, as a form of sublimation of her feelings, Aibileen began to dare to

recount her experiences. Aibileen's ego was also seen creating a defensive system in the form of repression several times when Aibileen was interviewed by Skeeter. Her ego makes Aibileen harbor her feelings when she gets some questions that are sensitive to Aibileen in order to avoid the sad feelings she will feel. She declined to elaborate on her answers to some of Skeeter's questions.

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