AN ANALYSIS OF HESTER PRYNNE’S PERSONALITY ASPECT IN NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE’S NOVEL “THE SCARLET LETTER”

Oleh: LILIK INDARWATI (00360105)

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This is a literary study viewing the personality aspect of the main character in the novel “The Scarlet Letter”. Literature reflects human being’s life and is also concerned with states of mind, feelings, attitude and/or behavior.

One of literary work is novel. By reading the novel, readers get enjoyment and knowledge in its content. That is why the thesis writer is motivated in conducting and analyzing this novel.

This study is conducted to analyze the personality aspect of Hester Prynne as one of the main characters. The investigation is focused on Hester Prynne’s personality aspect based on The Humanistic Personality theory introduced by Abraham Harold Maslow.

This novel was analyzed by using descriptive qualitative method because it described about personality aspect of Hester Prynne in Nathaniel Hawthorne’s novel “The Scarlet Letter”. Then, this novel was appreciated by using the objective approach. The object of this study was the whole events in the novel “The Scarlet Letter”, whereas the data of this study were paragraphs, quotations and dialogues in the novel related to the presence of the personality aspect of the main character, as stated in the research problem.

The result of this study showed that Hester Prynne had an interesting personality aspect. This aspect is related to Maslow theory of Humanistic Personality, in the way that she had a strong desire to fulfill her needs. Hester Prynne could develop her personality and became a strong woman than ever before. It made her able to solve her problems in life. She could take herself as a sinner but soon she changed her bad image of the letter “A” that she had to wear in her outchest from adultery became able because of her ability at needlework and her respect to poor people. This image showed that she made a positive change and her personality became better. In conclusion, Hester Prynne had five basic needs that each of them had condition of fulfillment and deficiency. Those needs are physiological, safety, love, esteem, and self-actualization needs. It made Hester Prynne a character who had the presence of complex personality in the novel. So, it made this novel to be interesting and need to be recommended to be read by general readers and students.