

Id, Ego, and Superego in the Main Character of *True Beauty* (2018) Webtoon by Yaongyi

Munna Nur Samsia^{a,1*}, Rizki Februansyah^{b,2}, Ririn Kurnia Trisnawati^{c,3}

^a Universitas Jenderal Soedirman, Purwokerto

^b Universitas Jenderal Soedirman, Purwokerto

^c Universitas Jenderal Soedirman, Purwokerto

¹ munna.samsia@mhs.unsoed.ac.id; ² rizki.februansyah@unsoed.ac.id; ³ ririn.trisnawati@unsoed.ac.id

* korespondensi penulis

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini fokus untuk menjelaskan dan mendeskripsikan bentuk id, ego, dan superego dalam karakter utama dalam Webtoon *True Beauty* (2018) oleh Yaongyi. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode kualitatif. Data sumber dalam penelitian ini adalah bentuk Webtoon *True Beauty* (2018) yang diterbitkan oleh platform digital komik. Data yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah dialog di Webtoon *True Beauty* (2018). Analisis data dalam penelitian ini menemukan bentuk teori kepribadian Sigmund Freud yang terdiri dari id, ego, dan superego dalam Webtoon *True Beauty* (2018). Hasil studi ini menunjukkan adanya bentuk id, ego, dan superego pada tokoh utama. Melalui bentuk id, ego, dan superego, dapat dilihat bagaimana kepribadian tokoh utama dalam Webtoon *True Beauty* (2018) karya Yaongyi.

Kata kunci: ego, id, psikoanalisis, superego, *True Beauty*

ABSTRACT

This research focused on explaining and describing the form of the id, ego, and superego in the main character in Webtoon *True Beauty* (2018) by Yaongyi. The method used in this study was qualitative method. The data source in this study was *True Beauty* (2018) Webtoon, which was published by the digital comic platform. The data used in this study were dialogues in the Webtoon *True Beauty* (2018). The data analysis in this research found the form of Sigmund Freud's personality theory consisting of the id, ego, and superego in *True Beauty* (2018) Webtoon. The results of this study indicated that there were forms of id, ego, and superego in the main character. Through the form of id, ego, and superego, it could be seen how the personality of the main character in *True Beauty* (2018) Webtoon by Yaongyi.

Keywords: ego, id, psychoanalysis, superego, *True Beauty*

Copyright ©2022 All Right Reserved

INTRODUCTION

The beauty ideals in South Korea adopted "the western ideal" (Kim, 2003). Women with thin bodies, certain facial features such as "V-line" Jaws, double-lidded eyes, and small noses are beautiful. The established standards of beauty in Korea are the most important physical appearance. Thus, Korean society needs to have a perfect body. In Korea, the physical appearance of the body and face are critical elements (Galezau., 2015). Certainly, as early as the 1980s and 1990s, second-wave feminists criticized expensive and painful

body alterations girls undergo for the sake of beauty.

Korean culture especially South Korea may additionally have been subject to proportionately better ranges of unrealistic standards for the look and higher ranges of body dissatisfaction than different Asian ethnic groups (Jung, 2009). Korean society no longer accepted modern styles from the early 20th century to the 1970s (Lee, 2005). Since the 1970s, perception of Korean beauty has changed because economic development in Korea has been progressive for 40 years (Jin, Kandagal, & Jung, 2012).

In this modern era, visualization of the beauty of standard stories can be found in the digital comic one of the hype ones is Webtoon. Webtoon is a type of digital comic that was published digitally. The famous story about the standard of beauty is entitled Webtoon *True Beauty* (2018). This story can find the issue of personality in the character of Jugyeong as the effect of beauty standards using Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis theory consist of three aspects, there are id, ego, and superego. Freud's personality theory (1923) noticed the psyche is based on three elements (i.e., tripartite), the id, ego, and superego, all developing at different stages in our lives. Those are systems, not elements of the mind, or in any way physical. Webtoon *True Beauty* (2018) told that Jugyeong is a person who is treated badly by her friends because her appearance does not belong to Korean beauty standards.

Based on the previous explanation about the beauty standards in South Korea reflected in *True Beauty* (2018), this current research aims to find out how Jugyeong's personality got bullied because her appearance was not fulfilled Korea's standards of beauty. It can be identified by using Sigmund Freud's personality theory.

METHOD

This research used a qualitative methods. As stated by (Palmer & Bolderstone, 2006), qualitative research is the most suitable and regularly applied in analyzing literary works. This type aims to help the researcher find the problem. Referring to Patton and Cochran (2002, p. 3), the characteristic of the qualitative method aims at understanding aspects of social life and this method, in general, generates words. It can be concluded that the qualitative method consists of opinion, social life, and description from perspectives that are shown by the character or the story and then produce analyze words. Therefore, the aim is to describe and analyze Jugyeong's personality in Webtoon *True Beauty* (2018). The research see from her thoughts in Webtoon *True Beauty* (2018). The main focus of this research is to analyze the personality Jugyeong's character in

Webtoon *True Beauty* (2018). Finally, qualitative research relevant to this research as seen from the social life mentioned in Webtoon *True Beauty* (2018).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the analysis and discussion of Jugyeong's personality using Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic with three aspects: id, ego, and superego. The followings were a category of the personality elements of the main character.

1. Jugyeong's Id Plastic Surgery

The id is the primitive and instinctive element of personality. The id aspect can be found in Jugyeong character that was raised from the beginning of the story by the author. It can be seen that Jugyeong's character really wanted to change her appearance. So, Jugyeong thinks that changing her appearance through plastic surgery makes her look beautiful. It can be seen in the first episode:

"Get me an eye lift job as fast as possible"

The dialogue showed when Jugyeong asked her mom for an eye lift job. Jugyeong's id can be seen from Jugyeong's desire to change her appearance using plastic surgery. She believes with plastic surgery everything will be okay.

Jugyeong's id got stronger when she felt not beautiful and the closest people also agreed that Jugyeong was ugly, for example, her little brother said in the first episode:

"Yeah, honestly, you're not that pretty, sis. You'd be ugly even if you get an eye job, lol"

"She's at that age when she's sensitive about her looks, try to understand, mom. But it's true that she's the one ugly one. Why was she born like that?"

The dialogue showed that Jugyeong's id raised by the author can be fulfilled. Jugyeong was depicted as very emotional in expressing her sadness. She wants to have plastic surgery to change her appearance.

2. Jugyeong's Superego is knowing plastic surgery is expensive and cannot get a permit

Referring to Sigmund Freud (1923), the superego is a part of the unconscious; this is the voice of conscience (doing what is right) and the source of self-criticism. It reflects society's moral values to a few degrees, and someone is every so often aware of their personal morality and ethics. However, the superego consists of a vast number of codes, or prohibitions, which can be issued normally unconsciously inside the form of commands or "do not" statements.

The superego measures the entirety with the standard of conscience and morality, and acts consistent with perfect principle. The superego thinks that Jugyeong understands that plastic surgery is high-priced and will not get parental consent. It can be seen in the first episode:

"A middle schooler asking for plastic surgery? Omg, is that what you said?! I wish you were even half as good as your older sister"

The dialogue shows the superego character of Jugyeong in Webtoon *True Beauty* (2018) was described by the author. Jugyeong's superego character was seen in the decision taken by Jugyeong while struggling with her appearance and Jugyeong understands that plastic surgery is not the right choice. Thus, Jugyeong asked her mom first. It showed the superego aspect in Jugyeong appeared and showed Jugyeong's not doing her id thoughts.

3. Jugyeong's Ego Choosing learn to do make up

The ego is 'that part of the id which has been modified by the direct influence of the external world.' (Freud, 1923, p. 25). The ego is the only part of the conscious personality. It is what the individual is aware of when they consider themselves, and is what they generally try to project toward others.

Jugyeong was a little girl who also had an ego like other people in general. Jugyeong's ego appeared when she thinks that her mom did not allow when Jugyeong wanted to get a plastic surgery. Jugyeong upped her ego by choosing to learn makeup. Before Jugyeong choose to learn make up, she told a story on a social media platform

and one of them gave Jugyeong advice to learn to use makeup This can be seen in the following dialogue in the first episode;

"Don't you know how to use makeup? I look totally different before and after makeup haha. I'm super ugly but with makeup I get really confident. Check out this link."

The dialogue shows that strangers tell her that using makeup makes her confident. Thus, Jugyeong's ego was very clear, because Jugyeong's ego balanced the id and superego.

CONCLUSION

Based on the data analysis that has been done and completed, the aspects of personalities based on Sigmund Freud's personality theory were observed in the main character, Jugyeong. The id component contained in Jugyeong's character was described by the author as someone who wants to get plastic surgery. Jugyeong's most prominent preference in the storyline was to change her appearance. This desire made Jugyeong do and experience many unexpected matters. The superego element of Jugyeong's person was defined when she knows plastic surgery is high-priced and will not get parental consent. This made Jugyeong think that plastic surgery is not the best choice. Then, the ego aspect becomes described in the Jugyeong character by the author through the character and attitude of Jugyeong. The author tried to show Jugyeong's select research on the usage of make-up. In conclusion, Jugyeong's identification and superego can be balanced together with her ego.

REFERENCES

- Alhakim, S. N. (2020). AN ANALYSIS OF WOMEN-RELATED SWEAR WORDS TRANSLATION AND ITS ACCEPTABILITY IN "TRUE BEAUTY" AND "LOOKISM" WEBTOON COMIC. *Repository Universitas Jendral Soedirman*, 4.
- Bellmore, A. D. (2004). Beyond the individual: The impact of ethnic context and classroom behavioral norms on victims' adjustment. *Developmental Psychology* 40, 1159 –1172.

- C., D. (1998/1874.). *The Descent of Man*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus.
- Freud, S. (1923). *The ego and the id*. London: Hogarth Press.
- Galezau. (2015). "The body, cosmetics and aesthetics in South Korea. The emergence of a field of research.
- Hannah L. Schacter, S. J. (2015). "Why Me?": Characterological Self-Blame and Continued of Grade School Peer Rejection and Victimization. *Journal of Clinical Child & Adolescent Psychology*, 2.
- Jeon, W. (1987). *The Cultural History of Make-up in Korea*. Seoul: Yeolhwadang.
- Jung, J. F. (2009). Body dissatisfaction and disordered eating among early adolescents from Korea and the U.S. *SexRoles*, 61. 42-54.
- Kettner, M. G. (1974). The Ugly Duckling Complex: A Symposium. *Psychological Perspectives: A Quarterly Journal of Jungian Thought*, 117-130.
- Kim, T. (2003). "Neo-Confucian Body Techniques: Women's Bodies In Korea's ConsumerSociety." *Body & Society* 9. 97-113.
- Laing, R. D. (1970). *Knots*. New York: Pantheon Book.
- Lee, H. H. (2005). *한국 현대 여성의 일상 문화 [Everyday culture of Korean modern women]*. Seoul: Gookhak.
- Michael quinn Patton, M. c. (2002). *A Guide to using Qualitative Research Methodology*. UK: Research officer.
- Min, E. P. (2008). Skin lightening and beauty in four Asian cultures. *ResearchGate*.
- Park, E. C. (2018, July 13). "SELLING SUCCESSFUL BODIES." The Construction of Female Beauty Ideals on the Websites of Korean Cosmetic Surgery Clinics. pp. 6-30.
- Pradopo, R. D. (1994). *Prinsip-Prinsip Kritik Sastra*. Yogyakarta: Gadjah Mada.
- Ratna, N. K. (2006). *Teori, Metode, dan Teknik Penelitian Sastra*. Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar.
- Schofield, M. (2022). *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Retrieved from <https://www.rep.routledge.com/articles/biographical/plato-427-347-bc/v-1>
- Sofaer, S. (1999). Qualitative Methods: What Are They. *HSR: Healthy Service Research*, 1101-1117.
- Yoo, S.-y. (2001). Embodiment of American Modernity in Colonial Korea. 423-41.