

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background to the Study

In this world, there is a thing called symbol that might represent other meaning indirectly. For example a character, theme, or place might refer to symbolic projection in life such as value, fear, hope, and others. That case called as archetype, it is also known as “universal symbol” or “constructed symbol”. Jung saw three psychic levels in the human personality, the level of conscious and unconscious. The unconscious was divided into two categories: the personal unconscious and collective unconscious. Archetype itself belongs to collective unconscious.

This research discussed the characteristics and the archetype of the main characters in the short story *The Gift of the Magi*. The characteristics are ego, soul and self. The types in each set share a common driving source. The first is ego. According to Jung (1980), the ego represents the conscious mind as it comprises the thoughts, memories, and emotions a person is aware of. The ego is largely responsible for feelings of identity and continuity. Ego has four types: innocent, orphan, hero and caregiver. Then, soul in Jungian psychology is realized as the product of a person’s behavior, which in his view is the process of integrating one's personality. Soul also has four types: the explorer, the rebel, the lover and the creator. The last is self, it is the archetype of the psychical totality or the wholeness.

It is not identical with the ego but placed itself somehow above or in other words in the midst between ego-consciousness and unconscious. The symbols of the process of individuation that appear in dreams are images of an archetypal nature which depict the centralizing process or the production of a new centre of personality. The self archetype has types: the jester, the sage, the magician and the ruler.

Literature is writing that is considered to be an art form contains intellectual value or artistic elements. It includes works primarily artistic and also those whose aesthetic qualities are only secondary (McFadden, 1978). The archetype in individual person proposed by Jung can be used to analyze artworks, it can be novel, poetry, short story, and so on. In this research, the researcher uses literary work from a short story entitled *The Gift of the Magi* by O. Henry (1905).

This story tells about a married couple named Della Young and Jim Young with low economy condition. In the Christmas Eve, she wants to buy a gift for her husband, Jim. Unfortunately, she only has a few cents from her savings. Della determines that she cannot celebrate Christmas without giving Jim any gift. She tries to find solution, then she decide to cut and sell her hair to a woman in the shop. The money that she gets used to buy a platinum watch that costs twenty-one dollars. She guesses her husband will be happy receiving the gift.

Unexpected story happens here, after Jim comes back home, he is shocked looking at Della's hair. Actually, Jim sells one of his precious things to buy a set of hair brushes that Della wants. But now, Della cannot use the gift from Jim yet because her hair is too short. He embraces Della without caring for the gift, they

realize that love and wise cannot be loose by hard situation. In here, love wins. Both are suffering for their partner's sake. Like the Magi, those wise men who invented the tradition of Christmas giving, both Della and Jim have unwisely sacrificed the greatest treasures of their house for each other. However, of all those who give gifts, these two are inevitably the wisest.

There are two main characters in that short story, they are a couple named Jim as the husband and Della as the wife. From the points of archetype that has been mentioned in the previous paragraph, Della has some archetypes. For example caregiver, as a wife Della always prepares everything that Jim needs to fulfill the daily needs. She also gives Jim attention by planning to buy a gift for him in Christmas. Similar with Della, Jim has lover archetype. This can be seen by the attitude that Jim does to Della. He loves Della so much, even he likes to care her hair. In the story *The Gift of the Magi*, there are more examples that can be analyzed by archetype.

The researcher chose this story because it contains the characters that can analyze the symbols using archetype theory proposed by Carl Gustav Jung (1981). Jung understood archetypes as universal, archaic patterns and images that derive from the collective unconscious and are the psychic counterpart of instinct. Archetypes are also very close analogies to instincts in the sense that its impersonal and inherited traits that present and motivate human behavior long before any consciousness develops. It is suitable to analyze the symbols and representations in the short story *The Gift of the Magi*.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

According to the background of study, the statement of the problem can be formulated as follows:

1. What are the characteristics of the main characters of O. Henry's *The Gift of the Magi*?
2. What are the archetypes of the main characters of O. Henry's *The Gift of the Magi*?

## **1.3 Objective of Study**

Based on the statement of the problem, the objective of the study can be established as follows:

1. To describe the characteristics of the main characters of O. Henry's *The Gift of the Magi*?
2. To describe the archetype of the main characters of O. Henry's *The Gift of the Magi*?

## **1.4 Scope of the Study**

Based on the objective of study mentioned previously, the researcher analyzed the characteristics of the main characters and the main characters' archetype in O. Henry's fictional short story entitled *The Gift of the Magi* that was published in 1905.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

This study might enrich the researcher's knowledge about archetype theory by Carl Gustav Jung . It also gave knowledge to the readers about the archetype theory. This might be useful for the further students especially in the Faculty of Language and Cultural Studies of Stikubank University who want to do similar analysis.

### **1.6 Approach to the Study**

In this analysis, the researcher used psychological approach, it leads to substantial amplification of the literary work's meaning (Nastiti, 2013). In doing the analysis, the researcher used the data from O. Henry's short story entitled *The Gift of the Magi* that was published in 1905. The researcher used the theory of archetype by Carl Jung to support the analysis. The researcher uses some references from online article or books, printed books, and several websites from internet. Especially Jung's book in 1980 entitled "Archetypes and Collective Unconscious" volume 1-9. The data analysis procedures have been done as follows: read the whole data and recognize the citations that contain the case related to the thory, then identify the archetype in the story, after that interpret the findings and analyze it using archetype theory.

### **1.7 Organization of Research Report**

The researcher divided the final project into five chapters. They are:

Chapter I is Introduction, it consists of background to the study, statement of problem, objective of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, methodology of the study, and organization of research report.

Chapter II is the biography of Carl Gustav Jung and the synopsis of *The Gift of the Magi* (1905) by O. Henry which is used as the main data of the discussion in this final project.

Chapter III contains review of related literature.

Chapter IV consists of finding and discussion of the study. Here is the result, the researcher answered the statement of the problem that has been explained in the Chapter I.

Chapter V consists of conclusions and suggestions. This chapter presents about the brief result of the analysis clearly and suggestion related to the analysis and theory.