

MULTIPLE PERSONALITY DISORDER IN M. NIGHT SHYAMALAN'S SPLIT (2016) MOVIE SCRIPT

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Abstract : The purpose of this study is to Multiple Personality Disorder mental disorder in Split (2016) by M. Night Shyamalan's film using defense mechanism theory. This research was qualitative research. This research used two data sources: primary data and secondary data. The primary data source was the Movie Script of this movie. Then, the secondary data sources were books, articles, journal references from the internet about the movie, and other sources that related to the researched. In analazyng the data the writer used Psychological Approach based on Theory of Sigmund Freud The Defense Mechanism. there are some types of the defense mechanism proposed by freud. and the result shows several types of defense mechanisms in Kevin's character with a split personality such as Repression, Reaction Formation, Projection, Regression, Sublimation, Denial, Rationalization, and Identification. Split uses various ego defense mechanisms as narrative tools to illustrate the psychological complexity of Kevin Wendell Crumb's character. Through this exploration, Shyamalan not only creates a deep and complex character, but also delves into themes of trauma, identity, and self-protection, giving a rich literary dimension to an intense and evocative story.

Keywords: *Defense Mechanism, Multiple Personality Disorder, Psychoanalysis, Mental Health*

INTRODUCTION

At this time, mental health is a topic that is often discussed everywhere, according to the World Health Organization or WHO Mental health is a state of mental well-being that enables people to cope with the stresses of life, realize their abilities, learn well and work well, and contribute to their community, based on this

understanding it can be said that mental health is very important for everyone's life to have a good life and be able to move well. However, of course not everyone has a healthy mentality, some people have mental disorders, of course this is influenced by various factors such as environmental factors or past trauma. some mental disorders must even have special treatment as the writer will discuss in this research, namely Multiple Personality Disorder (MPD) or Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID).

Multiple Personality Disorder (MPD) or Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID), is a type of dissociative disorder characterized by the presence of two or more distinct personality identities, which are commonly referred to as "alterations" or "parts." According to The American Psychiatric Association, multiple personality disorder is the presence of two or more distinct identities. These distinct identities are accompanied by changes in behavior, memory, and thinking. Individuals with Multiple Personality Disorder experience switching between these identities, each of which has unique patterns of thinking, feeling, and behaving. During periods where one identity is in control, the individual often experiences amnesia for actions or events performed while the other identity was present. MPD is often associated with severe childhood traumatic experiences, such as sexual abuse, physical abuse, or neglect. This split identity is often a defense mechanism that develops to protect oneself from insurmountable traumatic experiences. In this research, the writer will analyze the defense mechanisms in each personality that exist in the character Kevin who has MPD in the film *Split* (2016) by M. Night Shyamalan using a psychoanalysis approach.

"*Split*" is a psychological thriller film released in 2016 and directed by M. Night Shyamalan. The movie tells the story of a man named Kevin Wendell Crumb, played by James McAvoy, who has severe Multiple Personality Disorder (MPD). Kevin in "*Split*" has twenty four different personalities living inside him, including "The Beast," a personality that is thought to have extraordinary strength and invulnerability. The story centers on the kidnapping of three teenage girls by Kevin. The girls then try to escape while dealing with Kevin's various personalities, which have different traits

and characteristics. Meanwhile, a psychiatrist named Dr. Karen Fletcher, played by Betty Buckley, tries to understand more about Kevin's condition and his complex personality.

In the movie *Split* (2016) Kevin exhibits symptoms of MPD such as memory loss, drastic personality changes, and an inability to control behavior. The movie depicts how Kevin rapidly transitions between his different identities, where each identity has unique characteristics, habits, and skills. In addition, "Split" also highlights the traumatic aspects of Kevin's life that triggered the onset of MPD, such as his difficult childhood experiences and his relationship with his parents. It also depicts the role of his therapist, Dr. Karen Fletcher, who tries to understand and treat Kevin with empathy, mirroring real-world efforts to understand and manage serious mental disorders like MPD. Through the character of Kevin, the movie presents a dramatic picture of the complexity and impact of MPD on a person's life. Although some of its aspects are overdramatized, "Split" provides a snapshot of the complexities and challenges faced by someone with MPD, albeit in the context of movie fiction.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research will apply qualitative research. According to Mayring (2000, p. 2), "Qualitative content analysis defines itself within this framework as an approach of empirical, methodological controlled analysis of texts within their context of communication, following content analytical rules and step by step models, without rash quantification." Two data sources were conducted this research. They were primary data sources and secondary data sources. According to Ary et.al (1985, p. 332), In qualitative research, two sources used to get data. Primary sources and Secondary sources". The writer used two data sources in this research. The primary source was to give prominent data related to the problem of the research. The secondary source was an additional source to get the data. The primary Source, the script and scenes of the movie "Split" are used; and the secondary source, several articles and books of Psychology and MPD are used to gather more information to

this study. For literary research, the author chooses to analyze the Movie script of the film Split (2016) by M. Night Shyamalan and will use the Psychoanalytic Approach with Sigmund Freud's Defense Mechanism Theory. Sigmund Freud (in Gokdag, 2015) described the typical attitudes are demonstrated by individuals to decrease or avoid anxiety. He called them defense mechanisms. Defense mechanism is one of important parts in psychoanalytic study. Psychoanalysis is a branch of psychological study, which has basic assumption that human's mental elements are divided into two levels, the unconscious and the conscious. Defense mechanism is activated when the individual deals with serious anxiety and emotional conflict. Defense mechanism is the mental strategy used by the ego to continue blocking the harmful behavior while at the same time reducing anxiety (Gokdag, 2015, p.348). There are some types of the defense mechanism proposed by Freud that will be discussed in this research such as Repression, Reaction Formation, Projection, Regression, Sublimation, Denial, Rationalization, and Identification.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Multiple Personality Disorder On Kevin

Multiple Personality Disorder (MPD) or Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID), is a type of dissociative disorder characterized by the presence of two or more distinct personality identities, commonly referred to as "alters" or "parts". It is this mental illness that causes the main character in this film, Kevin, to use his defense mechanism in the form of different identities to be able to deal with the trauma he experienced. Here are some of Kevin's identities that appear in the movie.

Kevin as Dennis and Patricia

The scene where Kevin's 2 Identities, Dennis and Patricia, are talking about the girl who was kidnapped by Dennis.

MARCIA : There's a lady outside

PATRICIA: Dennis, admit what you've done

DENNIS: (WHISPERS) Don't get upset.

PATRICIA: Don't tell me. I'm getting frightened. I thought that you had this under control. Please tell me it's not too late.

DENNIS: The food is waiting.

PATRICIA: Is she in that room?

The scene is when the three girls look through the hole in the door and hear the conversation of Kevin's two identities, Patricia and Dennis, talking, the girls think that a woman is talking to the man who kidnapped them. They then shouted for help but they were surprised when the woman entered the room where they were locked up, it turned out that the woman they heard was the same person as the man who kidnapped them. Here the kidnapped girls did not know that the man who kidnapped them had a mental disorder.

Kevin As Hedwig

The scene when Hedwig first appears in front of the kidnapped girls.

CASEY : How old are you?

AS HEDWIG : Nine.

CASEY : So you're not the guy that took us?

AS HEDWIG : No. (SCOFFS)

CASEY : You're not the lady?

AS HEDWIG : What are you, blind?

CASEY : You don't know how they think?

AS HEDWIG : No, they don't tell me much. I just ate a hot dog.

In this scene, another identity of Kevin is shown, namely Hedwig, here Casey seems to have begun to realize that the man who kidnapped them has a double identity. Hedwig, a 9-year-old child, is Kevin's identity that appears when Kevin is in a complicated situation that makes him like returning to childhood to be able to face reality as a child.

The Beast

The Beast is one of the most terrifying and dominant of the 24 identities possessed by Kevin Wendell Crumb in the movie "Split" (2016). The Beast is the culmination of Kevin's personality formed as an extreme defense mechanism due to his childhood trauma. The Beast has extraordinary physical strength, far beyond that of an ordinary human. He can crush hard objects, climb walls, and survive deadly attacks.

THE BEAST : Your gun cannot hurt me.

Can't you see I am not human?

Kevin is a man. I am much more.

The Beast is the culmination of the conflict in the movie. His presence brings the story to a climax, creating extreme tension and danger for the other characters. The Beast represents the physical manifestation of the trauma Kevin experienced, showing how violence and suffering can transform a person into a very different being.

Kevin

This scene is when Casey calls Kevin's full name Wendell Crumb in his transformation as "The Beast" and restores Kevin's original personality.

KEVIN : Who did that?

CASEY : You did.

KEVIN : I swear, I was on a bus. I don't remember anything after that. I... This is still September 18, 2014, right?

After returning Kevin forgot all the things he had done, Kevin did not remember all the things his other identities had done. This shows one of the characteristics of people with MPD disorder, namely memory loss or Amnesia.

Kevin As Jade, Orwell, Barry, Hedwig and Patricia

In this scene, five identities of Kevin appear alternately in a very short time.

AS JADE : My name is Jade. Has Dr. Fletcher been getting our emails? This is what we have to do.

(GRUNTS)

AS ORWELL : As in 1008, when Anandapala suffered the Shahis' most crushing defeat and Mahmud overran the entirety of the Punjab region, taking the famed temple of Kangra, we have been wronged by this alliance, this horde of Patricia, Dennis and the boy. Their actions do not represent us. They are every...

AS BARRY : Everybody, just take a minute! Oh, baby girl. They've been stealing control of the light from me. But the group are gonna work through this. Honey, my name is Barry.

(CHOKING)

AS HEDWIG : You shouldn't have used the walkie-talkie. They almost caught us.

CASEY : (SOBS) Stop it, Hedwig!

AS HEDWIG : They were right. Look at you. You're so frightened of us. Dennis and Miss Patricia are in charge because of me. I'm gonna give the light to them now. No one's allowed to make fun of me anymore.

AS PATRICIA : Thank you, Hedwig.

When Casey mentions Kevin Wendell Crumb's name it triggers the real Kevin to return, but it also causes chaos to his existing identity which makes other identities appear suddenly and interchangeably in a very short time. In this scene it is very clear Multiple Personality Disorder in Kevin where his personality and the way he speaks change in an instant.

Kevin's Defense Mechanism

Repression

According to Ritsnaini and Hasnini (2020) This is a method of defense mechanism when a person removes miserable thoughts from her mind in order to not remember them anymore. This defense mechanism works when a person experiences trauma as a painful and fearful event then she places the traumatic memory to her unconscious mind to prevent the memory from reaching her conscious mind.

KEVIN : There's a shotgun I bought. It's in the bottom cabinet, hidden behind things. The shells are in my uniform closet out in the service hall. Kill me. Then kill me.

(AS JADE) : Wait, no! (STUTTERS) Don't do that! He can't handle reality. My name is Jade.

In this scene, Kevin has realized that he has caused someone to die, he cannot accept the fact and asks Casey to kill him with his gun. However, his identity "Jade" soon emerges as a form of repression to eliminate his bad memories or memories of the murder. As mentioned above Repression is an ego defense mechanism in which a person unconsciously rejects or removes disturbing or unwanted thoughts, feelings, or memories from his or her consciousness. In this scene, the Writer finds that Kevin has a repression defense mechanism on his identity named "Jade".

Reaction Formation

This is a method of defense mechanism when a person transforms an unacceptable feeling or trait into something more socially acceptable (Ritsnaini and Hasnini 2020). It means that the person actually has the feeling or trait considered socially negative or disturbing. While the negative feeling or trait is repressed, the person forms a reaction tactic that she may feel the tactic fits in with social norms by adopting polar opposite stance on the repressed feeling or trait.

AS PATRICIA : I think I'll put a pretty flower in your hair. There we are. That's to show how important you are. Come along. We'll have a proper meal.

This controlling and nurturing nature may be Patricia's way of coping with the feelings of incompetence or chaos that Kevin's weaker identity actually feels. By showing strict control and a nurturing attitude, Patricia masks any feelings of fragility and insecurity that may exist. Patricia's defense mechanisms, especially through nurturing and rationalization, create tension in the story. Her interactions with the kidnapped girls and other identities increase the sense of danger and internal conflict within Kevin.

Projection

It is when a person projects her own traits to someone else. She projects the traits to someone else because they can not be denied or repressed completely. Human mind has a very positive self image to feed the ego with praise in recognition from others.

THE BEAST : Your gun cannot hurt me.

Can't you see I am not human?

Kevin is a man. I am much more.

The Beast, one of Kevin's most dangerous identities, is a manifestation of extreme strength and superiority. The Beast projects Kevin's feelings of weakness and powerlessness into a powerful and invincible identity. The Beast projects the pain and suffering experienced by Kevin into the belief that this suffering makes one stronger and superior. His interactions with the other characters in the movie create tension in the movie where The Beast chases and then kills the girl he kidnapped making the other characters very afraid of him. The writer finds that the Projection defense mechanism is depicted in the scene above.

Regression

Regression is method of defense mechanism when a person experiences the temporary or long-term reversion of the ego to the earlier stage of development. It happens when he can not handle an unacceptable impulse or event in a more adult manner. The unacceptable impulses cause stress and displeasure feeling to the person, so he returns to the previous stage of development as if she were a child.

AS HEDWIG : I like dancing. Do you like dancing? I like dancing to my CD player in my room. Kanye West is my main man. We got my CD player set up in my room, right next to my window.

Hedwig is one of Kevin's 9-year-old identities. Hedwig often engages in childish behaviors such as listening to music, dancing, and playing with toys. The presence of Hedwig as a younger identity allows Kevin to return to an earlier phase of development, where the responsibilities and complexities of adult life are absent. This is a clear form of regression where Kevin avoids stress and trauma by returning to a simpler and safer stage of life.

Sublimation

Sublimation is a method of defense mechanism when a person transforms her repressed motives or emotions into more acceptable forms in social terms. The transformation happens because the repressed motives that she has are considered as negative traits and they become unacceptable desires for her to release in conscious mind. But on the other side, the person does not want to repress the desires, so she releases them by providing acceptable forms and by having social value (Freud, 2010, p. 2827).

BARRY : No, no, no, that one. That one, before the pink frock coat with the thorns. That's supposed to be like a tailored jacket, but I'm gonna hand-print it with newspaper headlines.

(LAUGHS)

DR FLETCHER : I'm a simple blouse and skirt person, but these... These are very artistic, Barry.

DR FLETCHER : Just the kind of thing Hamptons ladies would spend \$15,000 on to wear once at a charity ball.

Barry is one of Kevin Wendell Crumb's inner identities that serves as a friendly and cheerful fashion designer. Barry is often used to interact with the outside world, particularly with Dr. Karen Fletcher, and serves as a more acceptable and controlling "face" of Kevin. The scene above shows Barry showing a sketch of his shirt design. Barry, is an artist and fashion designer. Barry uses creativity and art as a way to express emotions and urges that may not be acceptable in other contexts. This is an example of how internal drives that may be related to anxiety or trauma are channeled into positive and socially acceptable activities.

Denial

Denial is method of defense mechanism when a repressed memory finds its way into conscious mind. If repression turns the memory away and keeps it at a distance to be inaccessible in the conscious mind, then denial lets the repressed memory finds its way to consciousness in revealing a piece of information about something that is repressed. The way to reveal the repressed memory is by negating the information of the memory. So, a person who uses denial as her defense mechanism denies the correctness of the repressed memory (Freud, 2010, p. 796).

KEVIN : Who did that?

CASEY : You did.

KEVIN : I swear, I was on a bus. I don't remember anything after that. I... This is still September 18, 2014, right?

Kevin, as the original identity, is often unaware or denies the reality of what the other identities are doing as they take over. It is a form of internal denial that allows Kevin to remain "unaware" or not acknowledge the extreme actions performed by other identities, such as "The Beast".

Rationalization

Rationalization is method of defense mechanism when a person makes logical excuses to justify generally unacceptable behaviour. It is used in unconscious mind to avoid addressing the actual reasons for the behaviour. Rationalization can seem like logical and clear excuses but it is actually used to cover up the underlying emotions and motives (Freud, 2010, p. 2333).

AS DENNIS : He's much bigger than I am and I'm the biggest of all of us. He's tall. He's very muscular. And he's got a long mane of hair and his fingers are twice the length of ours. He believes we are extraordinary. That we don't represent a mistake, but our potential.

More dominant identities, such as Patricia and Dennis, rationalize the existence and actions of "The Beast" as a natural evolution necessary to deal with a harsh and unjust world. They reason that only the "pure" can survive, which is a justification for violent acts against those who are considered weak or impure. The writer finds that in this scene, the defense mechanism of Rationalization is seen, where Dennis explains about The beast that is very extraordinary as if it is the right thing despite the fact that The beast is a very dangerous identity.

Identification

Identification is method of defense mechanism when a person adopts attitude or qualification of another person she admires. In this case, the person actually represses the qualification she wishes to achieve then she takes another person whose qualification admired by her. This defense mechanism involves a change in one's self to become more like the admired person (Freud, 2010, p. 2619).

AS PATRICIA : I think I'll put a pretty flower in your hair. There we are. That's to show how important you are. Come along. We'll have a proper meal.

Identification allows the identities within Kevin to work in a more coherent and organized way, by adopting aspects that are considered important or strong from other identities. By adopting the role of a strong and protective mother, Patricia uses the mechanism of Identification to overcome her internal conflicts and maintain the

integrity of Kevin's other identities. This demonstrates the complexity and depth of the characters in the movie "Split."

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