#### DAUGHTERS' AMBITION IN WILLIAM SHAKEPEARE'S KING LEAR

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**Abstract**: The purpose of this study is to reveal the cruel nature and ambition of the two daughters of King Lear (Goneril and Regan) King Lear is one of the works of Author William Shakespeare's, a famous story during the time of Queen Elizabeth II. This research is categorized as qualitative research because the data collected from several articles, journals, searches from the internet. And in analyzing the data the writer uses a psychological approach because this includes human behavior, both individuals and groups who do harmful behavior and even benefit themselves, ethnicity, nation, society, government, religion, or organization. So, this drama explains how their actions have affected the lives of those around them, even physically and mentally damaging King Lear, even themselves. This triggers the ambition to move forward to get desires and desires that result in destruction, even death, so that the lives of brothers and sisters finally break apart, conflicts occur because of the ambition to have power and get love so that one by one die, without justice.

Keyword: Goneril and Regan, Ambition, Power, Destruction, Desire

#### INTRODUCTION

Literary works are a reflection of real life (Tatipang, 2022). Drama King Lear is a literary work that tells a story using multiple conflicts. The characters in this drama usually depict human psychology and behavior. Ambition is a part of human psychology. This study the ambitions of the children of King Lear.

According to Endaswara written by Trisnawati Bura (Bura, 2019, p. 3). Literary works which are seen as psychological phenomena will display psychological aspects through characters if by chance the text is in the form of drama or prose. In addition, psychology of literature has important role in understanding literary works. On the other word, there are some advantages to do analysis by using psychology of literature, one of those advantages it can study deeply about characterization of characters (Minderop, 2018, p. 59).

Psychological is important, and psychological problems are interesting when we try to analyze them further. Psychology can be defined as a physical science. The definition of psychology comes from many experts who state that there is a relationship between human behavior and psychology. So that psychology can be explained as a science focused on human behavior as a psychological representation of the human soul.

Many others have also described literature as Wuntu (2015) said "Literary work which has affective nature is significant power to touch the deepest sense that can be produce perfect consciousness as it successfully carries its mission as a form generator of human consciousness." Also, Rorintulus (2018) says that literature is a reflection of human life and also that literature describes certain phenomena found in social life. So, it can be concluded that literature is closely related to the life forms of living things. This includes psychological problems and this research discusses the ambitions of the Lear children who wish to rule over their father's throne from betrayal, and finally to death.

In research" Experimenting Jeremiadic Approach as an Alternative for TEFL in Meeting the Demand of the 2013 Curriculum" by Mister Gidion Maru, it says "a literary text provides learners with real world experiences, relationships between society and people where the target language is spoken, even if they are fictions" (p.4).

This drama tells about the ambition of the children's character King Lear to usurp the Throne and Royal Power of their father King Lear. They have ambitions to fulfill their psychogenic needs. It fulfills the psychogenic needs experienced by the characters in this drama. This research was conducted using qualitative methods. This study uses an objective approach to analyze the nature of the character of the children of King Lear. The result of this research is that ambition has cause and effect.

According to Tatenhove written by Prawito Dado (Dado, 2020, p. 5), ambition is energy expressed in active behavior towards a goal or aspiration. Meanwhile, according to Murray, the need for ambition is related to the need for goals often with succeeding, achieving, and overcoming obstacles.

The need for recognition is met by gaining social status and displaying achievements. These needs are included in psychogenic need. Sometimes the ambition needs even involve a need for exhibition or the desire to shock and thrill other people. It is not supposed that they are fundamental, biological drives, though some may be innate (Murray, 1938). According to Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI), ambition is a desire, a great desire to get something like a rank or position in life or to do something to achieve a big goal with one's desire. While ambitious is the desire to achieve something. So, ambitious is an adjective of ambition.

In reality, ambition is not always a bad thing and there is ambition when it comes to good. As well as efforts to achieve ideals in a good way. A healthy desire to achieve success by maximizing energy and thought is a form of good ambition. According to Asri written by Debby Herlambang (Erlambang, 2021, p. 6), ambition can be seen when a person has characteristics in the form of having a great desire, using thought and energy to satisfy the need for recognition in the form of status, praise and respect from others to achieve a sense of satisfaction in his life.

#### **RESEARCH METHOD**

This research is classified as a qualitative research. According to Bodgan and Biklen (1982: 30) qualitative research is descriptive. The data collected are in the form of words of pictures rather than numbers."

The As Patton (1985, p 1) explain: Qualitative research "is an effort to understand situation in their uniqueness as part of particular context and the interaction there. This understanding is an end in itself, so that it is not attempting to predict what may happen in the future necessarily, but to understand the nature of that setting, what the world looks like in that particular setting. The analysis strives for depth of understanding."

Based on the definition above, qualitative research is the most appropriate method for analyzing the drama. So, the writer collected the data through this qualitative research because the data were obtained from articles, journals, and transcribes browsing from the internet.

# Data Collecting

The writer classifies the sources of the data in two categories, primary and the secondary sources. The primary source is the drama King Lear and the secondary source is the other related books such as articles and internet explanations obtained to support the author in conducting research. These sources are based on Griffith's statement as follows:

"Two kinds of evidences relevant for essay about literature: evidence for primary source are the works of literature themselves and secondary sources of facts or opinion outside the work itself."

# Data Analysis

This research data analysis, the writer used Psychological Approach. According to Atar Semi written by Gunawan Tambunsaribu (Tambunsaribu, 2020, p. 2), Psychological approach is literature criticism method which stresses on psychological elements that exist in a literature work. These psychological elements were given attention in

literature criticism and studies due to emergence of consciousness for the writer and also for the critic. The society improvement and advancement in this modern age are not entirely be measured. From material element, but additionally from spiritual or psychology elements. Usage of this concept literature this is did by way of many authors is via taking beneficial parts and pure for their consideration in gaining knowledge of characteristic and character of a person.

Psychological approach because this approach includes human behavior consisting of individuals and groups where if someone does behavior that is detrimental or beneficial to himself, the impact will affect the surrounding environment, be it family, ethnicity, nation, society, government., religion, organization or society. The impact of change Therefore, the psychological approach is a representation of the human psyche. So it can support an ambitious analysis.

In analyzing the data, the writter used a psychological approach. Nature psychological approach, it is a strategy that is based heavily on the idea of the existence of the human unconscious - the drives, desires, and feelings that a person has. unconscious but affect emotions and behavior" (Meyer, 1997). It In the statement above, it is explained that the psychological approach focuses on emotions and human behavior.

#### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Many human actions are based on psychological traits and therefore, they can be examined to have a better understanding of underlying motive. Given the various and on several occasions the corrupted motives of Characters, concepts, and understandings of power seem to differ according to one's psyche and, therefore, must be considered in terms of psychology. Owell examines Elizabeth's case from a personal and clinical perspective, with particular emphasis on the unique challenges to minority women whose stories are often excluded in the psychoanalytic literature. Powell acknowledges, and questions, the

compromises and sacrifices that women, especially women of color, often make in order to recognize, and be recognized, their full potential.

She also discusses the failure of the psychoanalytic profession, and of our society in general, to adequately address racial, ethnic, and gender biases as applied to women's ambitions. Drawing from her clinical, as well as personal experience as an African-American psychoanalyst, Powell notes the ways in which a woman pursuing her ambitions can be dismissed, objectified or hijacked by the surrounding culture and its biased patriarchy. Powell highlights the difficulties women of color experience around identification, and the capacity to ask for help, advice, and nurturing, as they seek to progress — especially in male-dominated fields like science. Powell notes the pressure on women, like Elizabeth, to collude with existing power structures is self-treason. He suggests that Elizabeth's treatment involves a process of rediscovering self and voice.

# General situation story of King Lear

King Lear was first published in 1608, with the following title-page: M. William Shakespeare: True Chronicle History. of the life and death of King LEAR and his three Daughters. With the unfortunate life of Edgar, and heire to the Earle of Gloster, and his sullen and assumed humor of Tom of Bedlam. "Of all Shakespeare's plays Macbeth is the most rapid, Ham let the slowest in movement; Lear combines length with rapidity, like the hurricane and the whirlpool, absorbing while it advances. It begins as a stormy day in summer, with brightness; but that brightness is lurid, and anticipates the tempest. It was not without forethought, nor is it without its due significance, that the division of Lear's kingdom is in the first six lines of the play stated as a thing already determined in all its particulars, previously to the trial of professions, as the relative rewards of which the daughters were to be made to consider their several portions. The strange, yet by no means unnatural, mixture of selfishness, sensibility, and habit of feeling derived

from, and fostered by, the particular rank and usages of the individual; the intense desire of being in tensely beloved, selfish, and yet characteristic of the selfish ness of a loving and kindly nature alone; the self- support less leaning for all pleasure on another's breast; the crav ing after sympathy with a prodigal disinterestedness, frustrated by its own ostentation, and the mode and nature of its claims; the anxiety, the distrust, the jealousy, which more or less accompany all selfish affections, and are amongst the surest contradistinctions of mere fondness from true love, and which originate Lear's eager wish to enjoy his daughter's violent professions, whilst the inveterate habits of sovereignty convert the wish into claim and positive right, and an incompliance with it into crime and treason; -these facts, these passions, these moral verities, on which the whole tragedy is founded, are all prepared for, and will to the retrospect be found implied, in these first four or five lines of the play. For such are the appointed relations of intellectual power to truth, and of truth to goodness, that it becomes both morally and poetically unsafe to present what is admirable—what our nature compels us to admire in the mind and what is most detestable in the heart as coexisting in the same individual, without any apparent connection or any modification of the one by the other. Shakespeare has given, and what nobody else but he could give. So, we believe. The mind of Lear, staggering between the weight of attachment and the hurried movements of passion, is like a tall ship driven about by the winds, buffeted by the furious waves, but that still rides above the storm, having its anchor fixed in the bottom of the sea; or it is like the sharp rock circled by the eddying whirlpool that foams and beats against it, or like the solid promontory pushed from its basis by the force of an earthquake.er of his days in happiness, the whole loses its signification. According to Shakespeare's plan, the guilty, it is true, are all punished, for wickedness destroys itself; but the virtues that would bring help and succor are everywhere too late, or overmatched by the cunning activity of malice. The persons of this drama have only such a faint belief in

Providence as heathens may be supposed to have; and the poet here wishes to show us that this belief requires a wider range than the dark pilgrimage on earth, to be established in full extent. In this chapter the writer describes how King Lear saw the confession of proof of his daughters' love for him by expressing their love for King Lear, but because of the ambition and selfish nature of the two daughters of King Lear to want to have all the power and kingdom of their father, they expressed love and love even though all of them were lies, because they wanted to have the kingdom that their father had. But because their father believed in the end King Lear gave up some of the treasure, while Cordelia the third daughter of King Lear she was expelled from the palace for not expressing her love for King Lear, she was expelled from the palace without get any treasure.

## Daughter's ambition

Goneril and Regan are both power hungry at first glance, we might find it hard to think of anything that can distinguish one from the other. If we take a closer look, we will see that Goneril is more aggressive: "Only greater aggression distinguishes her from her sister". Goneril "gets angry before he speaks". She took power from her husband Albany. Regan, on the other hand, is a "cold follower" whose qualities are a bit chilly and present a more energetic contrast than Goneril." Both in Goneril and Regan's character it's hard to find a positive side in this they are smart enough and successful, they are at least smart enough to help each other when they can benefit from the king of Lear, as long as they have the same goal of being completely loyal to each other. However, when they begin to compete for the same person, Edmund, this loyalty is lost.

This drama adds tension to the story. When Regan talked about Goneril, he said: "I will never support you. My good lord doesn't know him." When Goneril talks about Regan, he says: "Oh, I know riddles", which means that he knows his sister even tricks he can pull off. They are

jealous, this is "the love triangle is an important part in the atmosphere of this drama's moral collapse".

When the war began, the sisters, along with Edmund and Albany, defenders of England "they took the lead in defending their lands against the French invasion, according to (Cohen 380) saying that this would "certainly affect patriotism among some". Cordelia also fought for France. it could be said that Regan and Goneril were patriots, while Cordelia was a traitor. Seeing her, of course it was easy to understand and forgive Cordelia in this situation. England was facing a crisis because of the king of England, telling him to leave. Blond haired brother's appearance towards father they are so amazing. They proclaim their father so much that they ask themselves, why do they hate them so much, where does this hatred come from?

#### **Goneril Ambition**

"Sir, I love you more than words can describe this problem,

More precious than sight, space and freedom,

Beyond what can be appreciated, rich or scarce,

Nothing less than life, with grace, health, beauty, honor;

As many children have loved, or found fathers;

Love that makes shortness of breath, and can not speak.

Beyond all sorts of so much I love you."

(King Lear; Act I, Scene I)

Knowing their father's character, Goneril and Regan flatter him by exaggerating their love. They, being greedy princesses, are easy to say words of love because they have the ability to do so. Goneril first daughter flatters Lear.

"By day and night he wrongs me. Every hour

He Flashes into one gross crime or othe

That sets us all at odds."

After the division of Lear's kingdom, Lear spent his first activity in Goneril castle towards his retirement, but no happiness happened after Lear's presence in Goneril castle. Frustrated there, Goneril complains to Oswald his father's servant offends him day and night, causing a fight to start a family conflict, Goneril says that his father has a hundred knights and bodyguards.

### Regan Ambition

" I am made of that self mettle as my sister

And prize me at her worth. In my true heart

I find she names my very deed of love;

Only she comes too short, that I profess

Myself an enemy to all other joys

Which the most precious square of sense possesses,

And find I am alone Felicitate

In your dear Highness' love."

(King Lear; Act I , Scene I)

The above statement is how Regan's answer that does not want to be outdone by his brother Goneril is excessive for Lear, who is trying to "unify" his sister. The hypocritical Regan suggests that Goneril's love is "too short" compared to his, the only thing that makes him truly happy is the love of king Lear. The speaking Regan has the same "boldness" as his sister, both are metallic hardness just like Goneril, Lear rewarded Regan with most of his kingdom. These two sisters were just trying to get as much power and wealth as possible but they didn't see it.

"Not Only, Sir, this your all-licensed fool.

But otherof your insolent retinue

Do hourly curp and quarrel; breaking forth

In rank and not-to-be endured riots."

(King Lear, Act I, Scene IV)

Once again the behavior when studying also by Regan tells Lear he is Weak in action. So Regan instructs him to defeat half of Lear's knights, and return to spending the rest of the month with Goneril so he can return to live with Regan.

### The Impact of Goneril's Ambition

"You see how full of changes his age is; the observation we have made of it hath [not] been little. He always lov'd our sister most, and with what poor judgment he hath now cast her off appears too grossly."

(King Lear; Act I, Scene I)

Goneril begins to see his father king Lear whose instability is increasing and it is clear that his judgment is deteriorating, it seems that king Lear does not recognize the daughter he loves, not because Goneril cares for Cordelia, but Goneril is worried that his own interests will affect these bad thoughts towards his sister Regan.

"Gon.The best and soundest of his time hath been but rash; then must we look from his age to receive not alone the imperfections of long-ingraff'd condition, but therewithal the unruly waywardness that infirmity and choleric years bring with them".

(King Lear; Act I, Scene I)

Goneril feels right about what Regan said, that Lear is rash and quick-tempered, maybe as Lear gets older he becomes senile, but Lear hopes that they will get bad things that they won't expect. This means Lear might go crazy

### The Impact of Regan Ambition

"Prescribe not us our duties."

(King Lear; Act I, Scene I)

Regan, angry at Cordelia for treating her father well, says don't tell us what our job is, he snaps. It certainly shows that Lear's daughters don't care in general there isn't even any love between Cordelia and her sister.

"Reg. Tis the infirmity of his age, yet he hath ever but slenderly known himself."

(King Lear; Act I, Scene I)

Regan judged that Lear's father's personality took a turn for the worse when he kicked out Cordelia, he also hit the nail on the head showing Lear was weak and lacked self-knowledge, it was too late to save his tragic fate.

# The Impact of Lear's daughter's ambition

"Have more than thou showest,

Speak less than thou knowest,

Lend less than thou owest."

(King Lear; Act I, Scene IV)

In a short, wise song about life that demonstrates value and good taste in dealing with other people, fool tries to advise Lear. Lear's power and status waned after handing over the kingdom to his daughter and even exposing himself for personal gain with their evil ways. Fool who as Lear's wise servant tells Lear to be careful in the social world not to put all his cards on the table, to speak wisely and sparingly, and not to give away so much of his possessions that he is not left poor.

"Does any here know me? This is not Lear:

Does Lear walk thus? Speak thus? Where are his eyes?

Either his nation weakens, his discernings

Are lethargied- Ha! waking? 'tis not so.

Who is it that can tell me who I am?"

(King Lear; Act I, Scene IV)

King Lear who believed in how he was mistreated by those around him. Describes Fool as his court entertainer, after being torn apart by his daughters with complaints about rowdy Knights. From a king who had an undeniable kingdom now he saw his strength and dignity differ greatly. He questions who is she? Even asked if anyone knew him, where his eyes were, and who could tell him who. The shrewd Fool replied "Lear's shadow" had many meanings. The intelligent fool is the protector of conscience the king Lear tells that wherever lear goes he goes. Lear began to reimagine whether his critical social commentary was witty or wise, because since his abdication in reality Lear had begun to lose his grip and wits. When he asked his daughter "are you my daughter?" his

sadness and despair looks like his life now seems increasingly meaningless to him.

### Tragic death

The death that began with Regan's actions with her husband the Duke of Cornwall who tried to hurt the eye of Earl Gloucester for faithfully following the orders of the king of Lear Cornwall then came forward and gouged out one of Gloucester's eyes. Regan then told him to gouge out the other eye. Cornwall's subordinates were shocked by the barbaric treatment of their master, and one person drew his sword to stop his master. The subordinate manages to seriously injure Cornwall but is eventually stabbed to death by Regan. After the death of her husband the armies of Regan and Goneril and Albany have united. But the minds of the two sisters are not centered on the war ahead, they are fighting to win Edmund's love.

When meeting with Albany, Edgar asks permission to challenge Edmund. Due to evidence of Edmund's betrayal, Edgar offers a letter from Goneril planning to kill Albany. Albany agreed to call Edgar at the right time. But Edmund already had other plans to become king of all Britain. He secretly ordered people to kill the captives namely Cordelia and king Lear, after the war took place between Edgar and Edmund, Goneril who had planned to kill his sister Regan by poisoning him so that he could get Edmund's love instead of Regan, after that Edmund who fell for his defeat with his brother Edgar Goneril then prostrated at his feet Edmund and Albany showed It was his letter that frightened Goneril and ran to his tent. A few moments later, a frightened servant reported that Regan had died from Goneril's poison, and that Goneril had committed suicide with a knife. Facing death at the corner of his eye, Edmund admits to Albany that he had people killed Cordelia and Lear. The Duke immediately ordered the people to cancel the order, but it was too late. The king shouted sadly while supporting Cordelia's lifeless body in his arms. Kent and Albany rushed over to him. Lear gently touched his

daughter's white lips and held her hand. Then he raised his head and cursed all the traitors. The king was too sad to carry on with his life. He wrapped Cordelia's arms around his neck. Then in the midst of the cold embrace of his son who loved him the most, he approached his own death.

"The revenges we are bound to take upon your traitorous father are not fit your beholding."

(King Lear; Act III, Scene VII)

When Cornwall advises Edmund to go with Goneril and tell him this, we know that Cornwall will take terrible revenge on Gloucester for being a "traitor" (for Cornwall's "treason" of helping Gloucester help King Lear).

### CONCLUSION

After completing the research based on this analysis, the writer concludes that the ambition of Elizabeth 1 era has an impact on psychology, which triggers the person to do risky things in terms of wanting to fulfill desires and destruction, including in the story of the drama King Lear. The writer concludes that as a human being, there are many characters and a person's good and bad qualities depend on the actions and behaviors they do. Shakespeare's work which tells the story of King Lear's drama, is a picture of human life in the past until now still related to human psychology which is ambitious towards passion and desire. That's what happened to King Lear's daughters Goneril and Regan and caused their father King Lear to go crazy, crushed and even suffered from shortness of breath due to the cruel and evil behavior of his two daughters.

Why is this character so angry, selfish and evil? Goneril and Regan had always felt that Lear loved Cordelia the most. Perhaps they feel underappreciated or unloved which causes them to become sour. It doesn't justify their actions but it might provide some insight into why they rejected their father. Maybe they feel that he didn't love and care for them when they were young so why should they take care of him now in his old age. Therefore it is ambition that builds them to act unnaturally.

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