

## AMBITION AS SEEN IN ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON'S *THE MASTER OF BALLANTRAE: A WINTER'S TALE*

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**Abstract** : This research is intended to reveal how a character named James Durie can demonstrate what ambition and causes it. The study uses qualitative research methods. The study also employs a psychological approach and employed the Ludwig Klages the psychological theory of personality and supporting theory about ambitions by Widarso to explain and support the study on an ambition met by a character named James Durie in *The Master of Ballantrae: A Winter's Tale* novel. This study suggests that James Durie, as a character capable of meeting all the criteria of his ambition ranging physiological needs, love, honor, position, property and all that he desires must manifest so that, as can be seen by the characteristics of ambitious people in one's own self-interest, it can be deduced from this study that James Durie or *The Master of Ballantrae* had the ambition reflected in this novel.

**Keywords** : *Ambition, Theory of Personality, Ludwig Klages,*

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**Abstrak** : Penelitian ini dimaksudkan untuk mengungkapkan bagaimana karakter bernama James Durie dapat menunjukkan ambisi dan penyebabnya. Studi ini menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif. Studi ini juga menggunakan pendekatan psikologis dan menggunakan Ludwig Klages teori psikologis kepribadian dan teori pendukung tentang ambisi oleh Widarso untuk menjelaskan dan mendukung studi tentang ambisi yang dihadapi oleh karakter bernama James Durie dalam *The Master of Ballantrae: A Winter's Tale* novel. Studi ini menunjukkan bahwa James Durie, sebagai karakter yang mampu memenuhi semua kriteria ambisinya mulai dari kebutuhan fisiologis, cinta, kehormatan, posisi, properti dan semua yang diinginkannya harus terwujud sehingga, seperti yang dapat dilihat oleh karakteristik orang-orang ambisius dalam kepentingan diri sendiri, dapat disimpulkan dari penelitian ini bahwa James Durie atau *The Master of Ballantrae* memiliki ambisi yang tercermin dalam novel ini.

**Kata Kunci** : *Ambisi, Teori Kepribadian, Ludwig Klages,*

### INTRODUCTION

*“A literary work which has affective nature is a significant power to touch the deepest sense that can produce perfect consciousness as it successfully carries out its mission as a form generator of*

*human consciousness”*(Wuntu, 2016). Literature, as a work that is a person's viewpoint, serves as a place to pour out the contents of one's heart, ideas, thoughts, and opinions, which then poured into a scribble. Literature can also provide

readers with an inner experience and add insight to their understanding. Literary works are developed to be experienced by a large number of individuals and society, as a work was created to be felt, enjoyed, and understood by the general audience. Some novels also depict aspects of life, allowing us to feel joyful and entertained while reading them. Reading a novel can also educate readers by instilling in them the principles of truth, morality, and beauty. As researcher read in Robert Louis Stevenson Novel, *The Master of Ballantrae: A Winter Tale*. The researcher feel comforted by reading the work, where the rendition is quite unique and interesting telling tales of revenge and his writing contain darker realism makes the story interesting. The novel has a very meaningful moral value for life. That is what the good literary works where entertaining and motivating the readers.

In the novel *The Master of Ballantrae: A Winter's Tale*, there is two brother from Durie's family that will choose to join the uprising while the other will join the loyalist, whichever side wins the family noble status and estate will be preserved. A man named is James Durie (the Master of Ballantrae) as the older son of Durie family the laird of durrisdeer and Henry Durie (James brother) as the younger son decided on a common strategy : one son will join the uprising while the other will join the loyalists. That way, whichever side wins, the family noble status and estate will be preserved. The whole story of James Durie is said to have been killed in the wars of the ages. In fact, James Durie was not dead and on his way back he went on an adventure on his way home. When he got home and realized that James Durie had been replaced by Henry Durie (his younger brother) as the family

successor and he also married James Durie future wife. Seeing this, James Durie became ambitious and began to dismember his brother from his position, attempting to seize his position as the Master of Ballantrae of the Durie Family. In other ways there must be many conflicts that *James Durie* must deal with it. To reach out by all means he did to fulfill it is hope and his purpose, and it also led to ambition. Ambition is common to all people and without realizing it every people has his own ambitions. It shows how people work hard and try to achieve a strong desire with just as much determinations as people make it happen.

It is just the fact that sometimes ambition can also be negative that a person cannot control such strong will & desires and do whatever it takes to achieve it. In general most people must have ambitions, and those ambitions themselves are the result of individual willpower, or strong desires and of course people's ambitions is different, whether it is about how to get rich and to succeed, having a wife who has a beautiful face, even having many apartment buildings. Of course, in general to create such a thing requires hard work and determination. However in reality, a lot of people with ambitions are more committed to carrying out their ambitions than others without realizing what are they doing is bad or not.

Robert Louis Stevenson, in which Stevenson is a famous one Scottish novelist in United Kingdom where his always reflects the socials and condition around him with experience wandered across the world, he poured in a number of works, one of which was this novel *The Master of Ballantrae : Winter's Tale*.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### Research Design

This type of research used to study the novel *The Master of Ballantrae: A Winter's Tale* is qualitative“(Inmoleong, 2004: 3), suggests a qualitative method as a research procedure that produces data descriptive”.(Bogdan & Bilken, 1998). Descriptive data in this study in the form of a quote-analysis excerpts from *The Master of Ballantrae: Winter's Tale* that describes a deep meaning from the story on James Durie, also to find the ambition.

### Source of Data

What is meant by data sources in research are subjects from which data can be obtained. Data sources in this research are primary and secondary data sources. The primary source of this research data is *The Master of Ballantrae: A Winter's Tale* novel by Robert Louis Stevenson. And the secondary source of this research data is comes from other reference sources that discuss literature, psychology, personality and ambition.

### Technique for Collecting Data

Data collection techniques used in this study is a library and note-taking technique. Library study is gathering information and data with the help of various materials in help of various materials like a written source to obtain the secondary data resources. Data obtained in written form, which must be read, and note, important things are recorded then conclude and learn the sources of writing that can be used as a

theoretical basis and references in relation to the object to be examined.

The note taking technique is that the researcher conducts a directional reading and be careful with primary data. The primary data source in this research is the novel *The Master of Ballantrae: A Winter's Tale*. The researcher records every word, sentences that contained James Durie Ambition in *The Master of Ballantrae: A Winter's Tale* as analyzed data. After recording every word, sentence, and discourse in the novel then investigates the data through the psychoanalysis and reveals the ambition experienced by the main character through the Psychology analysis of literature in the novel.

### Technique of Data Analysis

The process of data analysis in this study use psychoanalysis approach since ambition is one of human psychological problem. The appropriate literary psychology for the research of character's ambition is the psychological theory of personality Ludwig Klages. “*Klages divides human personalities based on two templates, that is sanguine and phlegmatic*” (Suryabrata, 2013, p. 108). If a sanguinist is often doing a lot to make people happy, phlegmatic is just opposite. Yes, a phlegmatic will try to please those around people. Hence, a phlegmatis is known as a faithful friend and partner. Ambition includes in a sanguinate type of temperament. After all, there are several signs of ambition that contribute to it typical of a sanguinate people. One such feature is being determined and a strong effort to achieve what this sanguinate people wants. That are discovered in *The Master of Ballantrae : A Winter Tale* there

is based on James Durie personality. So, this research will discuss the typical of a sanguine temperament that continues on the ambitions of James Durie that based on his personality then the cause of his ambition as a character in *The Master of Ballantrae: A Winter's Tale* novel by Robert Louis Stevenson.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The finding and discussion of the study will be presented in this chapter that was done in the novel *The Master of Ballantrae : Winter's Tale* by Robert Louis Stevenson. After doing research, data comes back from the research based on the formula of what has been presented before.

### Ambition of James Durie

The character structure according to Ludwig Klages, there are three as 1) temperament, 2) feeling, 3) expression power. Ambition enters the structure of temperament. The temperament according to Ludwig Klages was a trait within humans. Raharjo (2020) adds to its definition of temperament, which is the nature and powers of humans. The temperament is an inner trait that remains affecting actions, feelings and thoughts. There are two types of temperament according to Klages, that of temperament *sanguinis* and *phlegmatis* temperament. Ambition is one of the traits produced by temperament *sanguinis*.

In the novel *The Master of Ballantrae : A Winter's Tale* dominant ambition is negative ambition, that's all he's after is his fortune and honour. Ambition that based on James Durie. Having the ambition nature to aim in life is all right,

but overdoing would be damaging even to others. Here are the James Durie ambition :

### Fortune

James Durie, otherwise known as The Master of Ballantrae, had ambition where his ambition to earn as much money as he wanted and was determined to land again after his adventure at sea. Here's a quote that says James Durie wants to earn money and can be seen on the quotations below.

*"And now, mates, says Ballantrae, a word with you. I dont know if you are gentlemen of fortune for the fun thing, but I am not. I want to make money, and get ashore again, and spend it like a man."*(Stevenson, 1888, p. 62).

Well, there's nothing wrong with James Durie ambition for the money he wants to fund his own ends because he basically has a purpose and his goal is to increase the estate and repay all his personal interests, and can be reflected in the following quotations.

*" The Adventure tempted him, as I conceive; he was tempted by the opportunity to raise the fortunes of the house, and not less by the hope of paying off his private liabilities, which were heavy beyond all opinion"* (Stevenson, 1888, p. 17).

Yes, there is not much of a problem. James Durie as The Master of Ballantrae has ambitions to gain fortune, but his ambition burdens many people at home where James Durie is ambition is only to fulfilled or he must achieve it no matter how. It can be seen that James Durie

ambition are frequent and plentiful in social community, where so many people race to be rich on the basis of survival and live a life of luxury that almost everyone is yearning for and it is reflected in James Durie. Trying to get rich in order to enjoy life under false pretences but without realizing that often what is being accomplished sometimes leads to people like forgetting to the closest people, where the family becomes the thing that sometimes people is often forgotten. Because people want to achieve so much it makes the person himself or forget where the person comes from, that first ambition turn into ego and it reflected on James Durie can be seen in the quotations below.

*“They do not know that I am the Lord Durrisdeer; they do not know you are my younger brother, sitting in my place under a sworn family compact; they do not know that every acre is mine before God Almighty and every do it of mine you with hold from me, you do it as a thief, a perjurer, and a disloyal brother!”*  
(Stevenson, 1888, p. 257- 258).

Ambition and ego are different things where ambition is the goal of a person to grasp something while an ego is something that is present in each person only what sets it apart is the level of the ego in each person is different. According to the Suryabrata (2011: 249) demonstrates that ego is a process group that proves to watch, remember, and think. Which task must be completed in order to create and implement a plan of action for

gaining satisfaction in response to inward thrust.

The data quote describe James Durie ego, where he denies that he should be Durrisdeer successor and that he should be holding all the money in Durrisdeer fortune, not his brother, the fact that James Durie once refused to be Durrisdeer successor and become the master of ballantrae, because the ego of James Durie wanted all that he could see, makes him feel a victim of his brother faux guilt because of James Durie refusal indicates that James Durie has proven to be selfish.

### **Honour**

In 1783, where the time James Durie is described was still highly regarded and especially in the era of the nobility, social stratification was very prominent at that time, it appears that James Durie held in high esteem his honour as the master of ballantrae as the successor of the Durrisdeer noble family reflected in the following quotations.

*“ I have been met here with some very unmerited insult, said he, from which i have certainly no idea to take refuge by flight. Give me your pittance; I take it without shame, for it is mine already like the shirt upon your back, and I choose to stay until these gentleman to stay until these gentlemen shall understand me better”* (Stevenson, 1888, p. 259).

As is seen, honour in the noble era means a lot even so much that people have to race to gain the opportunity to be known and recognized in social circles as honorable people it is also common in communities where divisions of individuals have been made public by the

people and it is the reason people compete being at the top with a view being recognized in society and that can lead to aggressive behavior in which people are prosecuted by environmental conditions requiring people to compete at the top because if not at the same level then no one will admit it either as a friend or work colleague. Then people might want to make friends as a reliable person because that person is rich so that sometimes a lot of people are aggressive and do whatever it takes to get ahead without any thought of the cost and damage to those around him and it is contaminated by James Durie on the following quotations.

*“The Master sprang to his feet like one transfixed; I had never seen the man the man so beautiful. A blow!, he cried. I would not take a blow from God Almighty!. Lower your voice, said Mr. Henry. Do you wish my father to interfere for you again?. The Master caught me by the shoulder, held me at arm’s length, and still addressing his brother, Do you know what is this means?, said he. It was the most deliberate act of my life, says Mr. Henry. I must have blood, I must have blood for this, says The Master. Please God it shall be yours, said Mr. Henry. And he went to the wall and took down a pair of swords that hung there with others, naked” (Stevenson, 1888, p. 142).*

In this situation is often found in societies where people act aggressively because people lack the means and the mindset to solve a problem, and there is an act that can hurt or even eliminate a

person’s life, which is believed to be an act of self recognition which is committed only to belief that one is capable or master of something the right to bear titles or nicknames. Aggressive behavior is the act of a person with the intent of harming, hurting, fabricating a story or damaging something that can result in either physical or psychological harm (Eliani, Yuniardi, and Masturah, 2018: 61). Eliani and the others helped explain the range of aggressive behavior, aggressive in physical action, aggressive in the form of angry emotions, aggressive hate and aggressive by verbal expressions. The data contained a James Durie arguing with his brother.

The dispute included an aggressive action because it played a part in the emotions of both James Durie and his brother Henry Durie. The disagreement was in the aggressive form of James Durie, an aggressive, angry emotion that led to aggressive physical action. It can be seen at the beginning of the conversation that James Durie started the fight with his brother Henry Durie, and that James Durie, losing his temper, became angry with his brother Henry Durie, James wanted to fight. His brother responded by dueling the sword until James Durie was wounded by the sword fight. James Durie would include taking aggressive action in an aggressive form of angry emotion. He responded to a speech by his brother that offended James Durie and thus gave way to a battle of blood that turned aggressive action, leading to physical action by trying to hurt each other.

### **The Cause of James Durie Ambition**

According to the Widarso (1992) The causes of that appearance ambition

negative are two according Widarso there is bad and good condition. The bad condition is divided into internal and external factors also like bad condition, circumstances that are good condition also have internal and external factors.

### **Bad Condition**

a. Internal Factors :

#### **All Taken Away and Left Married**

*“Have you ever a brother?” said he. By the blessing of heaven , said I, not less than five. I have the one, said he, with a strange voice; and then presently, He shall pay me for all this, he added. And when i asked him what was his brother’s part in our distress, What! he cried, he sits in my place, he bears my name, he courts my wife; and I am here alone with damned Irishman n this tooth chattering dessert! Oh, I have been a common gull! he cried.” (Stevenson, 1888, p. 89).*

The experience of the left married experience by the beloved person is bad, not to mention that she is the live in companion. The experience is individual, hence included in the internal factors, a character in the novel experience is James Durie. Miss Alison Graeme was the intended bride for the master of ballantrae James Durie but since James Durie was Pronounced dead in the duties given by his father, the bride was eventually transferred to be married by his brother Henry Durie. As a result the ambition appears in James Durie after knowing miss Alison is married by his own brother. James Durie in the data quote describe laments his plight. Being left by his future wife, whom he will mary to accompany him, especially if the one she marries is

his own brother, for James Durie that is the most painful thing for him, especially the place and title that should that should belong to James Durie, which is expected to be inversely propotional to the fact that all of that was snatched away by his younger brother. James Durie finally determined to avenge his brother by causing trouble and ruining his life. James Durie actions include egoism that shows negative ambition. The causes of James Durie actions were those of circumstances in which his brother took everything of value from James Durie, including miss Alison his future wife.

b. External Factors :

#### **Love**

*“And I remember I wondered if it was by some such natural skill that the Master made love to Mrs. Henry all day long (as he manifestly did), yet never startled her into reserve” (Stevenson, 1888, p. 137).*

In this data quote, James Durie had a love affair with Mrs. Henry or mistress Alison in which she was James Durie future wife, married to his brother Henry Durie. In this case a love story on novel can be right to do a bad thing. James Durie is the one who abused his love for mistress Alison , his brother wife. James Durie love for lady Alison was a fine thing but abused with the ambition to love lady Alison as a married woman. Such ambition are negative and end up bad. Where Alison needs to be in an unhealthy husband and wife relationship because of a lot of lies, owing to the love she still has for James Durie.

### **Good Condition**

Internal Factors :

### **Affection from brother**

“ *Do you not know where his money goes to?, his and yours and the money for the very wine he does not drink at table?, I went on, To paris to that man! Eight thousand pounds has he had of us in seven years, my patron fool enough to keep it secret!*” (Stevenson, 1888, p. 102).

In the data quotation it shows that James Durie possesses a poor trait by taking advantage of the kindness of his brother who always sends his money to aid his brother James Durie business and his essentially a financially sound good, but James Durie does not know how to handle it, and his younger brother sincere denial of his old brother is one of the image of genuine affection that a person might consider to be capable of is true, where if one already love someone whatever one is actions are justified. James Durie was a figure who abused his young brother attitude toward him was a fine but ill-used ambition by James Durie, who did not use the money his brother gave him wisely. Such ambition become negative and end by losing faith in the one he depends on.

External Factors :

### **Parental Affection to Children**

“*I think you are a devil of son to me, cried his father, you that have always been the favourite, to my shame be it spoken. Never a good hour have i gotten of you , since you were born; no, never one good hour, and repeated it again the third time*” (Stevenson, 1888, p. 19).

The severity of external factors in the novel on data quotations is lack of kids

education. In this case James Durie is the figure described as the son of a father. The role of parents in educating children is as important as parent to teach in a way that child does not make mistake and when a child does wrong is told why it is not to be repeated. However, the figure of James Durie parent did not do so, showing that James Durie father was so indulgent or refract so hard o his first child James Durie, that all he wanted and did could only deny him, since in his view, he was his favourite and only cause him grief for having inflicted pain on himself on account of the treatment of James Durie. The ambition of James Durie always wanting to get everything he wanted to grow was so great thanks to the unwillingness of the old man, James Durie father, that James got away with it. So that James Durie did not think of anyone else or unfortunately James Durie novel had negative ambitions that hurt others.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the novel book *The Master of Ballantrae: A Winter's Tale* by Robert Louis Stevenson novel can be deduced the most dominant was that of negative ambition. A good theory dissected the subject is the psychology analysis approach by using Ludwig Klages personality theory and supporting theory about ambitions by Widarso. One of ludwig structures personality was discussing tempramen sanguinis. Tempramen is the strenght and the nature of human beings. One of the traits descended from that temperament is ambition. Ambition is a huge desire to get everything in life. *The ambition in The Master of Ballantrae: A Winter's Tale* novel is a ambition found in James Durie



is fortune and honour which encourages him to be ambition, where people who have sanguinis temprament are ambitious. A consistenly ambition in *The Master of Ballantrae: A Winter's Tale* novel is James Durie. There are many things and Personal experiences that are the cause of ambitions in James Durie. The causes of that appearance ambition are two according Widarso there is bad and good condition. The bad condition is divided into internal and external factors. The internal factor in *The Master of Ballantrae: A Winter's Tale* novel is that all taken away and left married. Whereas the external factor is love. Similarly like bad condition, circumstances that are good condition also have interal and external factors. The internal factor is affection from brother, while the external factor is parental affection to children.

## SUGGESTION

Researchers thanked to those who helped in the work on the thesis. The thesis still required corrections so that criticism and advice from reader would greatly assist the assessment. High hopes researchers will be further literary researchers on the subject of charater ambition in novels, particularly the novel of *The Master of Ballantrae: A Winter's Tale* by Robert Louis Stevenson. A mistake is pure of researcher while correctness comes from Almighty God.

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### Appendix Biography of Robert Louis Stevenson and His Works

Robert Louis Stevenson was born and highly educated in Edinburgh, suffering from a serious bronchial problem for much of his life, but continued to write prolific and travel contrary to his life, but continued to write prolific and travel contrary to his poor health.

As a young man, he joined the London literary environment, receiving encouragement from Andrew Lang, Edmund Gosse, Leslie Stephen and W. E. Henley, which was probably the long John Silver model on *Treasure Island*. In 1890 he settled in Samoa where, because of the increasing influence of Europe and America on the islands of the South Pacific his writings changed from love and adventure to a darker reality.

He died at his island home in 1894 at the age of 44. As a celebrity in his lifetime, Stevenson's critical reputation has changed since his death although now his work is receiving public commendation. In 2018 he was grouped, just behind Charles Dickens, as the 26th most translated writer in the world. Robert Louis Stevenson (born Robert Lewis Balfour Stevenson; 13 November 1818-3) was a Scottish novelist, essayist, poet and travel writer. He's famous for his works like *Treasure Island*, *Strange Cases of Dr*

*Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Kidnapped and Son  
Parks Verses.*