### DEVIANCE REFLECTED IN AGATHA CHRISTIE'S CROOKED HOUSE

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#### Abstract

: The aim of this research is to reveal about the deviance of Josephine and its impact that reflected in Agatha Christie's *Crooked House*. This research is classified as a qualitative research because the data are taken only in the form of words as well as the quotations. The data sources are taken from the novel itself and supported by other books, dictionary, journals and other references from the internet as the secondary sources. In term of the analysis, the researchers use psychological approach because it is very close with human life, such as feelings, thoughts, and desires. The result of this study shows that there are acts of deviance done by Josephine and it has big impacts. Josephine is planned and killed her family members; she is even willing to hurt herself as an alibi. It happens because of the *id* of Josephine, the desires to take revenge without thinking about the consequences and the relationship between the perpetrator and the victims that should be satisfied. The impacts of the deviance Josephine done was the left people are living in fear and afraid of being the next target. It is ruining the whole family and also it will effect to their mental health.

**Keywords**: Deviance, Murder, Psychological Approach

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This work of Agatha Christie is very interesting to study because this work is closely related to human life. Its relevance to the readers' life nowadays is that the problems faced by the character in this novel are also commonly experienced by human beings, various deviance made by the characters in the novel also often occur in today's society. This is because literature is an expression of the individuals who write it.

A novel is a part of literature. Usually, it is written based on the author's experiences, feelings, points of view, and social life, and some of them are based on the author's imagination. Maru also states its reflection in the literary work signals

that it does not come from a vacuum meaning that it may correspond with people's real experience (2014). A Novel basically tells about everything that happened in human life, such as love, problems, anger, revenge, death, justice, beauty, hatred, and everything connects in human life. As stated by Wuntu (2015) a literary work that has an affective nature is a significant power to touch the deepest sense that can produce perfect consciousness as a form generator of human consciousness. By the statement above. the researchers conclude that literature is an imitation of human life. It contains all the things that actually happen in life, such as life experiences, ideas, and feelings that humans have and do in their

daily life this makes literature is very interesting to study.

Deviance is not a new term in human daily life, it is usually showing up around us like in the newspaper, on TV, radio, in the electric news, or even happened in our life. As stated by Franzese (2015), deviance involves the violation of social norms and encompasses the differences in behaviors, values, attitudes, lifestyles, and life choices among individuals and groups. Based on the definition above, the researchers conclude that deviance is inappropriate and against the norms and rules in society. The functionalism theory is one theory of deviance. This theory is proposed by Emile Durkheim. "The moral awareness of each individual is different from each other because it is influenced by various different factors, such as heredity, physical environment, social and environment," (Fallahnda, 2021).

The researchers put three generations of the Leonides family in one house. They all live together in a large, somewhat crooked-looking house called "Crooked House". The word "crooked" itself is not only about the house but about all the people who lived in that house. The Leonides family is kind of rich, and just like the rich family, their family member is not easy to handle, a very complicated family. "I told him then what Sophia had said about the ruthlessness in the familydifferent kinds of ruthlessness," (Christie, 2017: 116). There is another similar quote "There's wickedness in this house" (Christie, 2017: 179). Actually, it is certainly common in a family to support one another toward realizing the ideals and actions of the family members as long as the intentions and objectives are good and also harmless. But what happened in the Leonides family in this story was very different. Aristide Leonides did not allow

his granddaughter Josephine to take ballet lessons.

As time went by, something unexpected happened in Leonides family. Someone who lived in that residence suddenly made a move by targeting and killing several of the family members. Aristide Leonides, the owner of the house and also the head of the Leonides family is extremely healthy but he is being murdered by a member of his family. Not only that, there are other victims who dead in that house.

That is why the researchers say this family is very complicated. It is definitely causes the breakdown of the Leonides family so all the member of this family cannot escape from the accusation. Based on the discussion above, it can be seen that this novel provides an overview of the deviations that occur in a family. For this reason, this topic is very important to study in order to make people understand about deviance and know the impact of deviance before taking deviant actions.

#### RESEARCH METHOD

This study is classifies as a qualitative research because the data are collected in the form of words.

"Qualitative research is descriptive. The data collected is the form of words and pictures rather than numbers. The written's results of the research contains quotations from the data to illustrate and substantiate the presentation" (Bogdan and Biklen, 1982:30).

In conducting the study, the researchers collect and select pieces of information from the relevant book. The sources are divided into two categories. The first source or the primary source is the novel itself, *Crooked House* by Agatha Christie. The secondary sources are books and other things related to the title.

In analyzing the data, the researchers use the psychological approach. According to Michael Meyer (1997):

"The nature of psychological approach, it is a strategy based heavily on the idea of the existence of a human unconscious - those impulses, desires, and feelings about which a person is unaware but which influence emotions and behavior".

The statement above describes that the psychological approach focuses on the emotions and human behavior.

There are several experts who express their opinions about psychological theory. One of the famous is the psychological theory of Sigmund Freud. The well-known ideas about Freud's theory are unconscious dreams. and human desires. repression. Initially the personality theory introduced by Freud was the conscious, preconscious, and unconscious but then Freud refined it again by adding several aspects of psyche such as the id, the ego, and the superego. Dobie gives an explanation of what the id, ego, and superego are. According to Dobie (2011):

"The Id can be a socially destructive force. Unrestrained, it will aggressively seek to gratify its desires without any concern for law, customs, or values. It can even be self-destructive in its drive to have what it wants".

The id goes in line with the pleasure principle to satisfy its hunger. To fulfill the desire, the Id can do everything without thinking about what is right and wrong and without thinking about morals.

"The ego, which operates according to the reality principle, is one such regulating agency. Its function is to make the id's energies nondestructive by postponing them or diverting them into socially acceptable actions, sometimes by finding an appropriate time for gratifying them," (Dobie, 2011:57).

The ego goes in line with the reality principle where to fulfill its desire it will first pay attention to the social environment then consider in advance how and when to satisfy its desire.

"The superego provides additional balance to the id. Similar to what is commonly known as one's conscience it operates according to the morality principle, for it provides the sense of moral and ethical wrongdoing" (Dobie, 2011:57).

The superego goes in line with the morality principle to fight and balance the id and the ego. The superego is quite contrary to the id because the Id can do anything to fulfill its need and desires while the superego thinks about the morality first before doing anything to fulfill its desires, whether it is against moral or not.

Maru (2014) states that the characteristics performed by the characters are regarded to be useful hints to deal with the image or stereotype. According to Griffith, as quoted in Sugeha, et al (2021),

"Setting includes several closely related aspect of work of fiction. First setting is physical, sensuous world of work. Second, it is the time in which the actions of the work that takes place. And third, it is the social environment of the character". "Setting is one important aspect of the novel because it makes the story alive."

#### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

# The Analysis of the Deviance of Josephine Using the Psychological Theory of Sigmund Freud

To reveal the deviance of Josephine, the researchers use psychological theory of Sigmund Freud. The reason why the researchers use this theory is because the researchers want to find out and to see the deviance from different side which is from the psychological side of the person, in this case, Josephine.

#### Josephine's Id

In order to fulfill the desires of Josephine to avenge the actions of those people around her, Josephine aggressively and unhesitatingly plots and commits deviance. Josephine planned all the murders that she committed. She decided by herself how she should kill the target and what kind of lethal poison should be used and suitable for the target. At the same time, she became the perpetrator of the murders. This is evidenced by the discovery of her diary.

In that diary, every deviance she did was recorded. She wrote everything she did in diary. It can be seen in the quotation:

"I'm going to write down everything in a notebook and then, when the police are completely baffled, I shall come forward and say, "I can tell you who did it" (Christie, 2017:88).

Josephine experiences problems in her life, these problems are related to her dream of wanting to take ballet lessons to become a ballet dancer but her grandfather does not allow her. This problem puts Josephine in a difficult position. Bataha, Mogea, and Lolowang (20210 states "When humans are in a difficult position to make choices, humans themselves struggle to continue to life." The problem makes Josephine disappointed so it affects her way of thinking. The way Josephine struggles to deal with the problems she faces is by did deviance, she killed those who try to get in her way and those who treat her badly.

It was completely unexpected that a twelve-year-old little girl had killed the members of her family who raised her. Josephine even wrote anything she did in her notebook that she always brought everywhere she goes.

"Together we looked down on the first entry in the little black book, written in an unformed childish hand: 'Today I killed grandfather'" (Christie. 2017:235).

In addition, the researchers also discovered that she was the one who planned her own accident. Thus it can be seen that Josephine is willing to do anything to get revenge, even if it means that it will hurting and destroying herself:

"And finally the attack on herself. An almost incredible performance considering that she might easily have killed herself" (Christie, 2017:236).

#### Josephine's Ego

Josephine could not control her ego, but she also could not immediately reveal that she was the perpetrator of the murders that happened in the Leonides' residence. Because the people, who lived in that house, including Josephine, were under the supervision of the authorities, so Josephine could not take her next action. For that, she only told and showed her displeasure towards some of the people who lived there and to the people who came to the house.

"Josephine threw me an exasperated glance. 'How stupid you are" (Christie, 2017:121).

"Why did you come with Chief Inspector Taverner?" He's a friend of mine. 'Is he? I don't like him. I shan't tell him things. 'What sort of things?' The things I know. I know a lot of things. I like knowing things" (Christie, 2017:84).

According to the quotations above, it shows that Josephine could not control her ego from expressing her dislike for something or someone she does not like. The arrival of Inspector Taverner into her house made it even more difficult not to say anything. Josephine expresses her dislike for Inspector Taverner to Charles.

Josephine said she shall not tell anything she knew to Inspector Taverner.

Moreover, Josephine even shows and expresses her dislike to Charles for exposing the information she gave to him. Charles shared the information she gave from Josephine to Inspector Taverner but Josephine did not like what Charles did. Therefore, Josephine gave exasperated glance and said that Charles was very stupid. Because she has had read too many detective stories, Josephine says that Charles does not know the way to do detective work. The researcher found Josephine argued that this should be disclosed to the police at the end of the story.

#### Josephine's Superego

Josephine showed her good conscience by providing some of the information she knew to Charles who was also a part of the investigative team that handled the murder cases in Leonides' residence.

"I hadn't heard they were going abroad,' I said. 'No,' said Josephine. 'Nobody knew. It was a secret. They weren't going to tell anyone until after they'd gone. They were going to leave a note behind for grandfather'" (Christie, 2017:87).

"You can't possibly judge." 'Yes, I can. They write to each other. Love letters." 'Josephine! How do you know that?' 'Because I've read them. Awfully soppy letters. But Laurence is soppy" (Christie, 2017:89).

Language is an important point in solving the cases. Based on the role and function of language proposed by Trudgill, as quoted in Posumah, 2021), "Language plays a role as a communication tool both for establishing social relationship as well as for collecting and obtaining information," the party that handled the cases used their language skills to

communicate with the people related to the cases.

They did various ways to collect and obtain information, one of which was by conducted an investigation at the Leonides' residence:

"I'm sorry, Mrs Leonides. Now can I speak to Mr Brown?" 'To Laurence? Why? He doesn't know anything about it.' 'I'd like to speak to him all the same." (Christie, 2017:68).

During the research of this story, the researchers find that when the police conducted the investigations at the Leonides' residence, they interviewed all parties, including of all members of Leonides family and even the maids who worked in the house. Josephine, who knew a lot of things, was quite close to Charles, Sophia's fiancé who also took part during the investigation process.

In the story, Charles realized that Josephine knew a lot of things about all the people who lived there, she even knew their secrets. Because of that, Charles wants to get some information from Josephine so she gave him some of the information she had while secretly eavesdropping people's on other conversations. Josephine said to Charles that her uncle Roger and Aunt Clemency would be leaving the house.

They planned to go abroad secretly and would not say goodbye to her grandfather, they will only leave a note for Aristide Leonides. Not only that, Josephine also said that Brenda, the young and second wife of Aristide Leonides had an affair with Laurence Brown, the tutor of Eustace and Josephine. Josephine said that they often send love letter to each other.

The researchers find that when Charles got the information, he is very surprised and could barely even speak because he realized that Josephine knew too much about the case, he acknowledged the intelligence of Josephine in analyzing and how she got all the information. For a twelve years old child knowing so much things that the police does not know is something extraordinary that hitting the police in their face because they are trying so hard to get any information from the investigation but they do not get this kind of information.

On the hand, Charles worried about Josephine, because just like what other people say, in this case, the more you know, the more your life will be in danger. Charles worried if Josephine's life will be in danger because she knew a lot of things, the unknown killer will target Josephine as the next victim and in the end it actually happened to Josephine.

# **Durkheim's Theory: Factors of Deviance**

The reason why the researchers use this theory is because this theory is one of the most well-known of deviance theories. The researchers think that this theory is the closest and the easiest theory to understand by people. This theory discusses about the causes why someone did deviance. This theory can provide additional an explanation of the reasons or factors behind the deviance committed Josephine apart from the psychological have been discussed aspects that previously. According to Durkheim, there are three factors that cause someone to do deviance. There are:

#### Heredity

According to Bortz (2013) "Heredity is the passing of traits from one generation to the next." The factor of heredity has a very important role in everyone's life because it is very close to everyday life. Heredity factors greatly influence every development and even the behavior of a person. It is very inheriting and also flows in the blood of every human being. The same thing is also happens in this story.

When the researchers conduct to research the deviance of Josephine in this story, the researchers find that Josephine's deviant behavior was also caused by heredity. Every attitude and behavior she has been passed down by her elders. This was revealed after the researchers read the story and found this quote:

"Perhaps, too, the various factors of heredity - what Sophia had called the 'ruthlessness of the family' - had met together. She had had an authoritarian ruthlessness of her grandmother's family, and the ruthless egoism of Magda, seeing only her point of view. She had also presumably suffered, sensitive like Philip, from the stigma of being the unattractive the changeling child - of the family. Finally, in her very marrow had run the essential crooked strain of old Leonides. She had been Leonides' grandchild, she had resembled him in brain and cunning but where his love had gone outwards to family and friends, hers had turned inward to herself" (Christie, 2017:238).

The quotation above clearly shows the reasons of Josephine's misbehavior. All these characters were passed down by her elders to her. She is biologically got it from them. The quotation above also reveals that Josephine got her authoritarian cruelty or ruthlessness from her grandmother's family.

In the novel, it is said that her grandmother, Aristide's first wife, came from a very well-known family. Her grandmother's father was a country squire, an MFH (Master of Foxhounds). That job was closely related to cruelty to defend their territory. This habit turned into a trait that was ingrained in family members which was also passed down to Josephine.

Even the nature of Josephine's mother, Magda who is selfish and ruthless egoism and only seeing things from her perspective and not hear to others perspective also passed down to Josephine.

These two traits makes Josephine be a selfish person who sees things from her point of view without caring about others perspective or other aspects. This makes Josephine be a person who will do anything to defend what her desires, right, and her poverty. She will also against any challenges or things or even people that are disturbing and thwart her plans, even if they have to do such cruel things.

When the researchers read the story, it is said that Josephine's sensitive nature came from her father, Philip. In addition, her brain and cunning are also inherited by Aristide Leonides, her grandfather that she killed. The sensitive nature combined with brain and cunning behavior makes Josephine become a person who is even more evil than the other family members, she even killed her family members just to take revenge on them for what they have did to her.

#### **Physical Environment**

The physical environment is all the inanimate things that surround humans. include soil, humidity, These temperature, buildings, houses, etc. "The physical environment is defined through physical space and structures, and it is thus the environment of the elderly's activities. The Structures of the physical environment can be natural, such as natural environment or climate, or man-made, such as houses, streets, shops, services, noise, safety and a pleasant atmosphere." (Elo, Saarnio, Isola, 2011).

The physical environment is all the inanimate things that surround humans. These include soil, humidity, air,

temperature, buildings, houses, etc. In this story, the physical environment shows by the shape of the house and the furniture in the Leonides' residence.

"Yet I got the idea. It was a Greek restaurateur's idea of something English. It was meant to be an Englishman's home – built the size of a castle! ... Bit overwhelming isn't it? said Inspector Taverner. 'Of course, the old gentleman build on to it a good deal – making it into three separate houses, so to speak, with kitchens and everything. It's all tip-top inside, fitted up like a luxury hotel" (Christie, 2017:26-27).

The quotation above reveals that the house of Leonides family is very large like a castle, Aristide making it into three separates houses for his big family. It makes the house looks luxurious. It describes the life of the family members of Leonides family members who live in the house. Josephine is the granddaughter of a rich man, it can be said that her life must be very good than other people beyond them.

"We went through a doorway on the left into a large drawing-room. It hade pale – blue paneled walls, furniture covered in heavy brocade, and on every available table and on the walls were hung photographs and pictures of actors, dancers, and stage scenes and designs. A Degas of ballet dancers hung over the mantelpiece" (Christie, 2017: 37).

Aristide took controls of all the people who live there. They had to hear every order and rules from Aristide Leonides. By seeing the furniture and decorations in the Leonides' house, there is a Degas ballet dancers hung over the mantelpiece. It could be said that it was the request of Josephine to hang it because she loved ballet, but when Josephine asked that she wants to be a ballet dancer Aristide did not allow her

that is why Josephine hated him and committed to kill him.

#### **Social Environment**

According to Barnett and Casper (2001),"Human social environments encompass immediate physical the surroundings, social relationships, and cultural milieus within which defined groups of people function and interact." The social environment is the place where a person lives and carries out the daily activities, where their lives and develops. The social environment also includes the people around them, such as with whom someone relates and interacts. This greatly affects the development of a person's attitude and behavior, especially for children. Children have a nature that is easy to imitate something they see or hear. Therefore, if what is shown by the surrounding environment is bad and deviant, then children will imitate to make deviance.

Josephine's environment is only around the people in her house, because she does home schooling, her daily life is always with her tutor named Laurence Brown. Laurence once told Josephine about a woman who committed murder. It was revealed in the last chapter. "... He told me about Charlot Korday - she killed someone in his bath. She was not very clever about it" (Christie, 2017:240). In addition, because Josephine's mother is an artist and her father is a book writer, Josephine also has an interest in the same thing. Josephine likes to read books about detective stories. it is revealed when Charles asked Josephine "Do you read a lot of detective stories, Josephine?' 'Masses" (Christie, 2017:88). These conditions seems to support Josephine to do deviance, she understand and knows various tricks and how to do deviance.

#### **Impact of Deviance**

By conducting this research, the researchers find that deviance brings so much impact:

#### Living in Fear

The impact of deviance does not only occur to the person who commits the deviance, it is also has a big impact to the people in the surrounding environment. People who live close to someone who did deviance will live in fear and vigilance, especially if someone committed a serious deviance such as murder.

If the victim is only one person and the perpetrator is immediately found, the fear of the people around may be a little less, but if the murder case is a serial murder case that took more than one victim and the perpetrator has not been found, then the fear will be even greater. As happened in the Leonides family when the serial murder case occurred, they all lived in fear.

"I've got to know for my own peace of mind. You see, Charles, I didn't tell you last night — but the truth is — I'm afraid" (Christie, 2017:28).

#### Afraid of Being the Next Target

If there is deviance in an area and the perpetrator of the deviance has not been caught yet, then the feeling of afraid being the next target cannot be denied. The people will not feel safe and unable to enjoy and live a normal life. The fear of being the next target will continue to haunt those around the scene. Not only the people living in the vicinity of the scene, but the family members of the victim will also feel the same way, as did the family members of Leonides family felt.

"Why did you say, I asked, 'that you were afraid?' Sophia shivered a little and pressed her hands together. 'Because it's true' she said in a low voice" (Christie, 2017:29).

#### **Ruining the Life of the Whole Family**

The perpetrator of deviance will definitely destroy the dignity and prestige of all the family members. If the deviance is severe enough, then it will make the surrounding environment hated that whole family and they will even find it difficult to fulfill the economic needs if there is no company or workplace that is willing to accept the relatives of the perpetrator of deviance. The incident above usually occurs to the lower middle class.

It is different if it occurs in a wealthy family as happened to the Leonides family. The death of the head of the Leonides family due to murder case made the situation in the Leonides family become chaotic because of the heir problems.

"No," said Roger. 'No! Does anything matter compared with the fact that father is dead? Father is dead! And we sit here discussing mere money matters!" (Christie, 2017:133).

#### **Having Mental Issues**

If there is deviance, then both perpetrator and the victim will experience mental issues. If the perpetrator is not strong enough to receive the punishment and scorn from the society, then the perpetrator will surely experience a change in their mentality. As well as the victim, if the victim or the family of the victim is not able to overcome the trauma and trying to forget the bad experienced, then there will create unhealthy mental, such as stress or anxiety which will actually damage and disrupt their life, it will automatically destroy their life and even become a strain and mental wound during their life time.

"Please be very gentle with my husband, Chief Inspector. This will affect him very much. He worshipped his father and he feels things very acutely. He is an emotional person" (Christie, 2017:58).

#### CONCLUSION

After doing the research, the researchers finally reveal the deviance of Josephine. The researchers come to the conclusion that the deviance of Josephine is an individual deviation. It happens because of the id of Josephine, the desires that should be satisfied that is to take revenge without thinking about consequences and the relationship between her and all the victims. The deviance that Josephine did were eavesdropping on other people's conversations, planning murder of the several members of her family and not even just planning it, Josephine also unhesitatingly killed them with her own hands. The way the victims died was the same, Josephine poisoned them. The worst deviance that Josephine did was she even willing to hurt herself as an alibi so the people around her and the police would not realize that Josephine was the perpetrator of all the murders.

When the researchers are doing her research, the researchers find that the author shed light on the cases that occurred at the Leonides' family residence at the last chapter of the story. The chapter explains the motives and the reasons why the perpetrator of the murder, in this case, Josephine killed several of her family members. The author also reveals the next plans of Josephine that have not yet been implemented. The reasons why Josephine commits these deviations are very diverse. It is depending on the attitudes and behaviors of each person of her family members to Josephine during their lifetime. The researcher found that she killed her grandfather because her grandfather was not allowed her to do ballet lessons and did not want to pay for it. And for the nannie itself, the nannie always says Josephine is only a little girl who always shows off. Josephine also says that it is

nannie who makes her mother wants to send her to study abroad. Josephine hates it, so she killed the nannie.

Finally, after conducting this research, the researchers have some suggestions related to an understanding literary works particularly novel as follows. Every novel has moral value of life and it is good to be shared. From this case about murder or crime, which is deviance, it shows that it only harmed people life. The novel Crooked House shows that people must be considered whether it is appropriate to say and to do to others or not, because the small thing done by one person will have a big impact and affect the other person by physic or mental. If it is not heeded, then undesirable things could be happened, just like what happened in the story. researchers hope that her analysis can shed light on the way we view things. The researcher wants to share this analysis with students in English Education Department. Hopefully this research can be used to develop the study of literary works, especially in analyzing novels.

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