



AN ANALYSIS OF THE LOST IDENTITY IN TWENTIETH CENTURY IN ENGLAND AS REFLECTED IN RUTH RENDELL'S NOVEL *PORTOBELLO*

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Abstrak

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah (1) Untuk mengetahui cara berpikir dan cara hidup Joel Roseman, (2) Untuk mengetahui bagaimana identitas yang hilang terjadi pada karakter dalam Novel Portobello karya Ruth Rendell, dan (3) Untuk mencari tahu efek dari identitas yang hilang pada masyarakat di abad kedua puluh di Inggris. Dalam hal ini, penelitian menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif untuk mengelompokkan dan menganalisis data. Ada beberapa cara yang peneliti lakukan untuk mengumpulkan data dalam penelitian ini, peneliti membaca novel tersebut beberapa kali untuk mendapatkan pemahaman yang utuh tentang cerita itu, mengamati, dan kemudian mengidentifikasi The Lost Identity pada abad kedua puluh di Inggris sebagaimana tercermin. Dalam novel tersebut, data terdiri dari beberapa data yang menunjukkan cara berpikir, cara hidup, dan pengaruh hilangnya jati diri terhadap masyarakat pada abad ke-20 di Inggris. Penulis menganalisis bagaimana cara berpikir dan cara hidup tokoh dalam novel bernama Joel Roseman ini, serta hilangnya jati diri berpengaruh terhadap masyarakatnya. Penelitian ini diharapkan dapat bermanfaat bagi seluruh siswa yang mempelajari novel dan menjadi sumber bahan pembelajaran.

Kata Kunci: *Identitas yang Hilang, Postmodernisme, Cara Berpikir, Cara Hidup*

Abstract

The objectives of this study were (1) To find out the way of thinking and the way of life of Joel Roseman, (2) To find out how does the lost identity occur to character in Ruth Rendell's Novel Portobello, and (3) To find out the effect of the lost identity to the society in twentieth century in England. In this case, the research used a descriptive qualitative method to classify and analyze the data. There were several ways that the researcher did to collect the data in this research, the researcher read the novel several times in order to get full understanding what the story was about, observed, and then identified The Lost Identity in twentieth century in England as reflected in the novel, the data consisted several data which showed the way of thinking, the way of life, and the effect of lost identity to the society in twentieth century in England. The writer analyzed how the way of thinking and the way of life of character in this novel named Joel Roseman, and his lost identity gave the effect to his society. The research hoped that this research could be worth for all students who study novel and become the source for the learning material.

Keywords: *Lost Identity, Postmodernism, The Way of Thinking, The Way of Life*

1. INTRODUCTION



Identities are the traits and characteristics, social relations, roles, and social group membership that define who own is. Identity can be focused on the past - what used to be true of one, the present – what is true of one now, or the future – the person one expects or wishes to become, the person one feels obligated to try become (Leary andTangney, 2012:69). In other words, identity is the basis of human beings.

Identity crises lately occur in the world, not least in the UK. For example, teenagers around the world who do not recognize who they are, and the fact is not only teenagers who experience it, but also adults. This is very interesting to discuss because how can such basic things as identity crisis? This makes the writer want to discuss this in his thesis entitledabc

Lost identity is believed to have occurred since human existence and occurred in all countries and periods, not least in the Post Modernism period. Post Modernism period is a period in the whole world that was developed in the mid-to late 20th century until now.

Twentieth century in England is a hard time to the society in that time, because World War II just ended, even the World War has ended, but the effect of World War II brought crises to the whole countries including England, in all fields includingidentitywhichcausedcrisisanddissolutionofidentityitself.ThisisinaccordancewiththeopinionofAkmar(2008:20)whichstatesthatin the past identity is something that is certain and stable, inherent in human beings both biologically and because of the forces of nature. But now it has begun to be

replaced by the concept of identity which is variable and full of uncertainty. This certainly reinforces the opinion that there is an identity crisis includes lost identity in twentieth century inEngland.

Burgess as literary reviewer says in thoughtCo website entitled *A Brief Overview of British Literary Periods* that literature flow in twentieth century in England is Post Modernism period, “The postmodern period begins about the time that World War II ended”, this means that the Post Modernism period has begun under the authority of Queen Elizabeth II who began to rule in 1952 until now. This also agrees with some opinions such as on the website mc.libguide.com owned by Miss Mississippi College, and states that the PostModoernism Period is the period that existed in England in the twentieth century until now.

In this research, the writer will discuss about the lost identity in twentieth century in England. Identity is the personality of an individual regarded as persisting entiry. Everyone has identity that would describe themselves and differentiate them from others. The lost identity can follow all sorts of changes in the social environment, job or profession, the lost of the role that once defined us.

The story adaptation of the best-selling novel, where published in 2008 written by English writer, Ruth Rendell. The Novel is “Portobello”. The story was set in Notting Hill, West London Twentieth century (postmodernism period). It tells about people that has problem with his own identity. A rich guy, who lostthisidentity and never get it back, brings an impact for families and his social environment.



An element of postmodernism in this novel such as the struggle of losing identity from the character, he has great power although in this story he was almost alone.

This novel shows the real circumstances about the suffer of people who has problem with identity in the 20th century (Post Modernism Period of England) that society in that period think if someone has problem with their identity is not good for them.

Therefore, he will do a research about the effect of lost identity to the society reflected in the novel, "Portobello" with the tile "An Analysis Of Lost Identity In Twentieth Century In England As Reflected In The Novel Portobello By Ruth Rendell". From the explanation above, there are some problems in this research, there are:

1. How are the way of thinking and the way of life of society at that time?
2. How does the lost identity occur to the society in Ruth Rendell's Novel *Portobello*?
3. What is the effect of the lost identity to the society in twentieth century in England?

Then the objectives of the study are:

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1. To find out the way of thinking and the way of life of society in that time.
2. To find out how does the lost identity occur to society in Ruth Rendell's Novel *Portobello*.
3. To find out the effect of the lost identity to the society in twentieth century in England.

2. METHODOLOGY

A research must be written based

on a design of the research as to ensure that the result of the research reaching the target. This research concentrates on textual analysis, descriptive and library is used because it is often used in research. According to Clifford Woody in the book of Kothari (2004), entitled research methodology: method of the research is comprise defining and redefining problems or finding solution to a problem, formulating or suggested solutions; collecting, organizing and evaluating data; making deductions and reaching conclusions. Library research is review activities which is conducted by the researcher to get the information on the theories required.

Source of Data

Agustina (2003) stated that information is about something that has often happened and in the form of a collection of facts, figures, table graphics, images, symbols, words, letters, which states something thought, object, and conditions and situations. From the data, the researcher will know the result of the research. The source of data in the study is subjects from which the data can be obtained (Arikunto, 2010: 129). Collecting the data must be relevant with the problem of research. The data in this research will be in the form of descriptive qualitative data.

According to its nature, the data are divided into 2, namely qualitative and quantitative

1) Qualitative

According to Sugiyono (2011), a qualitative research method is a research method based on the philosophy of post positivism, used to examine the natural conditions of objects, (as opposed to



experiments) where the researcher is as a key instrument, the data source sampling is done by purposive and snowball, collection techniques with tri-estimation (combined), data analysis is inductive or qualitative and the results of qualitative research emphasize the meaning rather than generalization. And according to Saryono (2010), qualitative research is research that is used to investigate, describe, explain, find the quality or features of social influence that cannot be explained, measured or illustrated through a quantitative approach.

2) Quantitative

Sugiyono (2010: 15) states that quantitative data is a type of data that can be measured or calculated directly, in the form of information or explanations expressed in numbers or in the form of numbers.

Technique of Collecting Data

Collecting data is a technique conducted by the researcher to get accurate, relevant information before doing a research. Collecting data is a tool that is used by researchers to help them in collecting data in order to make it more systematic and easy (Arikunto, 2009: 134)

The research had taken data from the novel of Ruth Rendell's, Portobello. The novel as the object of the research because the content from the novel connect with the data that researcher needs. The story in the novel being a reference for the researcher to collect the data.

The steps to collecting the data are:

1. Reading the novel.
2. Making summaries of the novel.
3. Finding out any related references.
4. Browsing from the Internet PDF

to complete the sources of the data (internet browsing activities).

5. Finding and read the British book

that any related references as adding the sources of the data.

Technique of Analyzing Data

Moleong (2002) stated that data analysis is the process of organizing and sorting data into basic patterns, categories, and description units so that themes can be found and work hypotheses can be formulated, as suggested by the data.

The researcher would like to analyze about the lost identity as reflected from Portobello novel by Ruth Rendell. Therefore, the data and supporting data are collected, learned and sorted to ensure the data are significantly giving a parallel with the research, the researcher can start her writing. Systematically, there are some step techniques of analyzing data:

1. Reading the whole texts of the novel.
2. Identifying the story of the novel.
3. Understanding and analyzing the problem.
4. Presenting the result findings
5. Making conclusion

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

After analysing the data, it could be found that The way of thinking in the main character Joel Roseman is filled with emptiness, depression, stress and guilt. All the way of thinking of Joel Roseman is reasonable. He got it from various things that he had gone through. Then depression of the effect of the end



of World War II hit the the way of life of society that represented by Joel Roseman in England in the twentieth century and it makes the lostidentity and lost identity has had several impacts to society, Joel Roseman as the society that lost his identity brings impact to his father, mother, and his doctor.

Based on the data were found, the lost identity would be resolved by tracing and discovering.

a. The Way ofThinking

The way of thinking of the society in England in the twentieth century is represented by Joel Roseman in Ruth Rendell's Novel *Portobello*, Because of the effect of the end of the World War II is still exist, brings some depression to the society economically, politically and especially psychologically that makes the way of the thinking of Joel Roseman is different from normal people and cause of the lost identity. He likes the dark so much and hates light because of several things. which is as quoted below:

Joel Roseman is the son of super rich parents, he can buy anything, he also has money, his father gives him all material but affection and love.

"I like it better when it's dark"
(Ruth. 2008:141)

"But Joel was too afraid of the light to take such a radical step. He felt it might blind him, literally destroy his sight" (Ruth. 2008:115)

"This was what happened when he exposed himself to the light. He felt uncomfortable, wondering if they meant to attack him. But nothing happened, he got his money and was soon at home" (Ruth. 2008:118).

Here it is clear he says that he hates

light and bright places because it will hurt his eyes and he is too negative thinking of people who see it. He always think people will do evil to him, even though it's not like that. He realizes that his way of thinking was indeed a little disturbed, but he could not domuch.

"I don't think there's much wrong with you, Joel."

"It's not my body, it's my mind".
(Ruth. 2008:173)

The way of thinking Joel Roseman is filled with emptiness, depression, stress and guilt. All the way of thinking of Joel Roseman is reasonable. He got it from various things that he had gone through. You can say all the events in his past changes his way ofthinking.

Like the feeling of emptiness inside himself he got since he was a child. Because he was the only child at that time, he was always alone, plus no one wanted to play and make friends with him at school, he only got bullies from his friends, until finally this loneliness created an 'illusion, imaginary friend' named Jasper, Jasper is the only one who wants to be friends and play with Joel.

b. The Way ofLife

Depression of the effect of the end of World War II not only hit the way of thinking, but also the way of life of society that represented by Joel Roseman in England in the twentieth century also makes the lostidentity.

The way of life of Joel Roseman is really lonely, he got bullied when he was a kid, and finally he finds life better in darkness.

"Joel Roseman never walked with a purpose, a destination" (Ruth.



2008:7)

“For a long time now he had found life better in darkness” (Ruth.

2008:7)

No one wants to be his frined, and he is the only one child at that time, he had an imaginary friend.

“An only child for a long time, he had had an imaginary friend from the time he was seven until he was ten. (Ruth. 2008:42)

The reason why he loses his little sister because he fell asleep too long and his sister sink in the lake. It brings him guilt as well and his father also blamehim.

c. The LostIdentity

The way of thinking and the way of life have a big role as the cause of the lost identity of Society that represented by Joel Roseman. It began after he failed to come to the white city for the second time with the intention of returning Mithras to its original place. At that time he thought that Mithras had disappeared, but in fact he was wrong. When Joel began to change, he who used to love the darkness, now began to be exposed to light. Ella had rarely met Joel because he already had a psychiatrist who was better suited to his problem, not a common doter like herself. But one day Ella came and found Joel and witnessed the change.

“She could see there had been radical changes. It was a sunny day and the place was flooded with light.” (Ruth. 2008:309)

“He sat at the old dining table on one of the old dining chairs, holding a ballpoint pen above a sheet of paper resting on a table

mat”(Ruth. 2008:310)

“She could tell at once from the tone of his voice that the drug he was taking had deadened his personality” (Ruth. 2008:310)

Above explains that the drug Joel took during his recovery from a psychiatrist has killed his personality and shaken his identity. With great surprise Ella heard Joel say that he was no longer in the dark.

“I’m not in the dark anymore” (Ruth. 2008:310)

“He was sick man then, or at least a recovering man, but his ills seemed all physical. In those five months his mind grown sick and strange, and now it was as if he had been hollowed out and only a shell of that man in the hospital remained” (Ruth.2008:311)

“Joel had been a different person” (Ruth. 2008:333)

Ella was still very surprised to find that Joel had become someone else, but she could not do anything either. The next meeting with Joel made her increasingly disbelief. Joel claimed that he wasMithras.

“‘Hello,’ he said in a tone unlike his usual Joel voice. ‘I’m Mithras’” (Ruth. 2008:334)

Joel who originally had dark hair, now dyed his hair, not without reason, he did that because he was no longerJoel.

“Mithras had fair hair, and he wanted to become like Mithras, to become Mithras” (Ruth. 2008:336)

Ella asked his mother what happened to Joel, his mother only explained that she did not know



anything, and only found her child in his current condition. He has become Mithras, no longer Joel Roseman.

“I found him like that, the way he is now, talking nonsense, saying he had come back with Joel – he talked about Joel fetched him from a city made of cloud but when he tried to take him back again he couldn’t. Joel stayed there and he – this Mithras – had to stay here.”
(Ruth.2008:336)

d. The Effect of Lost Identity

Lost identity has had several impacts to society, Joel Roseman as the society that lost his identity brings impact to his father, mother, and his doctor. His father used to hate him so much that he no longer wanted to talk to Joel, now, with Joel's new identity as Mithras, his father was very accepting of Mithras, even they had lived together in onehouse.

Ella who came to Joel's parents' house was welcomed by his father who clearly said that he accepted this new Joel (Mithras).

“This whole business is hard to understand, Dr. Costwold. Perhaps it is best to accept that Joel has become a different person and one who may be easier for the rest of us to live with”
(Ruth. 2008:333)

His mother Joel (Mithras) also said the same thing about his father's opinion of the new Joel (Mithras).

“He said – my husband, I mean – he said, this isn’t my son this is someone else. We’ll take him home with us. It was as if he could never have forgiven Joel but this man, this Mithras, he could accept him. He has accepted him. He came here

with us quite willingly”
(Ruth. 2008:337)

Unlike his father who changed and accepted the new Joel (Mithras), his mother felt the opposite. She has often complained about the condition of her son who is not like people in general, but in this way she was also sad, because she knew that the boy with her now was no longer the child she knew before.

“‘He’s not my son any more, doctor.’ Tears came into her eyes and she caught her breath in a sob. ‘It’s like we’ve got a spirit or an angel living with us. I must go in now. But that’s what my husband wants, not Joel but a different person’”
(Ruth. 2008:337)

Ella herself is still shocked by Joel Roseman's drastic change into Mithras, but she also cannot do anything because what she sees, the new Joel (Mithras) has been happy with his new identity and life.

“Joel Roseman has become Mithras and seems to be happier in his new identity than he ever was as himself”
(Ruth. 2008:374)

4. CONCLUSION

Having analyzed the topic of the lost identity as reflected in the novel, Portobello, the writer comes to some conclusions. They are as follow:

1. After analysing the data, it could be found that The way of thinking in the main charater Joel Roseman is filled with emptiness, depression, stress and guilt. All the way of thinking of Joel Roseman is reasonable.
2. The lost identity occurs because



depression effect of the end of World War II that hit the the way of life of society that represented by Joel Roseman in England in the twentieth century.

3. Lost identity gives a better effect in life to the new Joel Roseman (Mithras), because he can be like normal people and he can be accepted by his father.

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