

## Personal Unconsciousness in *a Sun* Movie

### *Ketidaksadaran Pribadi dalam Film A Sun*

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#### ABSTRAK

*This study aims to analyze the aspects and the impacts of personal unconscious are contributed to A-Ho's personality in A Sun movie by Chung Mong-Hong. This research is included in literary criticism, which uses psychoanalysis as a theoretical approach. The research objectives to find out aspects of personal unconscious affects A-Ho's personality in A Sun movie and analyze the impacts of personal unconscious contributed to A-Ho's personality development. The researcher uses the archetypal theory by Carl Gustav Jung. The data of this study were taken from dialogues and narration in A Sun movie. The results of the analysis show about aspects of A Ho's personal unconscious which are the main reasons for the impact of changes in A Ho's personality. The second result of this study is the impact that occurred on A Ho's personality and personal change and development in A Ho who became better because of the life problems he lived.*

##### Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis aspek dan dampak ketidaksadaran pribadi yang berkontribusi terhadap kepribadian A-Ho dalam film A Sun karya Chung Mong-Hong. Penelitian ini termasuk dalam kritik sastra yang menggunakan psikoanalisis sebagai pendekatan teorinya. Tujuan penelitian untuk mengetahui aspek-aspek ketidaksadaran pribadi yang mempengaruhi kepribadian A-Ho dalam film A Sun dan menganalisis dampak ketidaksadaran pribadi yang berkontribusi terhadap perkembangan kepribadian A-Ho. Peneliti menggunakan teori arketipe Carl Gustav Jung. Data penelitian ini diambil dari dialog dan narasi dalam film A Sun. Hasil analisis menunjukkan tentang aspek ketidaksadaran pribadi A Ho yang menjadi penyebab utama dampak perubahan kepribadian A Ho. Hasil kedua dari penelitian ini adalah dampak yang terjadi pada kepribadian A Ho dan perubahan serta perkembangan diri A Ho yang menjadi lebih baik karena permasalahan hidup yang dijalaninya.



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## **1. Introduction**

Literature is overflow or realization of thought and feeling, and the author's experiences. In other words Jones (1968), states literature are simply another way we can experience the world around us through our imagination. It means literature he gets from human daily life, whether it happen to the author or other people's experiences.

Film is a type of communication that uses text, visuals, and sound to convey information. These elements are frequently based on true events (Triandana et al., 2023). Personality is different from one to another, so it is interesting object to be explored. Personality is often used by authors of literary work to build their story. Personality does not just influence how we move or respond in our environment, it also causes us to act in certain manner. According to Freud human personality is seen as a structure consisting of three elements or systems, namely id, ego, and superego. Although the three systems have their respective functions, completeness, operating principles, dynamism, and mechanism, these three personality systems are interrelated and form a totality. And human behavior is nothing but a product of the interaction between the id, the ego, and the superego (Freud, 1917). Freud called the unconscious the id, while Jung called it the personal unconscious. The personal unconscious concerns experiences that do not appear in consciousness, but influence consciousness. This happens because past experiences were repressed, forgotten, ignored, or considered unimportant. Within the personal unconscious, there are groups of unconscious perceptions or ideas that are structured and form conscious awareness or spontaneous behavior. Jung called it a complex.

A movie entitled *A Sun* was chosen in this study because it is very interesting to study, also because the change in personality of the main character in this movie greatly affects the storyline in this movie. *A Sun* is a 2019 Taiwanese drama movie directed and co-written by Chung Mong-hong. *A Sun* premiered at the Toronto International movie Festival on 6 September 2019, before its theatrical release in Taiwan. The movie received many positive reviews for its story, diversity of themes, audiovisual quality, and acting. It received several accolades, including 11 nominations at the 56th Golden Horse Awards; it received the Best Feature movie award and the Best Director award for Chung. The movie was the Taiwanese entry for Best International Feature movie at the 93rd Academy Awards. *A Sun* is a melodrama; more familiar with art movie, he struggled to balance the genres. Chung originally wanted the mountain scene to be cooler and more restrained, but later understood that melodramatic elements are often inevitable. The movie, Chung said, is not about joy but a reflection about family, society, and life's hardships. Based on the explanation above, *A Sun's* movie is examined with the topic of personality analysis of the main character of *A Sun's* movie, A-Ho.

## **2. Method**

In this research, the researcher used the qualitative method that is suitable with the aim of the research. Qualitative research is tending to be used

in analyzing. In the qualitative the data will be explained with the words in the sentences. According to Bodgan and Taylor, Qualitative research is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written words and from people that can be observed. It means that, characteristic of the qualitative is analytic data spoken words of the person or behavior being researched.

In this research the researcher focused on A-Ho character as the main character in A Sun movie. So as stated below, qualitative method research was used to analyze A-Ho's behavior in his daily life and the dialogue from the script movie. The researcher used documentation method to collect the data in this research, because based on the statement above; the form of documentation can be a text, picture, or literary work. Researcher collects data from A Sun drama and it is one of the literary works that part of document. The researcher took the data by watching the movie and reading the script.

### **3. Result and Discussion**

#### **The Aspect of Personal Unconscious in A-Ho's Personality**

Jung saw the personal unconscious as having a different function from Freud's dynamic unconscious mind. For Jung, the personal unconscious has retrospective and prospective aspects. In this study, the researchers only focused on retrospective aspects of the personal unconscious. It is oriented only by the individual's past.

#### **1. Retrospective Aspect**

The retrospective aspect according to Carl Gustav Jung refers to that part of the personal unconscious which contains past experiences, memories, emotions, and thoughts of individuals that have been forgotten or buried. It includes events and experiences from childhood, youth, and other parts of a person's life that the individual is no longer consciously aware of at this time.

There are several types of experience and content that can be hidden or forgotten from the individual's past. Some common types of retrospective aspects include:

##### **1. Traumatic Experiences**

Experiences of trauma from the past, both physical and emotional, can be part of the retrospective aspect of the unconscious. This traumatic experience can affect an individual's behavior and emotions in everyday life without realizing it.

#### **Data 1**

*A Ho : When we went to find Oden, did I tell you to chop his hand off?  
Radish : A-Ho, I wasn't planning to tell you my feelings. Since you brought it up, I might as well tell you. When you were bullied by Oden and asked me to help you vent your anger, I agreed without hesitation. Charging in*

*and seeing Oden, I slashed him there and then. I've never regretted it once. Even now, I feel the same way.*

*A Ho : I never thought that you'd actually do it. Didn't we decide to just scare him?*

*Radish : Scare him! Me with a machete, you with a watermelon knife... You even stole a scooter. When did you ever tell me just to scare him? In that courtroom, you put all of the blame on me. I was inside for three years longer than you were. When you got out, you didn't visit me even once. When you pass that bend, pull over.*

(min. 1.54.23 – 1.56.05)

The data above proves that this traumatized A Ho and he doesn't trust Radish today.

## 2. Emotional Memories

Strong emotional memories, both positive and negative, can incorporate retrospective aspects of the unconscious. These memories may have shaped an individual's view of themselves and the world, and may influence current thought patterns and emotional reactions.

### **Data 1**

*A Ho : Waiting for what? Waiting for me to become a better person? Waiting for me to become as good as my brother? Since we were little... everybody has liked him. His grades were good. He was handsome. He was outstanding. When he didn't get into med school, he decided to retake the test. He was incredible... So incredible that I began hating him. They all said I was shitty and awful. But at least I'm still here. But my brother? He was so good that he's only done one thing wrong in his life... which was jumping from a place that high. He was incredible. He was incredible.*

(min. 1.03.25 – 1.04.14)

The data above proves that the memory of A Ho's brother made A Ho compare himself to his brother.

### **Data 2**

*A Ho : He was a really good guy... and always considerate of everyone. But actually, none of us really knew what he was thinking. It doesn't matter now.*

(min. 1.03.56 – 1.04.14)

The data above made A Ho's emotions sad because he remembered his very good brother and did not think that his brother would commit suicide.

## 3. Childhood Experiences

Strong childhood experiences, especially those occurring at a very young age, can be part of a retrospective aspect of the unconscious. These childhood experiences can influence the development of an individual's personality and shape patterns of behavior and beliefs in adult life.

### **Data 1**

*A-Ho : Since we were little... everybody has liked him. His grades were good. He was handsome. He was outstanding. When he didn't get into med school, he decided to retake the test. He was incredible... So incredible that I began hating him. They all said I was shitty and awful.*

(min. 1.12.32 – 1.13.05)

The data above proves that since childhood A Ho has been compared to his brother.

### **Data 2**

*Qin : Then he'd cause trouble. He wouldn't sleep at night. He'd fuss all night. It went on like this for around two years... up until elementary school. In elementary school, he was very unhappy. I wonder if his classmates did something to him. When I asked, he wouldn't reply. In junior high, he became a different person. He joined the boxing team. He fought in school. He fought outside of school... up until the incident occurred.*

(min. 1.45.31 – 1.46.18)

The data above explains the personality of A Ho who became rebellious since entering junior high school.

## 4. Significant Life Events

Significant life events, such as the death of a loved one, a separation, or a major accomplishment, can be part of the retrospective aspect of the unconscious. These events may have a profound impact on the individual and may remain in their subconscious mind.

### **Data 1**

*A Hao : I was taking Xiao Yu to her prenatal visit. I asked if she wanted to see you. So we came.*

*A Ho : Prenatal visits?*

*A Hao : You didn't know? Xiao Yu's due in two to three months. Mom didn't tell you?*

*A Ho: Fuck.*

*Petugas : Jian Ho, control your emotions, or the visit will be terminated.*

*A Ho: Where's Xiao Yu now?*

*A Hao : She's outside. She can't come in.*

*A Ho : Mom already came a million times. It seemed like she wanted to say something, but she didn't.*

*A Ho: I'm in here now. I can't do anything, you know.*

(min. 47.58 – 49.03)

The above data shows that A Ho was surprised to learn about the fact that his girlfriend whom he left when he entered prison was pregnant and currently pregnant.

## **Data 2**

*Qin was seen sobbing on A Wen's shoulder and everyone was wearing all black, and came to pay their last respects to A Hao. Likewise, A Ho came handcuffed and accompanied by two prison officers to pay his last respects to his brother.*

(min. 37.16 – 38.01)

The data above shows that the death of A Ho's brother will be a very hard thing or blow for everyone.

### **1.1.2 The Impacts of Personal Unconscious to A-Ho's Personality**

The retrospective aspect according to Carl Gustav Jung can have several consequences and impacts on individual personality and behavior. Here are some results from the retrospective aspect according to Jungian theory:

#### 1. Influence on Personality

Past experiences hidden in retrospective aspects can affect the formation of an individual's personality. Trauma, emotional events, and unresolved conflicts from the past can create certain behavioral patterns and psychological tendencies in a person's life. Understanding these past experiences can help uncover the reasons behind current reactions and actions.

## **Data 1**

*Radish : A-Ho, this was a request from someone else. I thought of you immediately. Just do me this favor, and I'll forget about the money that I asked you for.*

*A Ho : Did I say I'd give you the money?*

*Radish : You dare to hold out on me?*

*finally A Ho did what Radish said*

(min. 46.08 – 47-01)

From the data above, due to mistakes in the past, A Ho became an obedient person because he felt indebted to Radish.

## 2. Understanding of Conflict and Problems

Retrospective exploration of aspects of the unconscious can help identify the roots of psychological problems and conflicts that are being experienced by individuals. Understanding of past events that may have been forgotten or repressed helps find solutions and facilitates the healing process.

### **Data 1**

*Radish : Scare him! Me with a machete, you with a watermelon knife... You even stole a scooter. When did you ever tell me just to scare him? In that courtroom, you put all of the blame on me. I was inside for three years longer than you were. When you got out, you didn't visit me even once. When you pass that bend, pull over.*

*A Ho stopped his car on the side of the road near a vacant lot. Then Radish gave me a backpack.*

*Radish : Get out now. Turn right, onto that road. Keep walking. Ask the guy you meet where to buy oranges. You remember that gun from last time? I have it in safekeeping.*

*A Ho : Okay. Let's say I owe you. But this is really the last time.*

(min. 1.54.23 – 1.56.05)

From the data above it can be seen that A Ho began to realize that Radish was using him and A Ho tried to resolve his past guilt by following Radish's orders for the last time.

## 3. Recovery and Personal Growth

Studying and working through retrospective aspects of the unconscious can lead to better psychological recovery and personal growth. This process allows individuals to deal with unresolved conflicts and emotions so as to escape from the burdens of the past and achieve greater psychological well-being.

### **Data 1**

*A Ho's life in prison runs smoothly and peacefully, he does positive things such as serving food at lunch time, moving water using a stroller, and so on.*

(min. 1.08.23 – 1.09.02)

From the narrative above it can be seen that while living in prison A Ho began to get used to being disciplined and doing useful things, this proves that A Ho's personality developed for the better during his life in prison.

### **Data 2**

*A Ho starts to rebuild his life by looking for a job, but it's not easy. Many workplaces refuse A Ho because they know A Ho is an ex-convict.*

(min. 27.12 – 28.04)

The data above shows that after A Ho got out of prison he tried to find a job even though it was not easy because of his status as an ex-convict.

### **Data 3**

*A Ho : Actually, ever since I got back, I've been wanting to move out. I just didn't think you'd move out first. You haven't come home. Mom hasn't said anything. She hasn't complained at all. I really hope you can return.*

(min. 48.03 – 48.45)

The data above shows that A Ho realized that his father was uncomfortable with being at home after he got out of prison and intended to move from his parents' house but did not expect that his father would give in by leaving their house. Then when he met his father, he explained his thoughts and asked his father to come back home and he would move out.

### **Data 4**

*A Ho : Can you feel anything?*

*Oden : Feel anything? Are you asking me if I feel anything here? Give me your hand. Relax, I won't chop it off. Put your fingers together. Now stretch them apart. Harder. Harder. Push harder. That's what having no hand feels like.*

*A Ho : Oden. I'm really sorry.*

*Oden : All right. Get to work. I'm gonna go.*

(min. 30.24 – 31.12)

From the data above, A Ho spoke with Oden and Oden explained the situation he was experiencing to A Ho, this made A Ho understand Oden's situation and feel guilty so A Ho apologized to Oden even though it was too

late. This proves that A Ho is aware of the mistakes he has made in the past and has the courage to apologize directly to Oden.

#### 4. Conclusion

This study uses a literary criticism with psychology approach to analyze the movie A Sun, focusing on the main character of A Ho self-development. The researcher specifically employs Carl Gustav Jung's personal unconscious theory.

1. The first result of this study is about aspects of A Ho's personal unconscious which are the main reasons for the impact of changes in A Ho's personality.
2. The second result of this study is the impact that occurred on A Ho's personality and personal change and development in A Ho who became better because of the life problems he lived.

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