

# A PSYCHOANALYSIS ON THE MAIN CHARACTER AND THE AUTHOR OF *SHERLOCK HOLMES: A STUDY IN SCARLET*

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## **ABSTRACT**

*The main goals of this thesis are to find out the characteristics and the psychoanalysis of the main character from the novel, Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Scarlet by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as well as to find the connection between the author of the novel and the novel itself: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as Dr. John Watson. In this thesis, the writer uses several theories which are implemented during the analysis process, such as: elements of fiction, psychoanalysis theory, defense mechanisms, and biographical criticism. As for the research method, the analysis is done through qualitative method. The data for this analysis are taken from events and dialogues found in the novel and the biography of the author. First of all, the writer will read the novel to understand what the story is about. The biography of the author, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, is also analyzed to understand how the author's experiences are reflected in the novel. And then, by quoting several sentences and conversations from the novel, data are taken and the analysis is conducted. The analysis shows that the main character of the novel, Sherlock Holmes, has several characteristics: selfish, self-destructive and perfectionist. These characteristics are collected through the analysis of Holmes' id, ego and super-ego. Furthermore, the writer is also able to find out that there are a lot of similarities between the author and one of the characters of the novel, Dr. John Watson, indicating that the author adds some of his personal experiences to the novel.*

**Keywords:** *psychoanalysis, defense mechanisms, main character, characteristics, biography.*

## **ABSTRAK**

*Tujuan utama dari penulisan skripsi ini adalah untuk mengetahui karakteristik-karakteristik dan psikoanalisis dari karakter utama dalam novel, Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Scarlet karya Sir Arthur Conan Doyle dan juga menemukan keterkaitan antara si penulis novel dengan karyanya sendiri: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle sebagai Dr. John Watson. Dalam penulisan skripsi ini, penulis menggunakan beberapa teori yang nantinya akan diterapkan selama proses analisis, seperti: elemen-elemen karya fiksi, teori psikoanalisis, mekanisme pertahanan, dan kritik biografis. Untuk metode*

penelitiannya, analisis skripsi ini dilakukan secara kualitatif. Data-data yang diperlukan untuk analisis diambil berdasarkan kejadian dan dialog didalam novel dan biografi si penulis novel. Pertama-tama, penulis akan membaca novel untuk memahami ceritanya. Biografi dari si penulis novel, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, juga akan dianalisa untuk memahami bagaimana pengalaman hidupnya tercermin didalam novel. Kemudian, dengan mengutip beberapa kalimat dan percakapan dari novel tersebut, data akan dikumpulkan dan analisisnya dilakukan. Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa karakter utama dari novel tersebut, Sherlock Holmes, memiliki beberapa karakteristik: egois, merusak diri sendiri dan perfeksionis. Karakteristik tersebut disimpulkan berdasarkan analisa dari id, ego dan super-ego Holmes. Lebih jauh lagi, penulis mampu menemukan banyak kesamaan antara si penulis novel dengan salah satu karakter didalam novel, Dr. John Watson, yang mengindikasikan bahwa si penulis novel menuangkan beberapa pengalaman pribadinya kedalam novel tersebut.

**Kata kunci:** psikoanalisis, mekanisme pertahanan, karakter utama, karakteristik, biografi.

## INTRODUCTION

Human beings are very interesting to analyze because each of them has different personality traits. There may be some people with personalities that we have known before or personalities that we have never seen before. Sigmund Freud, who is known for his psychoanalysis theory in literature, explains that human behavior is influenced by three aspects: id, ego and super-ego. By using a novel entitled *Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Scarlet*, the writer wants to conduct an analysis on the main character of the novel: an eccentric detective named Sherlock Holmes. The novel was written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, a Scottish physician and writer born on May 22, 1859.

Most of the time, literary works such as novels, plays and films are made as some mediums in which their creators can share information and imagination. Therefore, when the analysis of a literary work is conducted, it is important to do an analysis on its creator as well. In this case, the Sherlock Holmes figure felt real because, in fact, he was inspired from a real living person. It was none other than Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's professor, a man named Joseph Bell. And just like Sherlock Holmes, he was very talented in the art of deduction. He was able to tell, for example, the occupation and origin of his patients. It was through Arthur's admiration toward Bell that he created the famous detective.

Sherlock Holmes is a man with a brilliant skill in deducting people from the moment he sees them. He knows who they are and where they come from just by looking at their physical features. However, when he has nothing to do and in a terrible mood, he has the tendency to consume drugs, play the violin wildly or he does not go to bed for days. There are reasons as to how a person behaves and this is what the research is going to cover. This research is done so that both the writer and readers will have a deeper understanding about the main character of the novel, Sherlock Holmes and the connection between the author and the novel itself.

The problem formulation of this thesis is focused on the analysis of the main character of the novel, Sherlock Holmes by using Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis theory (id, ego and super-ego). The writer would like to analyze the characteristics of

Sherlock Holmes and his behavior. Furthermore, the writer also wants to find out the answer to the following problem: why is the author's personal experiences reflected so much in many parts of the novel?

This research primarily aims to analyze the characteristics of Sherlock Holmes and his psychological aspects by using the psychoanalysis theory as well as to find out how much impact the author of the novel has to his work. The function of this research is to show that literary works can be used to reflect the author's personal experiences in life.

The writer will explain several theories and information which are important in order to conduct the analysis:

In their book, *Literature an Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, Drama, and Writing*, Kennedy and Gioia (2007) reported:

"A character, then, is presumably an imagined person who inhabits a story--- although that simple definition may admit to a few exceptions." (p.73)

It is mentioned that a character is an imagined person. The author of a novel creates a character from his or her imagination, making it fictional. However, the personality and traits of the character are based on the author's perception of the people in the real life. This is why there are times when the character of a story resembles a lot to human beings in the real life. Another issue related to character is the characterization process. In a literary work, character may be described both directly and indirectly. Direct characterization is shown when a character is told directly to the reader: who a character is and how he or she behaves. On the other hand, indirect characterization is the characterization process where a character is described through his or her action and the reader has to infer it.

According to Arp and Johnson (2006), there are four types of point of view: omniscient point of view, third-person limited point of view, first-person point of view, and objective point of view. The novel, *Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Scarlet*, is told by using the first-person point of view with Watson as the narrator. The characteristic of this point of view can be seen with the use of "I" as one of the characters, telling readers the thoughts and characteristics of other people based on his or her opinion. The author, therefore, works as the informant for reader and can only tell the story based on his knowledge.

Next theory is the psychoanalysis criticism. It is one of the literary criticisms that was developed by Sigmund Freud (1856-1939). In *Beginning Theory an Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory*, Barry (2009) reported:

"Psychoanalytic criticism is a form of literary criticism which uses some of the techniques of psychoanalysis in the interpretation of literature." (p.92)

From the quotation above, there is a distinction in the use of psychoanalysis. In the medical knowledge, psychoanalysis is used to treat people and cure them of their mental issue. While in this case, psychoanalysis is used as techniques to interpret literary works.

In his book, *Literary and Cultural Theory*, Hall (2001) mentions:

“The psychology of authors has an impact on literary and other forms of cultural representation.” (p.108)

Based on that information, it can be said that the condition in which an author is working may affect the result of his or her work. Usually, a literary work is considered as a medium where its creator can express his or her thoughts. Therefore, when analyzing a literary work, it is also important to conduct an analysis on its creator as well.

Psychoanalysis studies the relations between the conscious and unconscious mind and then cure mental disorder from that basis. Freud developed three elements of personality: id, ego and super-ego. According to Snowden (2006), id is the fulfillment of pleasure principle (desire) and the avoidance from the tense and unpleasant condition. From that statement, it can be inferred that id works as an instinct where a person is driven to fulfill his or her desire so that pleasure is achieved. And then, the ego is the part of the mind in which a person acknowledges the reality and able to decide. The existence of ego helps a person to fulfill his or her desire without ignoring the reality. There are several characteristics of the ego: it tells us about the reality, it is rational, and the ego can observe itself.

In her book, *Sigmund Freud Routledge Critical Thinkers*, Thurschwell (2001) says:

"This fear of the father's power becomes the baby's super-ego, the internal voice which stops the child from doing things he shouldn't do, or makes him feel guilty for having done things he shouldn't have done when he does do them." (p.48)

The super-ego works as the boundary between the id and the ego. It works as a judgment between right or wrong and good or bad. As mentioned above, the super-ego is usually developed while we were still babies. As we grow up, our sense of judgment is planted in our mind. So, super-ego may be used as a morality value of how a person sees his or her surroundings and behaves.

Next, according to Snowden (2006) defense mechanisms are initiated unconsciously when there are too much anxieties disturbing the ego. These anxieties have the potential to harm a person's mental health, making them vulnerable. Therefore, these mechanisms can be used as strategies to hide from anxiety. However, the writer will only analyze two kinds of mechanisms: denial and reaction formation. Snowden (2006) explains that denial is a situation in which a person refuses to accept the reality. This mechanism can become dangerous if it is ignored because a person may ignore the real world and live in his or her own reality. While reaction formation is a kind of defense when someone reacts to his or her surroundings the opposite way of how he or she really feels.

According to Kennedy and Gioia (2007, p.2182):

"Biographical criticism begins with the simple but central insight that the literature is written by actual people and that understanding an author's life can help reader more thoroughly comprehend the work."

This quotation means to say that the work of fiction may be influenced by the life experience of the author and by knowing the life experience (biography), the reader will be able to find hidden messages or meanings from the work. For example, by reading a poet's biography, readers will know about the poet's struggles and problems, which making him or her to use certain words and hide overt meaning. It should be noted that reading an author's biography could change our perception to his or her work.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

Since the writer's research requires data from the novel, the method that will be used during the process of the research is the qualitative method. This method is chosen because the data used for the analysis are in the form of words and sentences from the novel. Important keywords, events and settings from the novel are crucial in conducting this research.

The writer will first read the novel to understand what the story is about. And then, sentences and conversations from the novel are quoted to be used as the source of information for the analysis part. And, as the analysis is also about the author of the novel, data are also taken from his biography. By using this method, the writer expects to be able to have a much deeper and richer understanding about the subject of his research.

## **DISCUSSION**

Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Scarlet tells about John Watson's first encounter with the phenomenal detective, Sherlock Holmes. In this novel, Watson accompanied Holmes, who was asked by the Scotland Yard for help, to unravel the mystery of a murdered man named Drebber. During their adventure looking for clues, Watson was amazed by Holmes' ability in deduction as well as by his shortcomings. Holmes was a man with extraordinary knowledge on science and crime. Sometimes, Holmes put together those knowledge to the way he conducted his investigation. However, Holmes might be smart but he could be unpredictable and become cold at times. These were some of Holmes' shortcomings including his addiction to the use of drugs.

### **1. The Characteristics & Characterization of Sherlock Holmes**

The analysis of Sherlock Holmes' characteristics will be based on the dialogues showing how he behaves and defines himself as well as the reactions from those around him (direct and indirect characterization). There are, actually, two major characters in the story: Sherlock Holmes and John Watson, but the writer will only analyze the characteristics of Sherlock Holmes. He is the most dominant character which influences the progress of the story. At early part of the novel, it is known that he has great interest in science and its application to the world of crimes. His deduction skill is very amazing that it astonishes many people, including the police force.

Although Sherlock Holmes is an intelligent man who helps many people to solve their problems, he tends to become selfish especially when it comes between him and his needs. One of the examples is when Holmes had to use the sitting room of his apartment.

When any of these nondescript individuals put in an appearance, Sherlock Holmes used to beg for the use of the sitting-room, and I would retire to my bed-room. (Doyle, p.12)

Both Watson and Holmes had their own room at the apartment. However, whenever Holmes had a client coming, instead of using his own room as a meeting place he always used the sitting room. Holmes didn't even tell Watson of this beforehand. This routine might have disturbed Watson's freedom as they both owned the apartment.

Sherlock Holmes' fondness of perfection and success tend to make him lead a bad way of living. Holmes has a vast amount of vocabularies for the knowledge of science as well as crimes. One of the examples of this behavior was described during Holmes' first meeting with Watson at the laboratory.

"I have to be careful," he continued, turning to me with a smile, "for I dabble with poisons a good deal." He held out his hand as he spoke, and I noticed that it was all mottled over with similar pieces of plaster, and discoloured with strong acids. (Doyle, p.10)

Before Watson even entered the laboratory, Holmes had been conducting an experiment on blood stains. He wanted to know whether his test could be applied to the process of crime investigation, which was done by taking samples of blood found on the evidence no matter how long the discovery of that evidence was. His test was, however, a successful one and at the price of the wound in his hand.

From this scene, it can be said that Holmes will do anything to succeed, including damaging his own self. Actually, he could use samples from other subjects such as animals, but the fact that he used his own was the proof that he was self-destructive. Another example is his addiction to the use of drugs.

Nothing could exceed his energy when the working fit was upon him; but now and again a reaction would seize him, and for days on end he would lie upon the sofa in the sitting-room, hardly uttering a word or moving a muscle from morning to night. On these occasions I have noticed such a dreamy, vacant expression in his eyes, that I might have suspected him of being addicted to the use of some narcotic, had not the temperance and cleanliness of his whole life forbidden such a notion. (Doyle, p.11)

The quotation above gives information that Holmes is a workaholic so it troubles him there is nothing to be done. Now, when there is nothing to be done, instead of doing something useful, he gives in to his addition of drugs. This, nevertheless, has the potential to ruin him physically, if not mentally.

One of the qualities that Sherlock Holmes has and makes him extraordinary is his ability to pay attention to all details, which could be invisible in the eyes of other, and gives conclusion based on his perception of that details. To those around him, Holmes' meticulous habit has brought much help to their problems. But, if anything goes out of plan, Holmes could get frustrated. Such as this event:

"It can't be a coincidence," he cried, at last springing from his chair and pacing wildly up and down the room; "it is impossible that it should be a mere coincidence. The very pills which I suspected in the case of Drebber are actually

found after the death of Stangerson. And yet they are inert. What can it mean? Surely my whole chain of reasoning cannot have been false. It is impossible! And yet this wretched dog is none the worse. Ah, I have it! I have it!" (Doyle, p.23)

During this event, Lestrade, who was one of the officers to help to unravel the mystery behind the murder of Drebber and Stangerson, had given Holmes the tool that was used by the suspect: a box containing two pills. A terrier dog had been used as a test subject. The dog was given one of the pills. Surprisingly, nothing happened. Holmes got angry and did the same experiment, only with the other pill. This time the experiment was successful, the dog was dead. Whenever things do not go according to his plan, he gets frustrated and unable to accept that.

## **2. Point of View**

In *Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Scarlet*, the story is told in first-person point of view with Watson as the narrator. Through this point of view, he informs the reader about how he feels, what he does and how those around him react to the matter at hand.

I had neither kith nor kin in England, and was therefore as free as air -- or as free as an income of eleven shillings and sixpence a day will permit a man to be. (Doyle, p.9)

The sentence above is taken from early part of the novel. He expressed how he felt when he was sent back to England after being retired from his duty as surgeon during the second Afghan war. He wanted to inform the reader that he was all alone and had no place to return to. There are many times in the story when he expresses his feelings. Another example is this:

"Why," I cried, as I cast my eye over it, "this is terrible!" (Doyle, p.14)

Just as Watson finished reading a letter sent by Gregson, who was requesting Holmes to come to the crime scene, he uttered that expression so that the reader would know that he felt terrible for what had happened: a man named Drebber had been murdered the night before. The first-person point of view is used to make the reader positions himself or herself as the character (narrator) of the story and experience the same thing.

## **3. Psychoanalysis of Sherlock Holmes**

Sherlock Holmes is the main character of the novel. He works as a consulting detective in the city of London. Unlike the police force, he works in his own way whenever he is investigating a criminal activity. One of the qualities that makes him famous is his incredible deduction ability. He is able to deduce the profession of a person just by looking at his or her appearance. However, as a human being, he also has flaws, for example: his addiction to the use of drugs and his cold personality. In this section, the writer will do an analysis on Holmes' id, ego and super-ego.

### **3.1 Id**

In this novel, Sherlock Holmes is described as a man with extraordinary vocabularies on many branches of knowledge, especially in anything related to science and crime. It may be so because Holmes works as a consulting detective who has clients

from different background and social status. Therefore, it demands him to be knowledgeable about many things for he does not want to be looked down by anyone. He is very proud of himself and often selfish.

"He is sure to be at the laboratory," returned my companion. "He either avoids the place for weeks, or else he works there from morning to night. If you like, we shall drive round together after luncheon." (Doyle, p.10)

The quotation above is Stamford's answer to Watson's question regarding Holmes. From that answer, it can be said that Holmes is a hard-working man. During this event, Holmes was working intensely at the hospital's laboratory. When he met for the first time with Watson, Holmes showed high enthusiasm in his experiment. However, despite his hard-working habit, he has a shortcoming. When he has got nothing to do, instead of doing something useful he clings to his addiction to drugs.

Nothing could exceed his energy when the working fit was upon him; but now and again a reaction would seize him, and for days on end he would lie upon the sofa in the sitting-room, hardly uttering a word or moving a muscle from morning to night. On these occasions I have noticed such a dreamy, vacant expression in his eyes, that I might have suspected him of being addicted to the use of some narcotic, had not the temperance and cleanliness of his whole life forbidden such a notion. (Doyle, p.11)

Watson's description about Holmes above is one of the examples of Holmes' id. When Holmes is not in the mood to work, he has the tendency to consume drugs. This is an example that shows Holmes fulfilling his need for pleasure. As Holmes is a workaholic, he also needs a medium in which he can relax from ordinary routine and hard thinking.

### **3.2 Ego**

The ego of Sherlock Holmes can be seen when he was able to impress Watson by knowing that the messenger who had come to the apartment was a retired sergeant of Marines.

"How in the world did you deduce that?" I asked.

"Deduce what?" said he, petulantly.

"Why, that he was a retired sergeant of Marines."

"I have no time for trifles," he answered, brusquely; then with a smile, "Excuse my rudeness. You broke the thread of my thoughts; but perhaps it is as well. So you actually were not able to see that that man was a sergeant of Marines?" (Doyle, p.14)

After confirming that the messenger was indeed a retired sergeant, Watson wanted to know how Holmes was able to deduce that. At first, Holmes did not want to answer his question because he was thinking about something else. But then, he apologized and gave explanation to Watson. In the story, Holmes often put on cold manner to those around him, especially to the police force. However, since Watson was his roommate, he decided be nice to him.

### **3.3 Super-Ego**

The super-ego of Sherlock Holmes can be found in the novel when Holmes told Watson that there was no room for a mistake.

"There is nothing like first hand evidence," he remarked; "as a matter of fact, my mind is entirely made up upon the case, but still we may as well learn all that is to be learned."

"You amaze me, Holmes," said I. "Surely you are not as sure as you pretend to be of all those particulars which you gave."

"There's no room for a mistake," he answered. (Doyle, p.16)

This scene occurred after Holmes and Watson had finished investigating the crime scene where Drebber was found. Throughout the investigation, Holmes managed to gather important clues that had the potential to uncover who the murderer was. However, he told Watson that as long there was information to dig, they should not be careless.

## **4. Defense Mechanisms**

Upon reading and analyzing the novel, the writer is able to discover two kinds of defense mechanism: denial and reaction formation, that the main character, Sherlock Holmes, uses.

### **4.1 Denial**

In the novel, Sherlock Holmes initiated denial defense mechanism when his roommate, Watson, told him about the Copernican Theory and of the composition of the Solar System. According to Watson, it was very surprising and odd that any civilized human being in the nineteenth century did not know about the fact that the earth travelled round the sun. Instead of accepting the truth, Holmes replied:

"You appear to be astonished," he said, smiling at my expression of surprise. "Now that I do know it I shall do my best to forget it." (Doyle, p.11)

Hearing that coming out of the mouth of a scientific man was enough to make Watson astounded. Holmes even replied that even if the earth travelled round the moon, he would not care a bit. He said so because he thought that human brain was like an attic, which should be filled with important stuff only as the room had limited space. He lectured Watson that whenever something new was learned, something else was forgotten. Therefore, because Holmes worked as a detective and had nothing to do with astronomy, he decided to ignore that fact. This defense mechanism is also related to Holmes' personality traits. He was described as a man of high self-esteem. In this scene, Watson knew something that Holmes did not know before. As a form of denial, Holmes decided to ignore what Watson had said about the Copernican Theory.

### **4.2 Reaction-Formation**

The murder case of both Drebber and Stangerson had brought the attention of Sherlock Holmes and the police force, the Scotland Yard. In the past, Sherlock Holmes

had helped them to solve some of their cases. Unfortunately, whenever Holmes helped to solve a case, all the credit went to the police force. He might feel irritated about it, but since the police force had access to the crime scene and could share information to him, Holmes tried not to care too much about it. In the novel, Holmes managed to solve the mystery first, but he did not tell it to the police force immediately. He even refused to share any information to them, as described in the following scene:

"What do you think of it, sir?" they both asked.

"It would be robbing you of the credit of the case if I was to presume to help you," remarked my friend. "You are doing so well now that it would be a pity for anyone to interfere." There was a world of sarcasm in his voice as he spoke. (Doyle, p.16)

This scene occurred when Holmes had inspected the crime scene. Unlike the police force, he was able to find some important clues that could lead to the criminal. Although the police had in their hands the evidence, they were led to the wrong direction, while Holmes was on the right direction. However, Holmes did not tell them that they were on the wrong side, he even said that they were doing well. This defense mechanism is based on Holmes' feeling about how he was treated in the past. So, as an act of retaliation, he decided to take all advantages to himself while using the information from the police force.

## **5. Biographical Criticism**

In this section of the analysis, the writer wants to analyze the relationship that the author, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, has with this novel. One of the problem formulations mentioned is to find the evidence suggesting that the life experiences of the author have indeed depicted in some parts of the novel. This analysis is done by looking at any kinds of similarities between the novel and the author's background. Both the biography and documentary film about the author will be used during the process of this analysis.

First of all, there is the similarity between the occupation of the author and one of the major characters, John Watson, who is also the narrator in the novel. Both Arthur and Watson work as doctors. At the beginning of the novel, Watson explained to the readers that he majored in Medicine:

In the year 1878 I took my degree of Doctor of Medicine of the University of London, and proceeded to Netley to go through the course prescribed for surgeons in the army. (Doyle, p.9)

The author of the novel, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, also took Medicine as his degree and studied to become a doctor. Whereas Watson went to university in 1878, the author started his study of Medicine in 1877, one year before.



Picture 1.1

(Arthur was a medical student --- 10:35)

The cutscene above explained that Arthur was a medical student. His decision to choose Medicine as his degree has high influence in the novel. For one, he decided to have Watson, the narrator, as a doctor in the novel. This shows that Arthur's experience during his time studying medicine as well as his job as a doctor has impact to this novel.

As mentioned before, the writer believes that a literary work is a medium in which the author can express his ideas and feelings. In this case, the author wants to be a part of the novel by becoming one of the characters who is also works as a doctor. Near the end of the story, Watson decided that he would record his journey with Sherlock Holmes into a journal. This makes both Arthur and Watson as authors, one in the real life and the other one in the novel.

In the real life, Arthur was not only known for his contribution in literature and medicine, he was also a man of honor. He went to help to tend the wounded soldiers during the war in South Africa. It was due to his braveness that he was knighted later in his life. Arthur's life as a doctor has another impact to the content of the novel. One such proof is the use of many medical terms in the novel. For example, what Holmes said during his first meeting with Watson:

"Why, man, it is the most practical medico-legal discovery for years. Don't you see that it gives us an infallible test for blood stains. Come over here now!" He seized me by the coat-sleeve in his eagerness, and drew me over to the table at which he had been working. "Let us have some fresh blood," he said, digging a long bodkin into his finger, and drawing off the resulting drop of blood in a chemical pipette. "Now, I add this small quantity of blood to a litre of water. You perceive that the resulting mixture has the appearance of pure water. The proportion of blood cannot be more than one in a million. I have no doubt, however, that we shall be able to obtain the characteristic reaction." As he spoke, he threw into the vessel a few white crystals, and then added some drops of a transparent fluid. In an instant the contents assumed a dull mahogany colour, and a brownish dust was precipitated to the bottom of the glass jar. (Doyle, p.10)

After sharing similar interests and experiences with Watson, Arthur also express his life experience in the novel. One such case is the creation of the main character, Sherlock Holmes. In his biography, Arthur did say that he was creating the main character, Sherlock Holmes after his professor at the university. It was a man named Joseph Bell. Arthur first met him in 1877. He was amazed by the professor's ability in the art of deduction, just like Sherlock Holmes.

Joseph Bell, aside from being a doctor and talented in deduction, also had interest in the world of crime and forensic science. He was able to apply his knowledge in science into the world of crime. One day, Bell was asked by the police force, the Scotland Yard, to help them with the murder case of a housewife named Elizabeth as can be seen in the picture below:



Picture 1.4

(Joseph Bell is investigating a crime scene --- 15:36)

Amazingly, through analysis of dead body as well as chemical compound, he was able to find out how she was killed. The result was that the woman was murdered with poison by her own husband. Then, the husband was caught and brought to prison. His success in uncovering the truth had made Bell famous. His name was mentioned in newspaper and quickly gained public interest. However, similar to Holmes, he was not fond of the media.

## CONCLUSION

The analysis shows that Sherlock Holmes is a person who is selfish, self-destructive and also perfectionist. Sherlock Holmes is a very talented detective who loves to work in his own way and often makes fun of the police force for taking all the credit of his work. As for the analysis of his id, ego and super-ego, it can be concluded that his duty as a detective affects the way he reacts toward other people.

Sherlock Holmes himself is a man who is proud of himself. That is why there are times when he hates being compared to other people and often becomes selfish. His addiction to drugs too, is the result of not having been able to fulfill his desire for solving crimes. Crime and science are the two things that Sherlock Holmes fond of.

Therefore, whenever he cannot do what he likes, he tends to fulfill his need on something else, for example: drugs and music (playing the violin).

The analysis also indicates that the author of the novel, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, gives a lot of reflections of his own experiences in the novel. This conclusion is derived from several similarities that are found in the novel, for example: the similarities in occupation, habit, admiration, and experience between the author and the narrator of the novel. Both the author and the narrator work as doctors and used to serve as surgeons during the war. They also both admire the poet, Edgar Allen Poe. Besides that, there are similarities in the setting of place, time and social setting of the story.

The analysis in this thesis may have discovered a lot of similarities between the author and the novel, but further analysis will definitely be useful in confirming that the Sherlock Holmes series are indeed based on the author's personal experiences to some extent. As this novel has its continuations, there may be some information that can be obtained by analyzing the next novel.

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In "Sherlock Holmes stories", the character "Sherlock Holmes" is based on the story of Joseph Bell who was a lecturer at the University of Medicine and Surgery Doctor in the late 19th century, Edinburgh, Scotland, whose legend brings Conan Doyle's inspiration. This paper analyzes the character of Sherlock Holmes, explain why so many people all over the world are fascinated by the story in four parts. His first significant work, *A Study in Scarlet*, appeared in *Beeton's Christmas Annual* for 1887. It featured the first appearance of Sherlock Holmes, who was partially modeled after his former university teacher Joseph Bell. The character of Sherlock Holmes was influenced by E. A. Poe, and, in particular, by Doyle's university teacher Joseph Bell. "A Study in Scarlet" is the story of how Sherlock Holmes solved the murder of Joseph Stangerson (and later, Enoch Drebber). The book is written from the perspective of Dr. John Watson, a retired Afghanistan soldier and doctor, who accompanies Holmes on his investigations in Victorian England. On meeting Holmes through an old friend, Watson is astounded with his brilliant observation skills and they agree to be flatmates and split rent for an apartment on 221B Baker Street. When the police (head detectives Lestrade and Gregson) show up at their doorstep, stumped by a crime, they turn to Download Citation | Victorian biopolitics, psychoanalysis and sherlock holmes: A study in scarlet | Taking up Arthur Conan Doyle's A Study in Scarlet (1887), the first Sherlock Holmes narrative, I argue that the raison of the Victorian detective | Find, read and cite all the research you need on ResearchGate. To read the full-text of this research, you can request a copy directly from the author. References (3). Abstract. Taking up Arthur Conan Doyle's A Study in Scarlet (1887), the first Sherlock Holmes narrative, I argue that the raison of the Victorian detective story depends on situating the subjectivity as it forms and explains itself in the Victorian Bildungsroman, against the logic of Victorian political economy.