

Psychoanalytic Analysis of the Main Character in Takehiko Inoue's *Vagabond* Manga with Sigmund Freud's Theory Approach

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Abstract. This research aims to describe the personality structure of the main character Miyamoto Musashi in the *manga Vagabond* (バガボンド) by Takehiko Inoue. The *manga Vagabond* (バガボンド) by Takehiko Inoue was chosen as the research object because it contains many psychological elements apparent in the character's personality, Miyamoto Musashi. The research method applied in this study is a qualitative method based on narration and data description. The *manga Vagabond* (バガボンド) serves as the data source for this research. The data accumulation process uses reading techniques, namely by reading the *manga* as a whole and repeatedly, then analyzing its contents, further writing or obtaining data that is comparable and relevant to the research topic. The research results indicate that Miyamoto Musashi's personality is predominantly characterized by the id, reflected in his aggressive actions and lack of concern for consequences. Although the ego and superego are present in his behavior, in extreme situations, the id appears to dominate more in determining his actions.

Keywords: manga, personality structure, psychoanalysis, sigmund freud

RESEARCH BACKGROUND

Literature refers to human creations, whether written or unwritten, that reflect artistic or aesthetic values. From this general understanding, we perceive literature as artistic works documented through writing or orally (Hawa, 2017, p. 1). Literature is a creative process that can produce works such as poetry, novels, short stories, *manga/comics*, and others. Meanwhile, as a field used to systematically and logically investigate various aspects related to literary works, literature serves as a science. With the existence of literary science, one can study and analyze a literary work thoroughly and responsibly (Kosasih, 2008, p. 4). This research utilizes *manga*, which is literature as art, as the object of study.

Manga is a type of comic or graphic novel originating from Japan or using the Japanese language, often published in weekly or monthly magazines, or in compiled book formats called *tankoubon*, in accordance with the style that developed in Japan in the late 19th century (<https://www.ejurnal.com/2013/04/pengertian-manga.html?m=1>). In Japan, "*manga*" refers to comics and cartoons, while outside of Japan, this term is used for comics originating from Japan. *Mangaka* is the Japanese term for a *manga* creator, equivalent to a comic artist. Outside of Japan, *manga* refers to Japanese comic books, while *mangaka* refers to *manga* authors, who are typically from Japan.

One example of *manga* is *Vagabond* (バガボンド), which was also chosen by the author as the research object. It was published in 1998 and is the work of Takehiko Inoue. *Vagabond* tells the story of a man who grew up in late 15th-century Sengoku era Japan, Shinmen Takezo, who is shunned by the local villagers as a demon child due to his wild and cruel nature. Running away from home with another boy at the age of 17, Takezo joins the Toyotomi army to fight against the Tokugawa clan in the Battle of Sekigahara. However, Tokugawa emerges victorious, leading to nearly three hundred years of Tokugawa shogunate rule. Takezo and his friend manage to survive the battle and thereafter vow to do great things with their lives. But after their paths diverge, Takezo becomes a fugitive and must change his name and nature to avoid dishonorable death. Based on the book "*Musashi*" by Eiji

Yoshikawa, *Vagabond* is a fiction retelling the life of Miyamoto Musashi, often referred to as the "Sword Saint".

With his wild and cruel childhood nature, Miyamoto Musashi grew into a teenager experiencing various events that influenced his psychology. The *manga Vagabond* (バガボンド) by Takehiko Inoue, published in 1998, was chosen as the research object because it contains many psychological elements apparent in the character's personality, Miyamoto Musashi. In literature, inner conflict is regarded as a form of tension or conflict that occurs between two forces, whether within a single character, between two characters, or even among groups. Psychological aspects are often portrayed through the characters in the literary work. Therefore, a knowledge of psychology is necessary to understand or study the behavior of characters in a literary work (Nisa & Wahyuningsih, 2014, p. 4). In this study, the intention is to elucidate the personality structure of the main character Miyamoto Musashi in the *manga Vagabond* (バガボンド) using Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic approach, which involves the aspects of the id, ego, and superego.

Sigmund Freud is a literary psychologist known for his theories on the subconscious mind, the role of sexuality in human psychology, and the structure of the psyche, which consists of the id, ego, and superego. Freud has had a significant influence in the field of psychology and continues to be debated and studied to this day. Sigmund Freud proposed the Psychoanalytic theory that the source of human mental processes consists of three systems: id, ego, and superego. Id is the primitive, instinctive component of personality oriented towards the pleasure principle, which seeks immediate satisfaction of biological urges. It's irrational and illogical. Ego, on the other hand, is the rational personality system oriented towards the reality principle, mediating between the id and the external world. It seeks satisfaction but through rational and realistic problem-solving processes. Superego represents the social aspect of personality, containing moral components related to societal standards or norms regarding right and wrong (Hidayat, 2011, p. 37).

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Previous studies related to the theme to be investigated and used as references and considerations in the preparation of this research are as follows:

“Analisis Tokoh Utama dengan Teori Psikoanalisis Sigmund Freud pada Cerpen Hana karya Akutagawa Ryunosuke” conducted by Siti Rokhana in 2009, Department of Foreign Language and Literature, Faculty of Language and Arts, Semarang State University. In this research, the main character Zenchi Naigu, who has a long nose hanging down to his chin, is analyzed. This condition causes anxiety in Naigu, who attempts to shorten his nose in various ways (<http://lib.unnes.ac.id/888/>)

This research shares similarities with the approach used, which is the literary psychology approach. The difference lies in the material object studied, as this research uses the *manga Vagabond* by Takehiko Inoue, whereas Siti Rokhana used the short story *Hana* by Akutagawa Ryunosuke as the object of analysis.

Another study on personality structure titled “Konflik Batin Tokoh Utama pada Film Okuribito karya Yojiro Takita” conducted by Setiane Mutia Nisa and Tri Mulyani Wahyuningsih in 2014, Department of Japanese Literature, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Dian Nuswantoro University. In this research, the main character Daigo Kobayashi, who experiences inner conflict influenced by the imbalance of

the Id, Ego, and Superego aspects within him, resulting in problems constantly arising in Daigo's life, is examined

(https://scholar.google.co.id/citations?view_op=view_citation&hl=id&user=ShC9JhcAAAAJ&citation_for_view=ShC9JhcAAAAJ:YsMSGLeby4C)

The difference lies in the material object studied, as this research uses the *manga Vagabond* by Takehiko Inoue, whereas Setiane Mutia Nisa and Tri Mulyani Wahyuningsih used the film *Okuribito* by Yojiro Takita and its analysis as the object of study.

RESEARCH METHOD

The method used in this research is qualitative method. According to Muhadjir (2000, p. 29), qualitative method is a research approach that is not based on numerical calculations to draw conclusions. In this study, numerical data used for statistical analysis are not employed. Therefore, this research is not quantitative, but qualitative, meaning the conclusions drawn are not based on numerical calculations but on the quality of verbal expressions or discourse (on Furisari et al., 2022, p. 99). The author uses this method because this research will analyze data in the form of words or dialogues and provide an overview of the main character's personality in the *manga Vagabond*. The data source in this research uses the *manga Vagabond* (バガボンド) by Takehiko Inoue published in 1998 (Inoue, 1998). The data accumulation process employs reading techniques, namely by reading the manga as a whole and repeatedly, then analyzing its contents, further writing or obtaining data that is comparable and relevant to the research topic.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Miyamoto Musashi's desire to kill the bandits

Data 1: Chapter 1 page 19

Miyamoto Musashi : 俺を殺す 気ならー

Bandit : ぐぐ... このガキ... なんという力!! (独り言ちいる)

Miyamoto Musashi : 殺してやる。

Miyamoto Musashi : If you don't want to kill me...

Bandit : Urgh... *This kid... So strong!* (He thought)

Miyamoto Musashi : I will kill you!

Data 1 is a conversation between Miyamoto Musashi and a bandit when Miyamoto Musashi is suddenly attacked by a bandit who is hiding and trying to kill Miyamoto Musashi after surviving the war. With only his bare hands, Miyamoto Musashi confronts the attack from the bandit. When the situation arises, Miyamoto Musashi actually feels excited and challenged by the bandit, thus arising the desire to end the bandit's life.

The character of Miyamoto Musashi demonstrates intriguing actions from a psychoanalytic perspective. Miyamoto Musashi asserts his strength by stating “俺を殺す 気ならー” which means “If you don't want to kill me...” showing high self-confidence and a willingness to take risks. This can be interpreted as a manifestation of the ego, which is responsible for reality testing and selfassessment.

The superego, representing the internalization of moral values and standards taught by society, cannot intervene because the impulses from the id overpower its voice in threatening situations. This is evident in Miyamoto Musashi's attempt to retaliate against the bandit attempting to attack him, with the response “殺してやる” which means “I will kill you!”. In this dialogue, the id structure of Miyamoto Musashi's personality shows a drive to dominate and control the situation, representing unconscious basic urges and instincts.

Based on the analysis, Miyamoto Musashi's actions reflect a complex psychological dynamic between the id's desire for self-preservation. However, because the superego cannot intervene, it turns into primitive urges that make Miyamoto Musashi excited and challenged by the bandit, leading to a desire to kill the bandit. Thus, this shows that the id structure of Miyamoto Musashi emerges and dominates, where he follows impulses of satisfaction and pleasure that are amoral and wild, originating from within himself.

2. Miyamoto Musashi does not want to involve others

Data 2: Chapter 7 page 1

Matahachi : 辻風組だ!! もう復讐に来やがった!!

Akemi : おっ母さんが家に!

Matahachi : !!

Miyamoto Musashi : 行くぞっ。

Akemi : 私も行く。

Miyamoto Musashi : 来るなっ。

Akemi : !!

Matahachi : 朱実は足手まといだここで待ってろ。必ずお甲さんを連れてくるから!!!

Matahachi : They're Tsujikaze's people! They came back for revenge.

Akemi : Mom is still at home!

Matahachi : !!

Miyamoto Musashi : Come on

Akemi : I am coming along

Miyamoto Musashi : You stay here

Akemi : !!

Matahachi : You'll only get in the way. We'll bring Okō here. I promise!

In data 2, Miyamoto Musashi, Matahachi, and Akemi are shown by the riverbank, watching as the Tsujikaze people approach. The Tsujikaze people come to the house of the person who saved Miyamoto Musashi, named Okō. The arrival of the Tsujikaze people is for revenge because Miyamoto Musashi killed the leader of the Tsujikaze.

In that dialogue, the character Miyamoto Musashi emerges as someone who exhibits several aspects that can be analyzed through Sigmund Freud's theory. Miyamoto Musashi shows the characteristic of a strong superego, which is a part of the personality that serves as a mediator between the ego's desires and internal morality. When Akemi expresses her desire to join the journey, Miyamoto Musashi firmly

rejects her by saying, “来るな” which means “You stay here” this action reflects the strong moral stance held by Miyamoto Musashi, who refuses to bring Akemi into potentially dangerous situations.

By refusing Akemi's participation, Miyamoto Musashi demonstrates his caution and responsibility towards the safety of the individual, placing the well-being of others above personal desires. This shows that Miyamoto Musashi acts as a moral guardian in the situation, ensuring that the actions taken adhere to moral principles and social responsibility.

However, the incident can also highlight the presence of internal conflict within Miyamoto Musashi. Although his actions align with the moral values required by the superego, there are primitive urges or desires within his id that wish to participate in revenge.

Based on the analysis, Miyamoto Musashi's attitude reflects a conflict between the ego's impulses to act according to desires and the superego's impulses to act according to internal morality. Miyamoto Musashi chooses to follow his conscience, even if it means rejecting the impulses of his ego to act impulsively and the urges of his id. Miyamoto Musashi's actions demonstrate wisdom and courage to consider the moral consequences of his actions. Thus, in the dialogue, we can see how Miyamoto Musashi's character is influenced by the aspects of the superego in Sigmund Freud's personality theory.

3. Miyamoto Musashi's action of protecting Matahachi

Data 3: Chapter 9 page 5

Villager : !!

Miyamoto Musashi : おい 頼んだぞ。本位田のお婆と 七宝寺に住んでる おつうに伝えろ 又八は 生きてるただ…… 女とどこかへ逃げたのだあいつは ……とはいえん (独り言ちいる) ただ訳あって みやもと 今は宮本村に 帰れない頼んだぞ。

Villager : !!

Miyamoto Musashi : I'm relying on you. Tell Grandma Hon'iden and Otsu from Shippoji Temple that Matahachi is still alive, but... *I can't say he's gone with a woman* (he thought), but he won't return to Miyamoto. Let them know about this.

In data 3, Miyamoto Musashi is shown capturing a villager and instructing him to deliver a message to Grandma Hon'iden about Matahachi's condition. Miyamoto Musashi cannot convey the message directly because he is currently a fugitive. Samurai, assisted by villagers, are searching for Miyamoto Musashi.

In that incident, the Id, which is the most primitive part of the mind operating based on the principle of instant pleasure and satisfaction of needs, emerges in Miyamoto Musashi. When Miyamoto Musashi reveals that he cannot say that Matahachi has gone with another woman, even though Matahachi is already engaged, it can be seen that Miyamoto Musashi is following his own urges and desires (id) to protect Matahachi without considering the moral consequences or external reality.

The part that serves as a mediator between the unconscious desires of the id and external reality, namely the ego, also emerges in Miyamoto Musashi. Miyamoto Musashi's ego attempts to balance

the desire to protect Matahachi with an awareness of external reality, where Miyamoto Musashi realizes that leaking information about Matahachi may not be advantageous. However, his ego still chooses to obey unconscious urges to protect his friend, despite the associated risks and consequences.

The part that functions as a collection of internal norms and moral values acquired from the social environment is the superego. In this case, although Miyamoto Musashi realizes that leaking information about Matahachi may not be appropriate or may contradict certain social or moral values, the desire to protect his friend still dominates.

Based on the analysis, Miyamoto Musashi's id, triggered by the urge to protect Matahachi, is more dominant in the scene, followed by the ego trying to balance between desires and reality, while the superego is weaker in its influence. This reflects the complexity of Miyamoto Musashi's character and the internal conflicts he faces in his life.

4. Miyamoto Musashi struggles and kills for self-preservation

Data 4: Chapter 11 page 6

Miyamoto Musashi : 殺すと いったら

Hon'iden : おのれっ!!

Captain Aoki : 暴れて 抵抗して 傲岸不遜! 新免 武蔵 気に入っ!

Hon'iden : えっ!?!?!

Captain Aoki : 自分が 生き永らえる 他人の命は 無情にも あっさり 奪う! 何のためらいもなく 平然と!

Samurai : あ!!

Samurai : ぎゃっ 強い! 何という 剛力!

Miyamoto Musashi : I've said it, I will kill you!

Hon'iden : You!!

Captain Aoki : Reckless resistance. No one can match him! Shinmen Takezo... I'm impressed!

Hon'iden : What?!

Captain Aoki : For his own safety, he kills without a second thought. Ruthless.

Samurai : Argh!!

Samurai : Eeyah! That power! He is so strong!

In data 4, Miyamoto Musashi is shown fighting against the samurai as he is being pursued as a fugitive. This incident occurs because Miyamoto Musashi is trapped by Grandma Hon'iden and surrounded. Despite being surrounded, Miyamoto Musashi continues to fight the samurai, causing chaos among them and instilling fear with his strength.

The ego, which functions as a mediator between the id and reality, is present in the character of Miyamoto Musashi. Although he acts impulsively to protect himself, he also possesses strong tactical intelligence, as seen in his ability to defeat his opponents with mature strategies. This indicates that Miyamoto Musashi is able to balance desires and innate impulses with reality and the consequences of his actions.

The id, representing instincts and primitive impulses within individuals, is reflected in Musashi's threat to kill his opponents. His aggressive and unapologetic attitude reveals his instinctual need and drive to dominate and protect himself. This is evident when he threatens to kill without hesitation by saying “殺すといっただろ” which means “I've said it, I will kill you!”, demonstrating strong instinctual strength and desire.

Miyamoto Musashi faces internal conflict between the urge to survive and moral norms. Miyamoto Musashi appears to prioritize his own safety over considering the moral consequences of his actions. This may indicate that his superego is unable to restrain his strong instinctual urges, resulting in aggressive and cruel behavior.

Based on the analysis, the strong instinctual drive (id) is more dominant in the character of Miyamoto Musashi. Although he possesses strong tactical intelligence (ego), his aggressive and unapologetic attitude towards the threat of killing his opponents demonstrates the strength of his instinctual drive to survive and control the situation. However, the influence of the ego is also evident in his ability to use mature strategies to defeat his opponents. His superego, reflecting moral norms, may be weaker in influencing his actions, as it appears that he prioritizes his own safety over moral considerations.

5. Fear and weaknesses of Miyamoto Musashi revealed by Takuan

Data 5: Chapter 12 page 1

Takuan : 体は でかいが 肝は 小せえ

猫の ようだ。

Miyamoto : 誰だ 貴様

Musashi

Takuan : 獣に 名乗る必要も あるま

い

Miyamoto : !!

Musashi

Takuan : おっ来たぞ 逃げるん だろ?

Miyamoto : 坊主だろうと殺すぞ

Musashi

Takuan : 怖いか

Miyamoto : あ?

Musashi

Takuan : お前に 触れたら 切れそうだ。 そうやって まる
で刃物の ように 神経をとがらせ 人を寄せつけな
いのは。 人が 怖いからだ。 お前は この村で 一番
弱い。

Miyamoto : あ? 何言ってやがる? (独り言ちいる)

Musashi

Takuan : You may indeed be big... But your heart is
as small as a cat's.

Miyamoto : Who are you?
Musashi
Takuan : Why would a wild animal want to know my name?
Miyamoto : !!
Musashi
Takuan : They're coming here... Don't you want to run?
Miyamoto : I will kill you even if you are a monk.
Musashi
Takuan : Are you afraid?
Miyamoto : Huh?
Musashi
Takuan : You will kill me even if I just touch you. You let worry overwhelm you, and you're always ready to lash out. You give distance to yourself and others. It's because you're afraid of people. You are the weakest person in this village.
Miyamoto : Huh? *What did he say?* (He thought)
Musashi

Data 5 shows Miyamoto Musashi meeting a man named Takuan. Miyamoto Musashi stumbles into a trap set by Takuan while running from pursuing samurai. Takuan, fearlessly, begins to speak about Miyamoto Musashi's fears and weaknesses.

In the dialogue between Takuan and Miyamoto Musashi in data 6, a deep psychological battle between these two characters is evident. Takuan displays aspects of Miyamoto Musashi's superego in this dialogue. Takuan has a profound understanding of Miyamoto Musashi's inner state and attempts to lead him into introspection. When Takuan describes Musashi's heart as “小せえ 猫のようだ”, meaning “small as a cat's”, he refers to the emotional instability or fear influencing Miyamoto Musashi's actions.

On the other hand, Miyamoto Musashi represents the dominant id in this conversation. Miyamoto Musashi appears aggressive and defensive, ready to attack anything he perceives as a threat. His readiness to attack Takuan demonstrates a drive to defend himself and overcome his fear by displaying strength. However, in his confusion about what Takuan is saying, there is a developing aspect of ego within Miyamoto Musashi. He doesn't fully grasp Takuan's statements, indicating uncertainty or an inability to confront his inner issues directly.

Based on the analysis, Miyamoto Musashi displays a complex personality structure in the dialogue with Takuan. In his confusion towards Takuan's statements, Miyamoto Musashi shows the development of ego aspects, where he doesn't fully understand and confront his inner issues directly. On the other hand, Takuan exhibits aspects of the superego with a profound understanding of Miyamoto Musashi's inner state and his efforts to lead him into introspection. In the dialogue, Miyamoto Musashi demonstrates the dominance of his id. His aggressive and defensive stance, along

with the drive to attack anything he perceives as a threat, indicates that his id nature is more dominant in that situation.

6. Miyamoto Musashi contemplates the meaning of life after a series of events he experienced

Data 6: Chapter 14 page 3

Miyamoto Musashi : この先に 何かがある? 知るか 憎まれ 追われ 斬って斬って 斬りまくって 斬り
死にするんだろう それだけだ

Miyamoto Musashi : What will the future do to me? I don't care... I'm hated... Hunted... I keep
killing and killing. In the end I too will be killed. That's all that's left.

Data 6 shows Miyamoto Musashi staggering around with his body covered in wounds and covered in blood after he killed the samurai who were chasing him. While walking slowly, Miyamoto Musashi begins to contemplate the actions he has taken thus far.

Miyamoto Musashi's statement that he doesn't care about his future and feels hated, hunted, and constantly engages in killing reflects his struggle with basic needs, balance, and morality. His expressions regarding his future and how he's treated by others indicate primitive urges from his id. Miyamoto Musashi feels indifferent to what will happen to him in the future and how others perceive him. He feels a desire to fulfill his personal desires without considering the consequences or associated morality. He continues to engage in actions like killing without thinking about the repercussions. Feelings of loneliness, indifference to the future, and the urge to continue aggressive actions like killing are part of his id ruling without moral constraints or social considerations.

Although Miyamoto Musashi feels disconnected from the future and disliked by others, there is also an element of ego manifested in his statement. Miyamoto Musashi realizes that he continues to engage in actions that may have negative consequences, such as becoming a fugitive or risking being killed, yet he persists with his life. This indicates an effort to mediate between needs and external reality, as well as the possibility of dependence on his primitive urges.

Miyamoto Musashi's words about eventually being killed and only that remaining reflect his struggle with the concepts of morality and death, which can be seen as a conflict with his superego. However, his feelings about death and his inevitable fate indicate tension between the desire to live according to moral standards and the reality he faces.

Based on the analysis, Miyamoto Musashi's personality structure tends to be more dominated by the id due to his indifference to the future and consequences without regard for morality or social considerations. Although there are ego elements that arise from awareness of the consequences of his actions, and there is also conflict with the superego aspect reflected in feelings about death and his inevitable fate, the overall impression is still more dominated by primal urges of the id, as seen in his desire to live according to his personal drives regardless of the consequences or associated moral values.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the main character's personality structure in Takehiko Inoue's *manga Vagabond*, using Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory perspective, it can be concluded that Miyamoto Musashi's personality structure tends to be more dominated by the id. This is evident when

he kills, protects his friend without considering the consequences, or when he shows indifference to his future and continues aggressive actions. Although the ego, which is aware of the risks and consequences of his actions, and the superego, which refuses to put Akemi in dangerous situations or when Takuan tries to guide him to introspection, are present in his behavior, in extreme situations, Miyamoto Musashi's id appears to dominate more in determining his actions.

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