

BLANCHE, ALTER-EGO TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
DALAM A STREECAR NAMED DESIRE:
SEBUAH TINJAUAN PSIKOANALISIS¹⁾

Oleh
SUGI ISWALONO (dkk.)²⁾

ABSTRAK

The research is aimed at finding the forms of Williams' desire which is unfulfilled or repressed into his unconscious mind as sublimated in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. In other words, Williams' main invented characters, Blanche and Stanley, whose personality is shaky or chaotic represent the expression of the playwright's imbalanced personality which is sublimated in the play.

This research is conducted by tracing Williams' life, understanding Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* as well as its criticism and his other works of which aspects are comparable. In order to come to the aim desired, psychoanalysis criticism is aptly opted to expose this issue. Concerning the various schools of psychoanalysis, this research applies Freud's psychoanalysis perspective, focusing on the relationship between the author and his work.

A Streetcar Named Desire was written based on Williams' life, especially his childhood and youth, in which he experienced unhappy and inharmonious relationship with his father. As a consequence, this made his personality chaotic or imbalanced which, then, brought about sexual perversion by being a passive homosexual. This perverted sexual behavior is in point of fact the manifestation of his rebellion towards his father. This behavior was inappropriate in the American cultural and social life during his life span, and, therefore, he had to repress his desire because it was impossible for him to release his libidinous drive. According to Freud, such repression causes neurotic problems. Freud also says that artists are a fortunate social group. If related to Williams, it can be inferred that he belongs to this lucky group as he can avoid neurosis by sublimating his libidinous drive in literature. In other words, *A Streetcar Named Desire* is the sublimation of Williams' repressed libido to express his rebellion to his father and to release his libidinous drive. In this case, he creates Stanley and Blanche as his fantasy to escape from his repression, though it is only for a minute escape.

Key words: Tennessee Williams, childhood, chaotic personality, libido, father, repression, neurosis, sublimation, Blanche, Stanley

¹⁾ Artikel ini ditulis berdasarkan penelitian kelompok dengan judul yang sama yang diketuai oleh Sugi Iswalono dengan anggota Ari Nurhayati dan Niken Anggraeni.

²⁾ Master of Arts (English), Doctorandus, staf pengajar Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni, Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta