



**SHERLOCK HOLMES' PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR TO HELP THE SOCIETY IN SIR ARTHUR
CONAN DOYLE'S *A STUDY IN SCARLET***

JOURNAL ARTICLE

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SHERLOCK HOLMES' PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR TO HELP THE SOCIETY IN SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S A STUDY IN SCARLET

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ABSTRACT

This study is aimed to analyze prosocial behavior of Sherlock Holmes to help his society against criminal and murder case. The researcher used descriptive qualitative method to find out development of the prosocial behavior in Sherlock Holmes when he starts his case, after meeting with Dr. John Watson. The data collected were analyzed by reading the novel. In qualitative research the data are not number or chart but in the form of word. So, the researcher presents all the data by the quotation through general description of the character, setting and conflict. The result of this research shows that prosocial behavior of Sherlock Holmes triggers him to save his society and solve a complicated criminal case. The Analysis is based on how Sherlock Holmes work as consulting detective whom people consult him about the problem they have. Sherlock Holmes does not take too much to his payment instead he receive anything that given by his client. Prosocial behavior is divided by two parts, being Benefit to Society and Helpful. Benefit to society means that he gave the best in his effort and society gain its benefit from him. In this case, Sherlock Holmes solves a murder case and helps the Scotland Yard Police Department. Helpful means that his habit is helpful to other, for example he always willing to help even before being asked. Sherlock Holmes always explains the way he is solving a murder case to Dr. John Watson. All this habit and doings done by Sherlock Holmes will be analyzed in this thesis. It concludes that Sherlock Holmes and his prosocial behavior helps the society to reduce crime case.

Keywords: *Criminal Case, Detective, Help, London, Murderer, Police, Prosocial Behavior, Victorian Era*

INTRODUCTION

Human is a social creature. His life is dependant to other people. As a creature with developing intelligent people tend to explore and invent. This invention will be a new breakthrough for other people. People are keeping to invent tools for the good of humanity. That's why there are also increasing of demand which have to be fulfilled so that people can live comfortably. People create buildings, clothes, food and anything for other people. A baby on its own will die. This is a true example why human is considered as social creatures.

As stated in <http://www.aipmm.com/anthropology/2010/05/humans-are-social-animals-1>. phpsocial creature's habit is to interact with other and create society. Even people in the past gathering man to create a pack for hunting purpose. This social habit has been established long before modern civilization. The social behaviour is even more important comparing this issue to nowadays civilization. More than just hunting people create groups of other people to share knowledge. Schools, nations, law, institution is the result of social behaviour by social creature. They will try to explore and develop more to have a comfortable life with this group of people which in the end it will create a greater need.

The thirst of knowledge forced people to create a reference such as books and media to gather information from other part of the world. Books and magazines then become a very famous and easy way for people to gather information about politics, lifestyle, technology, entertainment and many more. Even they also need pleasure, which can be found in reading books. There are also several types of book such as literature, fiction, politics and so on. Many great author arise to fulfill the needs of other people. One of them is Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

A literature is a creative process from authors who convey their expression by their work. Usually, an author expresses their feeling and emotion in a literary work whether an author is happy or sad. Literature is a creation of human instinct that expresses the idea, view, experience, belief, feeling, spirit, in a concrete form through the medium of language (Soemardjo and Saini, 1986:3)

Literary work has many functions for the readers. Besides as an entertainment, it gives much information about the truth of life in society. In literary works, we can find more knowledge and comprehension of human life. Literature has a close relation to the human being and aspects of life. A literary work reflects the life of a human being and their problems. According to (Wellek and Warren, 1976: 94) "Literature represents life and most of it talks about social reality that describes about tradition problems and norms". As a part of literature, the novel also deals with human's life.

Based on (Booth, 1998: 5), Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was born on 22nd of May 1859 in Edinburgh, Scotland. At Edinburgh University he met his mentor named, Joseph Bell who had a deep observation toward detail things. This event of his life inspires him to create his infamous fictional character, Sherlock Holmes. This character grows rapidly and gaining affection to its reader.

Sherlock Holmes is a fictional character by Sir Author Conan Doyle. He was described as a consulting detective settled at 221B Baker Street, London. He was an outstanding man of intelligent and famous for his logical deductions. Together with Dr. Watson as his biographer, they encounter massive adventure in chrome case that happen in London. Sherlock Holmes' ability to solve a crime noted by Scotland yard detectives, Tobias Gregson and G. Lestrade, which oftenly ask for Sherlock advice in solving several crimes. Sherlock Holmes' ability to rapidly solve the case praised by the police department in London. However he doesn't take case randomly. He only takes cases in which pleasure his interest.

This fictional detective character was famous to many people and being very iconic at the time. Not only because of his massive intellect but also his unique characteristic. He oftenly be said as a cynical, loner and never interested into a woman. He thought that emotion obstruct the ability to reason logically. Several people believe that he was too direct to talk to people which is sometimes hurt peoples' feelings.

A Sherlock Holmes' first story was published in 1887 from the first novel *A Study in Scarlet*. It gains popularity among detective story fans in London. The adventure of Sherlock Holmes has pleased a lot of people in London, however, Doyle was once tired of the character and decide to kill him and move on to the next story he created. Couldn't bear the public outcry, Doyle brings his character back to life in the short story *The Adventure of The Empty House* after publishing a third novel *The Hound of Baskerville* being set in a time before Sherlock Holmes died.

A Study in Scarlet is a novel where Doyle introduces Sherlock Holmes and several supporting characters in which going to join in another adventure such as Dr Watson, Lestrade and Gregson. In this novel we will see how Sherlock Holmes reacts to the people around. We will see how he treats people he trust and also see how he solve the crime with his unique style.

Sherlock Holmes has such a habit called prosocial behavior. This habit treats people in a good manner that resulted in helping everyone in society. Prosocial behavior consist of several subdivision based on the habit of its bearer. However there are two main aspects that Sherlock Holmes always does. Based on the explanation above, the writer will analyse how Sherlock Holmes' behavior as social creatures that showing prosocial behavior.

RESEARCH METHOD

Data and subject

The data of this study were Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's novel *A Study in Scarlet* with Sherlock Holmes as the subject of the study.

Unit of Analysis

The researcher focused on the intrinsic elements and extrinsic elements. The intrinsic elements include character, conflicts, and setting. While the extrinsic elements include social psychological approach, especially on prosocial behavior which covers benefit to society and helpful.

Technique of Data Collection and Analysis

In getting the data, the researcher needed many materials to strengthen his research. Because of that the researcher took the data from the library which is library research. Library research is a method of collecting data by reading books and other references, which are related to the topic. This method was used complete the data needed for this research.

In conducting the research, the researcher did two steps. First step the researcher read the novel. The researcher got the interesting topic that want to discuss and will be analyzed. The second step the researcher collected the data which related to the topic from this novel. On this matter, the researcher applied reading book, which are related to the topic. There are some information that omitted for research purpose so that the thesis served its scope of the study.

The researcher used the structural approach to analyze the structural elements like main character, setting, and internal and external conflict experienced by Sherlock Holmes in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *A Study in Scarlet* by reading carefully to get those ideas.

According to Semi, structural approach is the basic assumption that literary work as a creative work has full autonomy, which has to be seen as a figure, which part from the outside of intrinsic element. It included the general description of the main character and the supporting character then the conflict which the main character had faced.

Social Psychology is a scientific study of how people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of others. (Willard, 1985: 5).

Social psychology is a study that seeks the natural causes on both individual behaviors and social situation. It highlights the very thin line between psychology and sociology. Many scholars work on the grey line between these two studies and there they found the study of Social Psychology.

The social psychology study was used to analyze the work of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes, in term of Sherlock Holmes' unique life style. The question How Sherlock Holmes successfully banish the crime in London, while helping society especially the Scotland Yard police department, will be answered in this thesis.

According to the <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/smart> smart is a clever, witty, or readily effective, as a speaker, speech, rejoinder, etc. A smart person can be very useful to society. With his treat, they can take fast decision and do better problem solver. This is happens also to Sherlock Holmes.

As what Dr. Watson says, he is a resemble of Edgar Allen Poe's Dupin. Dupin is a fictional Character made by Edgar Allen Poe who is smart that works as a detective. It shows in this statements and quotation.

Excerpt 1:

"It is simple enough as you explain it," I said, smiling. "You remind me of Edgar Allen Poe's Dupin. I had no idea that such individuals did exist outside of stories."

(Doyle 2001: 13)

Round character are complex and many sided. They might require an essay for full analysis. Round character live by their roundness. Sherlock is a round character because his personality is complex.

Some traits indicate that he is as a round character. Sherlock Holmes can be an eccentric person. He is very hard to be predicted in his way of life. His expertness about crime and other studies are achieved not by a formal education. He learn them from basic living in London. While being a man that can't be predicted, he sometime also make a good talk when the object entertains him.

Excerpt 13:

"His studies are very desultory and eccentric, but he has amassed a lot of out-of-the way knowledge which would astonish his professors."

"Did you never ask him what he was going infor?" I asked.

"No; he is not a man that it is easy to draw out, though he can be communicative enough when the fancy seizes him."

(Doyle 2001:9)

Dynamic character undergoes a permanent change in come aspect of character, personality, or outlook. Sherlock Holmes is dynamic character that he change into an extremely concern person about his clients existence and the case that being offer by both Lestrade and Gregson. In the beginning he accept the case just to make himself busy, but then in the end of the story he drown deep to the murder case.

Excerpt 15:

"It was a foggy, cloudy morning, and a dun coloured veil hung over the house-tops, looking like the reflection of the mud-coloured streets beneath. My companion was in the best of spirits, and prattled away about Cremona fiddles, and the difference between a Stradivarius and an Amati

(Doyle 2001:14)

The person with prosocial behavior intends to give benefit to society. In some cases, these people are really helpful. They always give a hand to people nearby. As a result, the society values them more than anyone.

In this excerpt below, Sherlock Holmes is willing to help Tobias Gregson because he is the Chief Detective in Scotland Yard. Gregson always consults Sherlock Holmes in most of the time when he cannot find the solution to his problem. The excerpt below is a piece of letter from Gregson that there had been a murder case tonight and he begs Sherlock Holmes to come to solve the case. He is very grateful if Sherlock Holmes is willing to help him.

Excerpt 45:

"I have left everything in status quo until I hear from you. If you are unable to come I shall give you fuller details, and would esteem it a great kindness if you would favour me with your opinion.

— "Yours faithfully,

"Tobias Gregson."

(Doyle 2001;14)

The people with prosocial behavior want to help each other based on nothing. This behavior somehow needs to be triggered. For example people not usually seeking for someone who need a help, rather, people will react when he/she found someone nearby that need a help.

Almost to the end of the first part of the story, Sherlock Holmes is able to capture the murderer. This excerpt below shows that Sherlock Holmes is willing to share the method to Police about how he

able to capture the murderer even before he is asked how to do it. His treat to finish the case itself may be a sign that he is a person with prosocial behavior.

Excerpt 50:

“It will serve to take him to Scotland Yard. And now, gentlemen,” he continued, with a pleasant smile, “we have reached the end of our little mystery. You are very welcome to put any questions that you like to me now, and there is no danger that I will refuse to answer them.”

(Doyle 2001; 23)

CONCLUSION

After analyzing Sherlock Holmes in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *Sherlock Holmes' A Study in Scarlet* the writer concludes the followings. Sherlock Holmes is the main character in *A Study in Scarlet* novel because he is the important character and all of the character is supporting him in his mission. He belongs to round dynamic character because he has traits which are more complex and he was changing in the story. Furthermore he is described as a smart, eccentric, cynical, mysterious and helpful.

The setting of *An Study in Scarlet* is divided into three parts. First is the setting of place. It shows about the place where the story takes place, such as Baker Street 221B, Lauriston Garden, and Brixton Road. Secondly, the setting of time. It shows that the story was occurred in Victorian era. Thirdly, the setting of social that shows about social life in Victorian Era.

The main character has several conflicts. He has internal and external conflicts. Internal conflict is when Sherlock Holmes against himself about the decision he should take to capture the murderer. The external conflicts are when Sherlock against Jefferson Hope, the murderer. They fight when Jefferson was introduced to Lestrade and Gregson but he tries to escape.

Sherlock Holmes helps the local police officer out of nothing. He did not need to ask his client about certain amount of money. This habit that is done by Sherlock Holmes is considered as prosocial behavior. Sherlock Holmes takes a criminal case according to his pleasure. He take cases that interest him, and usually this case is the one that cannot be solved by the local police.

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