

The Transformation of Valancy: A Psychoanalytic Study of Personality Structure in *The Blue Castle*

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19320039@student.uin-malang.ac.id**ABSTRACT**

Personality structure is one of the unique factors possessed by humans. It is the result of the interaction between personality structures, namely id, ego, and superego. One of the novels by L.M. Montgomery entitled The Blue Castle is one of the novels that implements how the depiction of personality structure in a character. The novel is the main data source in this research, which focuses on analyzing the personality structure of the main character in the novel (Valancy). The goal is to find out how the personality structure is described in Valancy's character and how Valancy's character development is experienced. The researcher uses a literary psychoanalysis approach with textual studies to analyze the data and applies Sigmund Freud's personality structure theory. Personality structure is the interaction between id, ego and superego components that can influence human behavior. Valancy experiences a series of internal and external conflicts in the story. Requires Valancy to be able to get through the various conflicts she experiences. Thus making her personality structure interact with each other, such as the ego that realizes the id, as well as the role of the superego in showing his moral values. The description of Valancy's personality structure is illustrated in how the desires, realities and moral values that exist in her, which then affect how her character develops. Changing Valancy into a brave, confident and risk-taking figure who is described as a shy, oppressed and less confident woman.

Keywords: character development, personality structure, *The Blue Castle*

INTRODUCTION

Human personality is a component of an individual's uniqueness. They are referred to as unique because each human possesses their personality. The personality of every human being is formed through their mental condition, which is also supported by the social interactions they experience. Through the human psyche, the personality is included in a unified structure (Duane & Ellen, 2017). Dobbie (2012) in his book states Freud's opinion about the structured

human personality. The system of the human personality consists of three, namely the id, ego, and superego. The three parts of the structure of the human personality are a description of the human psyche, which consists of conscious and unconscious feelings.

The personality structure consists of several parts and provides diversity in everyday life. The variety of good to lousy personalities makes its colour in this life. Everyone will not feel the same when meeting another person (Barry, 2002). Humans have their perceptions in responding to other human personalities. Some feel pleasure in their lives, or vice versa; namely feel deep suffering throughout their lives. The phenomenon of diversity inspires novelists to build story plots through the characters' personalities in their literary works (Wellek & Warren, 1949). The novel *The Blue Castle*, written by Lucy Maud Montgomery, is one of them. The *Blue Castle* novel is a novel about a woman named Valancy. Valancy is told as a woman who is less fortunate because of her family's rules and behavior towards Valancy. But Valancy has an imaginary place to escape from her life. The place is called the blue castle, which contains everything she wants.

Then the researcher was interested in studying this novel as a form of education and increasing knowledge about how humans possess personality structure. Therefore, this research was a continuation of previous research with the same topic of the psychological approach. Several studies had been conducted such as research conducted by Saktiyah (2019) and Lumbarnaja, Sembiring and Modesta (2021) and Bano, Shah and Waqas (2022). The three studies discuss the psychological phenomena experienced by the main character in a novel. Then Ningsih (2022) and Sartika (2020) conducted their research on mental disorders experienced by the main character in a novel. Other studies on personality structure were Nazemi (2021), Shirley (2021), Ratri (2019), Nur (2021) and Ihza (2020). The five studies discussed personality structure with Freud's theory and with Garmas' theory. Their research focused on the experience of the main character in a novel.

Based on previous studies, it was known that it discussed the same topics, approaches, and methods as this research. The researcher used these studies to add information and references regarding the research to be carried out. However, from previous research, no one has used the research object of *The Blue Castle* novel to use personality structure theory. Therefore, this study aimed to see the description of the personality structure of the character Valancy in the novel *The Blue Castle* by L.M. Montgomery. Knowing the personality structure of Valancy's character is expected to add depth to understanding and enrich knowledge related to literary psychoanalysis, especially in the novel *The Blue Castle* for readers and other researchers.

Referring to the background of this research, the researcher proposed two problems of study. First, how are Valancy's personality structures described in Montgomery's *The Blue Castle*? Second, how does Valancy's personality structures influence Valancy's character development in Montgomery's *The Blue Castle*?

However, the researcher mainly focused on psychoanalysis related to personality structure which is seen through the characterizations described by researcher in the story. Second, the influence exerted by the personality structure of Valancy's on Valancy's character development as the main character. Characterised id, ego, and superego were the three components of the personality structure under investigation.

This study hopefully could help other researchers, students, and readers theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study aimed to provide benefits in developing literary

psychoanalysis. In addition, this would help readers, and other researchers understand how character development was seen from the personality structure. Practically, this research aimed to become an alternative medium for enriching knowledge and be a reference in understanding topics related to personality structure based on Sigmund Freud. Additionally, the result of this study was anticipated to benefit undergraduate students of the Department of English Literature at UIN Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang who want to pursue the same topic as a reference for literary criticism, especially from a psychoanalytic perspective.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research category was included in the category of literary criticism research. Literary criticism is a branch of literature that examines a literary work, looking at the phenomena or contents contained in the literary work (Tyson, 2006). In this study, the researcher's efforted to explore and support data from the literary works studied are by applying an approach and theory. Thus, this study used a psychoanalytic approach with personality structure theory.

The data source was the novel *The Blue Castle* by Lucy Maud Montgomery, published in Canada 1926. This novel had 45 chapters with 192 pages. The researcher only used publications from the Frederick A. Stokes Company. It was to avoid differences in information in the data presented in this study.

The researcher carried out the process of collecting data from the novel *The Blue Castle* through several stages. The first step taken by the researcher was reading the novel to understand its contents. After that, the researcher understands the novel's contents more deeply, especially matters related to the research topic. Then, the researcher recorded and marked the points related to the research topic. On the other hand, the researcher studied another research related to the topic. Then the researcher also looked for the appropriate theory and supporting data used in this study. In analyzing the data from this study, the researcher applied the relevant theory and the supporting data found. Finally, the researcher would break down the data into several parts to answer the research problem and provided conclusions from the explanation presented.

During the data analysis process, textual studies were used by researcher to understand the data found in *The Blue Castle* novel. The textual study analysed data to find content characteristics, exciting things, and certain parts the researcher needs.

FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

Valancy's Personality Structures

This section discussed the personality structure of the character Valancy in *The Blue Castle* novel. Valancy Stirling, the main character in Montgomery's *The Blue Castle*, was introduced as a complex and multi-layered character. At the exposition stage of the story, Valancy was a shy young woman who felt trapped by the overbearing expectations of her family and society. However, Valancy was also intelligent, independent, and determined to break free from the constraints of her life. Valancy's journey was powerful, as she changed her life and inspired those around her to live more fully and authentically. She stood up to her controlling mother and found the love and acceptance she had always craved. Through Valancy's background, it was discussed in detail how the interactions or conflicts between the id, ego, and superego occurred within Valancy, as well as how Valancy controlled them, as described below.

Description of Valancy's id ego and superego

In the novel *The Blue Castle*, the researcher discovered how the id, ego, and superego of Valancy are described in the story. One of them is contained in Datum 1 below.

Datum 1:

"... Valancy had lived spiritually in the Blue Castle ever since she could remember. She had been a very tiny child when she found herself possessed of it. Always, when she shut her eyes, she could see it plainly, with its turrets and banners on the pine-clad mountain height, wrapped in its faint, blue loveliness, against the sunset skies of a fair and unknown land....". (Montgomery, 1926, p. 3).

Datum 1 showed how to describe the personality structure possessed by Valancy. Valancy was told to have an imaginary place called the Blue Castle. The Blue Castle was a place that contained all her desires, from luxury goods to a husband she wanted. The Blue Castle was just a place of imagination that had existed since Valancy was a teenager. Valancy used this imaginary place as an escape from the painful reality of life.

Valancy's imagination process was the result of continuity between Valancy's personality structure. Datum 1 showed how Valancy's wants or needs took the form of freedom. Valancy wanted to live freely; her imagination of a Blue Castle filled with luxury goods and a family life with a man was a form of freedom that she wanted but could not realize in real life. Valancy's id, which was freedom, could not be realized because her reality did not support achieving it. Valancy's reality was described as a life constrained by the rules of her mother and family. Valancy, who was 29 years old, still lives with her mother, who always managed everything Valancy did on a daily basis. The statement is supported by Datum 2 below.

Datum 2:

When cousin Stickles knocked at her door, Valancy knew it was half-past seven and she must get up. As long as she could remember, Cousin Stickles had knocked at her door at half-past seven. Cousin Stickles and Mrs. Frederick Stirling had been up since seven, but Valancy was allowed to lie abed half an hour longer because of a family tradition that she was delicate. Valancy got up, though she hated getting up more this morning than ever she had before. What was there to get up for? Another dreary day like all the days that had preceded it, full of meaningless little tasks, joyless and unimportant, that benefited nobody. But if she did not get up at once she would not be ready for breakfast at eight o'clock. Hard and fast times for meals were the rule in Mrs. Stirling's household. Breakfast at eight, dinner at one, supper at six, year in and year out. No excuses for being late were ever tolerated. So up Valancy got, shivering. (Montgomery, 1926, p. 8).

Datum 2 showed how Valancy's reality was shaped by family rules or traditions that restrained her. It illustrated how Valancy had to wake up on time every day and was required to always be present on time for meals. These rules were created by Valancy's mother, Mrs. Stirling, and had been enforced for so long that they had become a family tradition. This tradition made Valancy feel constrained, bored, and trapped in roles that were considered mediocre.

The freedom that Valancy desired to escape from boredom was only possible through imagination. This was because the freedom, which represented her id, could not be realized by the ego due to the constraints of the traditions and rules within the Valancy family. The family

rules or traditions that Valancy obeyed reflected how her superego functioned. Valancy's ego, which was responsible for mediating between other personality structures to maintain social acceptability, in this case, showed that it aligned more with her superego by choosing to obey the rules.

Valancy's reality did not fully fulfill her desires. If her ego had mediated more in favor of her id to achieve complete freedom, she would have been seen as deviating from family expectations and would have received no support. Therefore, Valancy's ego redirected her desire for freedom into a socially acceptable form her imagination.

This aligns with Freud's explanation of the relationship between personality structures in humans. The ego acts as a filter or control mechanism that regulates other personality structures, allowing individuals to fulfill their desires or needs in an appropriate way (Duane & Ellen, 2017). Another depiction of Valancy's personality structure in *The Blue Castle* was when she dares to leave her house. This is presented in Datum 3 below.

Datum 3:

"Valancy had walked out to Roaring Abel's house on the Mistawis road under a sky of purple and amber, with a queer exhilaration and expectancy in her heart. Back there, behind her, her mother and Cousin Stickles were crying-- over themselves, not over her ...". (Montgomery, 1926, p. 61).

Datum 3 showed Valancy's bold decision to leave her house and go to Roaring Abel's home. Her actions shocked and saddened her mother, as Roaring Abel had a notorious reputation in society. Because of this, Valancy's family perceived her actions as deviant. They attempted to prevent her from leaving, but their efforts were in vain. Valancy confidently left home and went to Roaring Abel's house to work and take care of Cecilia.

Valancy's decision to leave and work at Roaring Abel's house was a manifestation of her deep desire for freedom and adventure. These desires were expressions of her id, which represents pleasure-seeking instincts and basic human needs (Charles, 2011). By leaving home, Valancy fulfilled her longing for freedom while simultaneously breaking free from the restrictive rules imposed by her mother.

The realization of Valancy's id was closely linked to her reality. Previously, her reality did not allow her to leave or defy her family's rules. However, this changed when she was diagnosed with a heart disease that led her to believe she would die soon. This shift in her reality is further explained in Datum 4 and 5 below.

Datum 4:

Dr. Trent told her that she had a very dangerous and fatal form of heart disease--angina pectoris--evidently complicated with an aneurism--whatever that was--and in the last stages. He said, without mincing matters, that nothing could be done for her. If she took great care of herself she might live a year-- but she might also die at any moment— (Montgomery, 1926, p.25).

Datum 5:

"I've been trying to please other people all my life and failed," she said. "After this I shall please myself. I shall never pretend anything again. I've breathed an atmosphere of fibs and pretences and evasions all my life. What a luxury it will be to tell the truth! I may not be able to do much that I want to do but I won't do another thing that I don't want to do. Mother can pout for weeks--I shan't worry over it. 'Despair is a free man--hope is a slave.'" (Montgomery, 1926, p.33).

Datum 4 showed the diagnosis given by Dr. Trent to Valancy, stating that she had a fatal heart disease. The illness meant that Valancy did not have much time left to live, and while special treatment might have slightly delayed the inevitable, it would not have saved her. This diagnosis profoundly affected Valancy, compelling her to change herself. This transformation was evident in Datum 5, which illustrated how Valancy decided she needed to start satisfying her own desires.

Faced with the reality of her impending death, Valancy's mindset shifted, pushing her to prioritize her own happiness. This reflected the role of her ego, which mediated more in favor of her id. Valancy's ego took control, allowing her to pursue her long-suppressed need for freedom, ultimately leading her to leave home.

However, this decision came with consequences. Valancy had to accept the risk of being viewed negatively by society. This was tied to her neglect of her superego. The superego, which governed rules and moral values, had been largely ignored by Valancy. Her ego no longer prioritized adherence to social norms or the need for societal approval. Instead, her reality the terminal illness pushed her to fulfill the desires of her id.

Had Valancy's ego remained bound to social expectations, she would never have experienced the freedom she had longed for. She would have died with unfulfilled dreams, potentially leading to psychological distress. The failure of the ego to balance the conflicts between the id and superego could have resulted in mental disorders such as anxiety and depression. Therefore, Valancy's choice to embrace her id, even at the cost of her social reputation, could be seen as the right decision for her. She preferred to spend the rest of her life experiencing freedom, even if it meant being judged, rather than suffering from the psychological burden of an unfulfilled life.

This aligned with Freud's explanation of the ego's function, which was often assisted by defense mechanisms. The ego collaborated with mechanisms such as denial, repression, and sublimation to reduce the likelihood of failure in resolving internal conflicts. This helped prevent mental disorders like anxiety and depression (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). Valancy's personality structure, particularly her pursuit of freedom, was further reflected in other actions. One notable example was when Valancy dared to wear a dress style that had previously been forbidden by her mother. This was discussed in Datum 6 below.

Datum 6:

She went to her room to dress. A rage against the snuff-brown silk seized her. Wear that to a party! Never. She pulled her green crêpe from its hanger and put in on feverishly. It was nonsense to feel so--so--naked--just because her neck and arms were bare. That was just her old maidishness. She would not be ridden by it. On went the dress--the slippers. (Montgomery, 1926, p.76).

Datum 6 showed how the realization of Valancy's desire for freedom took place. Valancy wore a dress she had never worn before one that looked immodest by her previous standards. She chose a green crepe dress with no sleeves and a low neckline. This made Valancy feel as if she were naked since she had previously only worn old-fashioned dresses dictated by her family. This statement was further elaborated in Datum 7 below.

Datum 7:

Put on your brown silk dress," said Mrs. Stirling.

As if there were anything else to put on! Valancy had only the one festive dress--that snuffy-brown silk Aunt Isabel had given her. Aunt Isabel had decreed that Valancy should never wear colours. They did not become her. When she was young they allowed her to wear white, but that had been tacitly dropped for some years. Valancy put on the brown silk. It had a high collar and long sleeves. She had never had a dress with low neck and elbow sleeves, although they had been worn, even in Deerwood, for over a year. But she did not do her hair pompadour. She knotted it on her neck and pulled it out over her ears. She thought it became her--only the little knot was so absurdly small. Mrs. Frederick resented the hair but decided it was wisest to say nothing on the eve of the party. It was so important that Valancy should be kept in good humour, if possible, until it was over. Mrs. Frederick did not reflect that this was the first time in her life that she had thought it necessary to consider Valancy's humours. But then Valancy had never been "queer" before. (Montgomery, 1926, p.35)

Datum 7 showed the strict rules that governed Valancy's clothing choices. She was only allowed to wear her brown silk gown with a high collar and long sleeves. She was not even permitted to wear a dress in any other color except brown, as chosen by her Aunt Isabel. Additionally, Mrs. Frederick and other family members controlled Valancy's hairstyle and other aspects of her appearance. These restrictions made Valancy feel uncomfortable because, deep down, she also wanted to wear more modern and fashionable dresses.

Datum 7 also illustrated how the rules that had previously restrained Valancy were eventually ignored, as demonstrated in Datum 8. Valancy's superego was represented by the strict clothing rules imposed by her family. However, she ultimately disregarded these rules because they made her uncomfortable. Her ego played a crucial role in realizing her desire for freedom, as her current reality supported her longing for self-expression more than the restrictive traditions of her family.

This showed that when Valancy's id was realized by her ego, it often led to the suppression of her superego. Valancy ignored her family's expectations of dressing modestly and neatly. In order to fulfill her desire to wear a new dress, she had to reject the long-standing traditions that had restricted her. This aligned with the explanation of personality structure, where the ego functions as a mediator to satisfy the id in a timely and effective manner (Robert, 2014).

Another example of Valancy's personality structure was seen when she experienced love. After leaving her house, she met a man named Barney. Valancy encountered Barney at Roaring Abel's house, where they frequently communicated and shared stories. Over time, Valancy fell in love with Barney. This statement was further explored in Datum 8 below.

Datum 8:

"Going home, Miss Stirling?"

"I don't know--yet," said Valancy slowly. Her mind was made up, with no shadow of turning, but the moment was very tremendous.

"I thought I'd run down and ask if there was anything I could do for you," said Barney.

Valancy took it with a canter.

"Yes, there is something you can do for me," she said evenly and distinctly. "Will you marry me?"

(Montgomery, 1926, p. 93)

Datum 8 showed the description of Valancy's personality structure. Valancy fell in love with Barney, which eventually led her to confess her feelings to him. When Valancy was preparing to return home after Cecilia's death, she met Barney on the street. During their conversation, Barney accepted Valancy's proposal for marriage.

Valancy's courage to marry Barney was driven by her id, which manifested as the strong feelings of love she experienced. This aligned with the concept of the id, which represents primitive human instincts, including desires for love and companionship. Love is one of the fundamental biological needs of humans, making it a significant part of the id (Charles, 2011). The id, which operates on the pleasure principle, often disregards external reality in its pursuit of fulfillment (Duane & Ellen, 2017).

Valancy's decision to abandon societal expectations was also influenced by her desires. Her longing for love was reinforced by her trust in Barney. Additionally, Valancy's superego was reflected in the way she ignored the rules imposed by her family. Her family had dictated that she should not like, associate with, or marry Barney, yet Valancy's ego chose to prioritize her id-driven desires. This decision was strongly influenced by Valancy's reality—her fatal illness, which left her with only a short time to live. As a result, her ego mediated her id's desires, allowing her to pursue happiness before her death, even at the cost of defying social norms and family expectations.

Another aspect of Valancy's personality structure related to love was her married life. While she often ignored her superego in fulfilling her desires and seeking pleasure, there was also evidence that she occasionally adhered to it. This was demonstrated in Datum 9 below.

Datum 9:

Valancy toiled not, neither did she spin. There was really very little work to do. She cooked their meals on a coal-oil stove, performing all her little domestic rites carefully and exultingly, and they ate out on the verandah that almost overhung the lake. Before them lay Mistawis, like a scene out of some fairy tale of old time. And Barney smiling his twisted, enigmatical smile at her across the table. (Montgomery, 1926, p.111)

Datum 9 showed how Valancy's superego was portrayed after her marriage to Barney. Having finally attained a life that aligned with her desires, Valancy developed a superego that adhered to social values and norms associated with her role as a wife. Datum 12 illustrated how Valancy treated Barney as her husband. She took on responsibilities such as cooking and performing small acts of care that demonstrated her affection for him.

Valancy's id, which was represented by her desire for a romantic relationship, led her to also conform to certain societal expectations. This was closely tied to her current reality—being in a marriage. As a wife, societal norms dictated that Valancy should fulfill her role by being a devoted partner, which in turn would strengthen her romantic relationship. Valancy's ego mediated between her id and superego by fulfilling her desires through actions that aligned with social expectations.

The behaviors exhibited by Valancy reflected her superego's adherence to social values and norms as a good wife. However, on a deeper level, Valancy's superego was also influenced by an internalized identification with her mother. Mrs. Frederick had instilled in Valancy the idea that a wife, mother, or caregiver must be sensitive and compassionate toward family members. This aligned with Freud's theory on the formation of the superego. According to Freud, the superego develops through identification, where individuals adopt behaviors and values modeled by parents or society. These values are then internalized and shape an individual's moral framework (Freud, 1923).

Valancy's Character Development

This section discussed the development of Valancy's personality, which was influenced by her personality structure. Character development in a story could be described in several ways. Generally, conflict in a story became the main element that triggered the development of the characters. However, personality structure could also be a means to describe the development experienced by a character.

Description of Valancy's personality at the exposition stage

Valancy's character, at the beginning of the story, was described in a slightly sad state. Valancy was said to have experienced an unfortunate situation where, at 29, she was unmarried and was not liked by any man. Valancy felt trapped in a dull and hopeless life. She had never had any experience of love and was unhappy with the monotony of her life. The proof of this statement was found in Datum 10.

Datum 10:

Deerwood and the Stirlings had long since relegated Valancy to hopeless old maidenhood. But Valancy herself had never quite relinquished a certain pitiful, shamed, little hope that Romance would come her way yet--never, until this wet, horrible morning, when she wakened to the fact that she was twenty-nine and unsought by any man (Montgomery, 1926, p. 01).

Datum 10 showed Valancy's situation early in the story. Valancy was a 29-year-old woman who did not have a life partner. Valancy Stirling was introduced as a woman who was unhappy with her life because her mother and cousin put pressure on her every day. Valancy lived in a family that limited and controlled her very tightly. She did not have many friends and was considered a boring woman by the local community. She felt that her life was stuck in a boring and meaningless routine.

Valancy, who lived in the house with her mother and cousin, faced constant pressure. The rest of the family also took control of Valancy's daily life. Valancy could not break the rules imposed by her mother and cousin. She could not stand it, yet she did not dare to make her mother angry. Valancy felt pressure from her family to conform to social traditions and standards. She was forced to live a life bound by rules and conventions. Her family humiliated her, seeing her as a burden and a failure.

Through the circumstances described at the beginning of the story, it was clear how Valancy's initial personality was shaped. She was depicted as an oppressed and shy woman, affected by feelings of insecurity, repression, and conformity due to her family's treatment. Valancy lacked self-confidence and lived an unfulfilling life under the control of her oppressive mother and aunt. She resigned herself to her fate and was not confident in what she had. This was related to the personality structure she possessed.

At the exposition stage, Valancy's personality structure was described by her ego, which always mediated her superego. Valancy's desire or need for freedom was deflected by her ego into imagination. If Valancy's ego had forcefully manifested her desire for freedom, she would have been considered disobedient to her family's rules. This would have saddened her mother and worsened her family members' views of her.

Character Development Influenced by Valancy Personality Structure

Valancy's character development emerged when she was diagnosed with a fatal disease. Dr. Trent, who had checked Valancy's condition, informed her through a letter that she had been diagnosed with heart disease. Valancy's illness made her often feel tired, experience shortness of breath, and suffer from chest pain. The statement was supported by the following datum 11.

Datum 11:

Dr. Trent told her that she had a very dangerous and fatal form of heart disease--angina pectoris--evidently complicated with an aneurism--whatever that was--and in the last stages. He said, without mincing matters, that nothing could be done for her. If she took great care of herself she might live a year-- but she might also die at any moment--Dr. Trent never troubled himself about euphemisms. She must be careful to avoid all excitement and all severe muscular efforts. She must eat and drink moderately, she must never run, she must go upstairs and uphill with great care. Any sudden jolt or shock might be fatal. She was to get the prescription he enclosed filled and carry it with her always, taking a dose whenever her attacks came on. And he was hers truly, H. B. Trent (Montgomery, 1926, p. 25).

Datum 11 showed how Dr. Trent revealed Valancy's illness. Valancy was diagnosed with a deadly heart disease. The disease threatened her, meaning she did not have long to live. Dr. Trent said that special care would help extend Valancy's life, such as eating and drinking regularly and avoiding strenuous work. Valancy was even required to be careful with things that might make her too happy. However, this treatment could only help her live for about a year.

A new conflict emerged within Valancy. She became motivated to rebel and wanted to live freely outside her family environment. Knowing that she might only have a year left to live, Valancy decided to rebel and fulfill the desires she had been suppressing for so long. She wanted to live on her own terms, dared to take all risks, and sought to experience true freedom. This statement was supported by the following Datum 12.

Datum 12:

"... She made a discovery that surprised her: she, who had been afraid of almost everything in life, was not afraid of death. It did not seem in the least terrible to her. And she need not now be afraid of anything else. Why had she been afraid of things? Because of life. Afraid of Uncle Benjamin because of the menace of poverty in old age. But now she would never be old--neglected--tolerated. Afraid of being an old maid all her life. But now she would not be an old maid very long. Afraid of offending her mother and her clan because she had to live with and among them and couldn't live peaceably if she didn't give in to them. But now she hadn't. Valancy felt a curious freedom." (Montgomery, 1926, p. 27)

Datum 12 showed how Valancy saw the reality she had to face. The knowledge that death would soon come for her made her sad, but beyond that, she tried to work up the courage to achieve her dreams. Valancy got rid of all fear of her family and motivated herself to be braver in taking risks. She had previously been afraid of Uncle Benjamin's threats about poverty in old age, but now she was no longer afraid because she knew she would not grow old. Valancy would die before reaching old age. The fear that she would one day die as an old spinster no longer troubled her, as she would not live long enough for that to happen.

The fear that once controlled Valancy disappeared, replaced by self-confidence and outspokenness. She became a woman who was firm in making decisions. Her family, which had

always controlled her life, was now being ignored by her. Valancy's rebellion took shape in her actions to reject and disregard her family's expectations of her. This statement was supported by the following Datum 13.

Datum 13:

Of course, the Stirlings had not left the poor maniac alone all this time or refrained from heroic efforts to rescue her perishing soul and reputation. Uncle James, whose lawyer had helped him as little as his doctor, came one day and, finding Valancy alone in the kitchen, as he supposed, gave her a terrible talking to--told her she was breaking her mother's heart and disgracing her family (Montgomery, 1926, p. 69).

Datum 13 showed the moment that marked Valancy's courage to rebel against her family. Valancy left her home to work at Roaring Abel's house. She did this because it was the first step toward achieving her dream. Her family's response to her departure was strong, as they refused to remain silent and attempted to bring her back home. Valancy's actions were considered reckless and damaging to her family's reputation. Her rebellion completely disregarded the feelings of others, including her mother. Valancy heartlessly broke her mother's heart by leaving home to pursue her desires.

Through Valancy's rebellion, her character development became evident. At the beginning of the story, she was portrayed as a woman who lacked confidence, was oppressed, and appeared weak. However, after facing conflict, Valancy's personality structure changed. She developed into a confident woman, motivated to explore the outside world, and unafraid to take risks to fulfill her desires. This transformation was closely linked to the role of her ego, which encouraged the realization of her id's desires while daring to suppress her superego, which represented values and societal norms.

Overall, Valancy was introduced as a woman searching for freedom and happiness, which she ultimately found through self-transformation and the pursuit of dreams that seemed impossible in the eyes of her community. The interaction between her ego, id, and superego guided her toward achieving her freedom. Valancy's ego mediated her id to fulfill her desires and needs, allowing her to attain happiness. Additionally, her ego's ability to suppress her superego enabled her to make significant changes in her life, leading to new discoveries and personal growth.

CONCLUSION & SUGGESTION

The researcher found out how the personality structure of the main character in Montgomery's **The Blue Castle** was described. Through Valancy's journey throughout the story, the researcher identified Valancy's id, ego, and superego. Valancy's personality structure was revealed through the conflicts she experienced, both internal and external. Among the three personality structures, Valancy's ego played a bigger role than the other two. This was related to Valancy's reality, which made her ego the dominant force in mediating her id and superego.

Valancy's character development was primarily driven by her desire for freedom and happiness. At the exposition stage, she was depicted as a shy, downtrodden woman who was considered less fortunate because she remained unmarried. However, this changed when Valancy faced a new reality—she was diagnosed with a terminal illness, leaving her with only a short time to live. As a result, Valancy's ego mediated her id to fulfill her long-held desires for

happiness, freedom, and love. This transformation led Valancy to become a more confident, risk-taking, and independent person, capable of achieving her dreams in her own way.

The researcher suggests that future studies explore *The Blue Castle* in greater depth using different approaches and critical perspectives, such as feminism, structuralism, hegemony, or other literary criticisms. To conduct thorough and accurate research, future researchers should read the novel attentively and frequently to develop a deeper understanding of the theory, approach, and subject of analysis.

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