THE PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OF MAIN CHARACTER
IN THE BLACK CAT BY EDGAR ALLAN POE

A Paper
Submitted to the Faculty of Adab and Humanities
in Partial Accomplishment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Strata 1 (S1)

By
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THE ENGLISH LETTERS DEPARTEMENT
FACULTY OF ADAB AND HUMANITIES
STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY
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APPROVAL SHEET OF ADVISOR

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A paper entitled: "The Psychological Problems of Main Character in The Black Cat" by Edgar Allan Poe was examined by board of examiners of Faculty of Adab and Humanities, State Islamic University (UIN) Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta on February 21st 2007. It has been accepted as a partial to fulfillment of the requirements for acquiring the degree of strata 1 (S1) in English Letter Department.

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ABSTRACT


The writer of this research tried to prove the main male character and his character by analyzing the evidence from the monologues on the short story, his acts, and his statements. The writer used Descriptive-Qualitative analysis as the method to analyze the relationship both the main character and the abnormal psychological approach.

In this analysis, the writer found out the final result about character and characterization of the main male character, “I” as a un-humanity person, temperamental, cruel, perverse, cold-blooded, and malevolent. The writer also tried to connect the characterization of main character with abnormal psychology theory. All the main character behaviors are the abnormal behaviors. Among of that abnormal behaviors are psychoneurosis, psychosis, and psychopath.

The result of the research shows a hypothesis, which states there is psychological problems happen to the main male character in The Black Cat short story. They are psychoneurosis, psychosis, and psychopath.
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

In the name of Allah, most gracious, most merciful, first of all, the writer would like to thank God for His favor and guiding in every step of the way to her in completing this paper. She believes there is nothing she could do without His help. All praises belong to Him, the creator all the living things and the non-living things from being nothing into exist.

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May Allah bless all of them, Amin. Finally, the writer hopes that this paper would be useful for her in particular, and for the students of UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta, and also for the readers in general. The writer could only pray that Allah, Lord of the worlds, will bless us forever.

Jakarta, February 2007

Alifa Karlina
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

*The Black Cat* short story by Edgar Allan Poe is one of the famous literary works in America in 1843. Edgar Allan Poe was born in Boston in 1809. Poe is a master of the horror tale and the patron saint of the detective story. Beside that, Poe had idealism creating of his literary works with psychological study. Almost in all of his literary works, Poe created characters that isolated from the environment of his story, such as *The Black Cat* and *The Tell-Tale Heart*. Poe usually dealt with paranoid rooted in personal psychology, physical or mental enfeeblement, obsession, the damnation of death, feverish fantasies, the cosmos as source of horror and inspiration without bothering himself with such supernatural beings as ghost, werewolves, and so on.¹

*The Black Cat* short story tells about psychological study. The main character is reflected as an individual suffered mental illness in its story. The theme of *The Black Cat* story is about perverseness when the main character killed other characters; his wife and his black cat. In this story, the main character is reflected as an individual had mental illness since he was child. It can be seen when he was child, he prefer loving his pets to his friends. The main character isolated himself from his

environment. He was an antisocial person. When he was married, he lost his struggle with drinking. The main character felt the change of his character. All of his good character, changed into bad character when he drank alcohol. The bad characters of the main character were more moody, irritable, and regardless of the feelings of others. In this story, when the main character was child before he became an alcoholic man, he really loved variety pets and he was a pet’s lover. But alcohol influence made him became a cruel man. It is reflected by the main character when he begun to take out his anger on his black cat along with his wife. He became a killer because he can not control himself. This action basically solidifies his madness in general.

In *The Black Cat* short story, the main character monologue is really dominant through the story, so that the writer gets easier to analyze the main character. The writer only choose main character as an object of the research, because a main character is very influential on the plot of story and brings bigger influence to reader. So this research tries to interpret concept of Abnormal Psychology theory in *The Black Cat* short story by Edgar Allan Poe. The writer focuses to analyze main character with his psychological problems.

In this research, the writer wants to find out the psychological problems of main character in *The Black Cat* short story with abnormal psychological approach. Abnormal psychology is branch of psychology that studies patterns of abnormal behavior as well as personality disorders. Besides that, it is the application of the methods, concepts, principles, and findings of general psychology-primarily, the
psychology of perception, learning and development, and social psychology—
to deviant behaviors and experiences.\textsuperscript{2} Through Abnormal Psychology approach, the
writer wants to see the psychological problems of main character in \textit{The Back Cat}
short story.

Abnormal psychology had various theories, but it had a basis of knowledge to
analyses abnormal behaviors and mental illness of human. They are mental
retardation, unconventional sexual behavior and human sexual inadequacy,
psychoneurosis, psychosis, and psychopath theory. From many of Abnormal
Psychology theory, the writer wants to analyze with more detail about the main
character in \textit{The Black Cat} short story with psychoneurosis, psychosis, and
psychopath theory.

B. Focus of the Study

The writer focuses on the psychological problems of main character, "I" in
\textit{The Black Cat} by Edgar Allan Poe.

C. Research Question

What are psychological problems of main character, "I" in \textit{The Black Cat}
short story?

\textsuperscript{2} Ephraim Rosen, Ronald E. Fox, Ian Gregory, \textit{Abnormal Psychology: Original English Edition}
D The Significance of the Study

The writer hopes the result of the study can be used:

1. For other readers who are interested to study literature, so they can increase the new and some significant information about the literature especially about *The Black Cat* short story.

2. As one of the reference in the English educational institution, especially for the English Letters Department of Faculty of Adab and Humanities, State Islamic University (UIN) Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta.

3. For other researchers who want to do a study and get more knowledge about psychology, especially about psychology abnormal, on *The Black Cat* by Edgar Allan Poe, or in another literary work.

E. Research Methodology

1. The Objective of the Research

   The objective of the research in this paper is to find out the psychological problems of main character in *The Black Cat* by Edgar Allan Poe.

2. Method of the Research

   This writer uses *qualitative method with the analytic descriptive* writing in analyzing of this story. The writer tries to describe the psychological problems of main character in *The Black Cat* short story.
3. Technique of Data Analysis

The writer collected the data from several sources; such as books and internet that related to the study and will be analyzing by descriptive analysis. The writer analyzes the psychological problems of main character in *The Black Cat* viewed from abnormal psychology theory.

4. Unit of Analysis

The unit of analysis this study is *The Black Cat* short story written by Edgar Allan Poe.

5. Instruments

In collecting data, the writer uses herself as instrument by reading, identifying, and classifying the information related to the story.
CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

A. Character and Characterization

Characterization is the process of conveying information about characters in fiction. Characters are usually presented through their actions, dialect, and thoughts, as well as by description. Characterization can be regarded a variety of aspects of a character, such as appearance, age, gender, educational level, vocation or occupation, financial status, marital status, social status, cultural background, hobbies, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, ambitions, motivations, personality, etc. According to Shreklisch Onion Layer Model, the psychological makeup of a fully developed storybook character involves fears, emotions, back-story, issues, beliefs, practices, desires, and intentions. Obviously, a character may differ from the author in any or all of these areas.¹

Character has a different meaning with characterization. Character is the person which is presented in works of narrative or drama who convey their personal qualities through dialogue and action by which the reader or audience understands their thoughts, feelings, intentions and motives.⁴ Character is presumably an

⁴ The Department of English, University of Victoria, Character and Characterization, from http://web.uvic.ca/webguide/Pages/LTCharacter.html, retrieved November 28th 2006
imagined person who inhabits a story.\textsuperscript{5} Characters are divided into two types; there are main/major character and minor character. The major character is a character that always appears and dominates in every part of story. It is a character that is often told in the story.\textsuperscript{6}

Minor character is character that only appears in one event.\textsuperscript{7} Appearance of minor characters in the entire story is less, not significant and it appears only when there is connection with major character, either directly or indirectly.\textsuperscript{8}

Characterization is the process of creating character in fiction. The manners of describing a character can be done through the events, author direct statement, character direct statement, conversation, and through statement from others characters.\textsuperscript{9}

Character is showing at perpetrator of presented story or the player of the story, whereas characterization is portraying of clear picture about someone who present in a story.\textsuperscript{10}

So it can be said that, character as one person who play a part of figure and characterization is the way of narrator to submit an attitude, interest, desire, emotion, is the way of narrator to submit an attitude, interest, desire, emotion, and moral

\footnotesize
\begin{itemize}
    \item \textsuperscript{6} Adih Sofia Sugihastuti, \textit{Feminisme dan Sastra “Mengukuh Citra Perempuan dalam Layar Terkembang”}, (Bandung: Penerbit Katarsis, 2003), p. 69
    \item \textsuperscript{7} Ibid.
    \item \textsuperscript{8} Ibid., p. 16
    \item \textsuperscript{9} Burhan Nanyantoro, \textit{Teori Pengkajian Filsi}, (Jogjakarta: Gajahmada University Press, 1988), pp. 164-165
    \item \textsuperscript{10} Ibid., pp. 153-154.
\end{itemize}
principle that had by the figure in his story. In defining or depicting all of character figure in the story recognized by three kinds of way, such as, *analytically*, where the author explain in detail his figures character, *dramatically*, the author do not explain directly but he use the other way by defining place, setting of the figure, or by presenting the dialog among one figure to another’s, by narrating deed, behavior, or figure reaction to an event, and *alliance* between analytic and dramatic (in this case between analytic and dramatic have to complete each other).  

Characters are divided into two kinds; they are round character and flat character. Flat character is character which is only having one quality of certain person, or one specific character. The character and behavior of flat character are straight, monotone, and its only figure of one specific character. Round character is character that had and exposed his life side possibilities, his personality side and spirit. Round character more looking like a real human’s life, beside of having many kinds of behaviors and action possibilities, he also often give a surprise. Beside that, Burhan Nurgiantoro also explains that the characters are divided into two the typical such as main character and peripheral character. Main characters are characters that have a big part in the story. Whereas peripheral characters are not developed nearly as fully as the central characters do not demand our sympathy. Peripheral characters only have small parts in the story.

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B. The Abnormal Psychology

1. Definition of the Abnormal Psychology

Sarlito in his book *Pengantar Umum Psikologi Abnormal* explain abnormal psychology is a discipline or branch of psychology that studies patterns of abnormal behavior as well as personality disorders.

“Abnormal Psychology is branch of psychology that studies patterns of mental illness. That causes happen abnormal behavior.”

Beside that, abnormal psychology is concerned with the origins and treatment of abnormal behavior and disorders. Abnormal psychology is concerned with mental and emotional disorders (e.g., neurosis, psychosis, mental deficiency). Sarlito also describe that the classification of abnormal behavior divided into five elements; 1) mental retardation; 2) unconventional sexual behavior & human sexual inadequacy; 3) psychoneurosis; 4) psychoses; and 5) psychopath.

Whereas, in Encyclopedia Britannica Article, abnormal psychology also called psychopathology is the study of mental disorders and unusual or maladaptive behaviors or of mental phenomena such as dreams, hypnosis, and altered states or levels of consciousness.

In the book *Abnormal Psychology*, W.B Saunders also stated that abnormal psychology is the application of the methods, concepts, principles, and findings of general psychology—primarily, the psychology of perception, learning and

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16 “Abnormal Psychology”, Encyclopaedia Britannica, XXII, 921.
development, and social psychology- to deviant behaviors and experiences.\textsuperscript{17} And in \textit{Psikologi Abnormal} by Jeffry S. Nevid, stated that mental health professionals sometimes use the terms mental illness to refer to abnormal psychology.\textsuperscript{18} The mental illness is disorder characterized by disturbances in a person’s thoughts, emotions, or behavior. The term mental illness can refer to a wide variety of disorders, ranging from those that cause mild distress to those that severely impair a person’s ability to function.\textsuperscript{19}

According to the explanation offered by abnormal psychology, the abnormal psychology is a method of studying psychological problems of human (including animal) characters and an attempt to account for the activities of human (including animal) characters in the literature work.

2. The Classification of Abnormal Behavior

According to Sarlito Wirawan Sarwono in \textit{Pengantar Umum Psikologi}, the abnormal behaviors can be classified into five elements there are mental retardation, unconventional sexual behavior & human sexual inadequacy, psychoneurosis, psychoses, and psychopath.\textsuperscript{20}

\textsuperscript{19} \textit{Ibid.}, p. 4.
\textsuperscript{20} Sarlito Wirawan Sarwono, \textit{op. cit.}, pp. 126-127.
a. Mental Retardation

In *Abnormal Psychology and Modern Life*, James and William explain that mental retardation is a disorder in which a person's overall intellectual functioning is well below average, with an intelligence quotient (IQ) around 70 or less. Individuals with mental retardation also have a significantly impaired ability to cope with common life demands and lack some daily living skills expected of people in their age group and culture. The impairment may interfere with learning, communication, self-care, independent living, social interaction, play, work, and safety. Mental retardation appears in childhood, before age 18.

The classification of degrees of mental retardation is borderline mental retardation (IQ 68-83), mild mental retardation (IQ 52-67), moderate mental retardation (IQ 36-51), severe mental retardation (IQ 20-35), and profound mental retardation (IQ under 20).21

b. Unconventional Sexual Behavior and Human Sexual Inadequacy

Masters and John define and discuss the following types of human sexual inadequacy:

1. Primary impotence. The man has never been able to achieve an erection sufficient for successful intercourse, either heterosexual or homosexual.
2. Secondary impotence. The man is at present unable to achieve an erection sufficient for successful intercourse, either heterosexual or homosexual, but he has in his history at least one intromission.
3. Premature ejaculation. The man is unable to inhibit ejaculation long enough for his female partner to have organism in 50 percent of their contact. Masters and Johnson were keenly aware that this definition raises

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prolams, for woman vary widely in the amount of stimulate required for
organism.
4. Ejaculatory Incompetence. A man with this rare disability cannot ejaculate
intra vaginally although erection and intromissions are not problematic.
5. Dyspareunia. Intercourse is painful in some way for the man or woman.
6. Primary organism. The woman has never had an orgasm either from
masturbation or intercourse.
7. Situational Orgasmic Dysfunction. The woman is unable to have orgasms
in particular situation.
8. Vaginismus. The outer third of the vaginal barrel is subject to involuntary
spastic contractions, often making the insertion of the penis or finger
impossible.\textsuperscript{22}

c. Psychoneuroses

According to Kartini Kartono, psychoneurosis also called neurosis or neuroses
is mental disorder that causes a sense of distress and deficit in functioning.

"Psychoneurosisis called neurosis, mental disorder that causes a
sense of distress and deficit in functioning."\textsuperscript{23}

Kartono adds that neuroses are characterized by anxiety, depression, or other
feelings of unhappiness or distress that are out of proportion to the circumstances of a
person's life. They may impair a person's functioning in virtually any area of his life,
relationships, or external affairs, but they are not severe enough to incapacitate the
person. Neurotic patients generally do not suffer from the loss of the sense of reality
seen in persons with psychoses.\textsuperscript{24}

\textsuperscript{22} Gerald C. Davison and John M. Neale, \textit{Abnormal Psychology: An Experimental Clinical Approach}, (Canada:
Simultaneously in Canada, 1974), pp. 288-299
\textsuperscript{24} Ibid.
The psychoneurosis are minor mental disorder characterized by inner struggles and disturbed social relationship. Two essential features of psychoneurosis are that they are precipitated by emotional stresses, conflicts and frustrations and those they are most effectively treated by psychological techniques. They are not produced by physical disorders and do not respond to routine medical attention.25

Beside that, in Perkembangan Pribadi dan Keseimbangan Mental written by Winarno Surkhmad and R. Murray Thomas determine types of psychoneurosis are divided into six elements:

1) Obsessive-compulsive disorders are characterized by the irresistible entry of unwanted ideas, thoughts, or feelings into consciousness or by the need to repeatedly perform ritualistic actions that the sufferer perceives as unnecessary or unwarranted.

2) Somatoform disorders, which include the so-called hysterical, or conversion, neuroses, manifest themselves in physical symptoms, such as blindness, paralysis, or deafness that are not caused by organic disease;

3) Hysteria was among the earliest syndromes to be understood and treated by psychoanalysts, who believe that such symptoms result from fixations or arrested stages in an individual's early psychosexual development.

4) Phobias, a type of anxiety disorder, are inappropriate fears triggered by specific situations or objects. Some common objects of phobias are open or closed spaces, fire, high places, dirt, and bacteria.

5) Depression, when neither excessively severe nor prolonged, is regarded as a neurosis. A depressed person feels sad, hopeless, and pessimistic and may be listless, easily fatigued, slow in thought and action, and have a reduced appetite and difficulty in sleeping.

6) Posttraumatic stress disorder is a syndrome appearing in people who have endured some highly traumatic event, such as a natural disaster, torture, or incarceration in a concentration camp. 

d. Psychoses

"Psychoses is a symptom or feature of mental illness typically characterized by radical changes in personality, impaired functioning, and a distorted or nonexistence sense of objective reality." 

Kartini explain that psychosis is mental illness in which a person loses contact with reality and it has difficulty functioning in daily life. Psychotic symptoms can indicate severe mental illnesses, such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder (manic-depressive illness). Unlike people with less severe psychological problems, psychotic individuals do not usually recognize that their mental functioning is disturbed.

Beside that, in Pengantar Umum Psikologi book, Sarlito explain that psychosis is a symptom or feature of mental illness typically characterized by radical changes in personality, impaired functioning, and a distorted or non-existent sense of objective reality.

Psychosis, in psychological language, is a condition in which a person is not in contact with reality like most people. Psychosis is characterized by the following symptoms:

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26 Winarno Surakhmad and R. Murray Thomas, Perkembangan Pribadi dan Keseimbangan Mental (Bandung: Jemmars, 1980), pp. 140-156.
27 Kartini Kartono, op. cit., p. 213.
28 Ibid.
1) Delusions. Those delusions that occur in schizophrenia and its related forms are typically bizarre (i.e., they could not occur in real life). Delusions occurring in delusional disorder are more plausible, but still patently untrue. In some cases, delusions may be accompanied by feelings of paranoia.

2) Hallucinations. Psychotic patients see, hear, smell, taste, or feel things that aren't there. Schizophrenic hallucinations are typically auditory or, less commonly, visual; but psychotic hallucinations can involve any of the five senses.

3) Disorganized speech. Psychotic patients, especially those with schizophrenia, often ramble on in incoherent, nonsensical speech patterns.

4) Disorganized or catatonic behavior. The catatonic patient reacts inappropriately to his/her environment by either remaining rigid and immobile or by engaging in excessive motor activity. Disorganized behavior is behavior or activity that is inappropriate for the situation, or unpredictable.31

And, in *Pengantar Psikologi Abnormal* book, Sutardjo A. Wiramihardja stated that, mental health professionals generally divide psychotic symptoms into three broad types:

1) Hallucinations

Hallucinations refer to hearing, seeing, smelling, feeling, or tasting something when nothing in the environment actually caused that sensation. For example, a person experiencing an auditory hallucination might hear a voice calling her or his name even though no one else is actually present. Individuals with alcoholism may experience psychotic symptoms, especially hallucinations.

In *Abnormal Psychology and Modern Life*, there are types of hallucination; auditory hallucination (hallucination involving the sense of hearing), visual

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hallucination (hallucination involving the sense sight), olfactory hallucination (hallucination involving the sense of smell), gustatory hallucination (hallucination involving the sense of taste), and tactual hallucination (hallucination involving the sense of touch).\textsuperscript{32}

2) A delusion

Delusion is false belief held by a person that appears obviously untrue to other people in that person’s culture. For example, a man may believe that Martians have implanted a microchip in his brain that controls his thoughts.

According to James C. Coleman and William E. Broen Jr, the types of delusion are; delusions of reference (delusional beliefs of an individual that other people are talking about him, referring to him, portraying his life on television, or other wise making references to him in their activities), delusion of influence (delusional beliefs of an individual that “enemies” are influencing him in various ways, as with complicated gadgets which send out waves that interfere with his thoughts or “poor filth” into his mind), delusion of persecution (delusional beliefs of an individual that he is being deliberately interfered with, discriminated against, plotted against, threatened, or other wise mistreated) delusion of sin and guilt (delusional beliefs of an individual that he has committed some unforgivable sins that have brought calamity to others, and that he is evil and worthless).\textsuperscript{33}

\textsuperscript{32} James C. Coleman and William E. Broen Jr, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 271.
\textsuperscript{33} \textit{ibid.}
e. Psychopath

Psychopath disorder is a condition in which people show a pervasive disregard for the law and the rights of others. People with psychopath disorder may tend to lie or steal and often fail to fulfill job or parenting responsibilities. The terms "sociopath" and "antisocial personality disorder" are sometimes used to describe a person with psychopath disorder.34

In *Penganjar Umum Psikologi*, Sarlito describes about people with psychopath act in a way that disregards the feelings and rights of other people. 35 He added that a person with psychopath disorder often breaks the law, and they may use or exploit other people for their own gain. They may lie repeatedly, act impulsively, and get into physical fights. They may mistreat their spouses, neglect or abuse their children, and exploit their employees. They may even kill other people.36

In the book *Abnormal Psychology and Modern Life*, James C. Coleman and William E. Broen, described about the category of antisocial (psychopathic) personality are:

1. Inadequate conscience development and lack of anxiety or guilt. The antisocial personality is unable to understand and accept ethical values except on a verbal level.
2. Irresponsible and impulsive behavior; low frustration to tolerance.

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36 Ibid.
3. Ability to put up “a good front” to impress and exploit others, and to project the blame for his own socially disapproved behavior.
4. Inability to maintain good interpersonal relationships.
5. Rejection of authority and inability to profit from experience.37

Persons with psychopath disorder live predatory lifestyle. They feel little or no regret, and little or no remorse - except when they are caught. They need relationships, but see people as obstacles to overcome and be eliminated. They use people for stimulation, to build their self-esteem and they invariably value people in terms of their material value. 38 Psychopaths are social predators who charm, manipulate and ruthlessly plow their way through life, leaving a broad trail of broken hearts, shattered expectations without the slightest sense of guilt or regret.39

38 The psychopathic personality.
From http://www.oregoncounseling.org/Handouts/PsychopathicPersonality.htm, retrieved Maret 1st 2007
CHAPTER III
RESEARCH FINDINGS

A. Analysis of Main Character in *The Black Cat*

Character has a different meaning with characterization. Character is the person that is presented in works of narrative or drama who convey their personal qualities through dialogue and action by which the reader or audience understands their thoughts, feelings, intentions and motives. Character is presumably an imagined person who inhabits a story. Characters are divided into two types: there are main/major character and minor character. The major character is a character that always appears and dominates in every part of story. It is a character that is often told in the story.

Minor character is character that only appears in one event. Appearance of minor characters in the entire story is less, not significant and it appears only when there is connection with major character, either directly or indirectly.

Characterization is the process of creating character in fiction. The manners of describing a character can be done through the events, author direct statement,

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40 The Department of English, University of Victoria, *Character and Characterization*, from http://web.uvic.ca/wguide/Pages/1TCharacter.html, retrieved November 28th 2006

41 X. J. Kennedy, *op. cit.*, p. 47

42 Adib Soffa Sugihartati, *op. cit.*, p. 69


character direct statement, conversation, and through statement from others characters.45

In The Black Cat story, there was only one main male character that was I. To analyze the characterization of main character, the writer will describes it from main character’s statement directly and his actions.

The writer uses those ways of describing characterization as evidence but the writer reads and understands the works comprehensively and deeply before, after that the writer gives some mark in some words and line as evidences of characterizations. Then those evidences are analyzed and classified into several characterizations. Here are the characterizations of main character.

The main character said that from his childhood he had been considered a very docility and humanity person.

*From my infancy I was noted for the docility and humanity of my disposition.* (Poe, 1843, p.525).

The main character was also a pet’s lover. He really loved variety of pets because it was indulged by his parents. He spent almost all of his time to feeding and caressing them.

*I was especially fond animals, and was indulged by my parents with a great variety of pets. With these I spent most my time, and never so happy as when feeding and caressing them.* (Poe, 1843, p. 525)

The main character did not like to associate with peoples. He was more like to play with animals than his friends.

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45 Durhan Nurgiantoro, *op. cit.* pp. 164-165
...I spent most my time, and never so happy as when feeding and caressing them. This peculiar of character grew with my growth, and in my manhood. I derived from it one of my principal sources of pleasure. (Poe, 1843, p. 525)

The main character said that feeding and caressing animals were happy works. Those works were done by him from he was child till adult.

He disliked man. From he was child; he did not like to associate with social environment. He considered man as a hypocrite person and he also considered man tend to represent the apparent of honesty and loyalty compared with animal, like dog.

According to him, sacrificing and loyalty done by man was only the courtesy.

To those who have cherished an affection for a faithful and sagacious dog. I need hardly be at the trouble of explaining the nature or the intensity of the gratification thus derivable. There is something in the unselfish and self-sacrificing love a brute, which goes directly to the heart of him who has had frequent occasion to test the paltry friendship and gossamer fidelity of mere Man. (Poe, 1843, p.525)

The main character married woman who have the same hobby. That was why he really loved his wife and happy with his marriage.

I married early, and was so happy to find in my wife a disposition not un congenial with my own. Observing my partiality for domestic pets; she lost no opportunity of procuring those of the most agreeable kind. We had birds, gold fish, a fine dog, rabbits, a small monkey, and cat. (Poe, 1843, p.525)

He said that he married early and was so happy with his marriage because he found woman who have the same hobby with him. His wife never forgot to feed their pets. He said that he and his wife have birds, gold fish, dog, rabbit, monkey and cat in their house.
Cat was the main character’s favorite animal. He had a black cat, named Pluto. Pluto was large body, beautiful and sagacious animal. There was a consideration that all black cats as witches in disguise. But he did not believe it because he was an un-superstitious man.

This latter was a remarkably large and beautiful animal, entirely black, and sagacious to an astonishing degree. In speaking of his intelligence my wife who at heart was not a little tinctured with superstition, made frequent allusion to the ancient popular notion, which regarded all black cat as witches in disguise. Not that she was ever serious upon this point – and I mention the matter at all for no better reason than that it happens, just now, to be remembered. (Poe, 1843, p. 525-526)

There was a classical concept from society which considered that all black cat as witches in disguise. The main character’s wife knew it but she was never care about it, because it was just a superstition. The main character often said to his wife that we had to consider everything that happen in this world as a remembered event.

The main character endured the changing of character. All of his good characters, changed into bad characters. He admitted that his character had changed. He was more moody, more irritable, more regardless of the feelings of others.

I grew day by day, more moody, more irritable, more regardless of the feelings of others. (Poe, 1843, p. 526)

He was a sadist person. He never beat his wife before but now he changed. He oppressed his own wife cruelly.

I even offered her personal violence. (Poe, 1843, p. 526)
His changing was also felt by his pets. The main character not only neglected his pets but ill-used them.

*My pets, of course were made to feel the change in my disposition. I not only neglected, but ill-used them.* (Poe, 1843, p. 526)

It describe that the main character is very hate for his pets. He takes to mistreat his pets. During this uncontrollable rage, he spares only Pluto.

In this time, the main character contradicts him in talking about his cat, Pluto. At first, he loved the cat and care for it very affectionately. But in other time, he felt changes character when he begun to take out his anger on his pets. The main character then comes in one night “much intoxicated”. He cut Pluto’s eye out because the cat avoids him. This action basically solidifies his madness in general.

He became temperament when his was addicted to alcohol. Then he oppressed Pluto, his beloved cat. He was an alcoholic. Influence of alcohol made him felt changes behavior.

*...— for what disease is like Alcohol — and at length even Pluto, who was now becoming old, and consequently somewhat peevish — even Pluto began to experience the effects of my ill temper.* (Poe, 1843, p. 526)

It was reflected by the main character, when after returning home quite drunk one night, he lashes out at Pluto. He takes to mistreated Pluto. He pulled a penknife from his pocket and cut out one of the cat’s eyes.
I took from my waistcoat-pocket a pen-knife, opened it, grasped the poor beast by the throat, and deliberately cut one of its eyes from the socket! I blush, I burn, I shudder, while I pen the damnable atrocity. (Poe, 1843, p. 526)

Though the main character woke the next morning with a partial feeling of remorse, he was unable to reverse the newly ominous course of his black cat soul. The main character was overwhelmed by a spirit of perverseness, and sets out to commit wrong for the sake of wrong. He hung Pluto from the limb of a tree one morning.

*One morning in cold blood, I slipped a noose about its neck and hung it to the limb of a tree.* (Poe, 1843, p. 527)

That incident was done by the main character; showed that he was un-humanity person.

*When reason returned with the morning — when I had slept off the fumes of the night's debouch — I experienced a sentiment half of horror, half of remorse, for the crime of which I had been guilty; but it was, at best, a feeble and equivocal feeling and the soul remained untouched.* (Poe, 1843, p. 526)

The main character was unlucky person. This character was described by himself. He said that he had common felt sadness in his life, but he just felt sad for the first time after he cut one of his cat's eyes.

At first he disliked man but he changed into hatred. He really hate all the things including all of mankind.

*Evil thoughts became my sole intimates — the darkest and most evil of thoughts. The moodiness of my usual temper increased to hatred of all things and of all mankind.* (Poe, 1843, p. 529)
He was perverse. He admitted that his perverseness after he cut one of his cat’s eyes.

*And then came, as if to my final and irrevocable overthrow, the spirit of perverseness. Of this philosophy takes no account.*

(Poe, 1843, p. 526)

His perverseness was also shown by him when he hung his cat cruelly. It can be said that the main character was a killer.

*One morning in cool blood, I slipped a noose about its neck and hung it to the limb of a tree...* (Poe, 1843, p. 527)

The main character not only killed his cat but also his own wife.

*One day she accompanied me, upon some household errand, into the cellar of the old building which our poverty compelled us to inhabit. The cat followed me down the steep stairs, and, nearly throwing me headlong, exasperated me to madness. Uplifting an axe, and forgetting, in my wrath, of course, would have proved instantly fatal had it descended as I wished. But this blow was arrested by the hand of my wife. Gooded, by the interference, into a rage more than demoniacal, I withdraw my arm from her grasp and buried the axe in her brain. She fell dead upon the spot, without a groan.*

(Poe, 1843, p. 530)

One day, the main character wanted to see cellar of the old building and his wife accompanied him. His new black cat – who was found by the main character in the library – also followed him down the steep stairs, and, nearly throwing he headlong, it made him so mad. Uplifting an axe, and forgetting, in his wrath, of course, would have proved instantly fatal had it descended as he wished. But this blow was arrested by the hand of his wife. By the interference, he felt he had prevented by his wife then he withdrew his arm from her grasp and buried the axe in his wife’s brain. She fell dead upon the spot, without a groan.
The main character on *The Black Cat* story, endured the changing of character in plot story. In the previous, the writer had described the main character as a very docility and humanity person. He really loved animals. When he was child; the main character was described as some one who didn’t like associate to other peoples and he more liked to play with animals. It was proved by he took care of variety of animals, such as gold fish, dog, and cat. The changing of character occurred after he married woman.

He grew, day by day, more moody, more irritable, more regardless of the feeling to others. He became un-humanity person, temperament, cruel, perverse, cold-blooded and malevolent. It was shown through his actions. At first, his wife accepted snarled abuse and repeated blows from him, although after he did it, he always felt sorry for what he done. Then he oppressed his animals, whereas he never did it before. Then he cut one of Pluto’s eyes, even he killed Pluto and then he also killed his wife cruelly.

B. Analysis of the Psychological Problems of Main Character in *The Black Cat*

In *The Black Cat* short story, the main character felt the change of his character. The main character represents three symptoms, according to Abnormal Psychology theory of psychoneurosis, psychosis, and psychopath.

The main character has psychological problems that because he did abnormal behavior, such as killed his wife. The psychological problems that described by the main character in *The Black Cat* has appeared since he was a child. Initially, he was a
nice man but sometimes his character was change just like evil. In one side, he has no
heart to abuse his black cat merciless although finally he was conscious about his
mistake. In the other side, he killed his wife and he was irresponsible and
unconscious about his action. This behavior showed the reader, the main character
suffered psychopath disorder. He was a psychopath person with irresponsible and
impulsive behavior type. The main character tried to convince the readers through
monologue in order to make them have an assumption that what he did was not his
purpose, so he did not have to account for his crime. According to the argument of
the main character, he felt that his crime was caused by black cat which always
haunted him.

Here, the writer tries to analyze the main character viewed from Abnormal
Psychology of psychoneurosis, psychosis, and psychopath theory. The main character
said that from his childhood, he considered very docility and humanity person.

*From my infancy I was noted for the docility and humanity of my
disposition.* (Poe, 1843, p.525).

He was a pet's lover and tended to be an introvert person, he prefers to play
with his pets than people in his environment. From his childhood, he was described as
an individual who isolated himself from his environment. He is a sensitive person.

*My tenderness of heart was even so conspicuous as to make the jest
of my companions. I was especially fond animals, and was indulged
by my parents with a great variety of pets. With these I spent most
my time, and never so happy as when feeding and caressing them... I
derived from it one of my principal sources of pleasure.*
(Poe, 1843, p.525)
The peculiarity appeared when the main character assumed that a man is hypocrite. He assumed that a man tent to perform honesty and loyal apparently not like a dog. He thought that the loyalty and sacrificing that shoed by dog is more sincere than man. It can be seen below,

To those who have cherished an affection for a faithful and sagacious dog. I need hardly be at the trouble of explaining the nature or the intensity of the gratification thus derivable. There is something in the unselfish and self-sacrificing love a brute, which goes directly to the heart of him who has had frequent occasion to test the paltry friendship and gossamer fidelity of mere Man. (Poe, 1843, p.525)

When he got marriage, his hobbies to take care of his pets were continued. He was very glad because his wife was pet’s lover, too. It made him really in love with his wife and lived together happily and they treated their pets gently.

I married early, and was so happy to find in my wife a disposition not uncongenial with my own. Observing my partiality for domestic pets; she lost no opportunity of procuring those of the most agreeable kind. We had birds, gold fish, a fine dog, rabbits, a small monkey, and cat. (Poe, 1843, p.525)

Among his pets, he very loved his cat. A black cat named Pluto. He thought that his cat was smart than another pets. He did not belief in superstition that assumed a black cat as witches in disguise.

This latter was a remarkably… (Poe, 1943, p.525)

The main character transition began expressed when he thought he persuaded by Fiend Intemperance, but the writer assumption only his alibi, because the transition of his general temperament and character is caused by his abnormal behavior development. In the previous, the writer has described the good characters
of the main character, "I" that he was very docility and humanity person, but because of those two good characters, he became mockery. And it changed his character to become cold-blooded and malevolent. He grew, day by day, more moody, more irritable, more regardless of the feeling to others. His wife also had to accept snarled abuse and repeated blows from him, although after he did it, he always felt sorry for what he done.

The writer will be analyzing the main character involved to them.

1. Psychoneurosis

*I again plunged into excess, and soon drowned in wine all memory of the deed.* (Poe, 1843, p.526)

From that quotation above, it can be seen that he is an alcoholic. Actually, he killed black cat because alcohol effect, although the writer thought that gave him influent. He became a temperamental person and resentful person. He always made presumption to anything that he found. For example, one night he got home under alcohol effect, his cat, Pluto, showed him hatred expression to the main character, it made him angry then throttle his cat.

*One night, returning home, much intoxicated from one of my haunts about town, I fancied that the cat avoided my presence. I seized him; when, in his fright at my violence, he inflicted a slight wound upon my hand with his teeth.*

(Poe, 1843, p.526)

After he tried to kill his cat, he said that it happened un-controlled.

*The fury of demon instantly possessed me. I knew my self no longer. My original soul seemed, at once, to take its flight from my body; and more than fiendish malevolence, gin-nurtured, thrilled every fibred of my frame.* (Poe, 1843, p.526)
The writer assumes it is one of the characteristic of psychoneurosis symptoms. She had explained before that psychoneurosis is characterized by anxiety, depression, or other feelings of unhappiness or distress that are out of proportion to the circumstances of person's life. From that explanation, the writer finds that it is suitable to what had happened to the main character. He felt there was a mental conflict in himself. He felt anger, and he blamed that it happened because of Fiend Intemperance.

2. Psychosis

In the morning, his awareness has returned to normal. He remembered what he had done to kill his cat. He throttled his cat and picked the eyes his cat. He felt guilty for his action.

*I experienced a sentiment half of horror, half remorse, for the crime of which I had been guilty, but it was, at best, a feeble and equivocal feeling, and the soul remained untouched.* (Poe, 1843, p.526)

Although he felt guilty, he was incorrigible moreover. He always takes to mistreated Pluto.

*... I slipped a noose about its neck and hung it to the limb of a tree; hung it with the tears streaming from my eyes, and with the bitterest remorse at my heart; hung it because I knew that it had loved me, and because I felt it had given me no reason of offence;*_ (Poe, 1843, p.527)

Then, he was aware and felt guilty again. He knew about the sin he had done.

It can be seen from the quote below:
I knew that in so doing I was committing a sin— a deadly sin that would so jeopardize my immortal soul as to place it— if such a thing were possible— even beyond the reach of the infinite mercy of the Most Merciful and Most Terrible God. (Poe, 1843, p.527)

According to James C. Coleman and William E. Broen Jr. explained that there are four types of delusion that the writer had explained in the previous chapter, the main character was suitable to one of that types, that is delusion of sin and guilty. It means that delusion beliefs of an individual that he has committed some unforgivable sins that have brought calamity to others and that he is evil and worthless. It can be seen from the quotes below:

For months I could not rid myself of the phantasm of the cat; and during this period, there came back into my spirit a half-sentiment that seemed, but was not, remorse. (Poe, 1843, p.528)

He knew that what his crime will bring calamity for himself. He lived beyond the wretchedness of mere Humanity. Moreover, when he met another black cat then he tortured it, he was afraid and insufferable.

...and, in the latter, I started, hourly, from dreams of unutterable fear to find the hot breath of the thing upon my face, and its vast weight—an incarnate Night More that I had no power to shake off—in cumbent eternally upon my heart. (Poe, 1843, p.530)

3. Psychopath

Beneath the pressure of torments such as these, the feeble remnant of the good within him succumbed. Evil thoughts became his sole intimates, the darkest and most evil of thoughts.
The moodiness of my usual temper increased to hatred of all things and of all mankind; while, from the sudden, frequent, and ungovernable outbursts of a fury to which I now blindly abandoned my self... (Poe, 1843, p.530)

Then the next victim of his malevolent was his wife. Actually, he felt sorry to his uncomplaining wife and the most patient of suffer, but he couldn’t avoid it. He killed his wife unintentionally.

*I withdrew my arm from her grasp and buried the axe in her brain. She fell dead upon the spot, without a groan.* (Poe, 1843, p.530)

The strangest parts happen when he killed his wife, but he did not regret his sin. This part is suitable with the psychopath symptoms. One of features of psychopath symptoms is sympathy type but irresponsible. After he killed his wife, police looked over him and interrogated him about the murder of his wife. It proved that he is a psychopath. Psychopath it self is a behavior abnormality, especially a person who has anti social personality and often breaks the law. The most extreme of a person who suffer psychopath symptom is he can be a cold blooded.

*I quivered not in a muscle. My heart beat calmly as that of one who slumbers in innocence...* (Poe, 1843, p.532)

From the analysis above, the writer concluded the main character had psychological problems. The writer could see that the main character was psychoneurosis, psychosis, and psychopath person. The symptoms of psychoneuroses were feeling of anxiety, depression, or other feelings of unhappiness or distress that are out of proportion to the circumstances of person’s life. Those symptoms were experienced by the main character. He felt there was mental conflict of him self. He
released his anger to his cat and his wife. He tortured Pluto, his cat and started to oppress his own wife. Then he showed the symptoms of psychoneuroses after he cut one of his cat’s eyes. He claimed that his anger happened because of Fiend Intemperance.

The symptoms psychosis of main character was a delusion of sin and guilty. It was shown when he killed the black cat. His action made him feel guilty to his black cat. The main character felt a delusion of sin and guilt because influence of alcohol. The main character was an alcoholic.

The psychopath in this story tends to be happy for people’s suffering he created without considering social norms. In the extreme form of his moral madness, even a psychopath commits a murder sadistically. One of the features of psychopath symptoms was sympathy type but irresponsible. Psychopath was an antisocial person. It was proved he never associated with other people so that he did not have friends. Beside that psychopath symptom was someone can be a cold blooded. The psychopath was experienced by the main character when he killed his wife police looked over him and interrogated him about the murder of his wife. He did not want to confess that he was a killer.
CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

A. Conclusions

After analyzing The Black Cat short story by Edgar Allan Poe, the writer concludes as follows:

In The Black Cat story have two characters – the main male character that called I and his wife – and one animal who become a conflict maker of the main character. The main character endured the changing of character. In the first of the story, the main character was described as a very docility and humanity person. From he was child; the main character was described as a person who disliked associate to other peoples and he more liked to play with animals. It was proved by he took care of variety of animals, such as gold fish, dog, and cat.

The changing of character occurred after several years he married woman. He was more moody, more irritable, more regardless of the feeling to others. He became un-humanity person, temperament, cruel, perverse, cold-blooded and malevolent. It was shown through his actions. At first, his wife accepted snarled abuse and repeated blows from him, although after he did it, he always felt sorry for his action. Then he oppressed his animals, whereas he never did it before. Then he cut one of Pluto’s eyes. Exceedingly, when he was more addicted to alcohol, he killed his black cat and then he killed his wife cruelly.
The *Black Cat* reflected the main character who suffered abnormal behavior that consists of psychoneurosis, psychosis and psychopath. It implied in the main character behaviors and attitudes through his action in every plot. The main character behaviors suited for that type of psychological problems. He killed his cat without reason, after he killed it he felt very regretful but it did not avoid him to do another victim to his cat. He throttled his cat on tree. Although he felt guilty, he did not incorrigible. Second he tortured his next black cat and he really hated it. And the last victim, he killed his wife. He felt guilty but he tried to conceal his action from the police. He acts as if there’s nothing happen in his house and as if he did not know who the murderer of his wife is. All the features that he shows represent abnormal behavior. And it is caused by his saddening childhood that brought him into abnormal behavior.

B. Suggestions

In this research, the writer discusses psychological approach specifically the abnormal psychology theory based on the main character, I, in *The Black Cat* short story. If the reader interest to analyze a short story by using psychological approach especially the abnormal psychology theory, the writer suggests for those who are interested in the study about literature especially on *The Black Cat* short story of Edgar Allan Poe’s work, the reader can use psychological approach especially abnormal psychology theory. The writer suggest to looking for many sources as the books, and also internet. The books that related with psychology can be found in
every library, like State Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta, Indonesia University, etc.

The writer suggests the books that can use Abnormal Psychology theory such as *Abnormal Psychology and Modern Life* by James C. Coleman, *Patologi Sasial 3: Gangguan-Gangguan Kejiwaan* by Kartini Kartono, and *Psikologi Abnormal* edited by Jeffry S. Nevid. If the readers want to look for on the internet, the writer suggests visiting websites such as [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com) and [www.google.com](http://www.google.com).

For those who are interested in study about literature especially on *The Black Cat* short story of Edgar Allan Poe's work, the writer suggests to use the other theory such as: psychoanalysis, behavior of psychology, etc.

The writer hopes that this research can help the reader to have better understanding about the meaning abnormal psychology theory. The writer also hopes this analysis will enrich reader knowledge and useful as reference.
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