

## THE PERSONA OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN THE NOVEL *NINGEN SHIKKAKU* BY OSAMU DAZAI

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### ABSTRACT

*The novel "Ningen Shikkaku" by Osamu Dazai delves into the internal turmoil of Yozo Oba, its main character. This study utilizes Gustav Jung's theories to dissect Yozo's inner conflict and its psychological ramifications. Through qualitative analysis, the investigation probes into the interplay of archetypes, shadows, and complexes within Yozo's psyche, unraveling their impact on his character evolution. Yozo's struggle epitomizes a profound discord between his yearning for acceptance and his aversion to societal norms, leading to self-destructive tendencies, identity crisis, and social alienation. This examination unveils the intricate layers of Yozo's personality vis-a-vis Jungian analytical psychology, offering fresh insights into Dazai's narrative and its exploration of internal discord in literary context.*

**Keyword :** *Osamu Dazai, Ningen Shikkaku, Gustav Jung, Psychology of Literature.*

### INTRODUCTION

According to Febrianty (2016), literary works are expressions of human reflections on life that contain aesthetic values, can entertain, and provide lessons to readers. Furthermore, according to Djojuroto in Kurnia (2018), the function of literary works is not limited to being mere

reading material or entertainment, but also as a medium for expressing feelings, interests, and even social

criticism. Literary studies view literary works as part of the mental activities of both the authors and the readers.

In literary studies, understanding the inner conflicts of the main characters is a critical aspect in analyzing the depth of characters and the narrative dynamics of a work. One literary work that offers a complex portrayal of inner conflict is the novel "*Ningen Shikkaku*" by Osamu Dazai. In this novel, we are introduced to the emotional journey of the main character, Yozo Oba, who is trapped in the conflict between the identity expected by society and the confusion about his true nature. The inner conflict experienced by Yozo Oba displays profound psychological dimensions, which are the focal point of this research. In the realm of literary studies, numerous theories explore the concept of personality, such as psychoanalytic theory, notably introduced by Carl Gustav Jung. Jung's theory delves into the notion of the collective unconscious, as highlighted in Garud's (2011) article. According to Jung, the collective unconscious represents the third dimension of an individual's psyche, transcending personal experiences and shared by all humanity. Sollod, cited by Garud, explicates Jung's view, portraying the collective unconscious as a reservoir of universal images or "archetypes," which serve as flexible patterns guiding individual experiences.

This study aims to analyze the persona of the main character, Yozo Oba, in the novel "*Ningen Shikkaku*" as well as to analyze its psychological impact. To understand the inner conflict and its implications, this research adopts an analytical psychology approach developed by Carl Jung. Revelle & Scherer (2017) argue that personality can be understood as the consistent organization of emotions, actions, thoughts, and aspirations across different situations and periods. Jung's theory of persona and self provides a relevant framework for analyzing the character's journey and the interaction between individuals and the social environment in the context of literary works.

Through this research, it is hoped that we can gain a deeper understanding of the complexity of inner conflicts in "*Ningen Shikkaku*" and its implications for the main character's character. This analysis can also provide broader insights into the psychology of literature and its relevance in understanding human conditions in literary works. Thus, this research not only contributes to understanding a particular literary work but also to the field of literary psychology in general.

There are previous studies that used the same novel : *Kritik Ekspresif Novel Ningen Shikkaku Karya Osamu Dazai* (Rahmawati 2022), *The Theme of Despair and Sin in Dazai Osamu's No Longer Human: An Analysis from the Perspective of Kierkegaard* (Lee, 2023), *Problem Hierarki Kebutuhan pada Tokoh Oba Yozo dalam Novel Ningen Shikkaku Karya Osamu Dazai* ((Rabbani & Hangganararas, 2022), *Konflik Yang Timbul Oleh Syndrome Ningen Nigate dalam Novel Nigen Shikkaku Karya Osamu Dazai: Analisis Dari Psikoanalisis freud* (Putri,2015), *Analysis Figure of Speech and Theatrical Story In No Longer Human Novel by Osamu Dazai* (Aziza, et al., 2022). Here are some examples of previous

research that utilized the novel Ningen Shikkaku as their research material. Many of the studies on the novel Ningen Shikkaku that delve into psychology, which distinguish my research from previous studies, focus on the theoretical aspect, particularly utilizing Gustav Jung's theory of persona.

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

This research is a literary psychology study discussing the persona of the main character in the novel "*Ningen Shikkaku*." Jung (2018) argues that a persona is a mask that a person uses to fulfill the requirements of society's customs and traditions. Masks are intended to leave a certain impression on other people and are often, but not always, intended to hide a person's true nature (Hall and Lindzey, 2005: 189, in Najib & Parmin, 2023). Persona is a person's role in society. It is a "mask" worn by the persona according to need, and is intended to fulfill the role desired by those around him, in other words, to adapt. Personae are temporary and triggered by the encouragement of other people or the environment, so they are not an accurate representation of a person's personality. Personae are formed from an early age because we have to adapt to the desires and expectations of our parents, family, friends, and teachers. When someone merges with a persona, they lose the form of their original personality (Rahmawati, 2018: 5). This is done in the hope that even though he loses his original personality, he can still display his personality and interact well with the people around him. The personality aspects displayed may be different from the reality that represents the social aspects of the world. Personae originate from a person's past experiences, and Jung (2005; 144) assumes that the past, present, and future are fundamentally connected. Past social experiences are unconsciously related to present and future social experiences and can be interpreted as collective experiences.

### METHODOLOGY

The qualitative descriptive method will be applied to understand the personality of the main character in the novel "*Ningen Shikkaku*" by Osamu Dazai. This research will discuss the inner conflict and the impact of the inner conflict experienced by the main character. This research uses an objective approach and Carl Gustav Jung's personality theory.

According to Ratna in Negarawati (2019), descriptive analysis is carried out by describing the facts, followed by analysis. Etymologically, description and analysis have the meaning of explaining. Qualitative methods are a type of research that focuses on in-depth study of a particular phenomenon.

Data collection was carried out by collecting data from the research object, namely the light novel "*Ningen Shikkaku*" by Osamu Dazai. The data collection technique was carried out by reading the

research object repeatedly, marking data that was relevant to the research, and then recording the data found.

The data analysis technique refers to the Miles and Huberman Model (in Hardani, 2020), namely: reducing the collected data, grouping and compiling the obtained data, and analyzing it. Describing each data that has been grouped. After that, conclusions are drawn and verified.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### Persona

According to Jung (in Alwisol, 2009: 39) as cited in Rahmawati & Nurazizah (2021), he states that personality or psyche includes all thoughts, feelings, and behaviors, both conscious and unconscious. Personality guides people to adapt to the social and physical environments. Therefore, it can be said that a person's personality greatly influences their interactions with the surrounding environment." Jung also explained that there are two sources of persona: "A person tends to be influenced by the expectations and demands imposed by society, as well as by the goals and aspirations of the individual in the social context" (Stein, 2019: 137).

Persona characteristics	Data
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<p>Trying to Live Life Even Though It's Torturous</p>	<p>何でもいいから、笑わせておればいいのだ、そうすると、人間たちは、自分が彼らのいわゆる「生活」の外にいても、あまりそれを気にしないのではないかしら、とにかく、彼ら人間たちの目隣りになってはいけない、自分は無だ、風だ、空だ、というような思いばかりが募り、自分はお道化によって家族を笑わせ、また、家族よりも、もっと不可解でおそろしい下男や下女にまで、必死のお道化のサーヴィス-をしたのです。 [Ningen Shikkaku, Dazai 2007:17]</p>
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	<p><i>Vandemoi kara, warawa sete oreba i noda, sōsuruto, ningen-tachi wa, jibun ga kare-ra no wayuru 'seikatsu' no soto ni ite mo, amari sore o ki ni shinai node wa nai kashira, tonikaku, karera ningen-tachi no me tonari ni natte wa kenai, jibun wa muda,-fūda, sorada, to iu yōna omoi bakari ga tsunori, jibun wa odoke ni yotte kazoku o warawase, mata, kazoku yori mo, motto fukakaide osoroshi genan ya gejo ni made, hisshi no odoke no sāvu~isu - o shita nodesu.</i></p> <p>Whatever I do, to make people laugh. That way, maybe they don't really care even though I'm outside their "living" standards. The important thing is that I should not be considered a nuisance to those humans. I am empty, wind, or sky.</p>
<p>Witty personality (Fake personality)</p>	<p>自分は夏に、澄衣の下に赤い毛糸のセエターを着て廊下を歩き、家中の者を笑わせました。めったに笑わない長兄も、それを見て噴きだし、「そりゃあ、葉ちゃん、似合わない」。 [Ningen Shikkaku, Dazai 2007:17]</p>

	<p><i>jibun wa natsu ni, Sumi Koromo no shita ni akai keito no seetā o kite rōka o aruki, iejū no mono o warawa semashita. Mettani warawanai chōkei mo, sore o mite fukidashi, 'soryā, hachan, niawanai'.</i></p> <p>One summer, my housemates made me laugh when I wore a red knitted sweater under my yukata. Even my eldest brother, who rarely laughs, burst out laughing.</p>
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<p>Hiding his fear of humans</p>	<p>人間に対して、いつも恐怖に震いおののき、また、人間としての自分の言動に、みじんも自信を持たず、そうして自分ひとりの側悩は胸の中の小箱に秘め、その要鬱、ナアヴァスネスをひたかくしに隠して、ひたすら無邪気の楽天性を装い、自分はお道化たお変人として、しだいに完成されてゆきました。</p> <p>[<i>Ningen Shikkaku</i>, Dazai 2007:17]</p> <p><i>Ningen ni taishite, itsumo kyōfu ni furui ononoki, mata, ningen to shite no jibun no gendō ni, mijin mo jishin o motezu, sōshite jibun nitori no soba 箱 Wa mune</i></p> <p><i>no naka no kobako ni hime, sono yō 鬱 , Naavu~asunesu o hitakakushi ni kakushite, hitasura mujaki no rakuten-sei o yosōi, jibun wa o dōketa o henjin to shite,-shidai ni kansei sa rete yukimashita.</i></p>
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	<p>I always shudder in front of humans. I also don't have the confidence to act or talk like a human. My personal suffering is a secret that I lock tightly in a box in my heart, along with feelings of depression and anxiety, and I diligently pretend to make myself appear naive and optimistic. That way, I become even more perfect as a strange person who likes to loke around.</p>
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<p>Lying About True Feelings</p>	<p>早くこのひと、帰らねえかなあ、手紙だなんて、見えすいているのに。へへののもへじでも書いているのに違うんです。 「見せてよ」 と死んでも見たくない思いでそう言えば、あら、いやよ、あら、いやよ、と言って、そのうれしがる事、ひどくみっともなく、興が覚めるばかりなのです。そこで自分は、用事でも言いつけてやれ、と思うんです。 [Ningen Shikkaku, Dazai 2007:62:63]</p> <p><i>Hayaku kono hito, kaeranē ka nā, tegamida nante, miesuite irunoni. E e no no mo heji demo kaite iru no ni chigainai ndesu. 'Misete yo' to shindemo mitakunai omoi de sō ieba, ara, iya yo, ara, iya yo, to itte, sono ureshi garu koto, hidoku mittomonaku, kyō ga sameru bakarina nodesu. Sokode jibun wa, yōji demo iitsukete vare, to omou ndesu.</i></p>
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	<p>"Let me see, bro," I said, even though I didn't want to see until I died. Ah, no, ah don't, he said while grinning with joy. Truly embarrassing and disgusting. Then I thought about telling him something.</p>
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### **Trying to Live Life Even Though It's Torturous**

In the quote above, Oba Yozo convinces himself to make other people laugh even though what he is doing is torturing himself because this is not his true personality. It was Yozo's persona that he created to maintain harmony in his social environment.

### **Witty personality (Fake personality)**

to wear a mask in front of people by joking or making other people laugh. Even though this personality is actually just made up to cover up his fear of humans.

### **Hiding his fear of humans**

The quote shows that Oba Yozo is very afraid and doesn't trust himself when it comes to dealing with others and expressing himself. He keeps his anxiety and depression hidden inside himself. Even though he feels this way, Oba Yozo acts like he's happy and innocent, pretending to be naive. Doing this makes him become more and more disconnected from reality, like a clown or a freak who can't find peace inside himself anymore.

### **Lying About True Feelings**

In this conversation, Oba Yozo asks a woman to show him a letter he wrote, but the woman feels shy and doesn't want to show it to him. So, Yozo pretends to be interested in seeing the letter the woman wrote and acts curious about its contents, even though he actually doesn't care about it and feels disgusted.



### CONCLUSION

According to Jung, the concept of the persona plays an important role in shaping a person's identity and behavior in society. A person tends to be influenced by the expectations and demands of his environment, as well as by individual goals and aspirations in a social context. This is reflected in the character of Yozo Oba, who is caught between conforming to social expectations and searching for his individual identity. These findings illustrate the complexity of the inner conflict experienced by Yozo Oba in the novel "Ningen Shikkaku". This conflict includes the conflict between social expectations and individual identity, the desire to survive even through torturous means, self-distrust and fear of humans, as well as lies carried out to hide true feelings. This analysis highlights the importance of understanding inner conflict in understanding the character of the main character in a literary work, as well as its implications for individual psychology and emotions in a social context

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