

**THE MAIN CHARACTER'S DISSOCIATIVE IDENTITY DISORDER (DID) IN  
ROBERT L. STEVENSON'S *THE STRANGE CASE OF DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE***

**THESIS**

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## **ORIGINALITY STATEMENT**

This is to certify that to the best of my knowledge, the content of this thesis is my own work. This thesis has not been submitted for any degree or other purpose. I certify that the intellectual content of this thesis is the product of my own work and that all the assistance received in preparing this thesis and sources have been acknowledged.

Padang, 8 February 2018

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**Abstract**

This study is an analysis of the main character's dissociative identity disorder (DID) as reflected in the novel entitled *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. The purposes of this study are (1) to describe and explain the two distinct identities of the main character and the symptoms of dissociative identity disorder (DID) reflected in the novel (2) to describe the effects of dissociative identity disorder (DID) on the main character and others. The writer used a close technique reading which requires reading the whole novel intensively. DID is a mental illness which its sufferers have at least two distinct identities. From this study the writer found that the main character has DID because he has two distinct identities. The main character's first identity is called personality trait meanwhile his second identity is called personality state. Each identity of the main character is quite different to another. The personality trait is the good one and personality state is the bad one. The writer found the several symptoms of DID which happen to the main character. The writer also found the effects of DID on others and the main character himself.

*Keywords: dissociative, distinct identities, personality trait, personality state.*

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## Table of Contents

ABSTRACT .....	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	iv
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Reason for Choosing Topic.....	1
1.2 The Objective and Scope of the Study .....	3
1.3 The Formulation of Problem.....	3
1.4 Review of Related Literature .....	3
1.4.1 Previous Studies .....	3
1.4.2 Theoretical Framework .....	5
1.5 Method of Research.....	9
CHAPTER II THE TWO DISTINCT IDENTITIES AND SYMPTOMS OF DISSOCIATIVE IDENTITY DISORDER (DID).....	10
2.1 The Two Distinct Identities .....	10
2.1.1 Henry Jekyll.....	11
2.1.1.1 Generous.....	11
2.1.1.2 Courteous.....	13
2.1.1.3 Unhappy.....	14

2.1.2 Edward Hyde.....	16
2.1.2.1 Unfriendly.....	16
2.1.2.2 Mysterious.....	17
2.1.2.3 Violent.....	18
2.2The Symptoms of DID.....	19
2.2.1 Problems trusting others.....	20
2.2.2 Anger.....	21
2.2.3 Sudden transition.....	23
2.2.4 Memory Lapses.....	25

### CHAPTER III THE EFFECTS OF DISSOCIATIVE IDENTITY DISORDER

ON OTHERS AND THE MAIN CHARACTER.....	27
3.1 The effects on others.....	27
3.1.1 Gabriel J. Utterson.....	27
3.1.1.1 Anxious.....	28
3.1.1.2 Scared.....	29
3.1.2 A little girl.....	30
3.1.3 Sir Denvers Carew.....	31
3.1.4 Dr. Hastie Lanyon.....	32

3.1.4.1 Shocked.....	32
3.1.4.2 Mentally anguished .....	34
3.2 The effects on the main character(s).....	36
3.2.1 Henry Jekyll.....	36
3.2.1.1 Tortured .....	37
3.2.1.2 Fear .....	37
3.2.1.3 Suicidal .....	38
3.2.2 Edward Hyde .....	39
3.2.2.1 Brutal.....	39
3.2.2.2 Dead .....	40
CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION .....	41
BIBLIOGRAPHY	



## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Reason for Choosing Topic

Henry Jekyll, the main character of the novel, is a well-known doctor who begins to realize that every human being contains opposite forces within him or her hides behind one's polite façade. He feels like there is another identity or personality state that exists inside him. He feels like the other personality wants to show up and lives free. In order to get rid of the curiosity, he decides to carry out an experiment. He invents a potion which turns out to be successful. This experiment releases the "evil" in him.

Jekyll's alter personality named Edward Hyde who completely contrasts in appearance and identity. Henry Jekyll is a tall, good-looking in appearance. He is an educated, unobtrusive, and well-known doctor. He is respected by many people for his charitable works. On the other hand, Edward Hyde completely contrasts in both appearance and identity with Jekyll. He represents the purely evil in Jekyll. He is small and ugly in appearance. He is cruel, mysterious, cold-blooded, and scary kind of guy. He is the worst thing that ever happens to Jekyll.

In the beginning, Jekyll is capable of controlling his personality state He knows when the right time to release the other personality. However, his personality state, Hyde slowly takes control of his major personality as Jekyll and turns into a murderer. Jekyll feels that he cannot control his alter ego anymore. He figures that he needs to get rid of his alter ego for good. The only way to stop and get rid of him is to kill him. The irony is Jekyll is the one who commits suicide in the body of Hyde.

Robert L. Stevenson's phenomenal novel *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* depicts dissociative identity disorder of its main character. Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson, one of the masters of the Victorian adventure story, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland on November 13, 1850. He was the only child and a young rebel. His best-known novels are *Treasure Island* (1883), *Kidnapped* (1886), and *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1886). *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1886) met with tremendous success and ensuring Stevenson's fame as writer. It tells about a respectable doctor who has two distinct personality states and transforms into a savage murderer.

Due to the popularity of the novel, it has been adapted into several movies. *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1920), *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1931), and *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (2006) are the adaption of the novel.

The writer chooses Robert L. Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* to be analyzed because the writer loves the story. The story of the novel is interesting and beyond unique. The novel depicts a story of the main character who has dissociative identity disorder. The writer personally interested in something related to human's mind. The writer wants to study the main character's dissociative identity disorder by analyzing the two distinct identities on the main character and symptoms and the effects of dissociative identity disorder. This is why "The Main Character's dissociative identity disorder in Robert L. Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*" is chosen to be used in this analysis. In order to make this writing easier to read, the writer will use the acronym DID.

## 1.2 The Objective and Scope of the Study

The object of this research is a novel entitled *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert L. Stevenson. The objective of this research is to analyze the main character's dissociative identity disorder. The scope of this research focuses on the two distinct identities, symptoms and effects of DID on others and the main character.

## 1.3 The Formulation of Problem

In order to achieve a good analysis, the writer uses two questions. They are:

1. How are the two distinct identities and symptoms of Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID) described in the story?
2. How are the effects of Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID) on others and the main character himself?

## 1.4 Review of Related Literature

### 1.4.1 Previous Studies

Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* was written in 1886. It has been reviewed on paper and article by many people with different topics. The writer gives some examples of paper and article which have been reviewed by others.

The first one is a paper entitled *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde: A New Theory of the Manic-Depressive Disorder* by Benjamin B. Wolman (1966). In this paper, Wolman analyzes the main character's manic-depressive disorder. Wolman states that the purpose of this paper is to explain this mental disorder (manic-depressive disorder) in terms of feelings and motives of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

The second one is a paper entitled *The Id, Ego, and Superego in Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Alexsenia Ralat (2014). In this paper, Ralat analyzes the novel based on psychoanalysis criticism view. Ralat analyzes how the Id, Ego, and Superego relate to the main character. In *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, Ralat also explains how she describes Mr. Hyde as the Id, Dr. Jekyll as Ego, and the society as Superego.

The third one is an article entitled *Clinical Observation about The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde in relation to Bipolar Disorder* by Bernardo Dell'Osso and Terence A. Ketter (2015). In this article, Dell'Osso and Ketter analyze the main characters and their relation to bipolar disorder. In doing their analysis, Dell'Osso and Ketter analyze the symptoms of bipolar disorder which happen to Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. And the last one is an article entitled *The anxiety of the unforeseen in Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Ben D. Fuller (2016). In this article, Fuller analyzes the anxiety and its influences on the main character.

The writer's topic in analyzing the novel is *The Main Character's Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID) in Robert L. Stevenson's The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. The writer focuses on analyzing how DID happened to the main character. The writer explains the two distinct identities of the main character and analyzes the symptoms and effects of DID.

None of the writers above analyze the main character's DID. They do not analyze the symptoms and effects of DOD on the main character. Benjamin B. Wolman analyzes the main character's manic-depressive disorder. Alexsenia Ralat analyzes the main character's the Id, Ego, and Superego. Dell'Osso and Ketter analyze bipolar disorder and its relation to the main character. Ben D. Fuller analyzes the anxiety and its influence on the main character.

#### 1.4.2 Theoretical Framework

In order to achieve a good analysis in analyzing this novel, the writer uses several theories. These theories are taken from several books and articles. The writer gives a brief explanation about dissociative disorders because the writer wants to let people know that DID is one of the types of dissociative disorders.

Psychiatrists and psychologists use a handbook called the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, fourth edition text revision or DSM-IV-TR, to diagnose mental disorders. DID is classified as a dissociative disorder. Dissociative disorders are mental illnesses that involve disruptions or breakdowns of memory, consciousness, identity, emotion, perception, and behavior. They are thought to primarily be caused by psychological trauma. However, people from all age groups and racial, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds can experience dissociative disorders. Other mental disorders in this category are:

1. Dissociative amnesia (formerly psychogenic amnesia)

Dissociative amnesia is not the same as simple amnesia, which involves a loss of information from memory, usually as the result of disease or injury to the brain. With dissociative amnesia, the memories still exist but are deeply buried within the person's mind and cannot be recalled. Dissociative amnesia has been linked to overwhelming stress, which might be the result of traumatic events such as war, abuse, accidents, or disasters that the person has experienced or witnessed.

2. Dissociative fugue (formerly psychogenic fugue)

It is described as reversible amnesia for personal identity. People with it feel that the world is not real or looking foggy. The loss of memory is way bigger than dissociative amnesia. One of the symptoms of dissociative fugue is sudden and unplanned travel away from home. The

other symptom is confusion about his or her identity, possibly assuming a new identity to make up for the loss. People with dissociative fugue have a new name, new house, new job and new characteristic. Dissociative fugue is linked to traumatic events such as abuse, accidents, disaster or extreme violence that the person has experienced or witnessed. Even though it takes time, people with it can be healed totally.

### 3. Depersonalization disorder

This is a sense of being detached from one's body and is often referred to be as an "out-of-body" experience. This disorder involves ongoing feelings of detachment from actions, feelings, thoughts and sensations. However, lapsing of the memory is not the symptoms of this disorder which is one of the specific symptoms of the other dissociative disorders. An individual abruptly loses a sense of being themselves. They feel like being "outside of" selves. Sometimes they feel that people and things in the world around them are unreal (derealization). Depersonalization disorder normally starts out at teens and it can last in a long period.

### 4. Dissociative identity disorder (DID) (formerly Multiple Personality Disorder)

Someone is diagnosed having DID if a he has at least two distinct identities. Each has different behavior and is pretty complex. They are quite different and contrary to one another. They probably use different side of their hand and have different allergy. It just takes seconds for one personality state to replace another but the shift can be gradual.

The four types of Dissociative disorders have different symptoms and effects on people who have them. However, people who have Depersonalization disorder will not experience this symptom. Each type has different symptoms and effects. People who have dissociative amnesia will not have dissociative fugue, DID, or Depersonalization disorder and vice versa.

In this analysis, the writer only focuses on DID to be analyzed. Split personality, more properly, is an old name for multiple personality disorder (MPD), which is itself an outdated name for DID, an officially recognized but still controversial diagnosis (Welton). It means DID, MPD, and split personality are the same. They are the same in meaning, symptoms, and effects.

With the publication of the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders -IV-TR, the name and some of the diagnostic criteria for Multiple Personality Disorder (MPD) were changed to DID, reflecting changes in professional understanding of the disorder. One reason for the name change from MPD to DID is that "multiple personalities" is a somewhat misleading term. A person diagnosed with DID perceives having within her two or more entities or personality states. Other terms used by therapists to describe these entities are: "alternate personalities", "alters", "parts", "states of consciousness", "ego states", and "identities". It is important to keep in mind that although these alternate personality states may appear to be very different, they all are manifestations of a single person. (Giller).

Personality states are temporary behaviors or feelings that depend on a person's situation and motives at a particular time. Meanwhile personality traits are characteristic behaviors and feelings that are consistent and long lasting. In the novel, Henry Jekyll is personality trait and Edward Hyde is personality state.

DID is a mental illness that involves the sufferer experiencing at least two clear identities or personality states, also called alters, each of which has a fairly consistent way of viewing or relating to the world. Individuals with DID have been found to have personality states that have distinctly different ways of reacting, in terms of emotions, pulse, blood pressure, and even blood flow to the brain. DID often co-occurs with other emotional conditions, including posttraumatic

stress disorder (PTSD), borderline personality disorder (BPD), and a number of other personality disorders, as well as conversion disorder. The causes of DID are still vague, research indicates that it is likely a psychological response to interpersonal and environmental stresses (Edwards).

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder (DSM-IV-TR) states there are several symptoms of DID. They are memory lapses, blackouts, sudden transition, sleepwalking and automatic writing, auditory hallucinations, problems trusting others, hostility and anger, and a sense of betrayal, sleep disorder, and eating disorder. In this study, the writer focuses on analyzing the symptoms of DID which are related to the main character. They are:

1. Problem trusting others
2. Anger
3. Sudden transition
4. Memory lapses

The writer chooses these symptoms of DID to be analyzed in this study because they happen to the main character. In the novel, the main character has problem in trusting others, spites his anger on others easily, the transition from one state to another happens suddenly and has memory lapses as well.

DID has effects on people who have it. Edwards in an article explains that “people with DID are also at risk for attempting suicide more than once. Individuals with DID often also suffer from other mental illness, including posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), borderline personality disorder (BPD) and other personality disorders, and conversion disorder.” The effect of this disorder on the main character is that the main character changes emotionally. He becomes tortured and fear. Suicidal is the biggest effect of DID on the main character. However,



the main character does not suffer posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), borderline personality disorder (BPD) and other personality disorders.

### 1.5 Method of Research

In doing this research, the writer uses the close reading technique. According to Madden in *Exploring Literature Writing and Arguing about Fiction, Poetry, Drama, and the Essay*, a close reading is not once reading, it is a re-reading (55). Jacobus also explained that close reading requires that you take the text seriously enough to study it, to read it, and relate it, search for details that might otherwise go unobserved, examine to dictionary to be sure of their meanings when necessary (6).

The first step to collect the data is by reading the whole story of the novel intensively. The writer has read the novel couple times. The writer also has underlined the particular words and terms. Then the writer refers to dictionary in order to figure out and understand the meaning of them. In order to make it easier, the writer feels the need to do some research on the internet. The writer has found several articles that related to the novel.