

ABSTRACT

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A Study of Dysthymic Disorder as Reflected in Character of Mrs. Stone in Tennessee Williams's *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone*

Dysthymic disorder is a chronic depression which belongs to mood disorder. People who suffer dysthymia tend to get depressed episode without mania episode. This study uses *psychology of literature* theory based on Wellek and Warren's point of view and Beck's cognitive theory to analyze a novel written by Tennessee Williams entitled *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone*. As the statements of research problem there are three questions are formulated: (1) What kind of dysthymic disorder's symptoms that are experienced by Mrs. Stone? (2) What are the causes of Mrs. Stone's dysthymic disorder? (3) What is the effect of Mrs. Stone's dysthymic disorder?

Psychology of literature theory based on Wellek and Warren's point of view is a theory to explain that between psychology and literature are related each other. The relation is about literature can be the source of data to be analyzed under psychological science. Moreover, Beck's cognitive theory is the psychological science which is suitable to analyze dysthymic disorder because it is a theory of depression. It is used to analyze the Mrs. Stone's strange behavior and thinking which tend to be identified as a type of depression, it is dysthymic disorder. The analysis includes the symptoms, causes and effect of dysthymic disorder in character of Mrs. Stone. This study uses the descriptive qualitative method as the research design.

After analyzing this novel, the writer found that the symptoms of dysthymic disorder which appropriate with Mrs. Stone are low energy level, low self-esteem, difficult in concentrating, pessimism, feels sad frequently, thoughtfully about things from the past, feel guilty, be irritable or angry, be less productive, take a little interest or pleasure in most activities, and isolate themselves from others and withdrawn into themselves. Furthermore, the causes of dysthymic disorder which appropriate with Mrs. Stone are stress as a causal factors, predisposing personality and cognitive characteristics, feelings of helplessness and lose of hope, interpersonal effects of mood disorder, and general sociocultural factors. Moreover, the effect of mood disorder which is suffered by Mrs. Stone is she becomes inflexible and maladaptive.

Keywords: *Dysthymic disorder, Dysthymia, Chronic Depression, Psychology of literature, Cognitive Theory*