

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the background, research problems, objectives, scope and limitation of the research, significance of the research, and operational definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Research

Human duality refers to the coexistence of conflicting aspects within the human self, such as morality and immorality, rationality and desire, or public identity and hidden impulse. Rather than representing a fixed opposition, this duality reflects the fragmented and dynamic nature of human identity that develops through psychological conflict and social experience, making it particularly suitable for literary representation through character transformation and narrative progression (Tal, 2018; Bortolan, 2020). Literary fiction offers a structured medium through which such internal conflict can be represented and examined over time. Rather than presenting abstract arguments, narrative fiction dramatizes divided identity by allowing character transformation to unfold through the progression of events. In this way, psychological conflict becomes visible not as a static theme, but as a process shaped by narrative movement. The cognitive value of literary fiction lies not merely in its thematic content but in its capacity to stage ambiguity and interpretive complexity within narrative form (Cools, 2019).

From a narratological perspective, plot progression and character development are central elements in the construction of narrative meaning. Todorov's (1977) model conceptualizes narrative progression as a movement through successive stages of equilibrium, disruption, recognition, attempted repair, and the establishment of a new equilibrium. According to Forster (1927), character development is reflected in the complexity and capacity for change exhibited by round characters, enabling readers to perceive psychological conflict as an evolving process

rather than a fixed condition. The novel is particularly suitable for representing human duality because its extended narrative form allows events and characters to develop gradually over time. Through the unfolding of events and the gradual transformation of characters, psychological tension becomes embedded within narrative progression. When examined together, plot progression and character development function as complementary narrative mechanisms through which thematic meaning is constructed. Thus, duality emerges as a structural effect produced through the interaction between plot progression and character transformation.

Within this context, Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* remains a significant literary work in its portrayal of divided identity. The novella dramatizes the tension between public respectability and repressed desire not only through thematic opposition, but through the structural arrangement of events and the gradual transformation of its protagonist. Its continued recognition as a canonical work reflects the capacity of certain literary texts to transcend their historical moment and invite sustained reinterpretation across periods (Santana-Acuña, 2014). The enduring relevance of the novella lies in its persistent exploration of internal conflict, a feature that continues to resonate within modern discussions of identity and the fragmented self. Rather than functioning merely as a moral allegory of Victorian anxiety, the narrative operates as a structured representation of psychological division embedded within plot progression itself.

The psychological dimension of human duality has frequently been associated with conflicts between opposing impulses within the self. Among the theoretical perspectives that address such internal division, Freud's structural model of the psyche offers a useful framework for understanding the tension between instinctual desire, rational control, and moral regulation through the interaction of the id, ego, and superego (Freud, 1923). In *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, the conflict between Jekyll's socially acceptable identity and Hyde's uninhibited

impulses suggests a form of psychological division that extends beyond external behavior. However, rather than applying psychoanalysis as the primary analytical framework, this study employs Freud's model as an interpretive lens to explain how the patterns identified through plot progression and character development reflect the broader theme of human duality. In this way, psychoanalytic interpretation complements structural analysis by providing insight into the psychological significance of narrative and character transformation.

Previous studies on *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* have primarily approached duality as a social, moral, or psychological conflict. From a socio-historical perspective, Hadžiselimović (2021) interprets the division between Jekyll and Hyde as a reflection of Victorian moral rigidity. A psychoanalytic reading offered by Alouani (2021) emphasizes repression as the driving force behind Hyde's emergence. More recent analyses highlight the instability of identity in adaptation and reinterpretation (Mustafa, 2023). Although these studies deepen thematic understanding, they tend to treat duality as an abstract or psychological condition rather than as a dynamic structure produced through the progression of narrative stages.

However, limited attention has been given to how plot progression and character development operate together as interconnected narrative mechanisms in representing human duality. Existing studies generally emphasize either narrative structure or characterization, resulting in a fragmented understanding of how thematic meaning is constructed. Consequently, the interaction between plot progression and character transformation remains underexamined within a unified analytical framework.

This study addresses that limitation by integrating Todorov's narrative theory and Forster's characterization theory to examine how plot progression and character development jointly construct the theme of human duality. While these theories function as the primary analytical frameworks, Freud's structural model of the psyche is employed as an

interpretive framework to explain the psychological significance of the structural findings, particularly the conflict between opposing aspects of the self. By combining structural and psychoanalytic perspectives, this study offers a more comprehensive understanding of how narrative structure and character transformation represent human duality.

This study adopts a qualitative descriptive method within a structural literary approach. Following Barry (2009), structuralism views literary texts as coherent systems whose meaning is produced through the relationships among their internal elements. This approach provides the basis for examining the interaction between plot progression and character development in *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Accordingly, this study aims to examine how plot progression and character development function as interconnected narrative mechanisms in representing human duality through Todorov's narrative theory and Forster's characterization theory, with Freud's structural model of the psyche serving as an interpretive framework.

B. Research Problems

1. How does the plot progression in *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* reflect the theme of human duality?
2. How do the characters of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde develop throughout the story to reflect the theme of human duality?

C. Research Objectives

1. To examine how the plot progression in *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* reveals the theme of human duality.
2. To analyze how the characters of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde develop throughout the story to reflect the theme of human duality.

D. Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study focuses on analyzing plot progression and character development in Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* to examine how the theme of human duality is constructed within the narrative. The analysis employs a structural–narrative approach

by using Todorov's five-stage narrative model to examine plot progression, Forster's concept of character development to analyze characterization, and Freud's structural model of the psyche as an interpretive framework to explain the psychological significance of the structural findings.

The analysis is limited to close textual examination of the novel, focusing on key narrative stages and moments of character transformation that reflect shifts in equilibrium and psychological division. Consequently, this study does not examine film adaptations, theatrical performances, or other cultural responses to the novel, nor does it include comparative analyses with other Gothic or psychological literary works. It also does not address historical reception, reader-response perspectives, or alternative critical approaches such as post-structuralism, feminism, or ideological criticism. These limitations are acknowledged as necessary to maintain the analytical focus and coherence of the study in examining the structural relationship between plot progression, character development, and the representation of human duality.

E. Significance of the Study

Theoretical Significance:

This study contributes to literary scholarship by expanding the analysis of narrative structure and character development in *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. By integrating Forster's theory of character development, Todorov's model of narrative equilibrium and disruption, and Freud's structural model of the psyche, the research offers a layered analytical framework that connects narrative structure, psychological conflict, and thematic meaning. The study demonstrates that human duality operates not merely as a moral theme but as a structural mechanism constructed through the interaction between character transformation and narrative progression. In doing so, the research enriches existing structural and psychoanalytic interpretations by highlighting the role of narrative form in shaping psychological representation.

Practical Significance:**1. For Students**

This study enhances students' ability to analyze literary texts by demonstrating how plot progression and character development function together to convey complex thematic meanings. It also introduces the application of psychoanalytic theory as an analytical tool, supporting students' understanding of psychological conflict, character motivation, and narrative coherence in literary works.

2. For Teachers

This research can serve as a reference for teaching literature, particularly in guiding students to examine the relationship between narrative structure, character development, and thematic exploration. The findings may assist teachers in designing classroom discussions and analytical activities focused on classic literary texts such as *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.

3. For Researchers

This study provides a conceptual and methodological reference for future research on narrative structure, character development, psychoanalytic criticism, and the theme of human duality in literary studies. It may also support further research that applies similar integrative frameworks to other works of Gothic or psychological fiction.

F. Definition of Key Terms

Some key terms are used in this study to clarify the main concepts related to the analysis of plot progression, character development, and human duality in *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. These definitions are intended to ensure a consistent understanding of the terms throughout the study, as presented in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1. Definition of Key Terms

No.	Term	Definition
1.	Plot Progression	the development of narrative events across successive stages that shape the movement of the story, analyzed in this study through Todorov's five-stage narrative structure: equilibrium, disruption, recognition, attempt to repair, and new equilibrium.
2.	Character Development	the process through which a character's personality, motivations, and psychological complexity are revealed or transformed throughout the narrative.
3.	Human Duality	the coexistence of conflicting aspects within the human self, reflecting psychological and moral tensions that produce divided identity and internal conflict.
4.	Todorov's Narrative Theory	a structural model of narrative progression consisting of equilibrium, disruption, recognition, attempt to repair, and new equilibrium, used to analyze the development of plot structure.
5.	Forster's Character Theory	a theory of characterization that distinguishes between flat and round characters based on their complexity and capacity for development within the narrative.
6.	Freudian Psychoanalysis	Freud's structural model of the psyche, consisting of the id, ego, and superego, used in this study to interpret the psychological meaning underlying plot progression and character development.