

ABSTRACT

Suherman, Nabillah Alifia. 2026. THE PORTRAYAL OF ELITIST NARCISSISM IN KEVIN KWAN'S *RICH PEOPLE PROBLEMS* (2017). Thesis. English Literature Study Program. English Language and Literature Department. Faculty of Humanities. Jenderal Soedirman University, Purwokerto. Supervisor 1: Eni Nur Aeni, S.S., M.A. Supervisor 2: Aidatul Chusna, S.S., M.A. External Examiner: Ririn Kurnia Trisnawati, S.S., M.A. Secretary: Tribuana Sari, S.S., M.Si.

This study discusses the portrayal of elitist narcissism in Kevin Kwan's *Rich People Problems* (2017) novel through a character named Eddie, using Theodore Millon's psychological framework regarding elitist narcissism. It aims to examine how elitist narcissism is depicted through Eddie's narcissistic behaviors that are manifested through his obsession with status, entitlement and exploitation, as well as arrogance (or grandiosity). The findings reveal that Eddie's symbolic consumption of luxury goods and his lavish lifestyle signal and elevate his social status, reflecting his obsession with status within elitist narcissism. Furthermore, Eddie's sense of entitlement is reflected in his belief that he is the most deserving heir to his grandmother's estate, Tyersall Park. Eddie exploits his relationship with his grandmother, using it as a means to fulfill his own needs, which depicts the exploitativeness of elitist narcissism. Moreover, Eddie's grandiosity is reflected in his belief in the grandeur of his achievements and his inward-looking focus. Eddie expresses his superiority over others and looks down on them, demonstrating the arrogance of elitist narcissism.

Keywords: Elitist narcissism, Eddie, Rich People Problems, narcissism

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Penelitian ini membahas penggambaran narsisme elitis dalam novel *Rich People Problems* (2017) karya Kevin Kwan melalui karakter bernama Eddie, dengan menggunakan kerangka psikologis Theodore Millon mengenai narsisme elitis. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji bagaimana narsisme elitis digambarkan melalui perilaku narsistik Eddie yang terwujud dalam obsesinya terhadap status, rasa berhak, dan eksploitasi, serta kesombongan (atau kebesaran diri). Temuan menunjukkan bahwa konsumsi simbolis Eddie terhadap barang-barang mewah dan gaya hidup mewahnya untuk menandakan dan meningkatkan status sosialnya mencerminkan obsesinya terhadap status dalam konteks narsisme elit. Selain itu, rasa berhak Eddie tercermin dalam keyakinannya bahwa ia adalah pewaris yang paling layak atas harta warisan neneknya, Tyersall Park. Eddie mengeksploitasi hubungannya dengan neneknya, menggunakannya sebagai sarana untuk memenuhi kebutuhannya sendiri, yang menggambarkan sifat eksploitatif dari narsisme elit. Selain itu, keagungan Eddie tercermin dalam keyakinannya akan kemegahan pencapaiannya dan fokusnya yang tertuju ke dalam dirinya. Eddie mengekspresikan keunggulannya atas orang lain dan memandang rendah mereka, menunjukkan kesombongan dari narsisme elitis.

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