

Personality Typology of Thahir and Syaban in Short Story “Nikosia” By Saadi Youssef: A Literary Psychology Study

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to examine the personality types of Thahir and Syaban characters in the short story Nikosia by Saadi Youssef. This research applies a qualitative descriptive method, utilizing the literary psychology approach of Hippocrates-Galenus personality theory. This study relies on written data derived from Saadi Youssef’s short story Nikosia, which illustrates the alignment of the main character’s personality with the Hippocrates-Galenus perspective. Data collection techniques employed in this study include reading and note-taking, library research, close reading, and manual coding. The data were processed using analysis techniques that involve identification, in-depth analysis, and drawing conclusions. The results of this study reveal that the four personality types defined by Hippocrates sanguine, choleric, melancholic, and phlegmatic are evident in the characters of the short story Nikosia by Saadi Youssef. The author hopes that this research can contribute to future studies regarding the Hippocrates-Galenus literary psychology theory.

Abstrak

Tujuan dari penelitian ini untuk mengkaji tipe kepribadian tokoh Thahir dan Syaban dalam cerpen Nikosia karya Saadi Youssef. Penelitian ini menerapkan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan menggunakan pendekatan psikologi sastra berdasarkan teori kepribadian Hippocrates-Galenus. Penelitian ini mengandalkan data tertulis yang bersumber dari cerita pendek Nikosia karya Saadi Youssef, yang menggambarkan kesesuaian kepribadian tokoh utama dengan perspektif Hippocrates-Galenus. Teknik pengumpulan data yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini meliputi teknik baca dan catat, studi kepustakaan, close reading dan coding manual. Data diproses menggunakan teknik analisis yang mencakup tahap identifikasi, analisis mendalam, serta penarikan kesimpulan. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa keempat tipe kepribadian yang digagas oleh Hippocrates yaitu sanguinis, koleris, melankolis, dan flegmatis terlihat pada tokoh-tokoh dalam cerita pendek Nikosia karya Saadi Youssef. Penulis berharap penelitian ini dapat memberikan kontribusi bagi studi-studi selanjutnya terkait teori psikologi sastra Hippocrates-Galenus.

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INTRODUCTION

Literary psychology plays a vital role in understanding literary works due to its ability to dismantle the psychological aspects of characters in detail, going beyond mere analysis of intrinsic elements (Endraswara, 2022). The main focus of this approach is the character's personality, which is believed to reflect psychological activity (Emilda et al., 2022). In fictional narratives, a character's behavior is not an action without reason, but a manifestation of personality designed by the author to convey the story's ideas (Firjatul et al., 2021). By understanding this personality construction, readers will find it easier to dissect the character's behavioral patterns (Noriska & Chalis, 2025). Furthermore, understanding personality is an effort to understand oneself, starting from "I", "self", to "the self," while simultaneously understanding the human being as a whole (Alwisol, 2018).

Personality itself is a dynamic entity that is interesting for experts to continue researching (Setiawan, 2018). Krech & Crutchfield (Vohs & Baumeister, 2011) define it as a unique integration of individual characteristics that constantly modifies itself to adapt to the environment. Its non-static nature is influenced by various factors, ranging from genetics and life experiences to the values and cultural norms of society (Malinda et al., 2024). Meanwhile, from a psychoanalytic perspective, personality is heavily influenced by the subconscious, which colors the structure of thinking with emotion (Minderop, 2018). This complexity is often reflected in short stories (short stories).

Although short stories have brief characteristics with a single conflict, they are able to present issues thoroughly (Septriani & Mulyasih, 2022), where the character's personality is built not only through dialogue but also through the behavior, thoughts, and perceptions of other characters (Lubis, 2023). To dissect this complexity, the Hippocrates-Galenus typology becomes a relevant analytical tool. Galenus, who developed Hippocrates' thoughts, asserted that the proportion of four fluids in the human body determines a person's unique character (Musek, 2024).

This classification divides humans into four main types based on the dominance of their bodily fluids (Roeckelein, 2006). First, the Sanguine type (blood dominance), which is optimistic, lively, and expansive. Second, the Phlegmatic type (phlegm dominance), which is calm, loyal, but tends to be passive and cold. Third, the Choleric type (yellow bile dominance), which is full of spirit and emotional, but can become aggressive. Finally, the Melancholic type (black bile dominance), which is identified with pessimistic, rigid, and gloomy traits (Rustam, 2016). This concept is rooted in the view that the microcosm of the human body aligns with the macrocosm elements of the universe.

This can be examined in the characters Thahir and Syaban in a short story titled Nikosia by Saadi Youssef. These two characters show behavior/attitudes in responding to their surroundings that are explicitly written by the author. Furthermore, the personality of the characters in the story also reflects the personal experience of the story's author, which not only reflects himself but also represents the inner experiences of others. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the personality of the characters in the short story Nikosia by Saadi Youssef based on the Hippocrates-Galenus theory. Based on the fact that everyone's personality type is different, it is almost impossible for anyone to imitate. The same applies to the personalities of the characters in this short story, who may have optimistic, friendly, unyielding, joyful personalities, and so on. The same is true for the personalities of the characters Thahir and Syaban in the short story by Saadi Youssef, which can be reviewed through literary psychology analysis. Researchers are interested in examining the short story Nikosia by Saadi Youssef with a literary psychology study using the Hippocrates-Galenus Typology theory because the characters in the short story have a match with the personality types as expressed by Hippocrates-Galenus.

Several previous studies related to the object of the short story Nikosia by Saadi Youssef have been found. Among them, Gia Ramadhan and Rohanda Rohanda (Gia Ramadhani, Rohanda, 2024) used A.J. Greimas' narrative semiotic analysis and found that this short story brings up a change in the fate of the main character, the character Tahir (a change in fate seen after the character moved to Nicosia and also met his cousin Syaban there) through a qualitative paradigm method. Rofiqi and Ma'rifatul Munijah (Rofiqi, Ma'rifatul Munijah, 2025) analyzed the short story "Nikosia" by Saadi Youssef using literary reception and structuralist approaches involving 14 students as respondents. The results showed that the majority of respondents (86%) identified "Search for Identity" as the main plot and (79%) understood the main theme as "Search for Identity".

and Alienation". The character Tahir was assessed as an introverted and reflective figure (71%), while the setting was understood as a contrast between the alienating Damascus and Nicosia as a symbol of hope and recovery. In addition, 79% of respondents felt emotionally connected to the character's experience, and 57% admitted that their personal experiences influenced their interpretation of the story.

From these two previous research results, it can be found that the short story Nikosia by Saadi Youssef can be used as an object of study and research that differs in the focus and issues used, namely narrative semiotic theory and literary reception. Unlike those two studies, this research analyzes character personality types through a literary psychology approach according to Hippocrates-Galenus. In addition, this research offers novelty by focusing the analysis on the personality types of the characters Thahir and Syaban in the short story Nikosia using the Hippocrates-Galenus literary psychology approach, differing from previous studies which tend to be general. Its urgency lies in the effort to reveal that literature is not just empty text, but a reflection of the complexity of life and human psychological turmoil (Pasha et al., 2025). Besides aiming to explore the characters of both figures, this research is expected to enrich the reader's insight and serve as a theoretical reference for future literary researchers in understanding the psychological dimensions of fiction works.

METODE

The type of research used in this study is qualitative descriptive research using literary psychology theory as an analytical tool (Siska Anita et al., 2023). This research method aims to understand the phenomena that occur in the research subjects such as actors, perceptions, motivations, actions, and others through the method of describing them in the form of words and language, in a specific natural context by utilizing various natural methods. The data sources in this study are divided into two: the primary data source is the short story Nikosia by Saadi Youssef, with secondary data sources coming from books and e-journals related to the research theme.

The main approach used in this study is literary psychology, focusing on the analysis of character personalities in this short story, using the Hippocrates-Galenus typology theory. This theory becomes the analytical viewpoint to identify and describe the four personality types: sanguine, choleric, melancholic, and phlegmatic that are depicted in the characters' behavior, conversations, and emotional responses. The researcher chose the Hippocrates-Galenus theory because of the match between the characters Thahir and Syaban with this typology theory, thus enabling a more systematic and comprehensive analysis process regarding the psychological dynamics visible in the story. Through this approach as well, this research aims to reveal how each personality type in this typology is able to contribute to the formation of actions and character conflicts in the storyline.

The technique used in collecting data is the reading and note-taking technique as an initial step to find valid and reliable data, which is then sorted and rewritten in the form of a problem identification table (Semi, 2021). Then, afterwards, the researcher uses the library research technique by reading and marking parts of the text related to characters, symbols, inner narratives, and important events. This process is then continued with the close reading method to interpret symbolic meanings and the psychological structure of characters, as well as with the manual coding method to identify text parts representing personality typologies. Furthermore, data analysis is carried out descriptively to explain character characteristics, plot, and narratively relevant events (Endraswara, 2023). Then continued with psychological interpretation in analyzing characters and events based on the Hippocrates-Galenus theory, identifying sanguine, phlegmatic, choleric, and melancholic types. In the final stage, the construction of meaning is built with an interpretation of how the events (behaviors) that occur can illustrate the personalities of the characters Thahir and Syaban.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Short Story Nikosia

The short story Nikosia by Saadi Youssef, published in the Egyptian magazine Nizwa first edition in 1994 (Youssef, 1994), tells the story of the life journey of two cousins, Thahir and Syaban, who were separated far apart and then reunited in a foreign city, Nicosia. The character Thahir is depicted as a figure who lives life full of contemplation and inner struggle, while Syaban

appears as a firmer and more expressive figure, bringing change to Thahir's life when they are reunited in Cyprus.

This fact is based on the story's narrative, where the author describes the dynamics of the relationship between Thahir and Syaban, as well as the differences in how they respond to the environment and new experiences in the city of Nicosia. In the short story Nikosia, Thahir is often depicted musing alone, lost in his own thoughts when he first arrives in Nicosia, responding to the small town with silence and comparisons to Damascus, where he tends to be introspective and sensitive to changes in his life. In addition, Thahir also shows a side of calmness and emotional patience. When Syaban comes and invites him to talk, Thahir responds calmly, with a long gaze reflecting inner depth, not an exaggerated emotional reaction. He is not easily shaken, even when feelings of childhood longing or social awkwardness arise in their conversation at the bar.

On the other hand, in Thahir's interaction with Syaban, especially when he smiles and shows light happiness when Syaban recounts childhood memories or when they toast at the bar with Ouzo. This friendly and warm nature shows his social side, although it is not dominant compared to the stronger sense of calm and introspection. Meanwhile, Syaban as Thahir's cousin appears with a more extroverted and dominant character. He comes bringing news and clear plans for Thahir, offering a house and a new life near Paphos with full confidence, as well as bearing all travel costs and handling administrative needs firmly, taking initiative, and being pragmatic in planning the future. Besides that, Syaban also interacts with Thahir and the people around him in a friendly way, talking enthusiastically about the places they will visit, showing joy when introducing the house, garden, and experiences in his new city.

This expression of happiness and ability to build a warm atmosphere reflects a cheerful social character. Thus, the characters of Thahir and Syaban in the short story Nikosia are not figures who possess a single personality type. Meanwhile, [the theory] emphasizes the dominance or balance of the four humors as the basis for differences in individual behavior and response.

Personality Typology of Characters in the Short Story Nikosia

In this analysis, the researcher presents a discussion of data based on the short story "Nikosia" (نيكوسيا) by Saadi Youssef published in Nizwa magazine, first edition, 1994, page 110 (Youssef, 1994), and uses the Hippocrates-Galenus personality theory framework. Below is the personality typology analysis for the characters Thahir and Syaban. Personality Typology of Characters in the Short Story Nikosia

In this discussion, the personality types of the characters Thahir and Syaban in the short story Nikosia will be outlined. This analysis uses the scalpel of the Hippocrates-Galenus theory which divides personality into four types: Sanguine, Choleric, Melancholic, and Phlegmatic

Sanguine

According to Hippocrates and Galenus (in Rustam, 2016), the sanguine personality type is characterized by a spirited person, high optimism, friendly, cheerful, humorous, and very enthusiastic. Such as smiling easily, laughing openly, and adapting easily. They are sociable and like social activities, like crowds and fun things. However, their weaknesses are tending to be inconsistent, easily bored, less thorough, and less disciplined.

• Thahir

Although the character Thahir is dominantly depicted in the story as a gloomy figure, he has a Sanguine side (dominated by blood) which appears very rarely, namely a friendly nature or the ability to smile when triggered by memories of friendship. We can see this from the following textual fragment:

ابتسم طاهر. ولأول مرة تشع مسرته بعد لقائنا... قال: عادل، صديقي الحميم... كيف حاله؟ (Youssef, 1994)
"Thahir smiled. For the first time his joy radiated after our meeting... He said: 'Adil, my intimate friend... how is he?'"

Here it is found that this moment is an anomaly from Thahir's basic character. When hearing the name of his old friend ('Adil), his "blood" rushed, bringing up a smile and warmth which are the main characteristics of a sanguine. This proves that Thahir has a sanguine personality type, but it

is not the dominant type within Thahir, evidenced by the scarcity of data that can be found in this short story.

- Syaban

It is different with the character Syaban who is very dominant in the sanguine type. He is friendly, good at socializing, extroverted, likes to talk, and enjoys life (Rustam 2016). As a successful businessman, he has strong social charisma, found in this dialogue snippet:

“أنا شعبان... كيف حالك يا طاهر؟... ما رأيك أن نجلس في البار؟... كان يضحك ويقول إنه ليس نزيلًا في مستشفى (Youssef, 1994)

"I am Syaban... How are you, Tahir?... What do you think if we sit in the bar?... He laughed and said that he is not an inmate in a hospital."

It is very clear that the character Syaban is the initiator of the conversation. He greets warmly, invites for a drink, and laughs often. His outgoing (open), adaptable, and pleasure-seeking nature fits perfectly with the description of the Sanguine type dominated by the elements of "blood" and air: warm, wet, and alive. Indeed, in this short story, Syaban's character has a sanguine personality that is more dominant than other types.

Another textual example that clarifies the sanguine dominance in Syaban is:

“حين أولمْتُ له مشاويَ باذخةً في الحديقة” (Youssef, 1994)
"When I hosted a lavish barbecue for him in the garden."

Syaban expresses his care not by [just words but by] throwing a party ("lavish barbecue"). The word "ذخة" (lavish) shows his taste for sensory pleasure and crowds. A fun-loving nature.

The researcher also includes another quote as follows:

“أنا واثق من نفسي بترك طاهر. سيكون بخير... هو أيضاً أحبَّ البيت والحديقة” (Youssef, 1994)
"I am confident in myself leaving Tahir. He will be fine... He also loved the house and the garden."

Syaban's high optimism quickly concludes that Thahir "will be fine" just because Thahir started to relax. Syaban's optimism is very high; he projects his own liking for the house and garden onto Thahir. Enthusiastic and positive belief without excessive worry is a true sanguine character..

Choleric

In his typology theory, Hippocrates and Galenus (In Rustam, 2016) state that Choleric is a figure who is confident, ambitious, firm, brave, independent, and possesses leadership spirit. They like challenges, are firm, aggressive, strong-willed, proud of themselves, have a strong drive to achieve their goals, and are goal-oriented and good at motivating themselves. On the negative side, they tend to be hot-tempered, egoistic, stubborn, impatient, and less tolerant.

- Thahir

The Choleric type is dominated by yellow bile, characterized by firmness, strong will, and sometimes aggression. In Thahir, this trait is very weak (recessive). However, his decision to obey Syaban's instructions and leave immediately can be seen as remnants of firmness for survival, viewed from the following snippet in the story:

“نعم، أجبته... سأذهبُ في أولِ مارس” (Youssef, 1994)
"Yes," I answered him... 'I will go at the beginning of March.'

Although it feels so brief, the firm "Yes" answer to the messenger shows that Thahir is still capable of making decisions for his own fate. He does not hesitate or procrastinate on the offer. His

choleric side appears in the form of the courage to leave Damascus for a completely foreign place (Cyprus) to change his situation.

- Syaban

If we observe the storyline of this short story, the character Syaban is displayed as a successful businessman who arranges everything for Thahir. Syaban shows strong Choleric traits: leader, organizer, firm, and goal-oriented. Here is the data showing this from quotes in the short story:

سافرُ على الخطوط الجوية القبرصية... شعبان هو الذي يتحملُ النفقاتِ كافة... لقد رتبْتُ كل شيء (Youssef, 1994) ”
"Travel on Cyprus Airways... Syaban is the one who bears all the expenses... I have arranged everything."

Here it can be said that Syaban does not merely offer help, he organizes and gives orders ("Travel", "Board"). He controls the situation, taking care of visas, tickets, and hotels. This dominant, confident nature, and ability to organize others are the hallmarks of the Choleric type which has a strong will and great energy.

In addition, there is another quote that provides an overview that Syaban has a deep Choleric personality. Here is the data quote from the short story:

أنا الآن رجل أعمال معروف. أعمالي في الشرق الأوسط وأفريقيا. ابن عمك، شعبان، رجل ناجح (Youssef, 1994) ”
"I happen to be a well-known businessman now. My business is in the Middle East and Africa. Your cousin, Syaban, is a successful man."

The choleric side of a Syaban can be seen, who proudly defines himself through his success firmly and labels himself ("well-known businessman", "successful man") and the scope of his business territory. The need to assert dominance and material achievement is a characteristic of choleric people who have firmness, ambition, and pride in themselves.

Phlegmatic

According to Hippocrates and Galenus (In Rustam, 2016) it is explained that people who have the Phlegmatic personality type are characterized by calm, relaxed, patient, loyal, and reliable traits. They love peace and try to avoid conflict. It can be marked by the Phlegmatic nature characterized by a love for monotonous routines and a tendency to be an observer rather than an active actor. They are comfortable with patterns that repeat without turmoil. However, they have a tendency to be lazy, passive, lack motivation, and like to procrastinate work.

- Thahir

The phlegmatic type is influenced by phlegm fluid. Its main traits are calm, passive, cold, slow to react, not easily agitated, and tending to go with the flow. Thahir shows this trait through his resignation in accepting fate and instructions from others without much protest. Here is a snippet from the short story pointing to that:

لم أنطق بكلمة واحدة... أخذتُ المفتاحَ وصعدتُ إلى الغرفة... تمددتُ على السرير وأغمضتُ عيني (Youssef, 1994) ”
"I didn't utter a single word... I took the key and went up to the room... I stretched out on the bed and closed my eyes."

Thahir shows an extremely passive attitude. When receiving the letter or arriving at the hotel, he shows no surge of emotion or enthusiasm (like a Sanguine) nor rejection (like a Choleric). He chooses to be silent, isolate himself, and sleep. This "cold" attitude and withdrawal align with the phlegmatic characteristics that avoid conflict and seek tranquility.

There is also another quote that can be found to strengthen the Phlegmatic type in Thahir, which shows the Phlegmatic nature with the characteristic love for monotonous routines and the

tendency to be an observer rather than an active actor. They are comfortable with repetitive patterns without turmoil, as follows:

"كان مشوار ي اليومي: الصباح في الروضة والمساء في الكما" (Youssef, 1994)
"That was my daily journey: morning at (cafe) Ar-Raudah and evening at (cafe) Al-Kamal."

From here, the author clearly illustrates Thahir's life in Damascus running like an automatic machine. He does not seek adventure or new things, but moves in a very regular and slow pattern: from one cafe to another. The absence of ambition to change the situation and the comfort in a static routine ("morning here, evening there") are strong signs of a "cold" and passive phlegmatic personality.

- Syaban

Behind his busyness, Syaban has a Phlegmatic side, namely a love for peace and tranquility. This is seen from his reason for buying a house in Paphos and his way of enjoying holidays. Syaban's words in this story are:

"البيت نادراً ما أستخدّمه... آتي إلى الجزيرة لأقضي عطلة نهاية الأسبوع... إنه يحب البيت والحديقة والميناء القديم" (Youssef, 1994)

"I rarely use the house... Sometimes I come to the island to spend the weekend... He also loves the house, the garden, and the old port."

Syaban's ability to enjoy "silence" at his vacation home, his love for the garden, and the quiet atmosphere of the old port show a Phlegmatic side. He seeks balance from his busy business life with peaceful and un-turbulent relaxing moments.

Melancholic

Hippocrates and Galenus argue (In Rustam, 2016) that someone with a Melancholic personality is one who has a character that is quiet, shy, sensitive, serious, thorough, and perfectionist. They like to be alone and think deeply. This type always feels alienated, has a great longing for memories. Their weaknesses are tending to be pessimistic, easily feeling sad, difficult to socialize, often overthinking, having feelings of loss or being lost, and finding it hard to move on.

- Thahir

The melancholic type is dominated by black bile fluid. This individual tends to be pessimistic, gloomy, quiet, sensitive, often stuck in the past (Musek, 2024), and finds it difficult to forget sadness. In the short story Nikosia, Thahir is depicted as a figure drowning in deep sadness, found in the following text:

"كان وجهه وجه من يهوي ببطء في هوة الحزن المظلمة" (Youssef, 1994)
"...His face was the face of one falling slowly into the abyss of dark sadness."

It appears very clearly that Thahir's physical description and expression captured by the observer (narrator/Syaban) show strong melancholic characteristics. He is not merely sad, but "falling into an abyss", indicating depression or deep existential sadness.

Because a Thahir has a Melancholic side that is more dominant than other types, Melancholic people often feel emotionally alienated, even when among other people. They have a complicated inner world and often feel "different" or unconnected to their surroundings. There is a textual quote that leads to this validation, as follows:

"أنا مشغول بأفكار تقف كالجدار الفاصل بيننا... أفكاري لي. لا أتحدث عنها، لكني مسكون بها" (Youssef, 1994)
"I am busy with thoughts that stand like a dividing wall between us... My thoughts are mine. I don't talk about them, but I am haunted by them."

It is explicitly stated how a Thahir describes acute mental isolation. Although he lives with three other good people in the Barzah lodging, he builds psychological "walls". The closed nature (introvert), feeling haunted by his own thoughts, and inability to share feelings are classic characteristics of a melancholic who suffers in silence and harbors his inner burden himself.

And here is one more quote that strengthens the researcher's argument about Thahir having melancholic dominance within him. The melancholic type is very sensitive to atmosphere and memories. Thahir carries the burden of his past city (Damascus) to a new place, but with a saddening feeling of lost connection. As follows:

"دمشق ما تزال معي، غير أنني لستُ مشدوداً إليها... أنا هنا، مع المقارنات" (Youssef, 1994)
"Damascus is still with me, except that I am not tethered to it... I am here, with a number of comparisons."

It depicts Thahir's attitude of constantly comparing his new place (Nicosia) with the old place (Damascus), showing that he has not been able to move on. His soul is held back in the past. However, tragically, he feels "not tethered" anymore. This feeling of being rootless and poetic sadness is a manifestation of black melancholic dominance which creates a gloomy and philosophical mood.

- Syaban

Although successful and cheerful, Syaban has a hidden Melancholic side, namely a deep longing (nostalgia) for family and the past in his hometown, which motivates his actions to help Thahir. Here is the quote contained in this short story:

"أنا مشتاقٌ إليك... أتذكرُ طفولتنا، البساتين والسواقي في البصرة البعيدة" (Youssef, 1994)
"I miss you... I remember our childhood, the orchards and the streams in distant Basra."

Syaban's action of looking for Thahir is based on past emotional sentiments (longing). He remembers details of childhood in distant Basra. Sensitivity to memory and emotional attachment to "roots" (family/homeland) are melancholic traits. Although he appears to move forward (business), there is a part of his soul that is melancholic, longing for a past that has been lost.

CONCLUSION

This study reveals that the characters Thahir and Syaban in the short story Nikosia reflect four personality types, namely melancholic, phlegmatic, sanguine, and choleric. The character Thahir shows the dominance of melancholic traits through alienation and deep sadness, as well as phlegmatic traits through resignation and silence. Conversely, the character Syaban radiates sanguine traits through a warm attitude and good social skills, as well as choleric traits through his firmness in making decisions and managing situations.

This contradictory personality typology becomes the basis for the interaction dynamics of the two characters in responding to the theme of exile in the story. These findings prove that the difference in characters' emotional responses does not happen by chance, but is influenced by their respective personality dispositions. Furthermore, of all these typologies, the melancholic personality appears more dominant in Thahir who is the center of the narrative, in contrast to Syaban who is dominated by sanguine.

Thus, literature and psychology provide important contributions in expanding the understanding of the complexity of the human soul amidst alienation. This conclusion confirms that literary works are an effective means to explore, understand, and reflect on human behavior through various perspectives and inner dimensions.

Through the Hippocrates–Galenus Literary Psychology analysis on the short story Nikosia, this research successfully reveals the personality types that form the characters and conflicts of the figures in depth. This research is expected to be a foundation for further, more in-depth and critical studies. The short story Nikosia as a diasporic literary work is still relevant to be researched by applying various other theoretical approaches, one of which is the sociology of literature which

can dissect the individual's relationship with a foreign social environment. In addition, this short story also opens opportunities to be analyzed using semiotic theory, such as Roland Barthes', which can reveal the symbolic meaning behind metaphorical objects like urns and the sea in the storyline.

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