

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the background, the statement of problem, research objective, research significance and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background

Literature is usually known as human's imaginative and creative activities. As Luxemburg (1992: 5) says that literature is a creation of human thinking and it is not an imitation. Therefore, sometimes literature is made by the author through the phenomenon of society life, for example in terms of psychological. This problem has relation with human's behavior in their lives. One of the areas in the study of psychology is psychoanalysis.

Psychoanalysis is one of the scientific discipline is developed by Sigmund Freud. It has relation with mental functioning and development in a man (Brenner in Minderop, 2010:11). Moreover, Psychoanalysis refers to conflicts of personality structure that appear from the combination of id, ego and superego. According to Clark as quoted by Minderop (2010:24), he explains that the id shows the true purposes of the individual organism's life to satisfy himself. Meanwhile, Ego takes the decisions to consider in fulfilling every expectation. And the last is the Super-ego refers to control human's desire or satisfaction. In this case, literature that contains a psychological phenomenon, the psychological aspects appear through the character that is constructed in the story. There is some literature that refers to the theory psychoanalysis, such as poetry, drama, short stories, novels, etc.

Wellek and Warren (2013: 255) states that the novel is considered as a document of historical case, a story of real events, and the history of a human's life. Minderop (2010: 78) states that the novel as a literary form is a reflection of the reality that happen and the actors

is considered as the characters. So in this case, it can be concluded that the novel is a reflection of a society that is created by the author through the conflicts that is experienced by the actors.

One of the novel is *If I Stay* written by Gayle Forman. Forman is known as a writer of novels in America that has Young Adult (adolescent) genre. Forman's novel can be regarded as a successful novel because it gets amazing achievement. It has won NAIBA Book of the Year Awards in 2009 and Indie Choice Honor Award winner in 2010.

This novel tells a main character that makes the story becomes interesting to read, her names is Mia Hall. She is 17 years old who has been involved in a tragic car accident. She has a personality disorder and mental serious when she realizes about her existence in different world. Therefore, she can see her own body in a coma in hospital. Mia's psychology is disturbed by the questions that appears in her minds that is "If I stay?". The situation is trapped between two worlds that is the world of people who are still alive and they who have died. It becomes the obstruction to Mia to get the happiness of life with the people that she loves, those are her father, mother, sister, best friend and her boyfriend is Adam.

The reason of the writer chooses this novel because it is one of the novels that contain the psychology through the characters, especially to the main characters. Therefore, the writer intends to analyze the psychology of the main character through her personality which is described by Forman in *If I Stay* novel.

To prove the originality of this study, the writer wants to present previous researches which have relation with the variety of the research of psychoanalysis. For the first one related to this research was done by Utari (2007). She discussed *A Psychological Analysis on the Main Character of Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe*. It is about the main character's personality and described the main character's personality viewed from Karen Horney's theory.

The second one was done by Aina (2008). She discussed *The Analysis of The Psychological Factors that Influence the Main Character in Danielle Steel's Novel "Accident"*. She analyzed the psychological factors that influence Page Clarke's character in her life. Then, she described a relationship between individual attitude of the main character with the psychological condition and a relationship between the environment or social life with the psychological condition of the main character.

The third one was done by Napitululu (2009). She discussed *An Analysis of The Main Character's Conflicts in Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel "The Scarlet Letter"*. It is about the main character's inner conflict and outer conflict portrayed in Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel *The Scarlet Letter*.

And the fourth one was done by Nisak (2014). He discussed *The Role of The Main Character's Psychological Conflicts to The Theme Seen in Ahmad Faudi's The Land of Five Towers*. He analyzed the psychological conflicts are experienced by Alif as the main character in *The Land of Five Towers* novel, then explained psychological conflict happen to Alif which is analyzed based on the basic principle of Freud's Psychoanalysis theory and then he identified the messages of the novel contained in psychological conflicts.

This study is similar to the previous research as to describe the and psychological conflicts. However, this research is different from the data that is in *If I stay* novel. Moreover, this research focuses on the main character's personality the factors influence her personality. Thus, based on the reason above the writer decided to choose the title **A Psychological Analysis on the Main Character in *If I Stay* by Gayle Forman.**

1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the background of problem should be formulated with the research questions as follows:

1. How is the psychology of the main character through her personality in *If I Stay* novel?
2. What factor influences the personality of the main character in *If I Stay* novel?

1.3 Research Objective

Based on the statement of problem above, the purposes of the research are:

1. To find out the psychology of the main character through her personality in *If I Stay* novel
2. To investigate factor influences the personality of the main character in *If I Stay* novel.

1.4 Research Significance

Theoretically, this research is expected to enrich the literary understanding in terms of psychoanalysis aspect. Practically, this research is expected to additional references for the readers or the other researcher in comprehending the content of novel that contains the psychoanalysis.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding in the term is used in this research, the writer clarifies the key terms as follows :

- a. Psychoanalysis is one of the scientific disciplines that are developed by Freud in the form of literary criticism for comprehending mental functioning and development in a man (Brenner in Minderop, 2010:11).
- b. Personality focuses on the characteristic patterns of behavior and ways of thinking that determine a person's adjustment to his environment (Hilgard in Minderop, 2010:4).

- c. Characters are the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it in the dialogue and from what they do in the action (Abrams, 1999: 32-33).
- d. The main character is kind of character, which often shows up repeatedly as if it dominates every parts of the event in the novel.





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