

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

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

### 1.1 Background of Research

Literary works is an expression of the mental of an author in which it described in the character through imagination process. Unconsciously, the psychological author includes his motifs implied by characterization in literary works. Novel is one genre of literary works in which the author tries to express his feeling. Though with an implicit and conventional emphasis on the 'reality' of a person and the 'fictionality' of a character. The word 'person', then, is bound up with questions of fictionality, disguise, representation and mask. In this respect, the notion of person is inseparable from the literary. 'Character' means both a letter or sign, a mark of writing, and the 'essential' qualities of a 'person' (Bennett and Royle 63). The researcher focuses on Hester Prynne in *The Scarlet Letter* and Sukartono in *Belunggu*. Hester Prynne and Sukartono are the main character in both novel. These characters are not the real creatures but they fictional character and imagination of human beings who have parallels with people.

Process of literary works is the result of the repression and problems in the subconscious released through the literary works. According to Abrams (247), psychological criticism deals with a work of literature primarily as an expression,

in fictional form, of the state of mind and the structure of personality of the individual author. In the human mind there are id, ego and superego that control the balance of human desire. The id declares its desires. The ego tries to see what it can do to please the id, but practical choices are restricted by superego. The ego simultaneously tries to persuade the id to accept the world's limitations and tries to convince the superego to comply with the id's wishes. In social terms, Freud states that the id is quite amoral, the ego tries to be moral, and the superego can be hyper-moral and cruel (in Muckenhoupt 125).

The conflict between id and superego insists that the ego activate defense mechanisms to protect against anxiety such as repression. Repression is the operation by which the subject repels and keeps at a distance from consciousness representations (thoughts, images, memories) that are disagreeable because they are incompatible with the ego. The subject repels consciousness that is unpleasant because they are incompatible with the ego (reality). The unconscious excitations may release affect of a kind which (as a result of the repression which already occurred) can only be experienced as unpleasure, as anxiety (Freud 580).

Inner conflict is the character struggles with emotional of mental obstacles within him or her because of moral and dilemma. According to Petocz (236), inner conflict does not necessarily consist simply in having a desire that one wishes one did not have, but having a desire on the one hand and experiencing guilt and anxiety on the other. In *The Scarlet Letter*, Hester Prynne lives in anxiety because of sin that she has done. She is always bothered by guilty and disrupt her mental. The scarlet letter is a symbol of her own experiences and her

characters. She assumes that her past sin is part of her and she cannot deny part of herself. She has committed adultery and had a child named Pearl. Pearl are the symbol of Hester's shame but her greatest treasure. Pearl is her punishment to remind of her transgression. Society helps ensure human survival, but only at the cost of forcing individuals to betray their instincts. Guilt is an expression of anxiety created by this compromise. Civilization ensures that humans will always be discontented (Muckenhaupt 138).

In another character, Sukartono in the *Belunggu* has a beautiful wife of which every man adores her wife. Sukartono life began incompatible with his desire because Sumartini does not care about Sukartono. The inner conflict arises when falling in love with Rohayah, Sukartono start feeling indecision and guilty because he cheated on his wife. The similarity that anxiety is controlled by a fear of punishment that will result from expressing the id desires without sublimation. Anxiety is used in connection with a condition regardless of any objective, while fear is essentially directed toward an object (Freud 345).

Anxiety is an unpleasurable affect in which the individual experiences a feeling of danger whose cause is unconscious. Stevenson states that, a repressed urge of the id, though it may be in the unconscious, still affects the actions and thoughts of the individual. Indeed, conflicting urges or painful memories thus repressed have the potential to cause great anxiety, though the individual will not understand what causes it (para. 3). A character who suffers inner conflicts cannot separate from anxiety. According to Tyson (16), anxiety can be an important experience because it can reveal our *core issues*. There are core issues and their

relationship to anxiety; fear of intimacy—the chronic and overpowering feeling that emotional closeness will seriously hurt or destroy us and that we can remain emotionally safe only by remaining at an emotional distance from others at all times, fear of abandonment—the unshakable belief that our friends and loved ones are going to desert us (physical abandonment) or don't really care about us (emotional abandonment), fear of betrayal—the nagging feeling that our friends and loved ones can't be trusted and low self-esteem—the belief that we are less worthy than other people and, therefore, don't deserve attention, love, or any other life's rewards.

This research is not the only one that analyzes about character in *The Scarlet Letter* but also there is previous research that had explained character in *The Scarlet Letter* such as *Women in Conflicts as Potrayed in Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter" and Kate Chopin's "The Awakening"* written by Khadroh from State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta. The previous research studies explain about inner conflict and external conflict. She only focused on woman in conflict. Therefore, the researcher does not only focus on inner conflict of woman but also inner conflict of man.

Thus, the researcher focused on analyzing portrayal of inner conflicts Hester Prynne in *The Scarlet Letter* and Sukartono in *Belenggu*. Moreover, the researcher analyzes the similarities and differences that cause the inner conflicts. Furthermore, the researcher uses Freud psychoanalytic related to *Id*, *Ego* and *Superego* to analyze the portrayal of inner conflicts, similarities and differences in *The Scarlet Letter* and *Belenggu* novel.

## 1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the description above, the problem which appears is how the Hester Prynne in *The Scarlet Letter* and Sukartono in *Belenggu* have the similarities and differences about inner conflicts. Therefore, the researcher formulates the problems into research questions below:

- a. How are inner conflicts portrayed in *The Scarlet Letter* and *Belenggu*?
- b. What are the similarities the cause of inner conflicts Hester Prynne in *The Scarlet Letter* and Sukartono in *Belenggu*?
- c. What are the differences the cause of inner conflicts Hester Prynne in *The Scarlet Letter* and Sukartono in *Belenggu*?

## 1.3 Research Objective

According to research questions above, the objectives of the research are:

- a. To reveal the portrayal of inner conflicts in *The Scarlet Letter* and *Belenggu*.
- b. To find out the similarities the cause of inner conflicts Hester Prynne in *The Scarlet Letter* and Sukartono in *Belenggu*.
- c. To identify the differences the cause of inner conflicts Hester Prynne in *The Scarlet Letter* and Sukartono in *Belenggu*.

#### 1.4 Research Significance

Academically, the results of this research are:

- a. To develop the understanding about *The Scarlet Letter* and *Belenggu* in the study of literature.
- b. To be the reference for those interesting in literature especially in Comparative Literature.

Practically, the research is expected to be a source of information about mental illness and to know differences and similarities the cause of the inner conflicts in the literary work especially for English Department students.

#### 1.5 Definiton of Key Terms

In order to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation of words in this research, the researcher explains essential terms which are related to this research, they are:

- a. Anxiety

Anxiety in this research is mean an unpleasurable affect in which the individual experiences a feeling of danger whose cause is unconscious (Mijolla 99).

- b. Comparative Literature

Comparative literature is the study of texts across cultures, that it is interdisciplinary and that it is concerned with patterns of connection in literatures across both time and space (Bassnett 1).

c. Inner Conflict

Inner conflict in this research is having a desire that one wishes one did not have, but having a desire on the one hand and experiencing guilt and anxiety on the other (Petocz 236).

d. Pleasure Principle

The pleasure principle is thus also the “desire principle”: The psychic apparatus can do nothing else but desire (Mijolla 1290).

e. Repression

Repression is the process by which unacceptable impulses, ideas, memories and emotions, products of the conflict between the pleasure principle and the reality principle, are forced into the unconscious. There they remain active, influencing action and experience, without themselves returning to consciousness (Rennison 89).

f. The Unconscious

The unconscious is the storehouse of those painful experiences and emotions, those wounds, fears, guilty desires, and unresolved conflicts we do not know about because we feel we will be overwhelmed by them (Tyson 12).