

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of general description of the paper. Those are background of research, research question, research objective, research significance, and definition of key terms as a part of introduction in this chapter.

1.1 Background of Research

At first as creature who realize their lacks—not only find it difficult to adapt to nature and conquer nature, but also they always find it difficult to understand the nature of themselves—human beings always strive to learn and understand themselves, nature and social life. Harjo (1988:3) said that human beings are emotional and rational creatures. As rational creature, they live without being separated from the questioning activity. With that potential, they want to understand the nature of themselves, nature and social environment. Thus, understanding the life through the questioning activity allows human beings to continue to seek the solutions for the problems they always face and be able to gain all their needs.

Further, Astrid (in Susanto, 1999:172) said that human beings adapt to the environment on the basis of human desire for a better life. The aim is reached through social movements. Based on explanation before, it can be seen that the questioning activity also leads them to communicate each other as their effort in adapting to environments and seek the solutions, until finally getting their needs through social movements. Besides the social movement as manifestation of questioning activity also represents the identity and behavior of the people involved in it—especially their characters or personality.

Human beings are actually directed to discover new things through the social movements, one of which is to live with mutual understanding. It helps them to understand the nature of themselves, each other's personality or social life by doing the communicating activity and gives the way for the better life. Thus,

learning about a mode of life together or social movements that contains aspect of human beings personality is the same as understanding the life.

The term personality is closely related to an individual's characteristic features or unique character, from which emerges an identity as a specific individual and it becomes the determinants for behavior. Allport (in Alex Sobur, 2009:300) explained that based on the dynamic organization contained in them, human beings have unique dimensions or personality, and behave on the basis of adaptation to their environment so as to form a certain mode of life. In this context, the questioning and communicating activity are affected by the dynamic organization within human beings itself. Further, the personality of each human beings is different according to their respective characteristics that arise due to the dynamic organization in them. Thus, the personality is as the director for human behavior as well as the source of the formation of the identity and mode of life of each human beings.

Based on explanation before that the mode of life is a manifestation of human personality or dynamic organization. A person's personality can be understood by paying attention to its actions or behaviors, in this case its mode of life. Astrid (in Susanto, 1999:3) said that the benefits of understanding other's life can make a person more tolerant of each other, because he can understand the causes, attitudes and actions of each. Thus, understanding various mode of life that represent the personality of others is the solutions for human beings to deal with their lacks and achieve the better life. And at that moment, it is not only can be a way for human beings to understand themselves and social life, but also give the solutions in solving the problems they face and get all their needs.

The various mode of life also illustrate the diversity of human personality. A specific way to understand it is by rereading the experience. One can understand an individual's character or personality by tracing his life experience. The experience of human life that full of personality aspect sometimes manifested into various forms, but it is often lead to written form or records of life history, which explains the mechanism in life as a product of applying certain mode of life.

Today, form of writing which considered to contain the illustration of human experience and human personality is literary works. This is evidenced by the element contained in literary works, namely element of character or characterizations that contains the representation of personality of human beings.

The world of literary works, which are usually contained in prose, can live by the existence of character and characterizations. That way, the effort to read a literary work can gain knowledge about certain life experiences and human personalities. In line with Nyoman's opinion (2013:342) that the nature of literary works presents an understanding of people's life (human beings) indirectly. By understanding the characters in literary works, we are compelled to understand the changes, contradictions and social processes that occur in society, especially those related to psyche or personality.

By understanding the experience of themselves and others through the reading of literary works, especially those in the same area or other regions, human beings can learn and understand while develop their standard of living. As is evident in today's phenomena, by reading literary works, some people who live in certain areas try to live the life of another people in certain areas. Because the differences in the conditions of the area that produce different experiences for each individual and can encourage mutual understanding. One can live a picture of life contained in literature.

Based on the explanation above, it can be understood that each human beings must face a reality that is not the same. For example, the reality of the city and village people is quite different so that their respective lives and experiences are also different. Each of the realities of human life is different based on time and place. Every human life, especially its culture, has its own characteristics. That is caused by his efforts in solving problems in his environment and maintaining his survival in accordance with the conditions which according to his experience are the best (Susanto, 1999:3-123). Based on the different experiences that contain each uniqueness, then encourage one individual to understand other individuals who are considered unique or even important for the development of life. It happened because someone thought that he could have experienced a similar event as

experienced by people who understood. So naturally, urban want to understand the character and life of villagers, and vice versa.

The fact that each human being's personality and behavior are truly unique can be seen in literary works as a manifestation of their activities in living everyday life. Seeing the phenomenon of urban who live in a fast-paced reality because it relies on the slogan "time is money", will bring up behavior that is very different from what is done by villagers. As Mc Iver-Page (in Susanto, 1999:136) said that the difference between the life of the villagers and the urban lies in the situation, that the urban live in a semi-isolated state, unlike the villagers who live fully in society. Thus, urban are often surprised to see or read stories about the life of villagers, and often they take lessons from there to improve their life.

Departing from the explanation above about efforts to understand the personality that represented in behavior of human beings which is done through reading on its manifestations, namely literary works. In this case, the writer found a literary work, a novel entitled "*To A God Unknown*" by John Steinbeck. It contains a description of people's mode of life as the representation of human personality who live in village. What is depicted in the novel encourages us, as human beings who live in the urban world, to be able to appreciate how efforts to develop the better life.

The writer considers that the characters on the novel have a unique mode of life and personality as described through their behaviors in the works. The uniqueness drives endless questions, in an effort to understand self, nature and social life. As an effort to fulfill themselves to be better within the inherent limitations.

The efforts to understand the character by seeing its behavior in literary works is in harmony with one of the theories in the analysis of literary works, namely psychology of literature. Nyoman (2013:343) explained that basically literary psychology focuses on conversation in relation to the mental elements of the fictional characters contained in the work. Literary works include various aspects of human life through words. In general, aspects of humanity became the main object of literary psychology, because literary works transplanted figures who

were investments in human psyche. Semi (2012: 96) added that this approach is an approach that starts from the assumption that literary works always discuss the events of human life. Humans always show a variety of behaviors. Furthermore, in the analysis, generally the objects are the main character, the second character, the third character and so on.

At first the theory was formed on the application of Freud's concept of the nature of human unconsciousness to literary works. In fact, Freud created a new concept as an alternative to the old psychological approach, which is what is often referred to as psychoanalytic. As said by Eagleton (2010:219) that the field of knowledge is known as psychoanalysis which was developed by Sigmund Freud in Vienna in the late nineteenth century. And to date the most dominant psychological theory in the analysis of literary works is Freud's theory that distinguishes personality into three types or systems, namely: *Id*, *Ego* and *Supergo* (Nyoman, 2013:344). Human personality is formed by the personality dynamics that occur within it because of the spread of energy from the three systems that influence each other. Personality dynamics is the process of how the energy distributed to three systems *Id*, *Ego* and *Superego* and a human being's behavior is determined by its dynamics (Calvin, 2017:81). These three systems are the main factor for the process of personality dynamics to then shape the human personality and drive its behavior.

Besides that there is a theory in one of his writings on psychoanalysis as a dynamic conception according to which human spiritual life works based on the interrelationships of forces that drive and suppress each other. Within man there are driving forces called *cathexis* and suppressing forces called *anti-cathexis* (Calvin, 2017:81). In conclusion, human personality, which is primarily centered on the inner world, is determined by how the forces work and influence each other. These forces are the source of the dynamics of the human personality.

According to Freud based on his psychoanalysis, the three systems that make human's personality dynamics happens and affects their behavior working based on the role of life and death instinct which are actually natural within the human itself. However, the life and death instinct are the main basis for the process of personality dynamics, because actually the three systems work according to the

direction of those instincts. There are two types of instincts, namely *Eros* (instincts of life to maintain the survival of individuals/species) and *Tanatos* (instincts of death, impulses to destroy that exist in human beings and expressed in fights, killing, war, sadism and so on) (Alex, 2009:114).

Thus, it is clear that the discussion related to the life and death instinct is in psychoanalysis in relation to literary works, or psychology of literature. Finally, the application of psychoanalytic theory to literary works by using the concept of life and death instincts in understanding its characters and personality is useful and appropriate in order to develop our life for the better. And based on its strengths, the theory can help uncover the effects of life and death instinct as a determinant that driving behavior and forming character traits or human personality.

Based on the discussion above, there are four studies relating to the theme that the author discuss. They contain some information that will support this research specifically regarding life and death instincts. The first, conducted by Nana Juliana in 2016. The title of the study is *Analysis of The Theory of Life and Death Instinct To Naoko Character in Noruwei No Mori Novel by Murakami Haruki*. The purpose of this study was to analyze Naoko character in Murakami Haruki's novel *Noruwei No Mori*. This study was using the theory of the life instinct and the death instinct of Sigmund Freud. The result shows that Naoko contains elements of life and death instincts which then directs his behavior so that it makes him suddenly disappear and is known to suffer from mental disorders and must stay in a psychiatric hostel.

The second, conducted by Murdiningsih in 2010. The title of the study is *The Instinct and Reaction of Main Character in The Novel of Mukjizat Cinta by Muhammad Masykur A.R Said*. The purpose of this study was to reveal more dominant instincts influencing the character in acting and to reveal the reaction of the main character in overcoming the problem in the novel *Mukjizat Cinta* by Muhammad Masykur A. R. Said. This study was using textual approach that examines aspects of the psychology of the main characters in literary works and also as a tool to examine the instincts and reactions of the main characters in overcoming the problems experienced by the main character. The result shows that

Afdhal character is described as having the instincts of life that are proven that he has the desire to get married, give thanks, the desire to eat, have love, be helpful, be obedient to worship and admire women. While the death instinct shown by the character Adhal is inferior, has a sense of hatred, tortures his own mind.

The third, conducted by Fadlillah in 2018. The title of the study is *Analysis of Yandere Behavior of Sumikawa Sayuri Character in Akiyoshi Rikako's novel Ankoku Joshi with The Concept of Death Instinct from Sigmund Freud*. The purpose of this study was to analyze Yandere's behavior of Sayuri character in *Ankoku Joshi*. This study was using psychology of personality approach and analyze the behavior of Sayuri's character by using the concept of death instinct from Sigmund Freud. The result shows that Sayuri's behavior change is a form to fulfill his death instinct.

The fourth, conducted by Dewi in 2000. The title of the study is *The Influence of The Setting to The Characters and The Characters' Transformation in John Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath*. The purpose of this study was to analyze the setting, explore the traits of each characters for revealing the influence of the setting, and prove that the setting influences the characters and the characters' transformation. This study was using an objective approach based on Abrams theories of traditional critical approaches to literary study and analyze the intrinsic elements, the setting and the character of *The Grapes of Wrath*. The result shows that Oklahoma with its agricultural catastrophe and California with its promised land bring a certain effect to the people who live in it.

Based on what has been explained above, it is concluded that previous studies have different research objectives with this research. This research aims both to investigate how the life and death instincts affect the personality dynamics of Joseph Wayne (as main character), Burton, Rama, Juanito, Elizabeth, Father Angelo, Old Man and Thomas and what their impact is on those characters. The writer found the number of citations from each character such as Joseph; 48 citations, Burton; 9 citations, Rama; 3 citations, Juanito; 5 citations, Elizabeth; 18 citations, Father Angelo; 2 citations, Old Man; 1 citation and Thomas; 7 citations. While Nana's research (2016) only focuses on how life and death instincts direct

the behavior of the main character, Murdiningsih (2010) only focuses on the impact caused by instincts on the main character in solving problems, Fadlillah (2018) only focuses on the concept of death instincts as the main factor directing the character's behavior and Dewi (2000) focuses on a work with the same plot but different in terms of characters and settings.

This research uses Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory which is more specific about the concept of life and death instinct as the main determinant of the human beings personality dynamics and behaviors. In addition, this research also uses the theory of three systems as a basis for determining human behavior, namely *Id*, *Ego* and *Superego*. So, in connection with the reasons above, the writer decides to choose title *The Role of Life and Death Instinct toward the Characters of John Steinbeck's To A God Unknown*.

1.2 Statement of Problem

The characters on the novel *To a God Unknown* which having the problem of psyche are Joseph Wayne (as main character), Burton, Rama, Juanito, Elizabeth, Father Angelo, Old Man and Thomas. Gradually, they act based on life and death instincts due to their personality dynamics. As seen in how they maintain the life and release desires through any manners such as impulses to do something, suicide, intercourse, etc.

In response to this problem, the research proposes to investigate how the process of characters's personality dynamics and what effects of the life and death instincts towards those characters. To guide this research, the writer formulates the problem into two questions are as follows:

- a. How do the life and death instincts of characters affect their personality dynamics?
- b. What is the effect of life and death instincts towards those characters?

1.3 Research Objective

The objectives of this research are as follows:

- a. Elaborating the role of life and death instincts on the personality dynamics of the characters on the novel.
- b. Describing the effect of life and death instincts towards those characters.

1.4 Research Significance

The results of this research are expected to be able to contribute to the reader both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research is useful as a reference for the study of literature and further scientific research in the field of English Literature, especially in research on psychoanalysis. In addition, the results of this research are also expected to be able to increase the popularity of psychoanalytic studies related to literary works, especially in English Literature Department in State Islamic University of Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung.

Practically, there are three contributions. The first is for literary enthusiasts and observers. The results of this research are expected to provide input of ideas and thoughts in raising awareness of critical thinking about the life and death instincts. The second is for the English Literature Department in Faculty of Adab and Humanities at State Islamic University of Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. The results of this research are able to be further learning material about research using the theory of psychoanalysis of characters in literary works. The third is for urban and rural communities. The results of this research are expected to be useful for the public who are seeking knowledge about the mode of life of each field of work to improve life for the better.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

In order to give the reader a comprehension and avoid misunderstanding of the terms in this research, the researcher presents several definitions of key terms as follows:

- 1. Mode of Life:** Mode of life is a product of reason or mind which used by human beings to develop a better life. They have double dimensional mode of life such as material and spiritual life due to that reason or mind. By attempting to create new things, they are in hoped condition to

experience the comfortable life or happiness of physical life based on that product (Djoko, 2008: 29)

2. **Character or Personality:** The term personality is closely related to an individual's characteristic features or unique character, from which emerges an identity as a specific individual and becomes a factor for behavior. Allport (in Alex Sobur, 2009:300) explains that based on the dynamic organization contained in them, human beings have their unique dimensions, and behave on the basis of adaptation to their environment so as to form a certain mode of life.
3. **Psychoanalysis:** Psychoanalysis is an analytical technique created by Sigmund Freud based on the development of psychological theory. The core idea of this technique is the belief that everyone has feelings, thoughts, desires and unconscious memories. This is a form of literary criticism by applying literary interpretation techniques using psychoanalytic theory (Barry, 2002:96).
4. **Life and Death Instincts:** The way of human life is rooted in the instincts that are at the center of life. Then Freud came to the conclusion that the source of human behavior had two important aspects called the instincts of life and the instincts of death (Sumadi, 1983:156).
5. **Personality Dynamics:** Personality dynamics is the process of how the energy distributed to three systems *Id, Ego and Superego* and a human being's behavior is determined by its dynamics (Calvin, 2017:81).