

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Teenagers often find that adolescence period is really difficult to deal with. As teenagers, the sense of identity becomes one of the most important thing to achieve. When one is able to identify themselves, they would then be able to seize self-actualization. According to Ekowarni, during the adolescent period, teenagers have to face complex developmental challenges. They are going to need every help from their family and closest friends to deal with these developmental challenges, otherwise they might develop maladaptive responses (Ekowarni 1993). Maladaptive responses or behaviours, are behaviours that interfere with everyday activities (Brad Hill – Adaptive and Maladaptive Behavior Scales – Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Community Resource Center - come-over.to/FAS/VinelandCompare.htm). This kind of behaviour prevent one to be able to cope well with their problem, and they would not be able to focus well on their daily activities as well. As a result of this, one cannot figure out their identity because they are still confused with the problems they are facing.

Not rarely, these maladaptive behaviours go too far. A lot teenagers get themselves involved in shameful and undecent actions, some even start doing crimes. There are two examples of teenage crime are the case that happened in 4'th of June 2014, where a college student named Aditya was beaten to death by some teenagers that were doing wild-racing using motorbike, and the other one is

the case that happened in 14th of May, where Kriss -a 17 years old teenage boy- got drunk and raped a 6th years old girl and throw her to an ocean after.

In order to stop those things from happening again in the future, society needs to increase their attention and awareness to adolescents' development. Family, especially parents, have a big role in helping their teenage daughters and son pass the adolescent period well. However, it turns out that that is not an easy task to do since peers also become one important factor.

“These students search for role models and are greatly influenced by what their peers have to say about all aspects of life” (Anna Freud quoted in Gillani 105)

Teenagers tend to listen and trust their peers more than they trust their own parents, then parents should control with whom their teenage daughters and sons are being friends with. It is hoped that parents' control would help the teenagers filter what behaviours are good and what behaviours are bad and unacceptable in the society. Without the help of the closest and beloved ones, this process would be a really difficult phase for teenagers. They also tend to be more depressed and anxious.

Anxiety is a feeling of being very worried about something (Cherry). Actually, anxiety functions by human's unconscious mind to deal with their fear or anger. However, anxiety that occurs without any support from family, friends or professional helpers would lead into anxiety disorder, where the person fails to cope with his or her's fear or anger. When a person is suffering from anxiety disorder, his or her personality would change. They might experiencing regressive

personality and negative expectations of future (Balaban 62). To deal with this kind of problem, psychoanalysis is needed so that the person can cope with their anxiety disorder.

In its development, psychoanalysis also takes an important role in literature since the composition in a literary work cannot be separated from psychological aspects. Thomas stated that the relationship between literature and psychology is that both of sciences are from the same branches that are humanity sciences (Thomas 9). There are a lot of essays, journals and theses that analyse about psychological issues in literary works so it means that all psychological problems which relate to human life can be found inside literary works.

This phenomenon has been portrayed in literature since literature is a reflection of what happens in reality. One example of a literary work that contains a lot of psychological issues in its story is a novel entitled *Waltz Into Darkness* written by William Irish. Irish was famous for writing crime, mystery and dark-noir themed novels where the characters usually undergo strong psychological issues. Actually, William Irish was one of few pen names of Cornell Woolrich, who had published a lot of noir novels under his own name and also under his pen names. Woolrich had gained huge acknowledgement for his works. He is especially famous for his talent in creating dark, suspense and thrilling stories. Literary critics agreed that Woolrich was able to portray human's darkest psyche in his novels. He had won many Edgar Allan Poe's award for his works. Edgar Allen Poe award is an award dedicated to noir-themed literary works. Moreover,

many of Woolrich's novels have been made into major movies and TV series, including *Waltz into Darkness* that will be analysed in this thesis.

Waltz into Darkness is a dark-noir themed novel that tells a story about a man named Louis Durand, who married to a woman named Julia Russel, whom can be said as a stranger to him since they had never met each other before the marriage. Louis was introduced to Julia by a matchmaker service that he saw on a newspaper. Louis was a practical businessman, thus he did not believe in love. He just wanted to marry Julia because he was getting older and he would like a wife that could give him children to take care of him when he got old and also to take care of his business. But when Louis looked into Julia's face for the first time, he automatically fell in love with her exquisite beauty. The marriage then took place immediately after they met. Louis did everything he could to keep her happy including gave her full and unlimited access to both of his accounts.

One day, Louis got home only to find that his wife had run away, carrying all of his money with her. Soon Louis also discovered that his wife was not the real Julia Russel, her real name was Bonnie Castle. The real Julia Russel had gone missing and the police had been looking for her. It came to Louis' mind that his wife had seduced him in order to get his money. It also turns out that Louis was not the first and the only person Bonnie had been deceived, in fact, Bonnie made her living by deceiving people. As the story continues, the readers are given Bonnie's dark childhood experience. During her childhood and adolescence period, Bonnie had gone several traumatic events that made her act the way she did: doing crime and having no guilty feeling about it.

Actually, the reason why the writer is interested in analysing this novel is because of its rich plot and characterizations. The conflicts built within the plot makes the story more exciting so that the reader would be engaged to the novel until they are finish reading it. Moreover, each character has complex characterization. There is no character that is a hundred percent protagonist or antagonist in this novel. Every character is portrayed as a normal human being who can do good and bad things altogether. Also, psychoanalysis issues are very strong in *Waltz into Darkness*. Psychoanalysis takes an important role in literature since the composition in a literary work cannot be separated from psychological aspects. Thomas stated that the relationship between literature and psychology is that both of sains are from the same branches that are humanity sains (Thomas 10).

In *Waltz into Darkness*, every major character is undergoing an issue in their personality that is related to psychological problem. However, the writer believes that the character of Bonnie Castle is the most interesting since she is the most complex character in the story. She is depicted not as angelic character or as a devilish one. Readers could hate her but also could fall in love with her. At first, it may seem that the author, William Irish, purposely portrays Bonnie Castle in such mysterious way to make the readers guess. However, as the story continues, it is obvious that Bonnie Castle herself is confused about her identity, and readers would see how she struggles to figure out her truly self. Here, it can be seen that Bonnie Castle is experiencing an issue usually known as ‘identity crisis’. According to Erikson, ‘identity crisis’ is a process when we start to look at ourself

in different ways from what is expected from us by the society but we cannot embrace this new identity due to a lot of reasons (Cherry).

The writer thinks that the characterization of Bonnie Castle, is really interesting to be discussed, since she has a complex characterization and life story. The writer mostly is interested in discovering Bonnie's childhood experience and sees how it contributes to her identity crisis. Psychoanalysis theory will be used so that the writer will get a deep and comprehensive analysis about Bonnie Castle character. The writer hopes that this thesis could offer some new perspectives on how adolescence period can be really important in shaping one's identity and character. Also, by analysing *Waltz into the Darkness*, the writer hopes that more reader would be interested in analysing Woolrich's works.

1.2. Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of the study above, the writer proposes two research questions that will be focused on the main female character in Irish's *Waltz into the Darkness*:

1. How does Bonnie Castle's childhood and adolescent experience shape her sense of identity?
2. How does it affect her personality and lead her to destructive actions?

1.3. Objective of the Study

Based on the backgrounds and the statement of the problems, the writer provides two objectives of the study as the focus of this thesis;

1. To examine the way Bonnie Castle's childhood and adolescent experience shape her sense of identity.
2. To find out how her identity crisis affect her personality and make her decide to do actions that can destruct her own life.

1.4. Significance of the Study

This study aims to examine the way the main female character, Bonnie Castle's identity crisis portrayed in the novel. Beside that, this study also wants to discover certain events that happen in Bonnie Castle's childhood and adolescent experience in her life that shape her sense of identity. Furthermore, the writer would also like to see how Bonnie Castle's identity crisis affect her in her thoughts and actions that can be destructive for her life. The writer of this thesis expects that the readers will gain more understanding about how certain events can shape someone's identity and how someone's identity crisis can affect his/her thoughts and actions. And the last, hopefully, this thesis would make more students of English literature interested in analysing William Irish's works.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

In order to keep the study in the expected field, the writer will limit the characters that will be analysed into one specific figure, which is Bonnie Castle.

The writer believes that this character has complex childhood background and also traumatic adolescent experiences. They are the cause of her having identity crisis which becomes the main topic to discuss in this thesis. In analysing Bonnie Castle's character, the focus would be on the traumatic events of her childhood and adolescent time: what the events are and how they shape her identity. Furthermore, the writer would also like to discover how her adolescent experience affect her thoughts and actions and how they are portrayed in the novel. The writer would only focus on Bonnie Castle's character so that any other character that would be mentioned in this thesis functions merely to support the analysis and therefore would not be discussed further.

1.6. Theoretical Background

Psychoanalysis is a theory firstly proposed by Sigmund Freud. This theory looks closely at the unconscious drive of the human mind that motivates them to act and behave in certain ways. Freud always emphasized his focus on the human's mind, because he believed that the mind is responsible for both conscious and unconscious decisions which are based on drives and forces (Newman 12).

Freud stated that human's psychological mind has its own stages in its development, the stages are divided into five stages depends on ages and thematic conflicts (Freud 118). However Freud's theory has been extended by Erikson, Erikson believe that there are eight stages in human's psychological development, and the thematic conflicts are connected to one another. The psychological

development cannot be separated by the three aspects of human's mind according to Freud: id, ego and superego. The 'id' is a part of human's unconscious mind that holds all their basic instincts, for example the need of pleasure, desire and etc. It is impulsive and often disconnected from reality and thus it does not acknowledge any risks or consequences at all. While 'ego' is there to create some balance between pleasure and pain. Human's 'ego' realizes that not ever desire can be fulfilled at any given time, however it still continues to look for pleasures. So, its job is to find a way to fulfill the id's desire while still act accordingly to reality. The last one, super-ego, is considered as the 'conscious' of the human's mind because it can differentiate which acts are right and which are not. Super-ego operates based on the morality values that are adopted by the society (Roedinger 470).

Sometimes or even often, the id, ego and super-ego come into conflict. When this conflict occurs, it can make the person who is experiencing it become anxious. If this anxiety is not settled immediately, that person can suffer from anxiety disorder. Anxiety disorder can make a person becomes paranoia and have aggressive behaviour. During this times, if someone successfully deals with their anxiety, they will have the psychological strength to deal with other conflicts that will occur later, but if they fail to deal with their anxiety, they may not be able to deal with other conflicts that will come and they may not develop their psychological strengths that is needed for a strong sense of identity (Cherry). Without a strong sense of identity, they will not have the psychological strength needed to cope with the psychological issues or challenges that lie ahead. The

theories above was proposed by Sigmund Freud, that were then debated by his only daughter and also his student, Anna Freud. One of Freud's student that is also interested in psychological development theory is Erik Erikson, not only then he debated Freud's theory, he developed a new perspective of human's psychological development.

As mentioned previously, the topic selected for this thesis is the identity crisis of Bonnie Castle's character, specifically the causes or motives and the effects it has upon Bonnie Castle's life. Regarding to the topic, Psychoanalysis theory by Erik Erikson is the most suitable theory to be used in the analysis, because it explains the psychological stages and psychosocial development of the human's mind comprehensively. Erikson also developed Sigmund Freud and Anna Freud psychoanalysis theory. Therefore, it is believed that by using Psychoanalysis theory, a deep and thorough analysis about Bonnie Castle's identity crisis can be reached. The useful data would be classified based on the issue in it. For instance, if there are some parts of the text which bring out the issue of defense mechanism, the writer would analyse those texts by using Erikson psychoanalysis that focuses on identity crisis. These steps are necessary in order to discover several findings which are helpful in answering the statements of the problems.

1.7. Method of the Study

This thesis is a qualitative study which means the data is taken from the object of the study itself, which is in this case, *Waltz into Darkness* by William

Irish. In collecting the data, the writer applies library research method, digital and non-digital. After that the writer would classify the data into two categories: the one that is useful to the discussion which is the one that is related to the issue being analyzed, and the one that is not.

In analysing this thesis, the writer applies Psychoanalysis criticism. Psychoanalysis is a theory which believes that a person's childhood events could potentially affect their mental functioning when they become an adolescent or adult ("Early Childhood"). Based on the theoretical assumption, the writer would explore and discuss the way the childhood experiences of Bonnie Castle affect her behaviour and personality when she becomes an adult.

1.8. Definition of Keyterms

Psychoanalysis : A set of psychological and psychotherapeutic theories and associated techniques.

Anxiety disorder : A feeling of being very worried about something and can not cooperate with it, and causes paranoia or aggressive behaviour.

Identity Crisis : Failure to achieve to one subjective sense of one's self

Identity Diffusion : Enough sense of one's identity, but no commitment for one identity

Oedipal Complex : A psychological issue where a child feel competitive toward their same sex parents and feel attached to the opposite sex parents