ABSTRACT

In The Miso Soup is a Japanese psychological thriller novel written by famous Japanese author Murakami Ryu in 1997. Story in this novel is focusing on the dynamics of relation between two main characters, Kenji and Frank. Kenji, a tourist guide in Tokyo, has become key eye witness to a mass-murder done by Frank, an American tourist. Frank decided to let Kenji lives as Kenji did not show any sign that he will report Frank to the police.

This research is a descriptive qualitative research. Analysis is done using Lacan’s psychoanalysis theory to answer following questions: 1. Why did Frank murder everyone inside Omiai Pub in Tokyo?; 2. What are the reasons of Kenji’s silence and Frank’s decision not to kill Kenji? 3. What does In The Miso Soup Novel try to portray through Kenji and Frank characters?

The analysis shows that the reason why Frank murdered his victims is because Frank did not like the characteristic of his victims. The characteristic of Frank victims are similar to the characteristic of ‘the other’ that hated by Frank: Frank’s father and Frank’s older brothers. Complicated relationship happened between Frank and Kenji because Kenji’s characteristic is different from Frank’s victims. Kenji is ‘the-other’ shift of Frank that can’t be separated from Frank. The relationship between Frank and Kenji reflects the relationship between America and Japan. Kenji is a metaphor of Japan, and Frank is a metaphor of America.

Key word: In The Miso Soup, Lacan, metaphor, psychology, Ryu Murakami, ‘the other’, thriller