

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Humans experience many incidents in their life, both pleasant and painful events. These events can have an impact on their life, whether it's good or bad effect. Someone who has experienced painful events can be said to have experienced trauma. This trauma can be felt by adults and children alike, but children are more prone to experience trauma. According to Freud, trauma is a word that leads to a painful event in the past (Freud, A General Introduction to Psychoanalysis 1917, 241). Freud in Boeree stated that, every hysteria that experienced by an individual is the result of traumatic experience that undoubtedly would have an impact on individual behaviours (Boeree 2006, 3). This traumatic experience has a very strong influence on an individual and can only be investigated by that individual. Trauma is also associated with the stage development that every sufferer must undergo with it. According to Freud, childhood trauma is a trauma that occurs in children's life as a result of war, train accidents, and other scary things that endanger life (Freud, A General Introduction to Psychoanalysis 1917, 241). Trauma also has many impacts in someone's life. Without realizing it, trauma that has been experienced by individuals during childhood will affect their behavior and personality. Not only that, it creates the defense mechanism which is defined as a system used by someone to oppose their bad memories in the past that are difficult to forget, such as recollection of an insult or humiliation (Freud, A General Introduction to

Psychoanalysis 1917, 64). Defense mechanism carried out by someone due to anxious feelings that arise in themselves, so they indirectly do a defense system to eliminate anxious feelings.

Trauma can lead someone to an anxiety feeling. This anxiety can appear in a person, if there is a traumatic event in the past that triggered. This feeling is a form to express individual's fear who experiences trauma. Anxiety signals the organism to stop the danger and the instinct that puts the person into a dangerous situation. In this way, someone will feel pressured (Chapman 2007, 36). This anxiety can reveal the core issues such as fear of abandonment, fear of betrayal, and low self-esteem, which affect the personality and behavior in someone's adulthood. Some core issues that cause anxiety will be felt by someone due to the interaction of the individual and others, such as family and friends. When anxiety feeling arises in an individual, that individual will indirectly dismiss the anxiety. All the process is done by unconsciously blocking impulses into more acceptable forms, and this is called defense mechanism.

Fear of abandonment is a feeling that will be felt by someone when they fear of being desert by someone either physically and emotionally (Khosro and Amin 2016, 121). Fear of abandonment or separation anxiety can be felt when someone experiences intimacy therefore he or she will feel the most at risk of losing love (Cuppen 2019, 1). Betrayal is a feeling of being harmed by someone who has been trusted (Rachman 2010, 1). Meanwhile, the feeling of fear of betrayal is a belief of being betrayed by someone who has been trusted. Fear of betrayal is a belief of being betrayed by someone who has been trusted. Low self-esteem is a

belief when someone feels the inability to tolerate the influence of others (Khosro and Amin 2016, 127)

This criticism shows how the trauma had a tremendous impact on a person, which could only be understood by that person itself. The trauma that is felt in childhood has several stages so that, it can have an impact on one's behavior and personality in their adulthood. All of the unwanted feelings due to childhood trauma require someone to cover up those feelings in order to avoid some feelings that make them uncomfortable to do anything. These things are summarized in the theory of psychoanalysis. Psychoanalysis theory is a concept that covers a broad explanation about human's behaviours in which also take a major part of our daily lives. According to Freud, this theory cannot accept the conscious identity with the process of the nature of willing, thinking, and feeling, rather it can accept a thing that related to the unconscious thinking and willingness (Freud, A General Introduction to Psychoanalysis 1917, 15). It means that psychoanalysis theory is a theory about the human unconscious. *Daughters Who Walk This Path* (2013) is a fiction by Yejide Kilanko published by Penguin. This novel mainly tells the story of a girl who experienced sexual abuse that leads her to childhood trauma and affected her life as an adult.

The story begins with a girl, named Marayo who experienced sexual abuse done by her own cousin when she was 12 years old. Eventually those abusive treatments lead her to feel childhood trauma. This trauma then creates her into a worsened behaviours in her adult life. When she becomes an adult woman, she often sleeps with different man every day, because she thinks that she is a truly worthless

woman. She lives in a family that still believe in culture, tradition, and also some values in that city, and it brings her parents, especially her mother, to educate her based on culture, tradition, and values that still exist in the society. The way of thinking of Marayo's traditional parents is what actually makes her daughter feels so many feelings that she should not have felt as a child that experiencing a traumatic event. Marayo's happiness is changed when her cousin arrived home, and raped her. Instead of defending and protecting Marayo, her mother pleaded to Marayo's father to still allow Bros T lives in their home. They considered Marayo as a 'dirty' and useless thing. Her mother also kept Marayo's sister away from her. The abuse she experienced makes Marayo has a feeling of trauma and lead her to anxiety, low self-esteem, fear of betrayal, and fear of abandonment. Her childhood trauma that she felt is a result of the sexual abuse she got from her cousin and led to anxious feeling.

As previously stated childhood trauma is an undesirable thing in a person caused by negative things that felt by a person in their childhood. The writer wants to analyze this novel with a psychoanalytic approach by Sigmund Freud, which has a main focus on the behaviour and personality caused by childhood trauma. According to Freud and Breuer, trauma is used to allude to the painful things in the past, and people with traumatized experiences will find it difficult to forget the traumatized incident (Freud 1917, 242). Freud's original theory explained that sexual experience that is felt by someone in childhood will lead he or she to feels the traumatic incident (Freud 1917, 320)

This study will only focus on how childhood trauma felt by Marayo can affect her behaviour and personality as an adult woman. The behavior that she has when she becomes an adult woman is, she often sleeps with some different man. It is such an unwanted thing to do, but also an impact from her childhood trauma and her parents' treatment. There are many things that she must go through and feel, such as feelings of anxiety, low self-esteem, fear of betrayal and also fear of abandonment. In this novel, Marayo has experienced several undesirable things in her childhood, such as abuse and also the awkward silent treatment committed by her parents, especially her mother. Not only that, Marayo also mentioned as a child who would negatively influence her sister. This study will further analyze in how childhood trauma affects her behaviour and personality and also how it creates her defense mechanism. Whenever, if there is something that causes her to remember the trauma, she will feel anxious. In protecting herself from that anxiety, Marayo will defend herself, so that she feels a sense of calm, which is good for her.

There are several studies that used *Daughters Who Walk This Path* novel by this African writer, Yejide Kilanko, as an object of the research. One of them is *The Phenomenon of Intrusive Thoughts in Yejide Kilanko's Daughters Who Walk This Path* (2017) by Shamaila Dodhy. Here, the researcher uses psychoanalysis approach, which focuses on the Marayo's intrusive thought that is caused by the patriarchy and also related with the female subervience as the norms which is applies in most African societies. The other study is *Sexism and Sexual Victimization in Yejide Kilanko's Daughters Who Walk This Path* (2018) by Margaret Nuksupo. This study used feminist theory that focused on the feminist

exploration of the relationship between sexism and sexual victimization. It is because of the culture of the silence that make the rape culture still exist. In this research, trauma also has a role. Where, sexism is responsible for the trauma experienced by the main character, Marayo.

One of the above studies focuses its research on feminist exploration, and uses feminist theory as the main theory in conducting the research. The other study also use the psychoanalysis theory, however, the research focuses its study on Marayo's intrusive thought as the result of masculinity, patriarchy and also female subervience. Meanwhile, the writer focuses on the behaviour and personality of Marayo when she becomes an adult woman as a result of childhood trauma that she experienced. In addition, after that traumatized incident, Marayo also felt anxious, where that anxious feeling can reveal some of the fears she felt as a result of sexual abuse from one of her family member that she trusts.

Some others studies also used Freud's psychoanalytic theory that focused their analysis on the id, ego, superego, and also childhood truma in a novel as the object. Abdur Rahim's *Khaled Hosseini's The Kite Runner: A Psychoanalytic Analysis* (2019), for example, it analyzed the character using id, ego, superego as the impact of polymorphous desires in the character's childhood in the novel. Another example is Ismet Toksoz's *Psychoanalytic Analysis of the Characters in Beckett's "Waiting for Godot"* (2017) who also focused his analysis on the id, ego, superego are represented by the each characters in the novel. Other than that, there is a study from Hutomo Fidiyanto's *The Effects of Childhood Trauma on Dave Boyle's Personality and Behaviour in Dennis Lehannes's Mystic River : A Freudian*

Psychoanalysis (2017). This study focused its analysis on the childhood trauma felt by Dave Boyle and defense mechanism that he used to defend himself. It is also analyzed Boyle's behavior and personality as the impact of childhood trauma. Similar to Fidiyanto's study, this study applies psychoanalytic approach by Sigmund Freud to analyze behaviour and personality as the result of childhood trauma. The concept of neurotic anxiety and reality anxiety by Sigmund Freud are used for this research, to examine the sexual abuse felt by the main character in the novel that make her feel trauma, and anxiety and have an impact on her personality and adulthood behaviours. In the stage of achieving adulthood behavior, the main character passes the stages that shape personality and also influence behavior. It must be understood that trauma is a feeling of neglect and abuse in childhood which leads someone to feel something unpleasant when they grow up (Boeree 2006, 18). Freud, trauma is a concept in that it relates to mental experience and links an external event with the specific after-effects on an individual's psychic reality (Zepf and Florian 2008, 1).

1.2 Statement of the Problems

1. How does childhood trauma affect to Marayo's personality and adulthood behaviour?
2. How does Marayo's childhood trauma relate to her defense mechanism?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1. To reveal the fear of abandonment, fear of betrayal, and low self-esteem based on anxiety and trauma.

2. To examine the formation of avoidance and selective memory as defense mechanisms which are caused by Marayo's childhood trauma.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study will provide some important information about the effect that can be accepted by children who receive the acts and abuse in the childhood by their interpersonal relation. This study is expected to give the reader a reference about psychoanalytic problems, which is childhood trauma that has a huge impact in someone's behavior, personality, and also the defense mechanism used. The writer wants to introduce the students of English Department Faculty of Humanities in Universitas Airlangga about the Yejide Kilanko's work that is related to the psychoanalysis theory and traumatic incident. The writer hopes from this study, they will get some information about the impact of sexual abuse that can change someone's behavior and personality. The writer hopes that this research will be useful for the author itself and also for the reader.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

- Anxiety* : A feeling that will be appear when someone faced by anything that he or she is afraid of (Freud 1963, 131).
- Behaviour* : Behaviour is a process of an inner entity bringing about a bodily movement (Lazzeri 2014, 65).
- Childhood trauma* : A thing that was felt in childhood as a result of the unrecognized treatment by the larger society as the

interpersonal nature such as physical, emotional and sexual abuse, that involves the shame and stigma of experience, and unfortunately, societal responses of blame or disbelief (Tobin 2016, 2).

Fear of abandonment : A feeling that will be felt by someone when they fear of being desert by someone either physically and emotionally (Khosro and Amin 2016, 121).

Fear of betrayal : A feeling that our loved one cannot be trusted (Tyson 2015, 16).

Low self-esteem : An emotional problematics means a negative thinking scheme of oneself and unhealthily handled (Zyl, Cronjé dan Payze 2006, 181).