

## CHAPTER 2

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Theoretical Framework

This chapter contains theoretical explanation about the concept and other related materials that are applicable in analyzing the topic. The discussion focuses on the term Eros and Thanatos and Oedipus complex which happened in childhood age that influence the personality development of an individual. The process of Eros and Thanatos and Oedipus complex are two of Freud's psychoanalysis theory which is believed as the appropriate theory in conducting the research. There are also other subjects of Freudian psychoanalysis which supports the process of Eros and Thanatos and Oedipus complex towards human individual such as fixation.

Psychoanalysis is the theory which is established by Sigmund Freud. In his book *Study of Hysteria* which he wrote with Josef Breuer in 1895, Freud introduced the term "psychical analysis", and during the following year, he began calling his approach "psycho-analysis" (Feist 20). Freud first used the term *psychoanalysis* in 1896. The theory of psychoanalysis proposes that problems arise from unconscious desires and unresolved childhood conflicts. It rests on the hotly contested tenets of determinism, conflict, and the unconscious (Heller 184).

Freud's greatest contribution to personality theory is his exploration of the unconscious and his insistence that people are motivated primarily by drives of which they have little or no awareness. According to Freud, mental life is divided

into two levels, the unconscious and the conscious (Feist 23). Then, during 1920s, Freud introduced three parts structural model of the mind that are id, ego, and superego (Feist 27). Each of the three agencies exists for a different purpose. Housing the basic survival instincts, the id strives for immediate satisfaction. The ego seeks to control these primal instincts by seeking realistic ways to express them. The superego censures and tries to block instincts that are unacceptable by society (Heller 90). Freudian psychoanalysis theory has a close relation with human's activity of everyday life. Psychoanalytic concepts have been part of our everyday lives, and therefore psychoanalytic thinking should have the advantage of familiarity (Tyson 13).

This thesis discusses one work of Jeff Lindsay, *Darkly Dreaming Dexter*, with the issue of the main character's negotiation between his Eros and Thanatos. There will be several concepts of Freud psychoanalysis involved in the process of analysis such as Oedipus complex and fixation.

### **2.1.1 Eros and Thanatos**

Freud sees human as a complex energy system. Human's physical need rises tension and desire that will be expressed through some mental representatives in the form of impulse or wish which is called instinct. Instinct is the form of physical tension that tries to seek tension reducing and it is human's nature (Moesono 5; translation is mine). Motivating most behavior, the instincts, which reside in the id, supply the psychic energy to get the mental apparatus running. They seek an external object to reduce tension. For example, an infant's

hunger drive is directed toward the object of food; when sexually aroused, we seek someone sexually appealing. The object of an instinct, however, varies and changes as we develop. For instance, the sexual drive changes from oral to anal to phallic to genital. Further, people's object choices depend greatly on their personal histories (Heller 147). Conversely, a single object can satisfy several instincts simultaneously (Heller 148).

Around 1900s Freud proposes the first instinct theory and arranges it into two basic instincts that are instinct to preserve life and instinct to propagate. After World War I (around 1920) where he sees many human aggressions, Freud proposes the second instinct theory that has two basic instincts that are life instinct (Eros) and death instinct (Thanatos). Life instinct includes two basic instincts in his first theory (Moesono 5; translation is mine). The id houses the instinctual impulses of sex and aggression and their primal wishes (Heller 90).

In 1920, Freud proposes a major re-conceptualization of his theory of the drives. He comes to see that there is in human nature a fundamental force for death, destruction and decomposition – and he calls it the death drive. And in the context of this discovery, Freud realizes that he has not thought deeply enough about the drive he has hitherto called sexual. Sexuality is an important phenomenon in human life, but it is itself in the service of a deeper and more encompassing force: a tendency towards unification and development. He called that force Eros, love or the life drive. The sexual drives, he concludes, 'are best comprised under the name Eros; their purpose would be to form living substance

into ever greater unities, so that life may be prolonged and brought to higher development' (Lear 83).

### **2.1.2 Oedipus Complex**

Humans experience stages in their personality development. Freud considers childhood period is very important for the personality development of humans' later. Childhood period has role that determines the appearing of neurotic in the later years. Freud considers that the Child is the Father of Man (Suryabrata 141; translation is mine). He assumes that all baby and children's experience (until around 5 years old) has important role in forming human's personality. In one of his writings Freud even says that all humans' life is only the repetition from their first 5 years experience (Moesono 7; translation is mine). In Freudian theory, there are three main phases of personality development that are infantile stage (0-5 years old), latent stage (5 – 12 years old), and genital stage (>12 years old). To Freud, the first 4 or 5 years of life, or the infantile stage, are the most crucial for personality formation (Feist 38).

Freud divided the infantile stage into three phases according to which of the three primary erogenous zones is undergoing the most salient development. The oral phase begins first and is followed in order by the anal phase and the phallic phase (Feist 39). Phallic phase takes place from 3 to 6 years old. In this phase the intention of children concentrates on their genital. Freud assumes that although a child does have a clear sexuality comprehension, but the sexual life and impulse have grown. The child's curiosity, mother's treatment when bathing

up, the words of maid or adult, father's attitude and posture that is bigger than the child, implicitly raises sexual desire of the child. Conflict which is felt by the child in this phase is Oedipus complex (for boy) and Electra complex (for girl) (Moesono 9; translation is mine). Oedipus complex is the entire love and hatred desire felt by children toward their parents (Moesono 35; translation is mine).

Freud assumes that his opinion about Oedipus complex is one of the most important things of his invention. Oedipus complex consists of sexual cathexis toward the opposite-sex parent and rivalry cathexis toward the same-sex parent. The son wants to have mother and chase father, and daughter wants to have father and chase mother. This feeling shows that in children's imagination at that time, children do masturbation in loving and opposing attitude toward parents (Suryabrata 151; translation is mine).

Basically, the term Oedipus complex emerges from one of the most familiar Sophocles's plays, *Oedipus Rex*. Oedipus, the son of Laius and Jocasta, king and queen of Thebes, is left on a mountain to perish following the oracle's warning to his father that he will grow up to kill his father and marry his mother. A shepherd saves him and takes him to another city where he is adopted by the king and queen. Oedipus learns of the prophecy and flees the city, believing it is his adopted father who is in danger. In his journey, he meets Laius, quarrels with him, and kills him. Oedipus saves Thebes from a terrible curse and marries Jocasta, the widowed queen. He learns that he has killed his real father and married his mother. Horrified, he blinds himself and flees Thebes to become a wandering, homeless beggar.

This play has had such lasting power because Freud surmises from the tales that we all identify unconsciously with the story: in a vague, unspeakable, and strange way, all little boys wish to kill their father and marry their mother, and all little girls wish to get rid of their mother and marry their father. So catastrophic are these fantasies that they must remain buried deep in the unconscious, but they create intense conflict throughout life (Heller 181).

Oedipus complex on male and female is different. At first both male and female love their mother because their mother fulfill their needs and oppose father because father is supposed as rival in getting that love. That feeling remains in male child, but in female child it changes (Suryabrata 151; translation is mine). Carl Jung introduces the term “Electra complex” to describe Oedipus complex which is experienced by female but Freud rejects it. Freud thought that the notion of the ‘feminine Oedipus complex’ was sufficient (Bocock 33).

### **2.1.3 Fixation**

In normal development, humans’ personality will pass phases that are settled since they were born until reach adulthood. But each of the new steps in personality development consists or brings some frustration and fear; and if it is too big, the normal development will be disturbed, temporarily or forever. In another word, someone may experience fixation at an earlier phase because step on the next step brings anxiety or fear for him (Suryabrata 147; translation is mine). Fixation towards father or mother’s profile that is formed wrongly can

result the stoppage or retardation in sexual evolution such as frigidity and incapable to solve difficult situation (Milner 117; translation is mine).

They not only remember awful experience in the past, but emotionally it still remains on them. They cannot free themselves from the past therefore they ignore what happens in the present and here. Fixation of psychic life on pathogenic trauma is one of the most important characteristics that signifies neurotic (Freud 53).

## **2.2 Review of Related Studies**

Freudian's concept of Thanatos is also discussed by Dori Laub and Susanna Lee in their journal titled *Thanatos and Massive Psychic Trauma: the Impact of the Death Instinct on Knowing, Remembering, and Forgetting*. In their journal, they explore about the connection between massive psychic trauma and the concept of the death instinct using the basic assumption that the death instinct is unleashed through and is in a sense characteristic of traumatic experience, and that the concept of the death instinct is indispensable to the understanding and treatment of trauma. Characteristics of traumatic experience, such as dissolution of the empathic bond, failure to assimilate experience into psychic representation and structure, a tendency to repeat traumatic experience, and a resistance to remembering and knowing, are considered as trauma-induced death instinct derivatives (Laub and Lee 2).

The initial focus of this journal is on the individual, on how death instinct manifestations can be discerned in the survivors of trauma. Examining the

intergenerational force of trauma, a clinical vignette illustrates how the death instinct acts on and is passed on to the children of survivors. Then the cultural or societal aspects of trauma are considered, with an eye to how death instinct derivatives permeate cultural response (or failures to respond) to trauma (Laub and Lee 2).

So this journal wants to see where the concept of the death instinct can be helpful in examining the reverberations of traumatic events on individuals and in society (Laub and Lee 3). They will also explore the connection between the concept of the death instinct and massive psychic trauma and will present the death instinct concept as vital to the understanding of massive psychic trauma (Laub and Lee 5).

The issue about childhood trauma is also discussed in a thesis from English Department the Faculty of Humanities Airlangga University Surabaya titled *Dr. Hannibal Lecter's Psychopathic Personality in Thomas Harris's Hannibal: A Study of Personality Disorder* which is written by Dina Foliana. This study focuses on Dr. Hannibal Lecter's psychopathic personality. It examines about the cause of Dr. Hannibal Lecter's psychopathic personality and also gives the description of his psychopathic personality (Foliana 4). Dr. Hannibal Lecter experiences trauma because his parents are killed and his sister is cannibalized by Nazi soldier. It causes trauma on him and gives influences towards his personality that leads him to be a psychopath (Foliana 17).

Accordingly, those previous studies will be applied as comparative and supporting elements in conducting this study. It also as evidence that the idea



contains in this research is original and those study will not be used in conducting this research.