

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Theoretical Framework

Psychoanalytic criticism is a kind of method of literary criticism which uses psychoanalysis to interpret literary works. Psychoanalysis itself means a kind of literary theory which is used to help people to understand human behavior. Then it is as a tool to help people understand literary works which are about human behavior by analyzing the interaction of conscious and unconscious elements in the mind. This theory or as a therapy combines the relation between mind, instinct and sexual desire. This theory was developed by an Austrian, Sigmund Freud, since 1856-1939 (Tyson 14).

According to Barry (1993) Freud said that the mind can be divided into two main parts: The conscious mind includes everything that we are aware of. This is the aspect of our mental processing that we can think and talk about rationally. A part of this includes our memory, which is not always part of consciousness but can be retrieved easily at any time and brought into our awareness. Freud called this ordinary memory the preconscious. Whereas, the unconscious mind is a reservoir of feelings, thoughts, urges, and memories that outside of our conscious awareness. Human beings are driven by desires, fears, needs and conflicts of which they are unaware or called as unconscious. The unconscious is caused by emotions, guilty desires, and unresolved conflicts that people do not want. The unconscious appears because of what the painful

happened in the past (childhood experience). People unconsciously play out with the reality which is happening now (97).

According to Tyson (1999), in Psychoanalysis perspective, the individual human beings have a psychological history that begins in the past experiences when they were in the childhood in the family, and the early experiences that influence their adolescent and adult behavior. In other words, Psychoanalysis is a useful way of understanding human behaviour. It can help people resolve their psychological problems, often called disorders or dysfunctions. This study focuses in model of behavior that deviate in some conditions and the basic or central idea of psychoanalysis is the existence of the unconscious (13).

The focus of the study are anxiety of main character, Charlie Gordon and how he can defend the anxiety to continue his life. The aims of the analysis are to find the anxiety, either neurotic or reality and also how he face his anxiety until he finds the comfort situation. Thus, the writer decides Freudian psychoanalysis which is supported by intrinsic elements, especially about character and characterization, point of view and plot in analyzing this academic analysis.

2.1.1 Three Basic Principles of Psychoanalysis

Psychoanalysis is known as a dynamic theory of personality. According to Walter Mischel, Freud divided psychic structure becomes three basic principles, id, ego and superego (43).

According to Pervine (1996), the id is the mental that contains everything of basic impulses including instinct. It is a component of personality that gives

from God when people birth. This element of personality is entirely unconscious and is the source of all drive energy. Freud said that the id is characterized by a source, an aim, an object. As noted, the source of the instinct is in bodily states of excitation or tension. The aim of all instincts is tension reduction, which is associated with pleasure. The object of the instinct is the way in which it is satisfied or the way in which the tension is released and reduced. The id is driven by the pleasure principle which struggles for immediate gratification of all desires, wants, and needs. If these needs are not satisfied immediately, the result is a state anxiety (Pervin 96). For example, When someone is sleepy, the first that she/he will do is take a rest.

The ego is the component of personality that is responsible for dealing with reality. Freud thought that the ego develops from the id and ensures that the impulses of the id can be expressed in a manner acceptable in the real world. The ego functions in the conscious, preconscious, and unconscious mind. The ego operates based on the reality principle which struggles to satisfy the id's desires in realistic and socially appropriate ways. (Pervin 96) In many cases, the id's impulses can be satisfied through a process of delayed gratification that the ego will allow the behavior but only in the appropriate time and place. Then the ego tries to find an object in the real world that matches to the mental image created by the id's primary process.

The third component of personality to develop is the superego. The superego is the aspect of personality that holds all of our internalized moral standards and ideals that people get from both parents and society. It contains the

ideal people strive for and the punishment people expect when people have gone against their ethical code (Mischel 42). It is a sense of right and wrong. The superego provides guidelines for making judgments. According to Freud, the superego divides into ego ideal and the conscience. Ego ideal includes the rules and standards for good behaviors. These behaviors include those which are approved of by parental and other authority figures. Whereas, The conscience includes information about things that are viewed as bad by parents and society. These behaviors are often forbidden and lead to punishments or feelings of guilt. The superego represent in the conscious, preconscious and unconscious.

According to Freud, the key to a healthy personality is a balance between the id, the ego, and the superego. Psychoanalysis itself studies about the dynamics personality involve the efforts of the person to satisfy the drivers of the id in accordance with the demands of the superego and reality (ego). It is usually caused by conflicts between the wish to express the drives and the fears of harm from within or from external factors. That harm feeling or injury may result the anxiety that represents a signal that danger exist. A signal follows past experiences in which drives was built by punishment and pain. People think that if he/she does this, he/she will be hurt. To avoid this anxiety, people will do that called as defense mechanisms. They are ways of attempting to cope with the drives without injury or pain (Pervin 97). In other words, when things are not going well, people experiences conflict, anxiety, and defense.

2.1.2 Anxiety

According in Freudian theory, what happens when the ego cannot deal with the demands of people desires, the constraints of reality and our own moral standards? Anxiety represents a signal that danger exists and that harm or injury may result. Such a signal follows earlier experiences in which expression of the drives was associated with punishment and pain (Pervin 97). Anxiety acts as a signal to the ego that things are not going right. Anxiety is a psychological condition characterized by somatic, emotional, cognitive, and behavioral components. It may help a person to deal with a difficult situation by encouraging one to cope with it. When anxiety becomes excessive, it may fall under the classification of an anxiety disorder (Wallace 413). In Freudian model of personality, the ego is the aspect of personality that deals with reality. While doing this, the ego also has to cope with the conflicting demands of the id and the superego. The id seeks to fulfill all wants, needs and impulses while the superego tries to get the ego to act in an idealistic and moral manner. According Walter Mischel, Freud distinguished three kinds of anxiety. They are realistic anxiety, neurotic anxiety, and moral anxiety (Mischel 44). But in this study the writer will discuss about realistic and neurotic anxiety.

Freud identified anxiety:

- a. **Realistic anxiety** is fear of real-world and external world. The cause of this anxiety is usually easily identified. In this case, people want to avoid the threatening object. For example, a person will be afraid with a menacing

dog and do not want to stand near it because of thinking that that dog will bite. And then, there will appear the feeling to reducing this anxiety by avoiding the threatening object (Cherry). In the short way, the reality anxiety happens because the external danger. According to Walter Mischel, he makes a map that realistic happens when external danger happens. In a short way, he says

External danger → perception of danger → reality anxiety

In order to deal with those anxieties, Freud believes that defense mechanisms will help to protect the ego from the conflicts created by the id, superego and reality.

- b. **Neurotic anxiety** is the unconscious fear of people that their instincts will get loose control and cause him to behave in ways that will be punished or inappropriate behaviors. This anxiety is caused by an emotional condition in which there is fear and uncertainty about the future (Mischel 44). It appears because of the traumatic past events of people childhood that appears when their mind is able to remember about the childhood, especially about family. Because the concept of psychoanalysis is depended on what happened in the past or in the childhood, it means that the experiences are related to the nearest people, family. So, in this anxiety, the role of family takes the biggest part of psychological condition of someone. According to Tyson, psychoanalysis is related to the story of

life, especially in family. The family is very important in psychoanalytic theory because someone is each a product of the role which is given in the family. In one sense, the “birth” of the unconscious lies in the way people perceive their place in the family and how they react to this self definition (Tyson 16).

2.1.3. Defense mechanisms

Pervin mentioned that defense mechanisms are created in unconscious mind. They are ways of attempting to cope with the drives without injury or pain (97). They have purpose to protect someone from emotional hurts inflicted by the environment (parents, siblings, friends, and others). Because the purpose of defense is protective, it will be necessary, if people want to overcome that defense now as an adult, to understand how the defense is trying to protect them. So many kinds of defense mechanism, the writer just use some kinds of them in this research.

a. Denial: Repression

Psychodynamic theory mentions that a type of denial, Repression. It is a key factor in the operation of the unconscious. Repression keeps information out of conscious awareness, rejection from consciousness (Mischel 45). Repression is the unconscious blocking of unacceptable thoughts, feelings and impulses. The key to repression is that people do it unconsciously, so they often have very little control over it. Freud believed that many people are repressed painful memories

deep into their unconscious mind. Thus, people are unaware of the fact that they have buried memories or traumatic experiences (Wallace 379).

“Repressed memories” are memories that have been unconsciously blocked from access or view. But because memory is easily to be reminded and ever-changing, it is not like playing back a video of life. The video has been filtered and even altered by people’s life experiences, even by what they have been read or viewed. However, these memories do not disappear, they continue to influence people’s behavior. For example, a person who has repressed memories of abuse suffered as a child may later have difficulty forming relationships (Grohol).

b. Displacement

Displacement involves finding ways to out from fear, hurt, frustration, or anger on people or objects that are less threatening. People often use displacement when they cannot express their feelings in a safe manner to the person they are directed at (Tyson 18). Displacement operates in the mind unconsciously and involves emotions, ideas, or wishes being transferred from their original object to a more acceptable substitute.

According to Freud, displacement as a primary process means the transference of physical intensities so that strongly disturbed ideas are displaced onto other, less strongly disturbed ones. Freud considered that it is an inherent characteristic in the psychology of the obsessional neurotic to make the defense mechanism. In a short way, displacement is when a person shifts his/her impulses

from an unacceptable target to a more acceptable or less threatening target. For example, if the students are very angry at their teacher because they did poorly on a test and think the reason for their poor performance is because the teacher asked tricky, unfair questions, they may become angry at their teacher. But obviously, they cannot yell at their teacher, hit the teacher, or express their anger in any other hostile way toward the teacher, so they go home and "displace" their anger by yelling everyone in their home (Grohol).

c. Regression

Regression is the reversion to an earlier stage of development in the face of unacceptable thoughts or impulses. This defense is allowing the suffer to avoid some present difficulty. People all regress briefly when faced with acute stressors, such as crying is as the most common forms of regression (Wallace 379). For an example an adolescent who is overwhelmed with fear, anger and growing sexual impulses might become clingy and starts exhibiting earlier childhood behaviors he has long since overcome, such as bedwetting. An adult may regress when under a great deal of stress, refusing to leave their bed and engage in normal, everyday activities (Grohol).

d. Fantasy

Fantasy is a kind of defense mechanisms by withdrawing into excessive daydreaming rather than take effective action. This can protect one self esteem as what someone expect are not being reached, then he/she makes imaginations that

show the different situation showing succesful. Everyone fantasizes now and then. It helps to fend off the darkness and drabness of everyday life and to plan for an uncertain future (Grohol).

e. Alienation

Alienation is a kind of defense mechanism to isolate someone's self or apart from others. In this case, alienation usually show by going far away from what someone knows. For example: someone will go far away from the place where he/she lives and chooses other places where he/she will find the comfort places (Grohol).

2.1.4 Intrinsic Theory

According to Rene Wellek an Austin Warren in *Teori Kesusastraan*, the natural and sensible starting point for studying a literary work is based on the interpretation and analysis of the work itself (Wellek and Warren 276). Therefore, the most important thing to begin the analysis is to go directly toward the work.

In reading fiction, the readers should understand the basic elements of fiction, such as : plot and structure, characters, setting, point of view, style and language and etc. Intrinsic theory, however, primarily valued irony in a broader sense of the term, to indicate a text's inclusion of varying perspectives on the same characters of events (Tyson 122). There are three elements of fiction that will be elaborated in this analysis, they are character and characterization, point of view and plot.

a. Character and Characterization

In the book *Mastering English Literature*, Richard Gill explains further about the difference between character and characterization. Character refers to a person in literary work, while characterization refers to the way in which a character is created. Gill also argues that characters in books may have all sorts of links with the people whom we meet everyday (Gill 127). A way of putting this is to say that characters are all the product of characterization or they have been made in a particular way. The kind of conversation they have, the things they do, their appearances and so on are the particular ways which the author has chosen to characterize his or her characters (Diyanni 55).

Characters in fiction can be conveniently classified as major and minor. A major character is important figure at the center of the story's action or theme. Usually a character's status as major or minor is clear. On occasion, however, not one but two characters may dominate a story, their relationship being what matters most. The major character is sometimes called a protagonist whose conflict with an antagonist may spark the story's conflict. Supporting the major character are one or more secondary or minor characters whose function is partly to illuminate the major characters (Diyanni 55).

Characterization also plays important role in defining the habit of the character and enable the reader to dwell with the story. Characterization also helps the reader to comprehend the character of the person in the text.

b. Plot

Plot is the arrangement of events that make up a story. A story's plot help the readers to find out what will happen next. But for a plot becoming effective, it must include a sequence of incidents that bear a significant causal relationship to each other. So, the readers will understand what cause something happen. The plot begins with background information of the action, describes the setting, and introduces the major characters (Diyanni 44).

According to Roberts, plot is a plan or a ground work of human motivations, with actions resulting from believable and realistic human responses (Roberts 51). So, plot is a carefully thought-out plan in which all the events, all the actions and reactions of the characters, contribute toward movement of the story.

The most significant element of plot is conflict. In fact, it is the essence of the plot. Roberts said that in conflicts, human energy was brought out to the highest degree. Conflict will develop the tensions that attract the reader's interest toward the story of the novel. Conflicts also lead in to the development of suspense, which will lead our attention to the story, in our wondering how the story will end. The movement of high tension is called the climax of the story, a major crisis or turning point in the whole action of a plot.

c. Point of View

An author will decide who is to tell the story and how it is to be told. In a story with an *objective point of view*, the writer shows what happens without

directly stating more than can be inferred from its action and dialogue (Diyanni 72). There are some kinds of point of view, such as first-person point of view, third-person point of view. First-person point of view is if a story has narrator who participates in the action and tells his/her story in his/her own voice with his/her particular limitations of knowledge and vision. Whereas, third-person point of view is if the narrator does not participate in the action as a character. So the readers know the character from the observer (Diyanni 73).

2.2 Related Studies

Some studies which have relation with this research of Charlie Gordon in *Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes have been done in literary research. The difference between this study and those others lies on the focus of the analysis. This study concerns on the main character's behaviors that are analyzed with Freudian Psychoanalysis. It focuses in the question what the traumatic past events of Charlie Gordon are and how they influence the anxiety of him. Then, it analyze what kinds of defense mechanism that Charlie Gordon has to face his condition as the ways how he continues his life. There are three studies that will be compared with this research. They are (1) Mentally Handicapped Character In *Flowers for Algernon* (A Psychological Approach) by Dwi Jayanti Pratiwi, a student of english literature Gunadarma University Jakarta, (2) A literary analysis of *Flowers for Algernon* by Eryka S, A Student in 9th grade Highschool and (3) An Essay, Family Abuse Related to Child Development in *Flowers For Algernon* by Fenix, A Student of Undergraduate.

In the first study, Dwi Jayanti's thesis, the writer analyzes a main character in the novel *Flowers for Algernon*. The aims of this research are portraying a mentally- retarded man that occurs in Charlie Gordon as a main character, finding out the similarities and differences between Charlie's characters and based on psychology theory, and finding out the causes and effects compared to the theory in describing the character in novel *Flowers for Algernon*. The writer used a psychological approach to analyze character and used qualitative method as the research method. In the result, the writer found six characteristics of Charlie as a mentally retarded person, namely IQ score 68, poor concentration, failure to relate with other people, anxious, fearfulness, and feeling tired easily. There are five similarities (low IQ, poor concentration, failure to relate with other people, anxious, fearfulness) and one difference (feeling tired easily) between Charlie's characters and psychology theory. The author also found twelve causes and effects compared to the theory in describing the character.

For second study, an essay of Eryka, this discussion analyzed a major conflict of man versus society appears. Basically it is between Charlie who is representing the mentally retarded versus society. Charlie does not realize this when his intelligence is limited but as he grows brighter he notices the people he used to call friends, namely his co-workers in the bakery, were outwardly mean to him. Frank Reilly, Joe Carp, and Gimpy play cruel tricks on him that Charlie does not understand. It more talks about the conscious of Charlie when he starts to understand with what happens to him.

The third study, Fenix's essay, will be compared and almost similar with this research. But there are some different in focus of the topic. Fenix's essay analyzed the relation between the main character's childhood abusement and his development. This topic is also discussed in this research. But this research is different with this essay because the writer analyzes the past experience deeply and relates it to the psychoanalysis concept, especially Freudian Concept.

This research will be different with Fenix's research because it does not talk about the abusement specifically, but it is just for one of causes that makes Charlie feels anxiety. By using Freudian Psychoanalysis, it focuses in the question what the traumatic past events of Charlie Gordon are and how they influence the anxiety of him. Then, it analyzes what kinds of defense mechanism that Charlie Gordon has to face his condition as the ways how he continues his life.