

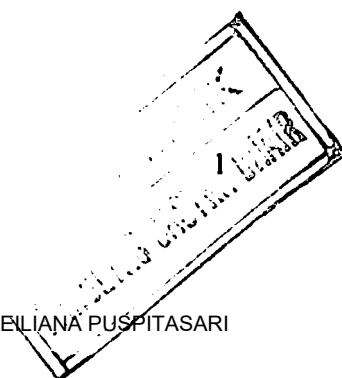
# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Projection as stated by Anna Freud, generally, is expulsion, ejection, forced out. It is the act of projecting or the condition of being projected. In Psychology, it is the attribution of one's attitudes, feelings, or suppositions to others (<http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/gthursby/fonda/freud.html>). In other words, when people refuse to admit their feelings, they might do this projection. Projection in particular is included in defense mechanism, the psychic procedures for avoiding painful admissions or recognitions (Barry 98). This defense mechanism is can be done by both adults and children and it is depended on their condition. According to Freud, there are six forms of defense mechanisms; selective perception, selective memory, denial, avoidance, displacement, and projection. Projection itself means ascribing people's fear, problem, or guilty desire to someone else, and condemning them for it, in order to deny that they have it themselves (Tyson 18). It means that people do projection based on their bad experience, event or memory which makes them feel sad, disappointed, guilty, etc. This bad experience, event or memory is pressed down by doing this, the feelings are unknown by their own conscious mind.

In some literary works, projection becomes familiar method in which the character escapes from their fear, problem, or guilty desire. One of the examples is shown in Catherine Ryan Hyde's novel entitled *Pay It Forward*.



Catherine Ryan Hyde is a critically acclaimed novelist and award winning short story writer. She is the author of more than forty published stories, the story collection *Earthquake Weather* and the novels *Funerals For Horses*, *Pay It Forward*, *Electric God*, and the new *Walter's Purple Heart*. The national bestseller *Pay It Forward* was adapted into a major Warner Brothers feature film starring Kevin Spacey, Helen Hunt, and Haley Joel Osment.

In *Pay It Forward*, the main character, Trevor, a twelve-year-old boy, discovers an idea to change the world better through a chain of goodness. The idea is materialized in the form of 'pay it forward'. The form of 'pay it forward' here means helping people without asking them to pay back the favor, but continue to help others, pass forward the good deeds. Trevor comes from a broken family. His ill-tempered father has never stayed at home and has neglected his family. Thus, his mother has to work doubled to give the family a good life. Unfortunately, his mother is addicted to alcohol and therefore, despite his young age Trevor has been forced to live independently. He has his own judgment or his own perception to make decision or to act. When a new teacher, Rueben St. Clair comes and gives an assignment to his social study class, Trevor discovers with an idea called pay it forward, an idea to do good deed to four people without expecting a feedback, but doing pay it forward to other four people. This chain of goodness in the beginning is only Trevor's school assignment, but it develops into a nation-wide act. This act is called The Movement; a movement to help people spread goodness and create the world better.

Dealing with the concept of projection, what actually Trevor does with pay

it forward is a kind of projection of his feeling. Sadness, disappointment, and loneliness encourage Trevor to do pay it forward. Trevor never tells anyone about his problem. He keeps it for himself (he never shares anything with his mother, unless his mother asked him). He never expects his father to return home. He feels disappointed because his father has never been responsible to the family. Instead of telling all of his feeling, Trevor represses it and projects it through pay it forward. Trevor makes a projection unconsciously to four people who have similar feeling with him. He transfers his feeling to Jerry, a homeless; Mrs. Greenberg, an old lady who has an uncaring son; and Reuben and Arlene, two lonely people who seek love in each other.

The strong points of this novel is the way a child at age twelve can do projection through a positive way by helping people. Trevor's action gets wide. A reporter named Chris Chandler tracks and investigates the chain of goodness he is found in his surrounding. He finds the creator, Trevor. Chris then, makes Trevor interviewed and published the news. Trevor is also invited by President Bill Clinton to the White House because of his act. Even though, Trevor eventually died because he is shoot by unknown person and unknown reason, 'Pay it forward' itself has inspired some people who work in social foundation to make The Movement, which has succeeded in helping children all over the world who cannot afford to get education by giving scholarships.

## **B. Statement of the Problems**

From the novel, the writer wants to question:

1. How does the origin of Trevor' projection?
2. How does the manifestation of Trevor's projection?
3. What are the impacts of Trevor's projection?

## **C. Objective of the Study**

Based on the statement of the problems above, the objective of the study of this thesis are:

1. To explain about Trevor's origin of doing projection.
2. To explain about Trevor's manifestation of projection.
3. To explain the impact of Trevor's projection.

## **D. Significance of the Study**

From this thesis, the writer wants the reader of this thesis to learn about the struggle of Trevor McKinney, a twelve-year-boy, who projects his sadness and loneliness because of his broken family into wonderful chain of goodness called pay it forward. Through his struggle, the writer expects that the reader, and the writer herself, will give inspiration to do the act as Trevor did. The writer also hopes that this study will give a contribution for the Faculty of Letters about Psychoanalysis concept, how it works in the form of defense mechanism through projection and repression.

### **E. Scope and Limitation**

The study of this thesis focuses on the form projection by the main character in this novel, Trevor. The writer uses the theory of projection and repression by Sigmund Freud. These theories limits the analysis only in the act of pay it forward, the form of projection by Trevor, and it is applied in the analysis which contains four subjects of analysis; the origin, the manifestation and the impact of Trevor's projection.

### **F. Theoretical Background**

The writer focuses on the main character, Trevor McKinney's projection. Thus the writer uses the psychoanalytic approach in terms of defense mechanism by Sigmund Freud, in specific, theory of projection and repression. According to Freud, projection means ascribing people's fear, problem, or guilty desire to someone else, and condemning them for it, in order to deny that they have it themselves (Tyson 18). This theory is applied to explain Trevor's action. Meanwhile, repression is expunging from consciousness, of the unhappy psychological events (Tyson 15). This theory is used to explain about the reason behind Trevor's action and the early process of Trevor's projection.

Those theories are applied to hold the writer to get a deeper analysis in this thesis, from the origin, the manifestation until the impact of Trevor's projection.

## **G. Method of the Study**

The method of this study uses descriptive method. The writer uses the techniques of collecting, making classifications and determining the data from library research, the novel itself, *Pay It Forward* by Catherine Ryan Hyde, books and other sources which is related to the topic of projection and repression. After collecting data, the writer arranges and makes the study on it. Then, the writer analyzes the data and applies theories, which are related to the novel to keep the analysis on the right track. The theories are projection and repression by Sigmund Freud. In strengthening the analysis, the writer uses descriptive method explanation about the novel that hoped can cover all the data and information to be a good analysis and can be understood by the reader. The last step, the writer draws conclusion to complete the study of this novel.

## **H. Definition of Key Terms**

**Defense mechanism** : methods used by the ego to prevent unconscious anxiety or threatening thoughts from entering conscious; psychic procedures for avoiding painful admissions or recognitions.

**Pay It Forward** : a system, a chain of goodness where one people doing a favor or help four or so people others. The ones who are helped pay it forward to other four or so people again continuously.

**Projection** : attributing the unwanted impulse to an external object; ascribing people's own fear, problem, or guilty desire to

**someone else, and condemning them for it, in order to deny that they have it ourselves.**

**Repression** : pushing back unacceptable thoughts into the unconscious; the expunging from conscious, of the unhappy psychological events.

**Unconscious** : the storehouse of those painful experiences and emotions, those wounds, fears, guilty desires, and unresolved conflicts we do not want to know about because we feel we will be overwhelmed by them.

**CHAPTER II**

**THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**