

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### I.1. Background of the Study

Hoffman stated in William Faulkner that William Faulkner is an American author who can be included as the best known of all modern American writers. His works that lead him to such great position are novels which reflect the world of Yoknapatawpha County, a small county that becomes Faulkner's source of inspirations. From these novels Faulkner got his culminate period and achievements as a writer, and in 1950 he was awarded the Noble Prize for literatur (17).

One of this novels that is known as the best is The Sound and The Fury. This novel is not only considered as the best of Faulkner's novels but the most difficult as well. Carvell Collins in The American Novel stated that William Faulkner's novel The Sound and The Fury is difficult to understand, "it is complex work, comprehension of which has made more difficult by its having considerably ahead of its time" (218).

This novel, when it was published for the first time, rouses contradiction among critics because some critics considered well of it and felt that the author had an extraordinary talent. But most of the critics

thought it was poor, and few people were interested in reading it. But more than thirty years later it is considered by many critics to be Faulkner's best novel. Readers find it difficult to comprehend because Faulkner not only used interior monologue for each main characters presented in each of the four sections of the novel, as well as the rapid shift-time of the plot, but he also presented an idiot as one of these characters (219).

Carvell Collins remarked in the The American Novel and Its Tradition, about the possible background of this novel.

The other 'structural system' is based on Freud. Benjy is the id, Quentin the ego, Jason the superego, Candace a sort of libido, Dilsey the "warm, loving nature", perhaps the integrated personality (235)..

According to Collins, William Faulkner has been influenced by Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis in forming the characterization of the four main characters in The Sound and The Fury. The four main characters are Benjy, Caddy, Quentin, and Jason. Their characterizations are that Benjy is referred to id, Caddy is referred to libido, Quentin is referred to ego, and Jason is referred to superego.

Based on that mentioned background, the major problem of this thesis can be formulated as follows: How is the characterization of the four main characters described in the novel?

### I.2. Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is to find the character's delineation of the four main characters in The Sound and The Fury by William Faulkner through Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis.

### I.3. Significance of the Study

I hope this thesis can ascend the quality of humanity. By the knowledge of id, libido, ego, and superego the readers can take the advantage in understanding humanity that can be applied in everyday life.

I also hope this thesis can add the readers' insight on literature. The scope of literature includes all of life aspects, including psychology. Therefore, after reading this thesis I hope the readers will get some insight on psychology.

#### I.4. Theoretical Background

The theoretical approach being employed in this thesis is psychological approach. According to Rene Wellek and Austin Warren in Theory of Literature, what is meant by psychology of literature is:

The psychological study of the writer, as type and as individual, or the study of the creative process, or the study of the psychological types and laws present within works of literature, or finally the effect of literature upon its readers (audience psychology)(81).

From these four meanings of psychology of literature, the third meaning, namely the study of the psychological types and laws present within works of literature, will be employed in this thesis. Based on this point, I try to find the character's delineation of the four main characters in The Sound and The Fury through Sigmund Freud's Psychoanalysis.

The use of psychology is suggested by David Daiches:

The professional psychologist need not, however, confine his interest in literature to attempt to psychoanalyze the author through his works. He can use his knowledge of psychological problems

and situation to interpret a work of literature without any reference to its author's biography. We can look out the behavior of characters in a novel or a play in the light of modern psychological knowledge, and if their behavior confirms what we know use modern theories as a mean of elucidating and interpreting the work. (337).

Richard Guches stated in Sequal: A Handbook for the Critical Analysis of Literarture that the implications of psychology have been recognized as important to writers, who have perceived certain motivator in human behavior. Most writers have supplied psychologists with such accurate case of mental functions in their literature so their works have had significant human mental processes. The correlation between writers and psychologists has long existed. Psychologists have been searching through literature for authentication which 'discovered' by the writers within literary work, while the writers and critics have been busy reading the works of psychologist to get any theories available for their writings. The psychologist who has been the most influential in stimulating a psychoanalytical approach to literature is Sigmund Freud (1856-1839) (114).

Because this research will look at the behavior of the oharacters by using psychoanalysis theory of Freud,

this theory will be viewed explicitly. Richard Guches said about Sigmund Freud's Psychoanalysis theory:

Freud asserted that the mind's structural organization is in the form of psychic zones. These zones control certain of mental functions out of which come human motivation... The id is totally submerged in the unconscious, and its function is to fulfill what is called the primordial life principle- or as Freud referred to it, the pleasure principle. Contained within the id is the libido from which comes the individual's psychic energy... The ego is usually thought of as conscious mind; however, a portion of it resides in the unconscious. Referred to as the reality principle, the ego's function is to govern the id and channel the id's drives into socially acceptable outlets.... Superego is the source of ethics as a moral, censoring agency, the superego is the home of the conscience and of pride (115-116).

#### I.5. Method of Research

This thesis is composed by using library research. Because this thesis is about a study on the main characters in William Faulkner's novel The Sound and the Fury through Sigmund Freud's Psychoanalysis, I will make

analysis on the four main characters in the novel. In analysing the novel, I also use Carvell Collins' analysis on The Sound and the Fury as the supporting source.

Because the topic of this study has close relation with psychology especially Psychoanalysis theory of Freud's, I also use psychological books giving clear explanation about Psychoanalysis theory. Further, to understand the novel and its possible background of its creation in critics' view, I use some books of critical study.

## **BAB II**

# **SYNOPSIS OF THE SOUND AND THE FURY**