

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

A person's behaviour in adulthood does not appear by itself. Some can stem from the experience of childhood trauma. Childhood trauma can affect relationships because humans learn about emotional bonds early on. When the one who they can rely on are being hurt or absent, it can affect how humans view human relationships. Childhood trauma can take various forms; one of them is experiencing loss. Experiencing the loss of something people love can impact human behaviour. Circumstances in which a child feels the loss or absence of a father figure are thought to have negative consequences for the child from the prenatal period and can lead to behaviour problems in the future (Huttunen & Niskanen 1978, 431). Each hysteria a person suffers is the outcome of traumatic events that the individual has had, which impacts his or her conduct (Freud 1963, 219). The psychological as well as bodily effects of a traumatic encounter, are discussed. Trauma is linked to a person's rate of growth, according to Freud (1963, 233). Those who experience the loss of someone they are close to, such as parents due to sickness or death because of suicide, can get trauma which will result in having anxiety, feeling disconnected and difficult to relate to others, having problems in controlling emotions, shyness, and anger.

Anxiety can grow in person as a form of expressing an individual's fear after experiencing a traumatic event in the past. When a person's anxiety becomes too much for someone to handle, he develops a defense mechanism. Anxiety is not the

same as fear, although they frequently coexist, fear and anxiety are distinct emotions. Anxiety is a feeling about potential outcomes, but fear is a strong physiologic reaction to impending danger. Both of these happen for no apparent reason. People don't always realize what they are afraid of. According to Sigmund Freud, anxiety is an objectless fear, meaning that people can't always pinpoint the source of the fear, such as a specific object (Freud and Baines 1996). People who are nervous are often unaware of it why they are anxious. They will be uneasy and will develop a defense mechanism. The procedure of the defensive mechanism is explained below as they will be sceptical and will develop a defense mechanism. The procedure of defensive mechanism is described below. According to Sigmund Freud's anxiety notifies the individual that the Ego is being challenged and that unless action is made, the Ego will be overturned. How can the Ego defend or protect itself? There are a few options: fleeing the dangerous circumstance, suppressing the impulsive need that is causing the risk or following the dictates of the conscience. If neither of those rational tactics succeeds, the individual may resort to defense mechanisms, which are non-rational strategies used to protect the Ego (Freud Sigmund 1856-1939 2013). When people experience anxiety in their lives, they will create a defense mechanism to protect themselves from the anxiety. They may employ analytical techniques to alleviate anxiousness at first. Several fears that people confront in their lives, however, cannot be alleviated solely through sensible activities. As a result, individuals will develop a defense mechanism that is classified as illogical in order to combat fear. The following is the writer's interpretation of Sigmund Freud's defense mechanism. A defense

mechanism, according to Freud, is a counterforce directed against the expression of urges and impulses. The assumption was that defenses helped to restrict or modulate urge expression in order to protect the individual from the anxiety that would arise from conscious recognition of unwanted impulses. This idea was further modified to encompass the use of defenses as a response to both external and internal sources of stress (i.e., drives) (2009 61).

To elaborate on how traumatic childhood can lead to anxiety and can affect Yu Jin's behaviour in the novel *The Good Son*, the researcher would like to use psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud in this thesis. The study of the human mind and behaviour is known as psychoanalysis. In addition, the research uses his Id, Ego, Superego, and defense mechanism theory to evaluate the character and characterization in the novel in order to comprehend the character's nature. Psychology is a branch of science that explores the psychological and biological processes that underpin human and animal behaviour (Encyclopedia Britannica 1113). The concept is central to all psychoanalytic thinking which unconsciousness is the most important aspect. To be able to analyze the mental behaviour of the fiction's character as well as a human being, it must be related to human unconsciousness of psychological experiences which built when a person is still in his/her childhood, then got influenced by the other aspects such as family and their surroundings. The other factors that can also affect the human unconscious besides those two are someone's religion, education, and other social aspects. From those factors, the human behaviour and psychological mind of the person can be built and

then possibly create some mental illness, even though the effects may not occur significantly.

As experienced by the main character "Yu Jin" in the novel *The Good Son*, he experienced anxiety because his Ego was injured when he was young, which leads him to do the sadistic act of killing. The act of killing due to anxiety that appears as a form of his anxiety is to kill his brother starting when playing the game, which gets to the top of the hill first. But in the middle of the game, Yu Jin was created by his brother, and when his brother got to the destination first, Yu Jin felt his Ego hurt. As a result, when Yu Jin arrived at the top of the hill, Yu Jin immediately pushed her brother from the top, saying, "The winner is not about who gets to first, but who still survives." The same case also occurs in the real world, as in the case hotly discussed in 2004 in Japan, namely the murder case by girl A. Based on the news from *Independent.co.uk*, This case is known as the Sasebo murder because it happened in the city of Sasebo, Japan. This happened on June 1, 2004. A 12-year-old child with the initial girl A killed her friend by slitting her friend with a cutter. This happened because the perpetrator was annoyed that the victim mocked him by calling her "goody-goody." Actually, this problem cannot be underestimated because it is quite dangerous and will be discussed further regarding the act of killing as Yu Jin's defense mechanism, which will be investigated using the theory of psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud.

The Good Son novel is a Korean novel by You Jeong Jeong published in 2016 and translated into English by Chi Young Kim in 2018 published by Penguin Publisher. *The Good Son* novel has the original title in Korean, *Jong-ui Giwon* that

means *'The Origin of Species'*. To give insight to researcher in making this thesis, the researcher tries to find some journal articles about psychopathic study. The first study is entitled *An Analysis of David and Emily Callaway's Psychopath Problems in Hide and Seek Movie Viewed from Sigmund Freud's Psychoanalysis Theory* (2019) by Dean Rahmat Fuady and Suhendar. This study applies Freudian Psychoanalysis in analysing the psychopathic problem and Dissociative Identity Disorder of the main characters. The previous study only pinpoints the idea of psychopathic problem in the main characters, however, this study also explores the concept of defense mechanism of the main character. The next study by Joseph K.J and J. Amalaveenus is entitled *The Influence of Freudian Psychoanalysis on Sarah Schulma's Novel Emphaty* (2022). This qualitative study applies Freudian concept in analysing the personality and character's deeds, defense mechanism, and dream.

The novel written by You Jeong Jeong was inspired by the true story of a serial killer in Korea named Yoo Young Chul. Yoo Young Chul is a serial killer who targets prostitutes and rich women. Based on the article Yoo Young Chul has a grudge and anger for being an outcast. He harbored hatred for the rich for the economic inequality that had existed in Seoul a few years earlier. Young Chul also hates women for the bad luck that befell him. There is a resemblance to the main character of The Good Son's novel "Yu Jin", Yu Jin harbors anger over the feeling of being disrespected by her mother and raises the core issue of rivalry towards her sibling Yu Jin. In addition, the feeling of thirst for love from his mother was also not welcomed by his mother. His mother even avoided him, often scolded him, hated him, and even tried to kill Yu Jin. The accumulated feelings of worthlessness

from his mother and also his aunt who is a psychiatrist who always forces Yu Jin to take medicine and controls her mother to forbid Yu Jin from doing what she likes like swimming. This was done not without reason, because her aunt knew of Yu Jin's psychopathic tendencies since she saw Yu Jin's diary which contains pictures of women who Yu Jin likes but she draws sadistically. All of these things have an impact on character development by the time Yu Jin grows up. Yu Jin turns into a cold-blooded assassin who targets weak women who are frightened by his existence.

This book by Jeong You Jeong is his 4th book, and this book will tell the life of a boy named Yu-Jin, who is 26 years old and has epilepsy. This story will begin with the level of Yu-Jin, who one day woke up from his sleep and woke up to the sight of his body covered in blood. It made him try to remember, and even though several things flashed in his mind, Yu-Jin could not remember anything that happened yesterday and last night, to be exact. After he realized that the blood smeared on his body was not blood from his body Yu-Jin decided to find out what really happened and when Yu-Jin came out of his room to find out more about what happened, Yu-Jin was shown by finding a body lying at the foot of the stairs. The apartment where he lives. The body was his mother's body, who had been lying lifeless with a slashed neck condition, and her mother's body was pooled in a pool of blood.

Yu-Jin's adoptive brother Hae Jin meanwhile informs him that there has been a murder of a young woman around the apartment they murdered in with the same wound as that of their mother with a gaping wound on the female victim's neck.

This makes Yu-Jin even more eager to find out what is going on and wants to continue to dig into her mind so that Yu-Jin can look for evidence and the relationship between the two murder cases that occurred in her area so that the story in this book will reveal a dark secret about Yu-Jin's family and Yu-Jin himself.

This book by Jeong You Jeong also makes readers enter into the story of this book and take a first-person point of view, namely Yu-Jin, who is a character who looks like a stupid and innocent person. Still, it turns out that behind it, Yu-Jin is an individual who is clever. The readers can understand how "smart" the character Yu-Jin in this book is. This figure, who looks calm and innocent, turns out to have a disorder that will surprise us readers. Because of that disorder, Yu-Jin's character needs to take medicine that makes him feel pain and the reason he feels euphoric when he doesn't take the drug. As readers will be asked to enter and understand the figure of a psychopath with the level of a "predator". Because of that, this book becomes interesting for its readers on how to think of a psychopath, the characteristics of superior, selfish, manipulative, sadistic, intelligent, but cunning. Making us read it will feel the horror when a psychopath feels sexually satisfied when he hears the fear and feels the fear from the women that he likes.

In addition, the story in this book is also a novel that tells adult stories and is rated for 17 years and over, so it will undoubtedly present writing and storylines that are suitable only for those who are old enough because if you remember this book is a thriller, mystery, and gore genre. It makes readers careful because this book's storyline is thrilling, even though it can be said that You Jeong Jeong's storyline runs slowly at the beginning. This story will take us deeper into Yu-Jin's

life story, and the readers will be presented with a note that is a description of Yu-Jin's dead mother regarding the figure of her son, Yu-Jin, and the things that were experienced during his mother's life. Every victim who has died from being killed is like a connecting thread from how they were killed.

You Jeong Jeong is a South Korean author. *Shoot Me in the Heart*, a novel about young people trying to get out of a mental institution in search of freedom; *Chilnyeonui bam* (7 Seven Years of Night), a novel about a father who was forced to become a murderer, and a boy who grows up to be the murderer's son; a novel about the end of the world caused by a waterborne epidemic; and *The Good Son*, a novel about a psychopathic killer's inner thoughts. Due to their gripping stories, two of Jeong's novels have been adapted into films. 'Shoot me in the heart' was adapted into a film directed by Mun Che-yong and starring Yeo Jin-goo and Lee Min-ki that was released in 2015. *Seven Years of Night*, directed by Choo Chang-min and starring Jang Dong-gun and Ryu Seung-ryong, was released in South Korea. Her most recent piece, *The Good Son*, has also been optioned by a studio and will be made into a film. In the 2010s, Jeong made a splash in the Korean literary world with his debut novel. This was because, in contrast to fellow Korean writers who had debuted through new writer's contests or literary journals, Jeong You Jeong had actively drawn genre-specific subjects into the narrative in order to create a story, he had actively drawn genre specific subjects into the narrative in order to create a story. Jeong You Jeong's novel *Shoot Me in the Heart* satirizes Korean society by placing it in a mental hospital and telling the narrative of two young men wanting to flee. Winning the 'Segye Literature Award with her novel 'Shoot me in the Heart.'

The researcher is interested in examining the phenomenon that occurs to the main character in *The Good Son* novel 'Yu Jin' related to the sadistic behaviour of the act of killing due to trauma due to his injured Ego when he was young. Yu Jin's character development occurred as an adult. Yu Jin turned out to be a person who also couldn't tell the difference between reality and dreams after his murder, primarily women. This is included in the denial phenomenon from Yu Jin. Not only that, even in childhood, when he killed his brother after that, he fell asleep for days, and then he forgot what happened. The dysfunction of the family also occurs in this novel. When Yu Jin's mother was already told by her sister, a doctor, that Yu-Jin had been diagnosed as a psychopath, his mother denial chose not to believe it. As time goes by, Yu Jin's mother already feels something wrong with Yu Jin and starts to believe her sister and starts the treatment for Yu Jin by giving him medicine as part of therapy. Yu Jin's mother starts being overprotective by being hard with Yu Jin and lacking communication with Yu Jin. All of this is a part of how Yu Jin's Defense mechanism responds to the traumatic events experienced by Yu Jin.

Yu Jin himself tended to kill since childhood. Because of the expression, he shows whenever he likes or is attracted to a woman, and he will stay still and observe her while drawing in his book how he will kill her. Coupled with the incident of his brother "Yu Min" triggering Yu Jin's anxiety by hurting Yu Jin's Ego, Yu Jin unexpectedly pushes his brother off a cliff. Suddenly, all of these events made Yu Jin's character grow up to be a cold-blooded person when killing, but he also had difficulty distinguishing between reality and fantasy. Every night, Yu Jin commits acts of killing women around his house, and when he returns home and

sleeps the following day, he does not remember what he has done, thinking that it only happened in his dreams. The researcher found that trauma can have a significant impact on his desire to act of killing as a defense mechanism of Yu Jin, which is interesting to investigate further.

According to Freud's psychoanalysis theory, human behaviours came as a result of the three personalities of humans, are, id, Ego, and Superego. The first division of the human psyche, Id is the one that represents the biological foundations of a human's personality. This is where basic human instinctive urges, especially sexual or libidinal urges, occur, which direct a person to seek pleasure. The id lies entirely at a person's unconscious level. Id works under the pleasure principle, whereby a person engages in tension-reducing activities so that sometimes mediate gratification occurs and refuses to compromise further (Lapsley 2012, 5). The Id also produces all the energy of a person's personality.

The next division is Ego. Different from the Id, Ego is an agent of a person's personality that regulates libidinal drive energies so that pleasure can match the demands of reality. Unlike the Id, which is focused on seeking pleasure, the Ego is a gathering place for a reason, common sense. It has a range of defensive strategies capable of altering, suppressing, or distorting unrealistic or forbidden expressions (Lapsley 2012, 4). If the Id lies at the unconscious level, Ego lies in all levels of awareness. Ego also attempts negotiation between Id and Superego to satisfy both realistically. It can be concluded that the Ego can work as the moderator between the id and the Superego and both of them seek compromises to pacify both (Hossain 2017, 43). The "ego" is also adequate to tolerate the level of stress and compromise,

becoming the separator between desire and fantasy, and Ego also changes over time (Liang 2011, 177).

The third one is Superego. The Superego is the ideal form of the Ego. The Superego arises as a result of the events experienced by a person in the Oedipal period, where children experience a phase of identification and introjection from their parents' figures. If the Id works in pursuit of pleasure and gratification and the Ego works under the principle of reality, the Superego uses the psychic apparatus to pursue ideals and perfection. The Superego is the source of morals and conscience (Lapsley 2012, 5). Furthermore, according to Freud, the Superego is a picture of the bond between a child and his parents, where parents are seen as figures who are both admired and feared so that parents will often give some important values to their children to attach to the child and be useful in his life (Freud 1923, 18). If the Id lies at the unconscious level and Ego lies in all levels of awareness, then the Superego is in the preconscious. The Superego that operates on this ideal principle usually begins to form when a person is at the age of 4 to 5 years and is initially formed by the surrounding environment such as society, family, and others. The incident experienced by Yu Jin when someone hurts his Ego can bring up his anxiety. The defense mechanism used by Yu Jin is that his subconscious forgets an incident that traumatized him. As previously discussed, childhood plays a significant role in human personality. Defense mechanism is demonstrated as the impact of childhood trauma and will be discussed further in this study. The researcher considers that the theory of psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud is very appropriate to be used in analyzing this study.

1.2 Statement of Problem

The problem of assertions that will be elaborated on in this analysis in order to assess the impact of childhood trauma on Yu Jin's adulthood personality in the novel *The Good Son* are:

1. How does the traumatic childhood experience in Yu Jin shape his impulse on his act of killing?
2. How can Yu Jin's act of killing be considered a product of a defense mechanism in psychoanalysis theory by Freud?

1.3 Objective of The Study

The following are the goals of the thesis analysis in terms of the problem statement:

1. To disclose his impulsive act of murdering others is heavily influenced by traumatic childhood memories.
2. To ensure that his sadism is viewed as a defense mechanism against the trauma he experienced as a child.

1.4 Significance of The Study

The writer's research tries to provide insight into cruel personalities shaped by painful experiences. Childhood is the foundational stage in the development of a person's personality. Children who are subjected to harsh treatment may develop mental and cognitive disorders later in life. This study emphasizes the impact of Ego injured on anxiety and the development of a sadistic personality. In addition, the defense mechanisms of someone who has experienced a traumatic experience as a child will be examined in this study. This research would also look into the defense mechanisms of someone who has had a traumatic event as a child. In order to protect their unconscious mind from painful situations, humans develop defense mechanisms. In addition, this study will benefit the readers, especially students in the English Department of the Faculty of Humanities at Universitas Airlangga, by offering a valuable and useful reference on the study of psychoanalytic criticism in childhood experience in building destructive personality. To future researchers, this study hopefully can provide more knowledge on Yu Jin's act of killing as his defense mechanism using psychoanalysis theory by Sigmund Freud.

1.5 Definition Key Terms

Killing	: The act of one that kills. (Merriam Webster dictionary)
Anxiety	: Feelings of tension and restlessness in the absence of the ability to cope with a problem or feeling insecure. (Taylor, 1953)
Defense mechanism	: Self-defense mechanism is any effort directed at managing stress including efforts to solve problems directly and defense mechanisms used to protect oneself. (Stuart and Sundeen, 1995)