

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Literary works such as prose, drama and poetry were not created for amusing purpose only. In literary works, people are able to interpret the works connecting with some aspects toward reality. For instance, in literary works, people can learn about psychology that has been told within characters (Wharton 34). Somehow, some characters within literary works reflect to real people including their desires (Griffith 129). As well as a novel by Toni Morrison entitled *Home* reveals a psychology issue especially about childhood experience and desire toward home within its main character, Frank Money,

Starting from birth up to death, people encounter many experiences among their life. People may undergo many experiences during their childhood up to their adulthood. The experiences that have happened may influence person's personality in the future. Tyson stated that:

“Psychological history that begins in childhood experiences in the family and each pattern of adolescent and adult behaviour that are the direct result of that early experiences” (12).

Some experiences happen during childhood are the early experiences with resultant of human's behaviour further. According to Freud in Feist and Feist, personality development was divided into four stages that are: infantile stage (the first 4 or 5 years of life), latency (followed by 6 or 7 years periods), genital stage (a puberty, sexual life occurs), and maturity (psychosexual development), and

among these stages, infantile stage is the most important one which also consists of oral phase, anal phase, and phallic phase (38). Experiences which happen during the early five years of children are very influential to create person's personality. Thus, this stage is very important to be concerned to take a look clearly in every single experience happen during the stage in order to dig a person's personality development in the future.

By referring to that information, the experiences happen during childhood have significant role to build human's personality including the way he or she behaves in the adolescent and adult life. That statement has relationship closely with Frank Money in Morrison's *Home*. During his childhood, from birth up to 12 years old, Frank lived in Lotus, Georgia, America. In addition, Georgia is located in south of America. Almost of all population in Georgia is African American. Georgia is also considered as a rural area because the environment is near with poverty in which it also provides a lack of community resource (Probst, et all).

Because he was born by a coloured family, he suffered discrimination during his childhood very often. For instance, when Frank lived in Texas during the age of four years old, his family was forced to move away from Texas and if they did not obey the direction, they would be dead. They even did not make any mistake but they could not maintain their house to keep living in Texas so that they moved to Georgia. Occasionally, he also saw his closest friend was being violated by people he did not know. Further, his parents were very busy in working to fulfil family's sake until he rarely spent time together with them so that he lived in his step-grandmother's house in Georgia. This is an ironic because

parents are supposed to be the closest figures that always have relationship with their children in daily life.

Freud stated in Muckenhaupt that “often childhood wishes and memories have been repressed and hidden from consciousness” (83). Childhood’s memory will not be easy to forget when the owner grows up because indeed it has tendency to be placed in the owner’s unconsciousness. Without realization, it remains in his or her mind which then affects future life such as during adolescent and adulthood. The memory which hides within a person’s unconsciousness obviously affects person’s personality. It has relation with Freud’s argument in Muckenhaupt that “the source of all desire and instinct supply the energy for the unconscious” (125) which means that desire deals much with unconsciousness of a person. According to the information above, it relates much with the life of Frank portrayed in Morrison’s *Home*. Frank was described as a man came from Lotus, Georgia, a place that he was born on. Ironically, he has a bad opinion toward the place, as he said “we shouldn’t have been anywhere near that place. Like most farmland outside Lotus, Georgia, this is one here had plenty of scary warning signs” (Morrison 3). Although he stepped his feet first in the place but seemingly he is being homeless. Therefore, he kept searching for home unconsciously which lies within his desire. The concept of home that has been Frank’s desire is not only a physical building.

The word „home“ is totally different from the word „house“. According to psychiatry, home is more than financial assets but it has deep emotional meaning (Ablow). Oxford dictionaries online described that house is “a building for human habitation especially one that consists of a ground floor and one or more upper

storeys” while home is “the place where one lives permanently, especially as a member of a family or household” (Oxford Dictionaries Online). Those two explanations look similar but different. The explanation about home was stated as the one which has close relations with family. As well as Freud stated that time and energy of a person can be created from sexual and family life toward home (Bocock 79). So, family is an important element which completes the concept of home. Freud explained that the concept of family consists of father, mother and children which also named as Oedipal Triangles (41). In this case, Franks also suffered the missing figures of parents during his childhood. In Lotus, Georgia, his mother and father lived in poverty which forced them to keep working for gaining money. Therefore, Franks, his sister, Cee, and his parents were insisted to live in his step-grandmother’s house because his parents were not able to rent a house by themselves. However, Franks felt that his step-grandmother did not treat his family well. These things strengthen his emotion of hating the place very much which then indeed influences his desire in the future.

Toni Morrison is an African-American woman which was born in 1931 as Chloe Ardelia Wofford and raised in Lorain, Ohio, a town populated by immigrants mainly from Europe. She became popular as Toni Morrison during her undergraduate years at Howard University. She is the first African American writer who receives a prestige as a Noble prize winner for Literature in 1993. Further, she also receives the National Book Foundation Medal for Distinguished contribution to American Letters in 1996. During 1998 to 2006, she also had been teaching for several notable universities such as Princeton University, Yale University, and the State University on New York. In addition, Morrison has also

made recording for her several books to be audio book that published by Random House and in 1998, she was nominated for Grammy Award in the category of Best Spoken Word Album for her recordings of *Beloved* (Lister 1-10). *The Bluest Eyes* (1970) is her first novel. Other literary works that she has written are *Song of Solomon* (1977), *Tar Baby* (1981), *Beloved* (1987) which won a Pulitzer Award, *Jazz* (1992), *Paradise* (1998), *Love* (2003), *Mercy* (2008) and *Home* (2012).

As her latest novel, *Home* is a 148 pages novel that tells about the life of the main character namely Frank Money. Even though the novel is not quite thick but it consists of complex issues. Frank Money is a black American who spends his childhood in Lotus, Georgia. In that city, Frank often sees violence, battle and discrimination encountered by people around him. For instance, during his childhood, he saw two men fought each other until die while the other men who saw it did not care to the two men but they made a bet upon the fighting. He also saw that his parents only worked as labour to pick cotton in someone's field in which in Georgia there was no any better job than that. In order to escape from the place that he hated much, he joined a military for preparing Korean War with his two closest friends from Georgia. These experiences drive his condition miserable. Twenty years later, he was insisted to back to Georgia to help his abused sister. It makes him remaining his journey back toward his bad childhood experience that he attempts to forget.

Since the focus of the study attempts to analyse the life of Frank Money that has been told within the introduction above, the writer believes that a concept by Sigmund Freud namely Psychoanalysis is relevant to be applied in Morrison's *Home*. Freud has published many scientific books relate with human's

personality. There are several books that had been published such as *Studies on Hysteria* published in 1893 which is the beginning of psycho-analysis term had been called about his approach in analyzing his patients. In 1903, Freud published another book entitled *Interpretation of Dream* contained many of his dreams. In 1905, Freud also published his books entitled *Three Essays in the Theory of Sexuality* and *Jokes and their Relation to the Unconscious*.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the study, the statements of problem are formulated as follow:

1. How is Frank's childhood experience depicted in Toni Morrison's *Home*?
2. How does Frank's childhood experience influence his desire toward home in Toni Morrison's *Home*?

## 1.3 Objective of the Study

The objective of the study attempts to answer those two questions. Therefore, the study intends:

1. To explain the process of Frank's childhood experience.
2. To explore the influence of Frank's childhood experience toward his desire for home.

#### 1.4 Significance of the Study

By doing the study, the writer expects to be able giving positive contribution toward the writer herself, society and academic field. For the writer herself, the writer tries to get deeper understanding about psychoanalysis especially the terms of childhood, home, family and desire including their importance influential in person's personality. For the society or readers in general, the writer hopes that it will give additional knowledge about the importance of childhood and home living including family shape person's personality. For academics field, especially English Department in Universitas Airlangga, the writer expects that it will help the students to enrich their knowledge especially for those who are interested in psychoanalysis.

#### 1.5 Scope and Limitation

In analysing Morrison's *Home*, the writer focuses the study toward its main character, Frank Money. It is including Frank's experiences happen during his childhood, adolescent and adulthood. During his childhood, the writer focuses on his life happens both in Texas and in Lotus, Georgia, as the first step on his personality. Frank spends his first four years experience lives in Texas while after then, he moves to Georgia in the age of four years old until as a teenager. In this step, the writer pays attention toward his background family as coloured person. Furthermore, the writer also focuses toward his social and family life happens during his childhood. During Frank's adulthood, the writer focuses on his social life happens in Korea because the story tells that he spends his adulthood by joining military for Korean War. Moreover, the writer focuses on his social life

that happens in America as a former veteran. Therefore, the writer focuses on the development of Frank's personality by looking on his behaviour during childhood up to adulthood.

## 1.6 Theoretical Background

Since the study attempts to analyze Morrison's *Home* by using psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud, the writer uses personality theory. Basically, according to Griffith, by applying psychoanalytic criticism in literary text, the basic principles that the reader must deal with is looking upon character as having motivation, conflict, desire and inclination that similar with real people (129). As well as it is applied to Frank Money, the main character within the novel. According to Freud in Bressler, in person's personality, there three levels of human's mental life, those are:

“the conscious is the mind's direct link to external reality...perceives and reacts to external environment...the preconscious is the storehouse of memories that conscious part of the mind allow to be brought to consciousness without disguising these memories...[and] the unconscious holds the repressed hungers, images, thoughts and desire of human nature” (145)

Furthermore, human's province of the mind also divided into three aspects, those are id, ego and superego. According to Freud in Pervin and John, the id represents the source of all energy such as pleasure principle, sexual and



aggressive instinct, while the superego represents the moral branch which control person's behaviour according to society rules, and the ego is reality which its function to express and satisfy desire of id according to reality and demand of superego (81). Freud also explained in Feist and Feist that stages of person's personality development divided into several stages that infantile period, latency period, genital period and maturity (16). Each of these stages describes different years of period of a person life and its significances toward person's personality. Thus, Freudian psychoanalysis is applicable to analyze the conflict happens within Frank's personality from childhood up to adulthood.

### **1.7 Method of the Study**

The study uses qualitative research method that defines "a broad explanation for behaviour and attitudes, and it may be complete with variables, constructs, and hypotheses" (Creswell 83). To reveal these aspects, the writer makes an arrangement consists of data collection, and data analysis.

In data collection, first, the writer defies the primary source and secondary sources. In primary sources, the writer takes a novel by Toni Morrison entitled *Home* as the main data. In this step primary source, the writer does a close-reading to reveal the issue and collect the evidence within the novel. From the step of close-reading, the writer will first collect dialogues, thoughts and sentences from the primary sources as the evidence in order to strengthen the writer's argument. After revealing the issue that will be concerned for, then the writer takes secondary sources both from digital and non-digital sources. From the secondary

sources, the writer collects some information, theory and discourse that relevant with the issue in order to prove the analysis becomes reliable.

In section of data analysis, first, the writer's hypotheses will be dig deeper by combining data collection both from primary and secondary sources. The writer gives so much attention toward the development personality of Frank Money as the main focus character. In order to support this searching, the writer will concern toward formal element of the novel itself as the basic analysis in literary criticism, such as characterization, plot, setting and so on. After that, the writer will analyze the issue according to the theory that will be collected from the secondary sources. In order to make an analysis becomes reliable and trustworthy; the writer puts some excerpts both from the novel and from references in secondary sources. Hence, the writer's argument and analysis will be strengthening by combination of data collection and data analysis.

### **1.8 Definition of Key Terms**

**African American** : it refers to American that his or her skin colour is not white or in this study, it means to American that declined from African whose skin colour is dark or black which sometimes said as African American

**Childhood experience** : Freud believes it is some activity happens during childhood which relates with childhood personality development that contains several stages during the age of first 4 or 5 years (Feist and Feist 38)

Desire : it deals with person's unconsciousness as the influence of childhoods' repressed memories and wishes.

Family : in psychoanalysis term, according to Freud, it deals with Oedipal Triangle consists of mother, father and children as the portrayal of nucleus family (Bocock 41)

Home : a term that does not only deal with physical building but also the atmosphere living in a place, such as emotional meaning includes harmonious relationship with family and social life surrounding.

