

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Living in the world is full of tension. It is usual for the people having many problems on running their life. It is believed that such problem can motivate them to live a better life. But if the problems arising become bigger, it will be difficult for them to solve it. The feeling of anxiety will occur when they believe that they cannot face the problem. The last way for them to solve the problem is by trying to escape from it, just to make their feeling safe from anxiety.

Anxiety as one of the psychology problems can occur in many ways. Realized or not, anxiety brings the negative emotion that includes fear, apprehension and worry, and is often accompanied by physical sensations such as palpitations, nausea, chest pain and shortness of breath. Anxiety can be nightmare for many people. In family life, anxiety can be seen from the husband who has a fear of losing his wife. For a few people, anxiety is not always a nightmare, with fear, anger, sadness and happiness. It has a very important function in relation to survival.

Anxiety as one of psychoanalytic principles was proposed by Sigmund Freud, an Austrian physician. He introduced the psychoanalytic theory in the early 1900s. The basic meaning of the term psychoanalytic is divided into two levels, they are: the conscious (about the rational things) and

the unconscious (about the irrational things). In his research, Freud divided the component of personality into three parts; they are *Id*, *Ego*, and *Superego*. In the concept of psychoanalytic theory, anxiety becomes the major case. As the result, Freud described the meaning of anxiety that is “a felt affective, unpleasant state, accompanied by physical sensation that warm the person against impending danger. The unpleasantness is often vague to hard to pinpoint, but the anxiety it self is always felt” (Freud, 1933/1964:81-85). According to Hall, anxiety is “a key variable in almost all theories of personality. The result of conflict, which is an inevitable part of life anxiety often seen as a major component of personality dynamics” (Hall, 1985:41).

When the anxiety becomes bigger, the people will try to reduce it. Then they will use some ego defense mechanism to loose the feeling of anxiety for a while. Ego defense mechanism is used to maintain the self-esteem and to defend against anxiety (Hilgard, 1962:511)

Literature, as work of art, gives us possibility and ease in comprehending other world, realities that happen in certain society and the value system which are adhered by that community. In the literary works, an author in his or her works sometimes shows the anxiety feeling of the character in much condition or case. The author creates a conflict where the character of the play, become anxious, frustrated, feeling guilty and afraid with the next happened so the character becomes anxious to solve his or her problem. It can be seen it in a novel written by Catherine Cookson, where the major character Harry Blenheim is frustrated, afraid, and anxious about his

condition. And there are so many literary works which illustrate the anxiety condition.

One of the literary works that presents anxiety feelings is *The Nice Bloke* by Catherine Cookson, an English Romantic Novelist, biographer and editor, best known as the writer of *The Nice Bloke* (1969). She was 63 when the book was published. She was born on June 27, 1906 in Tyne Dock, Co Durham, an industrial region in the northeast of England. Unlike so many leading writers she started life with many disadvantages. She was born illegitimate. Her mother was poverty stricken, at times an alcoholic and occasionally violent. Her first and later works include *Kate Hannigan* (1950) and *Kate Hannigan's girls* (1999), both partly autobiographical and *Colour Blind* (1953) was a story of a woman who marries a black man. The *Black Candle* (1989) is dealt with such social issues as class tensions and unemployment, set in the nineteenth century and depicting a class between two families and her novel *The Round Tower* (1968) won an award as the best regional novel of the year, it is romantic story. Her other major series are *The Mallen Family*, *Tilly Troter* (filmed in 1999), *Hamilton* and *Bill Bailey*. Catherine Cookson died shortly before her ninety-second birthday, on June 11, 1998, in her home near Newcastle upon Tyne. Beside the novels above, she also wrote her novel which the title *The Nice Bloke* (1969) that told about family conflicts.

The Nice Bloke is one of her romantic novels. The story is about family's conflicts caused by internal and external factors that influence the

main character. The major character of this novel is Harry Blenheim. He faces the conflict in his personality between his *Id* to get happiness in marital life and his *Ego* that makes him aware that he has to live in the control of his father-in-law. Then he realizes that he will never feel the word of “happiness” in his life.

All day long, Harry just get his life as usual. He feels bored actually, but he has no choice. He has to stay in a big house with his wife who never gives him love and affection anymore after they have three children. He also has to face the fact that both of his sons never give him a respect as their own father. He just has Gail, his only one daughter who is careless about him. This bad condition leads him to have an affair with his shorthand typist in Peamarsh. There is a conflict inside of his personality when he does it. His *Id* really wants it as his happiness and his *Ego* realizes that he needs that girl, but his *superego* always warns him that he is a married man with three children.

He does not really care about his personality’s conflict for the first time. Then he is awake from his long sleep that he has to realize that something will happen if he does it again, moreover if his scandal is opened. Then, the feeling of anxiety appears day by day. He cannot handle his feeling like he cannot handle his family. Then he uses some ego defense mechanism to cover his anxiety. This mechanism also can cover the mistakes that he has ever done to Miss Betty Ray, the shorthand typist.

It just only a mechanism and it cannot always bring a perfection to cover some mistake or sin. Finally, his scandal is opened and again he feels

his anxiety raising up in his personality. Then he handles it by using the ego defense mechanism.

From the fact above, Harry Blenheim has anxiety feeling which influences his personality. Harry becomes a different Harry. Harry becomes brutal; he tries to kill his father-in-law because he feels that his entire problem comes from him. He thinks if his father-in-law died, he will feel happy. Finally, Harry is taken in a prison for two years because of his crime. The writer is interested in analyzing this novel using psychoanalytic perspective because the anxiety feeling has grown and powerfully changes him from the nice man to become an aggressive man and uncontrolled husband, who attack his father in law as his enemy. All happens because his goal, seeking about a happy family is unrealized.

There are some consideration why *The Nice Bloke* is interesting for the researcher. The first reason is because the moral message from the story, that as a human we must have a big patient and not follow our desire when we have problem. The second is the figure of the major character, Harry Blenheim; his dream is a reflection of all the father in the world, who want happiness in their family. In this study the researcher encourages himself to give it a title: ANXIETY IN CATHERINE COOKSON'S *THE NICE BLOKE*: A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH.

B. Literary Review

Based on the researcher's observation, *The Nice bloke* was already analyzed by Winoto Catur Asmoro. He focused the research on "The

inferiority feeling in Catherine Cookson's *The Nice bloke*," using individual psychological approach.

Here, the researcher tries to conduct the research paper on the anxiety that appears in major character, Harry Blenheim's personality and the ego defense mechanism, which appears by using psychoanalytic perspective.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the research background, the writer formulates the problem of the study. The problem is "How does the anxiety feeling of Harry Blenheim influence his personality as reflected in Catherine Cookson's *The Nice Bloke*?"

D. Limitation of the Study

In this research the author will focus on the main character, Harry Blenheim who has anxiety feeling which influences his personality and his way to reduce it by using some ego defense mechanism. This study uses Psychoanalytic Approach.

E. Objective of the Study

Based on the problem statement above, the writer scrutinizes the objective of the study as follows:

1. To analyze the novel based on structural element.
2. To analyze the novel based on Freud's principles of psychoanalytic.

Here, the researcher intends to analyze the novel viewed from the aspect of psychoanalytic. He focuses the research on the major character, Harry Blenheim and tries to analyze the anxiety feeling of Harry Blenheim and its influence on his personality.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits expected from this study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study is expected to contribute the development of the knowledge, particularly the literary study on *The Nice Bloke* by Catherine Cookson.

2. Practical Benefit

To give deeper understanding about the novel and to give inputs to others writer who intend to analyze the novel of *The Nice Bloke* by Catherine Cookson.

G. Research Method

In this study, the writer uses qualitative research.

1. Object of the Research

The research object in this study in Catherine Cookson's *The Nice bloke*.

2. Type of the Data and the Data Source

This study uses library data, which are classified into two categories:

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data sources are the data taken from the text *The Nice bloke*. It covers such things as words, phrases, sentences and dialogue in the novel.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data sources are the data taken from some materials selected in the relation with the problem exposed such as biography of Catherine Cookson's, the psychoanalytic, the website in the internet about the novel *The Nice bloke* and other resources that support the analysis.

3. Technique of the Data Collection

In writing this research paper, the writer uses certain procedures as follows:

- a. Reading the novel repeatedly.
- b. Deciding the important words, phrases, sentences and dialogues.
- c. Writing down the important data.
- d. Arranging the data into several parts, based on its classification.
- e. Developing the data provided.
- f. Analyzing the data of the research based on Sigmund Freud theory of psychoanalytic.

4. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique of analyzing data is descriptive. It means that the researcher interprets the text and content to get the needed data. This data then, are

used to analyze the character of Harry Blenheim using psychoanalytic perspective.

H. Research Paper Organization

This research paper consists of five chapters. Chapter I is the Introduction, which contains background of the study, literary review, problem statement, problem limitation, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and research paper organization. Chapter II is underlying theory. The structural analysis of the novel is presented in Chapter III. While Chapter IV presents psychoanalytic theory and the analysis of the novel. Chapter V consists of conclusion and suggestion.