

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

People as long as their lives always get in touch with other person or their society. That is why people cannot avoid problems between their society and even with themselves. Problem will exist when there is a discrepancy between their present state and their perceived goal state and there is no readily apparent way to get from one to the other. They sometimes have experiences in sadness, happiness, hesitation and anxiety. These can occur in daily life, wherever, whenever, and whatever condition. Some individual give different reaction, they may see the problems as a burden and have no clues to solve them. In this case anxiety may occur.

Anxiety is one of psychological problems. Anxiety can be a nightmare for some individual. Anxiety may occur when one individual feels his society does not treat him as an individual who has right to decide what he or she wants to do express his or her own feeling, instead he or she pushes to accept his or her society decision without giving him or her a chance to speak. Anxiety is an unpleasant emotional experience similar but not identical to feelings of nervousness, worry, agitation, or panic (Burger, 1986: 59)

Under the pressure of excessive anxiety, the *ego* is sometimes forced to take extreme measures to relieve the pressure. These measures are called defense mechanism. In general, defense mechanisms serve the useful purpose of defending the *ego* against the pain of anxiety. Although they are normal and

universally used when carried to an extreme they lead to compulsive, repetitive, and even neurotic behavior. Because the establishment and maintenance of defense mechanism require a constant expenditure of energy any person who elaborates them has little psychic energy left to satisfy *id* impulses. Defense mechanism deals directly with instinctual demands and to defend itself against the anxiety (Feist, 1985: 33)

Literature as artwork has close relationship with the psychoanalysis. The author gives the characters in his or her work which this character is faced on two or more choices or some difficulties and the character becomes anxious. Therefore, the character will do defense mechanism to solve his or her anxiety or problems.

In this case, the writer intends to conduct a study on the personality aspect of the main character, Michael Henchard in *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, a novel written by Thomas Hardy in 1886. Thomas Hardy was born in 1840. In the Hardy's novels does not show the optimism, because fate is impossible to give people happiness and always falls forward to tragedy. Thomas Hardy has a life concept that life is cruel and without means. But he as audience that he feels pity toward people as a puppet of fate. One of the Thomas Hardy's novels is *The Mayor of Casterbridge*. This novel is about anxiety experienced by Henchard as the result his experience in the past. He sells his wife and his daughter. Therefore he does defense mechanism to solve his anxiety. So this study is conducted under the title "*Defense Mechanism in Thomas Hardy's The Mayor of Casterbridge: A Psychoanalytic Approach.*"

## **B. Previous Study**

*The Mayor of Casterbridge* was already studied by Renggani and she focused the research on “Anxiety In Thomas Hardy’s *The Mayor of Casterbridge: A Psychoanalytic Approach*. Her study comes to the conclusion that in *The Mayor of Casterbridge* Hardy reflects major character anxiety as the result of his personality conflicts. From the literature review about, the writer assumes that there is no researcher who analyzes *Defense Mechanism In Thomas Hardy’s The Mayor of Casterbridge on the Psychoanalytic Approach*.

## **C. Problem Statement**

The major problem in this study is how major character’s defense mechanism is reflected in Thomas Hardy’s *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.

## **D. Limitation of the Study**

To carry out the study, the researcher needs to limit the study. The researcher is going to analyze Michael Henchard as one of the major characters in novel *The Mayor of Casterbridge* written by Thomas Hardy based on psychoanalytic approach.

## **E. Objective of the Study**

Dealing with the problem statement above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

- a. To analyze the novel based on its structural element
- b. To analyze the novel based on the psychoanalytic approach

## **F. Benefit of the Study**

### **a. Theoretical Benefit**

The result of this study is expected to be able to give theoretical contribution in literature study, particularly psychoanalytic study on literature about defense mechanism

### **b. Practical Benefit**

Hopefully this study can give knowledge about defense mechanism.

## **G. Research Method**

### **1. Type of the Research**

In analyze Thomas Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, the writer uses the qualitative method because it does not need statistic to explore the fact

### **2. Type of the Data and the Data Source**

In study there are two sources namely primary and secondary data source

#### **a. Primary data source**

The primary data source is the novel itself, *The Mayor of Casterbridge* by Thomas Hardy

#### **b. Secondary data source**

The secondary data sources are the biography of the author, the website in the internet about the novel *The Mayor of Casterbridge* and other resources that support to analysis

### **3. Technique of the Data Collection**

The data collecting technique used in this study is library research

The necessary steps are as follows:

- a. Reading the novel repeatedly
- b. Taking notes of information in both primary and secondary data
- c. Arranging the data into several part based on its classification
- d. Analyzing the data
- e. Drawing conclusion based on the analysis data

### **4. Technique of the Data Analysis**

The first step in analyzing the data of this research is clarifying the obtained data by selecting the necessary ones. Secondary step is analyzing data based on psychoanalytic theory proposed by Sigmund Freud

## **H. Paper Organization**

This research consists of five chapters. Chapter one is introduction. This chapter involves the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study objective of the study, theoretical approach and research method, and paper organization. Chapter two deals with underlying theory. Chapter three is structural analysis which includes character and characterization, plot, point of view, setting, and theme. Chapter four deals with psychoanalytic analysis and chapter five deals with conclusion and suggestion.