

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Every human being uses defense mechanism in their life. “When anxiety occurs, the mind first responds by an increase in problem-solving, seeking rational ways of escaping the situation. If this is not fruitful, a range of defense mechanism may be triggered” (<http://changinngmind.org/explanations/behaviors/coping/defensemechanisms.htm>). Defense mechanism only cause serious problem when people are excessively used. Defense mechanism is a problem that occurs in the real world and in the daily life. It may occur in the school life, such as when a teacher as the knowledge transferor in school thinks that she is a perfect and a brilliant person who give knowledge to the students. She forces her students to always follow and obey her ruler. They have to become a quite child in school. Her students then have a different personality in school and at home. They become a quite child in school because they are afraid of his teacher . They become a naughty child and revenge all the pressure that he gets from his teacher to his family at home. In this case, the children show defense against open expression of id impulses.

According to Freud, defense mechanism “serves 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 compulsion, repetitive, and even neurotic behavior” (Feist, 1985: 32).

Defense mechanism is a problem of life. In literary work the characters face with some human problems that are usually faced in the real time. There so many values that present through the characters. So, by understanding a literary work through the presentation of characters, we can enrich our experience of life.

Psychology studies the human beings in their life. The character in literary work can be analyzed through psychology, because literary works are as the product or as the result of writer’s sensitiveness about human motive. Since literature is the exposition of man mental, it can be said that literature has a tight relationship to psychology. Literature and psychology have the same object of research that is human being.

Characters in plays and novels “are judged by us to be psychology true. Situations are praised and plot accepted because of this some quality” (Wellek and Warren. 1956: 91). Psychology becomes an instrument to explain the character’s behavior. So, it is possible to employ the psychological approach in analyzing the characters within the literary works through applying the principle work of literature.

The famous American author whose novel show psychological problem such as defense mechanism is Sidney Sheldon in his novel *Are You Afraid of the Dark?*, the eighteenth of Sidney Sheldon’s novel which was published in 2004 Warner Books in New York, United States of America in

400 pages and 46 chapters. The other Sidney works are *The Naked Face* (1970). *The Other Side of Midnight* (1973). *A Stranger In The Mirror* (1976). *Bloodline* (1977). *Rage of Angels* (1980). *Master of the Game* (1982). *If Tomorrow Comes* (1985). *Windmills of the Gods* (1987). *The Sands of Time* (1988). *Memories of Midnight* (1990). *The Doomsday Conspiracy* (1991). *The Stars Shine Down* (1992). *Nothing Last forever* (1994). *Morning, Noon and Night* (1995). *The Best Laid Plans* (1997). *Tell Me Your Dreams* (1998) and *The Sky is Falling* (2000).

A master storyteller, Sidney Sheldon has garnered international praise and recognition the world over. The winner of an Oscar, a Tony, and an Edgar Allan Poe Award. Sheldon has over 200 television scripts twenty five major motion pictures, six Broadway plays, eighteen novels (which have sold over 300 million copies) and one memory to his credit ranking him as one of the world's most politic writers. With each of his books having hit # 1 on the New York Times best seller list, Sheldon is one of the three best-selling authors alive today (<http://www.hachettebookgroupusa.com/features/sidneysheldon/meet-ss.html>).

Related to Sheldon's novel especially *Are You Afraid of the Dark?*, the researcher is intended to conduct study on psychology aspect of characters in this novel. The researcher then focuses on defense mechanism of Kelly Harris, the main character of *Are You Afraid of the Dark?*

In *Are You Afraid of the Dark ?*, Sheldon creates Kelly Harris to be a roman candle which is exploded into the world of fashion for her sensual

appetites who suffer from her experience of life. As a main character Sheldon describes the defense mechanism of Kelly Harris. Her defense appears in her personality and behavior. Kelly Harris as the main character was in her late twenties an African-American with skin the color of melted honey and a face that was a photographer's dream. Kelly had been born in Philadelphia, the illegitimate daughter of Ethel Hackworth, a black maid who worked for one of the town's most prominent white families. Kelly life's become a dreadful, tedious routine which she had to do. Kelly felt as though she had been kicked in the gut when she knew that her mother never wanted her.

Are You Afraid of the Dark?, explores a sex, love, hate, affair and revenge. It began when the main character was eight years old, she was raped by one's of her mother friend. She was in misery all the time, but she treated her lacerated body as best she could until finally the pain subsided. The incident had lasted only a few minutes but those few minutes altered Kelly's life. She changed from a young girl who had dreamed of having a husband and children to someone who felt that she was tarnished and disgraced. She resolved that she would never let a man touch her again. Something else had changed in Kelly. From that night on, she was afraid of the dark. When she found her love afterwards, she felt that his love will make her become the happiest woman in the world and she will forget all the sadness in her life. But that though just last for a moment, her husband murdered. By the time her dark heart shows up again. She felt that by her husband death, she also dies, she being a closed woman.

Considering the explanation above, the researcher is interested in analyzing Sidney Sheldon's *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* by using psychoanalytic approach, entitled "Defense Mechanism in Sidney Sheldon's *Are You Afraid of the Dark?: A Psychoanalytic Approach*".

B. Problem Statement

The major problem of the study is: "How is defense mechanism reflected in Sidney Sheldon *Are You Afraid of the Dark?*?"

C. Literature Review

The researcher presents the previous study that deals with the study of this novel. There is other researcher who conducted different studies of *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* for their research paper. The research paper of Any Lutfy Hartanty 2005 from Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta entitled "Ambition In Sidney Sheldon's *Are You Afraid of the Dark?: An Individual Psychological Approach*."

Here, the researcher is interested in analyzing the character of Kelly Harris in the novel *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* by using psychoanalytic approach emphasized on the defense mechanism of Kelly Harris.

D. Objective of the Study

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

1. To analyze the structural element of the *Are You Afraid of the Dark?*.
2. To analyze the novel based on psychoanalytic Approach.

E. Benefits of the Study

The writer divides the benefits into two categories, they are :

1. Theoretical Benefit

To give contribution to the study of Sidney Sheldon's *Are You Afraid of the Dark?*.

2. Practical Benefit

The study expected to enrich the writer's knowledge and experience either dealing with library research and help the writer to reach the purpose in making novel analysis.

F. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In analyzing the Sidney Sheldon's *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* the researcher uses the qualitative method because it does not need statistic to explore the fact.

2. Type of the Data and the Data Sources

The type of data employed in this research is textual data, which consists of words, phrases, and sentences. In this research, the researcher uses two data sources that are primary and secondary data sources.

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data are taken from the novel itself *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* by Sidney Sheldon.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data sources are any information related to the novel and the psychoanalytic theory about. There is information of Sidney Sheldon's background and her work *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* That is taken from many books and website. Beside that, there are also many information of Psychoanalytic theory that is taken from many books and website.

3. Technique of the Data Collection

The data collecting technique used in this study is the library research.

- a. Reading and comprehending the novel
- b. Taking notes of information in both primary and secondary data sources.
- c. Arranging the data into several parts base on it is classification.
- d. Drawing conclusion based on the analysis data.

4. Technique of the Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, the researcher uses two kinds of technique. The first step in analyzing the data of this research is trying to clarify the

obtained data. The second technique is analyzing data based on Sigmund Freud theory of Psychoanalytic.

G. Research Paper Organization

This research is divided into five chapters. Chapter one is introduction consisting of Background of the study, Problem Statement, Literature Review, Objective of the Study, Benefits of the Study, Research Method and Research Paper Organization. Chapter two deals with review of underlying theory. The researcher explains the basic principle theory of personality. Chapter three is structural analysis. The researcher explains the structural element of the story and discussion. Chapter four is data analysis. It presents a psychological analysis of the novel. The last chapter consists of conclusion and suggestion.