

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Human being is a complex creature, consisting of not only physical element but also mental element. He always encounters with the problems of life. People cannot escape from their problems. If they do not do anyway to overcome even small problem can turn to be big ones, when he just wants to avoid it and it affects their personality, causing anxiety feeling. Many ways are used to handle the problem or at least these ways can reduce his anxiety, for example: an actor wants his beauty and his youth forever, but however he would get older and ugly slowly. And then, he tries to find many ways to avoid it; even it is a wrong way, like selling his soul to the evil to get beauty and youth forever. He thinks this is the way to escape from his problem but this way actually cannot give a solution. The anxiety still exists, changing to be nervous and then suffers from depression. If he does not recognize his fault, his life is going to end tragically.

The problems of human have attracted the attention of some people in different science, particularly, philosophers, psychologist, and literary writers. In creating literary works, an author is influenced by the events or condition at that time of making it. The work reflects about human life, experiences, emotion, minds, mood and conflicts.

Literary works such as novel cannot be separated from their author's creativity to represent their ideas of life. Therefore, even though the works of literature are 'fictional', they have the capacity for being 'true'. Thus, novel

represents the author's idea, feeling, attitude and so on. On the other hand, the author lives in a society with a particular condition and status. That is the reason that literary work cannot be separated from the society in which it was produced. Welleck and Warren state, "literature represents life is in large measure, a social reality" (1956: 94).

Since literary work is an expression of the author about life, readers can find historical background, social and psychology of the author transformed from the real life to represent his view. The author can represent a novel based on his experience life and ideas. It is more than what human can do as Boulton states:

"A good novel is true in the sense that it gives a sincere well observed, enlightening picture of a portion life a human." (Boulton, 1983: 5)

Among other literary writer who gives concern in the case above is Oscar Wilde, specially in his novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray (TPoDG)*, tries to describe a psychological phenomenon faced by human as a personal person in this novel.

Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde was born on October 16, 1854 in Dublin. He was born into an Anglo-Irish in mid-Victorian Dublin. The Anglo-Irish community to which he belonged was descendants of the English settlers who had colonized Ireland in the seventeenth century. At that time, Queen Victoria leaded English. In the late 19th century, English society was the era of Queen Victoria and usually known as Victorian period. Victorian morality and values dominated by this era. The enlightenment of the intellectual revolution that influence was as profound as the economic and political ones of the freedom of the individual to determine his own destiny and create his own life.

Oscar Wilde is an Irish writer, author of some of the most brilliant essays and comedies in English. At 17, he won an entrance scholarship to Magdalen College, Oxford. He left Oxford for London at 1878-1881, he published poems and immature melodrama called *Vera*. Some of his works are *The Happy Prince* (1888), *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1891), *The Duchess of Padua*, *The Woman's World*, *Intention* (1891), *Lady Windermere's Fan* (1892), *A woman of No Importance* (1895), *An Ideal Husband*, *The Importance of Being Ernest*, etc. Finally his career was destroyed by his attitude toward homosexuality.

Oscar Wilde in *TPoDG* shows that Dorian Gray, the major character of the novel, gives meaning to his life is meaningless because he cannot handle his personal problems he encounters and it result the emergence of anxiety in the form of has feeling of meaninglessness, aloneness, weakness, self despair and failure, even it causes his nerve disorder. Then, he does some ways to escape from anxiety by getting affair, joining party, sins, and vileness. He even has mental weakness and kills himself when he cannot reduce his anxiety. The writer gives a proof to show that situation: "I know, now, that when one loses one's good looks, whatever they may be, one loses everything. Your picture has taught me that. Lord Henry Wotton is perfectly right. Youth is the only thing worth having. When I find that I am growing old, I shall killed myself" (TPoDG: 24).

In this study, the writer tries to relate *Oscar Wilde's TPoDG* with one of psychological study, that is psychoanalysis, focusing on the conflict of Id, Ego, Superego, the concept of anxiety and ego defense mechanism, influences on Dorian Gray's mental condition. Furthermore, the writer uses Freud's psychoanalysis view. Freud is the student of human behavior who finds

psychoanalytic study. His attraction in neurology causes him to specialize his what the human being does is because of the impulse of the unconsciousness and human's behavior can be detected through the analysis of the unconsciousness as the product of id, ego, and superego interaction. So, the writer interested in writing this study in order to get knowledge and the way to escape from anxiety, being faced by Dorian Gray.

B. Literature Review

In analyzing the psychological side of the main character, Dorian Gray, the writer presents the result of the other research that has different analysis about *TPoDG*. It has been conducted by Theresia Aniek S.S in her thesis "*Personality Change of Dorian Gray The Main Character of Oscar Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray: A Psychological Approach*", from Sebelas Maret University of Surakarta. She describes the personality change based on Carl Jung's psychoanalytic theory. In accordance with psychoanalytic theory, Dorian's change of personality as the main focus in this research is a result of the external sources' influences namely, the other three characters of Basil Hallward, Lord Henry Wotton and Sybil Vane.

C. Problem Statement

Considering the phenomenon clarified above, the researcher proposes a single problem; namely how the major character escapes from the anxiety, resulted from unhandled problems he encounters.

D. Objective

The objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To analyze the structure of *TPoDG*.
2. To identify the relation between the causes of anxiety being faced by the major character of the novel and the ways to escape from his anxiety based on the psychoanalytic approach.

E. Benefit

This research is expected to give some significance as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The outcome the study is expected to enrich the body of knowledge, particularly psychoanalytic approach in *TPoDG*.

2. Practical Benefit

The benefits of the study are as follows :

- a. The outcome the study is expected to meet the researcher's curiosity about the way to escape from anxiety in *TPoDG*.
- b. To fulfill the requirement for getting bachelor degree in English Department.

F. Research Method

1. Type of Research

In this research, the descriptive qualitative type of research is used, which means collecting, analyzing, and interpreting the primary and secondary data.

2. Data and Source of Data

In this research, primary and secondary data are used. The source of data is Oscar Wilde's novel *TPoDG*. The primary data are taken from all of the topic which can be discovered by interpreting and the text of *TPoDG*, consist of twenty chapters. Meanwhile the secondary data are some words, phrases, and sentence taken from articles in the internet.

3. Technique of Collecting Data

In this research library research is used, therefore the data are collected from the book related to the topic. The first step to do is reading the novel *TPoDG* by Oscar Wilde many times to identify the problems and to find the data. The second step is collecting some supporting data from any critical review, essays, internet, and other references related to the topic.

4. Technique of Analyzing Data

Technique of data analysis, in this study is descriptive. Descriptive analysis is used to describe the intrinsic elements related to psychological condition of the major character in *TPoDG* by Oscar Wilde. And hermeneutic, it means the writer interprets the text in order to find out the most probable of the author.

G. Paper Organization

The paper consists of five chapters. Chapter I discusses background of the study, literary review, problem statement, objective, benefit, research methods and paper organization. Chapter II emphasizes on the theoretical approach used for analyzing *TPoDG*. It is the theory of psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud. Chapter III deals with the structural elements of *TPoDG*, such as the character and

characterization, setting, plot and other elements of the work. Chapter IV is the psychoanalytic analysis of the major character of *TPoDG*. Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion.