

**DEFENSE MECHANISM IN DANIEL DEFOE'S
ROXANA OR THE FORTUNATES MISTRESS:
A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**



RESEARCH PAPER

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

As everybody knows, human being unconsciously ever did defense mechanism. When anxiety occurs, the mind first responds by an increase in problem-solving thinking, seeking rational ways of escaping the situation. If this is not fruitful (and maybe anyway), a range of defense mechanisms may be triggered. Defense mechanism is a serious problem on this earth. They usually do it to release their tension temporarily like a painkiller. It can happen in a family, such as when a girl wants to enjoy her Saturday night. She spends her Saturday night by watching a movie at the theatre with her friend till it drops. The girl is afraid. Her mother will be angry with her if her mother knows that she goes home late. Her neurotic anxiety occurs. In reducing her anxiety, she gives a rational explanation or a logical reason to her mother. In this case, the girl uses ego defense mechanism to reduce her anxiety.

Defense mechanism is one of important parts in psychoanalytic study. Psychoanalysis is a branch of psychological study, which has basic assumption that human's mental elements are divided into two levels, the unconscious and the conscious (Feist, 1985:21). Defense mechanism is activated when the individual confronts serious anxiety and emotional conflict. Defense mechanism is "mental strategy *the ego* uses to continue

blocking the harmful behavior while at the same time reducing anxiety” (Wortman & Loftus 1988:348).

Defense mechanism is not only as one of interesting phenomena to psychologists but also the literary author. Through their writing arts, they explain psychological conflict of human’s life that is through the character. Freud (in Wellek & Warren, 1984:91) said that psychological is also helpful for us to observe the emotion of each character and their behavior psychology, individual psychology, humanistic psychology, social psychology or psychoanalysis. Hardjana (1983:63) says that basically the literature has the purpose to give a description of human life. Literature and psychology have a close correlation. “Since literature is the exposition of man’s mental life, it can be said that literature has tight relationship to psychology. Literature and psychology have the same object of research that is human being” (Wellek&Warren, 1984:91).

One of the authors who concerns with the psychological problems, especially the defense mechanism is Daniel Defoe in his novel, *Roxana, or the Fortunate Mistress*.

Daniel Defoe was born in 1660, at the city of London, and died in the age of seventy-one on April, 24th, 1731 and was buried in Bunhill field the dissenter’s burial ground on city road, which can still be visited today. His chief works are: *Robinson Crusoe* (1719), *Moll Flanders* (1722), *A Journal Of The Plague Year* (1722), *Colonel Jack* (1722), *Roxana, or The Fortunate Mistress* (1726), *A Tour Through The Whole Island of Great Britain* (1724-

1727) and *The Complete English Tradesman* (1726). *Roxana, or the Fortunate Mistress* is a history of the life and vast variety of fortunes of Mademoiselle de Beleau. Afterwards, she called the Countess Wintelsheim in German. She becomes the person known by the name of the Lady Roxana in the time of Charles II.

In *Roxana or the Fortunate Mistress*, Daniel Defoe performs Roxana as the major character. Defoe describes Roxana's life, in the beginning of the story, Roxana is a woman who lived in the moderate style, and has happy living in the Christian ethics. She changed into a new Roxana who faced the moral dilemmas choose between starving or selling her body to a man. Because of the Brewer, her first husband, a man who married her and wasted their money, they become poor and he is abandoned her with five children. Meanwhile, her brother went bankrupt too. Losing her inheritance along with her own, after being leave by her husband, she lived in poverty with her five children without any help from the relatives. However, this desperate situation was solved by her faithful and clever maid, Amy, who takes the children to the Roxana's husband aunt, and abandoned them. Then Roxana continues her live. Roxana becomes an ambitious woman for money and a higher status in her society by sexual services as a mistress.

From the short description above, the writer assumes that the behavior of the major character, Roxana, in the way to reduce his anxiety with building the defense mechanism is very interesting to discuss and to analyze from psychoanalytic perspective.

B. Literature Review

Daniel Defoe is the famous writer. Therefore, there are some studies that have been conducted. In UMS, the writer found another study of Daniel Defoe's *Roxana or The Fortunate Mistress* entitled "The Traumatic Past Experience and It's Influence on the Major Character's Personality in Daniel Defoe's *Roxana, or The Fortunate Mistress* : An Individual Psychological Approach", Aprillia Nugrah Heni (UMS, 2004). Therefore, in the different scope, the present writer tries to give attention on the defense mechanism of the major character of Daniel Defoe's *Roxana or the Fortunate Mistress*.

C. Problem Statement

The problem of the study is "How is defense mechanism reflected in Daniel Defoe's *Roxana or the Fortunate Mistress*?"

D. Limitation of the Study

The limitation of the study is the analysis of the major character, Roxana from the aspect of psychoanalytic study.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze the novel based on its structural elements.
2. To analyze the novel based on psychoanalytic perspective.

F. Benefits of the Study

This study is expected to give benefit as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study is expected to contribute to development a knowledge, particularly the literary study on Daniel Defoe' *Roxana or the Fortunate Mistress*

2. Practical Benefit

The practical benefits are to fulfill the requirement for Getting Bachelor of Education in English Department, and to be used as a book guiding in searching *Roxana or the Fortunate Mistress*.

G. Research Method

In analyzing Daniel Defoe's novel *Roxana or the Fortunate Mistress*, the writer uses the qualitative method. In this study, the research method has four steps, described as follows:

1. Types of the Study

In analyzing the novel, the writer uses descriptive qualitative method that is based on qualitative data

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is Daniel Defoe's novel *Roxana or the Fortunate Mistress*, published Everyman Paperbacks in 1998 and it contains 304 pages.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

In doing the study, the wrier uses two sources data, namely:

a. Primary Data Sources

The primary data source is the novel itself, *Roxana or the Fortunate Mistress* by Daniel Defoe, which has 304 pages it involves words, phrase, and sentences.

b. Secondary Data Sources

The secondary data are taken from other sources such as biography of the author, website about the novel, several books of literature.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The method of data collection in this study is library research, in which the data from both primary and secondary sources are collected and recorded in a short of document used as evidence.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique of data analysis in this study is descriptive analysis, in order to get an interpretation of the text and content analysis dealing with the psychoanalytic perspective analysis of the novel *Roxana or the Fortunate Mistress*.

H. Paper Organization

This research paper is divided into five chapters. The First chapter talks about background of the study, problem statement, literary review, limitation of the study, object of the study, benefit the study, research method and thesis organization. Chapter Two contains theoretical approach used in analyzing the novel of Daniel Defoe's *Roxana or the Fortunate Mistress* exposes the theory of psychoanalytic by Sigmund Freud. Chapter Three presents structural element and discussion of the novel *Roxana, or the Fortunate Mistress*. Chapter Four is data analysis. It presents psychological analysis of the novel. Chapter Five is conclusion. This chapter draws the conclusion of the analysis and offers some suggestions.