

# CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background of the Study

Humans as intelligent and spirited beings cannot be separated from the social environment. The dependence of humans as social beings created life in our world. Things that happen when we get up in the morning preparing to go to school; waiting for the commuter line at the station or bus at the bus stop; chatting with strangers when accidentally bumping into them; fight with friends for forgetting promises; or cry when we see neighbour's cat die; all of these things involve other people, colouring life that can never be guessed. Sometimes remembering all the events in a series of lives is impossible for all of us and the sophistication of technology is perhaps the choice to capture the events we want to remember continuously.

Some people perhaps choose to live inside of his or her works. Creating a work that people can enjoy it together like allowing others to wear the same shoes as he or she did. It is called literature in meaning as a name was given by society on the results of certain life (Purba, 2010). Furthermore, Afifulloh (2019) stated that literary works are not merely about the emotions or imaginations of the author, on the other hand, literary works also embodied the life of a person in the past, a portrait of society life that we can enjoy, understand, and pull up the benefit from it. In literary works, there are the reality of someone's life, imagination as a hope of the author, emotion that conducts a message, also an evidence and phenomenon in a coat of religion, politics, culture, society, humans and anything else. Phenomenon in our lives is the raw flesh of literary works before it is produced by the creators in their hands with their uniqueness, style, ability, and characteristic (Afifulloh, 2019). We know that novels, poetry, drama and anything else in the same field as literary works and we can also spell it as a portrait of life.

Novel is one of the types of literary works proposed to us, the reader, a model of life in the form of a story (Afifulloh, 2019). While we read and relish the novel, intentionally or unintentionally we share the same emotions about the story which was written by the author, how we feel angry, mad, happy, miserable, fearful, and other emotions like what the author wrote in each character. Occasionally the authors pour out their intention in their story as self-confession, their agreement and disapproval voice on current event or their opinion to society, and even their involvement in the incident. Novel also contains an exploration of a sequence of life messages accommodating reflections with various explanations; the bonding, management, and attainment of human desires (Afifulloh, 2019; Tarigan, 1993).

*The Scarlet Letter* novel by Nathaniel Hawthorne is one of the popular classic novels of its time. It was set in the establishment of Puritan society. In this novel, Hester Prynne was a young woman who lives alone in New England because her husband left and did not return for a long time. She was punished by wearing scarlet A letter on her chest

and being humiliated on the stage of punishment because she was guilty as an adulteress and had a baby out of wedlock. On the other hands the unwillingness of Hester to reveal her adulterous partner, a young Clergyman Arthur Dimmesdale, he had not punishment by government and people did not know his sin too. Thus, a former husband of Hester Prynne who came back from his explore changed his name to be Roger Chillingworth to reveal the truth about Arthur Dimmesdale's secret whose Hester keep from public. However, Nathaniel Hawthorne did not write the life of Hester Prynne and her husband before they moved to New England. The novel immediately begins with Hester's punishment on the punishment stage and wearing the scarlet A letter at the beginning of the story. Next to the other part of story, Arthur Dimmesdale accepted Roger Chillingworth as his friend and personal doctor to cure the ill that undermined him who was still strong in the past before the events when Hester Prynne received the punishment. Even though Arthur Dimmesdale knew his illness was not something that could be cured by medical medicine, he accepted Roger Chillingworth to live together who proposed in scraping his whole life down to the smelliest wounds. Through those three characters, Hawthorne wrote about psychological conflict in his character as he depicted the way the character faced problems. According to Yuningsih et al., (2021) novel as literary works invest the complexity thorough the existence of problem as in case of conflict among the characters and psychology conflict.

Through the uniqueness of Nathaniel Hawthorne in playing words, in describing the story he had written while reading his novel entitled *The Scarlet Letter*, we can feel and see the fear, anxiety, and various psychological emotions displayed by Nathaniel Hawthorne through his character. As we know, Arthur Dimmesdale always felt insecure wherever he was, due to hiding from the sins he had committed then both physically and psychologically consumed by anxiety or when the Puritans of New England, especially the women, were afraid to cast their hatred on Hester who insisted on hiding the identity of her adulterous partner or the anger and evilness depicted in Roger Chillingworth. The psychological condition between one character to another in the novel can be an issue to be analyse through psychoanalytic concept theory.

Psychoanalytic in literature criticism is the enlargement of the relationship between psychology and literature. Ayesha Dar (2022) proposed that psychology and novel can be match because both novel and psychology are connected to human. Cited on Sandbæk (2021) psychoanalytic literature criticism actually based on the idea that "*language is always directed to another, inner or outer, consciously or unconsciously*" Thus, it brings the argument that literary works are a secret expression of the author's desires and anxieties. Due to the statement above Hossain (2017) suggested psychoanalytic perspective aims to understand the psychological connection of the author and his work, the character in the novel, and the readers. In the Freudian theory of psychoanalytic, there are three crucial components related to conscious and unconscious namely Id, Ego, and Superego. The three of them have their own function but, if unbalanced bothers the work of the Id, Ego, and Superego thus it arises defence mechanisms. It occurs as a protection to scoop

the disturbing thought. Therefore, this study with the title “Repetitive Defense Mechanisms in *The Scarlet Letter* (1850) novel by Nathaniel Hawthorne: Psychoanalytic Perspective” applied the psychoanalytic theory of Freudian in analysing defense mechanisms which appear repetitively in order to release the anxiety, disturbing thought, and fear.

## **1.2 Research Questions**

The major problem of the study is how Defensive behaviour is depicted in Novel *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne. The problem of the study is dissected further into the following research questions:

- 1.1.1 What are kinds of repetitive defense mechanisms in *Scarlet Letter* (1850) novel by Nathaniel Hawthorne?
- 1.1.2 How repetitive defense mechanisms depicted in *Scarlet Letter* (1850) novel by Nathaniel Hawthorne?
- 1.1.3 Why Nathaniel Hawthorne addressed repetitive defense mechanisms in *Scarlet Letter* (1850) novel?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The following objectives of study below are to be analysed and revealed by the researcher:

- 1.4.1 To find kinds of repetitive defense mechanisms in *Scarlet Letter* (1850) novel by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- 1.4.2 To describe depiction of repetitive defense mechanisms in *Scarlet Letter* (1850) novel by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- 1.4.3 To reveal the reason Nathaniel Hawthorne addressed repetitive defense mechanisms in *Scarlet Letter* (1850) novel

## **1.4 Significance of the Study**

This research on repetitive defense mechanisms in *The Scarlet Letter* novel was not simply written without any purpose. Seeing from two aspects, the researcher summarizes the advantages of this study, as follows:

### **1.5.1 Theoretical Significance**

Researcher hope this research useful to other researchers as a contribution to literacy related to the psychoanalytical perspective used in literary criticism especially in defensive behaviour field.

### **1.5.2 Practical Significance**

Useful as a source or as an example for other researchers who wish to examine the same topic in literary criticism. Or for other writers who need the information contained in this study as their writing practice.