

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of the background of the study, statements of the problem, purposes of the study, significance of the study, and scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

In this world, each person has a different culture and characteristic in every country. The different culture and characteristic in each person is influenced by environment. The environment influences human psyche to produce the characteristic in each person which is supported by Strongman's statement "Psychological vulnerability: Genetic, pre-natal and very early environmental factors can affect children's early psychological development" (2003:32). It means there are three elements that develops human psyche. It shows that environment has an important role in human personality or psyche. One of the influential factor on the shift of human psyche is the environmental condition or the situation.

The environmental condition or situation brings a human being has feeling like happy, sad, fear etc. Fear is one of human's feeling that is influenced by the environmental condition. The fear feeling in a human being occurs when there is something that makes him dislike or disturbed. A human being usually uses defense mechanism as his way to cope his fear. The example of defense mechanism is when a child who stole his friend's money and his friend find out that he stoles the money. Certainly he is looking for excuses to discover his act and it shows that he uses defense mechanism to cope his fear. A child's fear occurs if his friend will report his act to his parent and makes him gets a punishment. It is supported by Barone, et al's statement that "Defense mechanisms are explicitly attributional, so here is another precedent for looking at how individual differences in causal emotion affect subsequent behavior: mood, motivation, and thought" (1998: 291). Theory of defense mechanism above is used to explain that defense mechanism can influence human's behavior because they find the way to cope his fear that has an impact on

their behavior. The defense mechanism has a connection with psychological aspect because defense mechanism can bring human's personality becomes good or bad person. The example above about the child stole his friend's money, he is looking for excuses to defend his mistake make his personality becomes a bad person because he does not want to admit his mistake. The human personality or psyche which is constructed by the structure of personality or psyche. According to Freud statement in Ewen's book that he developed a revised theory (the structural model) that describes personality in terms of three constructs: the id, the ego, and the superego (2003:18).

The character analyzing in literary work also has a connection with personalities of every character as it is supported Klarer's statement "A psychological approach is, however, merely one way of evaluating characters; it is also possible to analyze character presentation in the context of narratological structures. Generally speaking, characters in a text can be rendered either as types or as individuals" (1999: 17). It means that psychology always has a connection with literature because in literary works especially in drama, it has a character as starting point to analyze works.

One of the literary works that can be chosen by the researcher is *Oleanna*. *Oleanna* is drama telling about education in university by David Mamet. David Alan Mamet was born on November 30, 1947, in Chicago, Illinois. His parents were Jewish immigrants who had come to the city from Europe. Having spent time as a child actor doing a variety of theater, screen, and radio work, Mamet went on to attend Goddard College, graduated in 1969 with a degree in English literature (The Editors of Biography.com, 2015). David Mamet's *Oleanna* is clearly one of the most controversial American plays of the last quarter century — although, as it is common in such cases, it may be famous for reasons that do not fully do justice to the play's achievement. The reason for the controversy is the play's treatment of sexual harassment, an issue that dominates virtually every review of or article about the play (Hughes, 2009: 7). David Mamet in biography shows that he has achievement from his plays but the achievement also has many controversies. The

plays by David Mamet has a treatment in sexual harassment. The topic about sexual David Mamet always gets the controversy in his plays.

The researcher is interested to analyze through the main character's personality in one of drama title is *Oleanna* because this drama motivates the researcher to analyze it. The researcher analyze *Oleanna* because that drama has a conflict between John as a professor and Carol as a student. The conflict begins when Carol came in John office because she cannot accept a failing grade. Carol asks John to find the solution about his grade but he is also distracted by telephone call by his wife and realtor about a real estate. He never really seems to hear or understand Carol's problem because he does not concern on her problem but he just focuses on his problem self. Carol always disturbs him and finally John does something amoral for Carol. When John does something amoral makes her reports the accident to tenure committee. John does not want to admit his mistake it is showing that he uses defense mechanism to cope his fear. From that conflict the researcher gets the psychological aspects to be a material to do the research. The psychological aspect is when John uses defense mechanism to cope his fear there is the influence of defense mechanism on John personalities. The researcher chooses John as the object for analyzing because he has the different characteristics. The reason why the researcher chooses *Oleanna* because there is no articles, journals, etc that analyzed by using the theory like this researcher.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

To make a focused and systemized discussion, it is necessary to formulate the research questions. Based on the background stated above, the researcher tries to present the problem as follow:

- 1.2.1 How does John use defense mechanism to cope his fear?
- 1.2.2 How is the influence of defense mechanism on John's personality?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Related to the problems above, there are three objectives that the paper wants to show to the readers. Three objectives are:

1.3.1 To analyze John uses defense mechanism to cope his fear.

1.3.2 To analyze the influence of defense mechanism on John's personality.

1.4 Significances of the Study

By studying this research, it can give some significances for the reader those are first, the reader can learn about how the human being uses defense mechanism to cope his fear and the influence of the defense mechanism on the human personality. This research can influence the reader knowledge about the psychology especially in defense mechanism and structure of personality on John in *Oleanna*.

Second, the researcher wants this analysis can be used as another reference for the reader who wants to know about the main character, even though the reference is limited but can uses as additional reading and improve the reader's knowledge. The last is to make the reader who has a same major in education know about the teacher should do for the students through psychological study.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The drama *Oleanna* by David Mamet there are a lot of aspects that can be explored but the scope of this thesis only focuses on the psychological study of John using defense mechanism to cope his fear and the influences of the defense mechanism on John's personalities.

The limitation of this thesis is a focus on John's personality. Personality is one of the important aspects of the psychological study. The researcher describes the characteristic of John as a professor and explains about John copes his fear using defense mechanism and the influence of the defense mechanism on John's personalities.