

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Background of study

Literary work is part of a very valuable work that is produced by a writer. A writer delivers imagination through their works. According to Taylor (1981), literary works are the representation of human experiences. The storyline is built by the writer that mostly adapts from real stories around him/her or even the imagination of the author but that inspire from stories that happen in the real world. Usually, the topic talks about humanity and society that can be found around the writer. The work represents what happen or face in the community. This can be a medium for voicing injustice that can be felt by some people who are in the lower classes. Also, there are some purposes of literary work such as entertaining, educating and showing how a writer in literary work presents their idea.

Novel is one type of prose fiction. Usually, it contains common topics that represent a recent situation and has a big impact on a certain era in time when the novel is written. There are several kinds of issues that can be shown in the novel story such as politics, human relations, behaviors, even controversial issues like issues of sex, racial issues, also gender issues. The story in novel is built trough adapting on the character life, for example, a novel with title *The Color Purple*. This novel takes place mostly in rural Georgia, where the story focuses on the life of African-

American women in the Southern United States in the 1930s, addressing numerous issues including their exceedingly low position in American social culture. It is later adapted into a film and musical of the same name. The writer of story brings the storyline to explain what happens in character life. Therefore, novel can be said as a representation of human life that bringing up through literary work like *The Color Purple*.

The Color Purple is an epistolary novel by American author Alice Walker and talks about social diversities, cultures and social aspects in black Americans in *The Color Purple*. This novel is published in 1982 which wins the 1983 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and National Book Award for Fiction (Maasoumi, 2016). It tells about the rights discriminations occurring in the black American society. The main character is Celie, a black woman that has unlucky life because of her race, gender and society where she live. That is started by her stepfather named Alphonso. Her Stepfather beats her harshly and rapes her continuously that results two couple children but both of them is abducted by their own father. She also has a sister but they are separated by their father and had to stay far apart. Afterward, she marries a widower and also treats her badly. She lives in the middle of pressure that comes from both black male and white society. Fortunately, as time passes in the story, Celie's live changes through many influences from the people around her.

This novel has become an object for analysis by scholars. The scholars analyze *The Color Purple* novel from various perspectives. The topics talk about

politics, human relations and behaviors, even controversial issues like sex issues, racial issues, and gender issues. Almost every side is discovered through different critical theories by scholars. Also, several of the existing scholarships discuss the novel through the lenses of psychology. The recent study that uses *The Color Purple* novel as the object for a psychological perspective is inspired this research to use the novel with this perspective under some different insights of psychoanalytic criticism (Chandio, 2016).

The first study conducted by Daniel Ross's research on the novel title "Celie in the Looking Glass: The Desire for Selfhood in *The Color Purple*," discusses the novel with psychoanalytic critical theory. Ross draws upon Lacan, Kohut, and several other recent psychoanalytic theorists. He uses Lacan's theory of the mirror stage of development to reveal Celie's need to recover desire and re-appropriate her body with the role of Shug only. The result, he states that Celie's life change forever through a crucial scene where Celie first comes to terms with her own body. This initiates the process of the mirror scene of discovering or developing desire of her (Ross, 1988).

A more recent than this appeared Charles Proudfit's "Celie's Search for Identity: A Psychoanalytic Developmental Reading of Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*" which talks the novel through some insights of psychology explored by Donald Woods Winnicott (1896-1971), an English pediatrician and psychoanalyst. Drawing upon Winnicott's concepts of Object Relation Theory, Proudfit finds

Psychology development as the genuine cause of Celie's emerging identity (Chandio, 2016).

Based on those previous studies, this research wants to seek how the character of Celie as the main character deals with the problem along with the story by finding what decision that Celie takes for solving the problem. The main character shows that she does not have desire to fight and face the conditions around her. Moreover, she always follows whatever command is given to her. This topic becomes interesting to be analyzed by using a psychological perspective. To trace deep the reasons Celie acts like that, where every decision in her life always depends on the people around her. Celie thinks that it does not matter what people doing to her as long as she can survive to still alive. Thus, this research formulates entitle *The Color Purple* written by Alice Walker.

This research will show the reason of Celie who represents the woman in that era in this story faces problems that must be resolved relates directly to her life. Although in the social order at that time consider black women like Celia is only a women with the lowest class who has no rights at all, not only in their lives such as opportunities for education and learning, the right as a child who should be able to get love from her parents, and the right to choose a husband, even the right to herself are very difficult to get. For this reason, this research is expected to be able to uncover what actually mastermind these things happen in social life in America that year through a literary work entitle *The Color Purple* written by Alice Walker. Using an

approach in psychoanalysis in order to show how Celie deals with her problem.

Trough the defense mechanism theory of Sigmund Freud, this research will analyze the main character of Celie in *The Color Purple* novel by Alice Walker.

Research Questions

How does Celie in Alice Walker's novel *The Color Purple* dealing with the conflicts in her life?

Research Objective

The purpose of this research is to find out how Celie overcome her problem. During the story Celie experienced many conflicts in her life, that is affecting her character in the story reviewed using psychoanalytic theory. This research wants to know how the way the main character Celie in *The Color Purple* novel dealing with her conflicts in the story.

Significance of the Research

The significance of this study is to help students in English Department to find resources for literature research, especially in psychoanalysis research. This research also provides knowledge that can help readers understand about how human in real life handle and deal with conflicts in life. Event tough, the object of this research is a character in the literary work, which means that, is fiction character but that can represent human life.

Limitation of the Research

This research only focuses on the psychological condition of one character in the story, which is the main character. Although the other characters in the story may also face the same conflicts. The researcher also only analyzes the conflicts clearly through the plot and character components, then discuss briefly about the setting.

Furthermore, this research only uses several types of defense mechanism to analyze the data found.