

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter contains a review of explanations of short stories related to Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory, research questions, object studies, scope studies, significant studies, approach studies, and organization studies.

#### **1.1 Background of the study**

The existence of literature will not be separated from everyday human life. This is because humans can be both subjects and objects in literary works. Literature allows individuals to explore the complexities of the human experience (Eagleton, 2013). It offers insights into the thoughts, emotions, and struggles of individuals, providing a medium for understanding and empathizing with different perspectives. In essence, a literary work is a work that tell about real life resulting from the introduction of literature to the life around it. The author creates literary works based on the experiences gained from people's lives.

According to (Luxemburg, 1992), literature is the product of human thought and not an imitation. Therefore, sometimes literature is created by authors that are directly related to human life, for example in terms of psychology. Literature has the power to evoke and explore complex emotions in readers. It allows individuals to engage with the thoughts, feelings, and experiences of characters, fostering empathy and emotional connection (Keen, 2007). This problem is related to the human mentality in his life. Norman Holland suggests that literature can help individuals gain insights into their own psychological struggles and find solace or

inspiration (Holland, 2012). Psychoanalysis is one of the sciences developed by Sigmund Freud, it has a relationship between mental function and conflict. Sigmund Freud explained that human personality consists of three forms, including id, ego, and superego. These three forms are psychological systems that are interconnected with one another. If the id is part of the innate nature, then the ego is part of behavior, and the superego is part of the behavior of development in life (Freud, 1923). According to (Husin, 2018), Psychoanalysis is an impulse of conscience that has existed since birth as a reinforcement of everyone's soul which is in the subconscious to fulfill all their desires.

Sigmund Freud's theory sees that health mental will be obtained if the ego wins in balancing both the id and superego. But the balance that occurs between the three continues, id and ego are always opposite and the superego comes to mediate between the two. This human have a pessimistic attitude and will never get true mental health. Mental state, in which a person can adjust to the environment and is able to control himself, from the middle age to the 18th century, mental health was seen as a result of bodily disorders due to an imbalance in humor which was the main cause of physical and mental conditions. According to (Semiun, 2006), Condition Mental science has a special object to be studied and that object is humans. According to (Alifiya, 2016), Condition mental is a condition where a person does not experience feelings of guilt towards himself. Many medieval doctors believed that mental illness was psychomatic, meaning a two-way exchange between body and soul. According to (Cancelo,

2009), a person's soul has several elements, but sometimes this condition causes an imbalance in the human being itself.

This study uses Sigmund Freud to find the id, ego, and superego, this theory is used for those who are experiencing depression due to the problems they are facing. According to (Clark, 2010), he explained that the id shows the true purpose of individual life to satisfy himself. Meanwhile, the Ego decides to consider fulfilling every wish. And finally, the Super-ego refers to one of the personalities of the human soul as a desire or self-satisfaction. In this case, the literature contains human psychological phenomena, meaning matters related to human psychology such as behavior, thinking, and mental health. Some literature refers to psychoanalytic theory, such as novels, poetry, short stories, and others.

Short stories are one of the literary works that readers like because they only tell a story in a limited number of words, short stories usually only have 1.000 to 10.0000 words and only have one storyline. According to (Burhan, 2012), A short story is a story that can be finished reading in one sitting, approximately between half an hour and two hours. He emphasized the importance of brevity and the concentrated impact of a well-crafted short story. Short stories also have the same setting, plot, theme, characterization, message, point of view, and language style as the novel. According to Ghasemi and Hajizadeh, short stories have unique characteristics, thus making all readers very suitable for use in reading comprehension (Ghasemi & Hajizadeh, 2011). Character is one of the important components in short stories. Junianto explained that a character plays an important

role in a literary work because it clearly describes the behavior of an act or behavior that makes the story come alive (Junianto, 2021).

In this study, the author focuses on the life of a female character in a short story by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, entitled “The Yellow Wallpaper”. There are several reasons why the author chose *The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman* as an interesting short story to study using Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory approach. This short story explores the mental health problems and psychological conditions of the main character, which are in accordance with the main focus of Freud's psychoanalytic theory. In addition, there are internal conflicts experienced by the main character, such as depression, anxiety, and the desire to free themselves from the limitations they face. This short story was published in January 1892 in *New England Magazine*, this story provides a realistic picture of a woman who has a mental disorder because she was treated badly by her husband who is a doctor. According to WHO (World Health Organization), the attitudes and behaviors of healthcare professionals and the broader community can significantly impact individuals with mental disorders (Organization, 2014). Mental disorders are low mood states that affect a person's thoughts, behavior and feelings. Mental disorders are caused by intense pain, psychological trauma, guilt, and low self-esteem (Kartono & Kartini, 2002). In this short story, the character "I" is unnamed, she is the wife of a doctor who spends her time writing a journal and observing the yellow walls of a room, which is the beginning of her psychological experience. She started seeing shadows of women and strange patterns on the walls of the yellow room which only made her

situation worse, but her husband ignored her complaints and forced her to stay in the room.

Several studies with the same theory and object have been conducted previously by several researchers, one of which by Nailul Fauziyah entitled “Psychological Analysis of the Main Character’s Personality in *Go Ask Alice*” in 2008. This research investigated a psychological concern reflected in the main character of a novel. The researcher intends to present a psychology in literary research and explore important problems related to psychology. According to the researcher, there are three character personality of the main character, such as sensitive, unrealistic, and pessimistic (Fauziyah, 2008).

Another study with the same theory is “Psychological Analysis on the Main Character Personality in the Short Stories by Roald Dahl” by Pardi Bilalia provides insights of the psychological analysis on short stories entitled *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, *The Twits*, and *The Witches*. This research aims to analyze the main character personality short stories by Roald Dahl as depicted in her short stories. From the analysis, the researcher find that anyone who lives in this world will not be separated from its basic needs, psychological needs, and self-fulfillment need (Bilalia, 2018).

This research also conducted previous study about Freudian Psychoanalysis. The research titled “A Psychoanalysis on Edgar Allan Poe’s *Black Cat*” aims on the explanation of the reason behind the behavioral change of the *Black Cat*’s narrator. This paper sums up that the motivation to change comes

first from inside (psychological state), while external events on the story serves a trigger to release what is accumulated inside (Hinchliffe, 2018).

The background of the short story *The Yellow Wallpaper* explains what the narrator Charlotte Perkins Gilman is experiencing, when she is experiencing a depression phase. The short story discusses what a woman is experiencing and the impact it has on her. According to (Maramis, 1998), Depression is a feeling or emotion with a psychological component such as sadness, uselessness, failure, loss, hopelessness, and pathological regret (Muhith, 2015). A woman's depression is usually caused by the surrounding environment such as family, partners, friends, and the surrounding community. Therefore, the writer chooses Sigmund Freud's theory to examine the id, ego and super ego.

## **1.2 Research Question**

1. How does the atmosphere around the female character in “*The Yellow Wallpaper*” story affect her mental state?
2. How does the character cope with her mental state?
3. How can the phenomena in “*The Yellow Wallpaper*” be regarded a work of psychoanalysis?

## **1.3 Objective of the Study**

1. To describe the atmosphere of the environment and how it influences the mental state of the female characters in the short story.
2. To find out the female character in the short story faces the problem she is facing.

3. To find out the relationship between psychoanalysis and the short story.

#### **1.4 Scope of the Study**

Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory is used in this study to evaluate cases and explore the mental state of the unnamed female character 'I'. This study aims to show how the id, ego, and superego can be used to examine the mental state of a female character who is depressed as a result of her husband's treatment.

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

This study adds to a larger examination of literary texts related to psychoanalytic theory. The events in the brief narrative are described by Sigmund Freud in a more reasonable way. This study offers insight into the psychology of a woman who experiences health problems as a result of the way her husband treats her. In the short story *The Yellow Wallpaper* by Perkins Gilman, the researcher tries to investigate the problem female characters. In addition, this study presents the idea that women have difficulty dealing with psychological stress. The importance of fighting for women's rights to live freely regardless of gender is demonstrated through this work. This research is addressed to future researchers and students in the literature subject.

#### **1.6 Approach of the Study**

This study uses descriptive qualitative research to describe events, phenomena, social behavior, and attitudes toward oneself. A qualitative research as an approach that focuses on describing the characteristics, features, and

nuances of a particular phenomenon or setting (Saldana, 2021). This method involves collecting and analysing data through techniques to develop comprehensive and detailed description. In analysing the short story entitled The Yellow Wallpaper, the researcher used the right approach to analyze it, namely Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis approach. This approach helps researchers analyze a woman who experiences mental disorders due to her husband's treatment. In addition, this approach shows that mental health is very important because it can affect a person's ability to function optimally in everyday life, such as interpersonal relationships and social activities. In conducting research, researchers use the method of reading papers and journals as a reference to obtain data from previous studies.

## **1.7 Organization of the Study**

This study is divided into five chapters. Chapter one organizes the introduction contains background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, scopes of the study, significance of the study, approach of the study, and organization of the study.

Chapter two is literature review organizes to explain the reader to the content related to the biography of the author and the synopsis of the short story. This chapter will be informed to the reader about the story of the short story “The Yellow Wallpaper” by Perkins Gilman.

Chapter three is a theoretical framework that deals with the implanted theory related to the research; previous study, the definition of short story, narrative text,



character's mental state, and the specific theory of Freudian Psychoanalysis. In this chapter will be explaining about the theory of Freudian Psychoanalysis in order to getting information about character's mental state in the story.

Chapter four is an analysis and discussion. The findings of this research will be discussed and explores the implications and significance of the findings.

The last chapter contains conclusion and suggestions to summarize the key findings of the study. In this chapter, the writer will restate the research objectives and addresses the research questions. This chapter also provides suggestions for other researchers who use this research paper as a reference for other research in future.