

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

One of the current ideas employed in English literature is psychoanalysis. It is a theory that leads to psychoanalysis and is considered a theory of personality organization and personality dynamics. Psychoanalytic criticism employs the "reading" procedures Freud and other theorists used to understand texts. It claims that a literary work expresses the author's hidden unconscious expectations and worries, yet it is commonly thought that all such characters are reflections of the author's mind (Septiani et al., 2022).

Psychoanalytic criticism can be found in literary works such as novels, plays, poems, and short stories through characters (Arsilia, 2018). The unconscious expectations of the writer of literary works are reflected in their characters, such as in Edgar Allan Poe's short story.

Edgar Allan Poe was a poet, writer, editor, and literary critic from the United States. Poe is most recognized for his poems and short stories, notably his dark and unpleasant tales. He is largely considered a master storyteller in American Romanticism and American literature. Poe was one of the country's first short story writers and is often regarded as the creator of the detective fiction genre, as well as having made an influential contribution to the developing science fiction genre (Stableford, 2003).

The researcher decided to analyze one of the short stories written by Edgar Allan Poe, entitled "*The Fall of the House of Usher*." Edgar Allan Poe's supernatural horror story was first published in Burton's Gentleman's Magazine in 1839 and then reprinted in Poe's *Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque* (1840) (Edgar, 1839). This story began with an unnamed narrator who is a friend of Roderick Usher. The narrator came to his house because Roderick Usher asked him to. Roderick Usher has been sick and asks the narrator for help. Roderick Usher has been suffering from mental illness and anxiety; he has a hypersensitivity to anything. He was afraid to die. Also, his twin sister is sick. She was suffering from catalepsy. The Usher family had not left their house in years. It made their sickness more horrible. As Roderick predicted, his sister died. His sister has not died because of her sickness. She looks dead. Then the Narrator and Roderick Usher buried her in the mansion's basement. After burying his sister, they spend the gloomy night reading a book. At the end of the story, Roderick Usher is dead, and the house of the Usher family is cracked.

Roderick Usher's anxiety and mental illness in *The Mirror of Psychoanalysis* can be analyzed using the self-defense mechanism theory of Sigmund Freud. A self-defense mechanism protects the person from mental stress (Tarigan & Chitra, 2022). A self-defense mechanism is the process of increasing conscious awareness of the risk through realistic problem-solving, or it may seek to ease anxiety by using methods that refuse, deceive, or distort reality, reducing personality development.

Hadito (2022) of Sanata Dharma University previously studied self-defense mechanisms under the title "Clay Jensen's Defense Mechanism in Jay Asher's *Thirteen Reasons Why*". "Thirteen Reasons Why" is a novel written by Jay Asher. The objective is to explain the character of Clay Jensen in the novel and to reveal the self-defense mechanisms of Clay Jensen through the novel. The result of the study on the main character, Clay Jensen, is his response to his participation in Hanna Baker's decision to commit suicide. Also, the results reveal four types of defensive mechanisms used by Clay Jensen's character, including denial, projection, regression, and rationalization, which affect the type of social conflict he encounters. As it follows the main character's self-defense mechanism, seven personality qualities are highlighted: overthinking, introversion, sensitivity, nerdiness, shyness, niceness, and cowardice.

The previous study was conducted by Theresia Ayu Santika (2017) of Sanata Dharma University. The analysis of *ego defense mechanisms in the novel "The Devil and Miss Prym"*. The researcher first uses a psychoanalytic approach to determine the characteristics of the stranger as described in the novel. Second, to learn about the different types of strangers in the story. Third, find out the ego defense mechanism using the anxieties that happened to strangers in the story. The result of the study is that, first, the stranger's characteristics are heavily influenced by his unconscious mind, which he created from his background. Second, the stranger's anxiety is greatly influenced by events that occur after his wife and two daughters are kidnapped by a terrorist gang. Third, the stranger's ego

protection mechanisms are shown in the tale through his actions as a strategy to cope with the anguish of losing his wife and two kids in an abduction.

The study, "Tom Hansen's Defense Mechanism in (500) Days of Summer Movie by Marc Webb," was conducted by Diponegoro University's students Yusuf & Pratama, (2021). The study analyzes the actions of defense mechanisms represented in the film's main character, Tom Hansen, as well as other intrinsic elements of the film, such as personality and conflict. The data analysis results show that there are several acts of defense mechanisms represented by Tom Hansen's character to struggle with his love for Summer Finn, such as projection, denial, displacement, reaction formation, and sublimation, that differ in how they operate to experience Tom Hansen's negative effects.

The following researcher examined the self-defense mechanism by Khoirunisa (2020), titled *"Ego Defense Mechanism of the Main Female Characters in Maleficent Movie."* This research tries to explain the reasons for the major female character conflicts, the impacts of the main female character conflicts, and the ego defense mechanism used by the main female character in Maleficent's movie. According to the findings, Maleficent was the most important female character. Steffan has also betrayed the causes of the primary female character's conflicts about disappointment. Second, as a result of the primary female character's problems, Maleficent curses Aurora in retaliation for Steffan's amputation of both wings. Third, Maleficent transforms her characters into nice

ones after realizing how much she adores Aurora. In addition, she deployed two ego-protection mechanisms: projection and suppression.

Based on the previous studies, the writer analyzed the short story Edgar Allan Poe wrote. The writer saw that the study of self-defense mechanisms in the short story was rarely conducted. This study will explain the mental illness, the anxiety of Roderick Usher, and the self-defense mechanisms of Roderic Usher in the short story "*The Fall of the House of Usher*." The mental illness and anxiety of Roderic Usher will be the main focus of this study.

Anxiety cannot be separated from the ego defense mechanism theory because it serves as an ego-preserving mechanism that warns us when danger is approaching. This idea is utilized to investigate the character of the stranger's unconscious motivations in his decision-making. Freud proposed that the ego responds to the threatening release of id impulses in one of two ways: (1) by preventing the impulse from being expressed in conscious action, or (2) by distorting it to such an extent that the original strength is significantly decreased or redirected (Feist & Feist 2006).

Ego defense mechanisms are characteristic of a person's personality development (Minderop, 2016). Ego defense mechanisms can assist someone to eliminate or avoid unpleasant feelings, notably anxiety, from forming when he or she is in an uncomfortable circumstance. (Setiawan, Jayantini, and Winarta, 2021). Anxiety will occur in a survival situation because someone is required to do something to survive. The sensation of being overwhelmed by a stressful

circumstance creates anxiety and worry. (Ulfa & Wulandari, 2019); (Warkey et al., 2020).

Freud continues by stating that all ego-defense mechanisms have two things in common. To start, they work at the unconscious level and are so deceiving. Second, they modify one's sense of reality to make worry less frightening. The three forms of anxiety are rarely distinct or easily distinguished since they frequently exist. As a result, it is normal for an individual to employ ego defense mechanisms and traits.

## **1.2 Research Questions**

In this study, there are 4 questions to be answered:

1. What are the causes of internal conflict experienced by Roderick Usher?
2. What are the impacts of internal conflict experienced by Roderick Usher?
3. What is the mental illness experienced by Roderick Usher?
4. How was Roderick Usher's self-defense mechanism used to reduce his anxiety?

## **1.3 Objectives of the study**

The objectives of this study are:

1. To find out the cause of the internal conflict of Roderick Usher.
2. To find out the impact of internal conflict experienced by Roderick Usher.

3. To find out the mental illness experienced by Roderick Usher.
4. To explain the self-defense mechanism used by Roderick Usher, to reduce his anxiety.

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

This study will focus to analyze the short story by Edgar Allan Poe. To analyze the short story the writer chooses one character Roderick Usher. This study used the psychoanalysis theory developed by Sigmund Freud. The theory is about self-defense mechanisms. The self-defense mechanism is a theory about releasing anxiety or emotion through some activities for releasing stress levels.

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

The writer saw many researchers analyze literary work using the psychoanalysis approach. But mostly they analyze novels and movies. So, this study analyzed the short story using the psychoanalysis approach, it can be an example for other researchers who are interested in researching or analyzing some short stories using the psychoanalysis theory by Sigmund Freud. Especially the researchers who want to analyze anxiety and ego defense mechanisms.

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

This study conducted a qualitative research method focusing on a content-oriented approach. The analysis of the mental illness and anxiety of the character Roderic Usher in the short story “The Fall of The House of Usher” is the focus of

this study. The study used the theory Ego-Defense mechanism by Sigmund Freud to explain how Roderic Usher reduced his anxiety.

First, the data taken from Edgar Allan Poe's short story "*The Fall of the House of Usher*," the writer will also use other data such as the theory and explanation of another researcher. Second, the writer will read the short story carefully, then note and select the sentences about Roderic Usher to find out his mental illness and anxiety of him. After noting the data, the writer will collect the data and analyze the data according to Freud's Theory.

### **1.7 Organization of the Paper**

The organization of this paper will be:

#### **1. Chapter I: Introduction**

- a. Background of study
- b. Research question
- c. The object of study
- d. Scope of study
- e. Significance of study
- f. The approach of the study
- g. The organization of the paper

#### **2. Chapter II: Review of Literature**

- a. The Biography of Edgar Allan Poe
- b. The synopsis of *The Fall of The House of Usher*.

#### **3. Chapter III: Methodology**

- a. Review related studies

b. Mental Illness and Anxiety

c. Ego Defense Mechanism

**4. Chapter IV: Analysis of the Study**

**5. Chapter V: Conclusion and Suggestion.**