

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Study

Reading is the only interaction between literature and its readers; other human emotions are beyond its control. On the one hand, literature is an abstract art form that is restricted to an absolute object. On the other hand, the reader enjoys complete precedence in the relationship between books and himself as the single subject. (Wan & Martín Blas, 2022). For example, when we read horror books in the middle of the night, alone at home, it could evoke the emotion of fear because the more we read and has the same relation to the ambiance and the more we draw attention to the book we read. So, from the explanation above, by reading the book we could get into the same feeling and emotions through the book moreover, the condition plays a part when the place in the book is spooky.

When we read a book, there must be some important points to be analyzed. Literary works are intended to disguise the writers' objectives, leaving it up to the reader to deduce these purposes through various forms of analysis and evaluation. Reading literary works entails trying to ascertain the authors' genuine goals for us, the readers. A reader must have the capacity for critical thought to comprehend and interpret a literary work. This skill aids the reader in critically

examining and evaluating literary works(Adeani et al., 2020). The book we have read could contain some important things to be analyzed. To analyze the book, we must do a literature review to understand clearly about things that we must analyze (Snyder, 2019). A good literature review must address various requirements, covering and synthesizing relevant literature. The literature review section must limit itself to what is relevant so that it is not too broad.(Nakano & Muniz, 2018). When we try to make a research project, we do the research more specific and detailed so it will not be too broad and have a clear focus to be analyzed. There is a book that is being analyzed in this research.

The book to analyze is called *Why You Better Call Saul*, The author of *Why You Better Call Saul* is Steven Keslowitz, originally published on April 21, 2017. It tells about the transformation of a decent, likable guy named Jimmy McGill into Saul Goodman, the morally bankrupt lawyer we met on Breaking Bad. Captivating and funny, the show provides far more than a few binge-watched hours of entertainment, raising questions about the legal system and human nature itself. The book contains various important information that the movies have not told yet, the word itself has the perk to be easy to understand.

The synopsis of *Why You Better Call Saul* highlights the practice of defense mechani

sm, First of all, Jimmy McGill was born into a low economic family, when Jimmy meets the conman and caught him pull fraud, the conman gave Jimmy some advice namely there are two roles in this world, they are the wolf and sheep. If you want to survive in this world you should choose wisely by playing a role as a wolf or you want to be a sheep like your father, a short-minded naïve guy. At that moment Jimmy realized that to survive he must become a wolf and be willing to change into a wolf but it's not yet at his fullest. Later during his teenage life, he began to live as a conman, accompanied by his friend, Marco Pasternak. They pulled some pranks and fraud on their target at the saloon whereas the drunkard got easily to be fooled and manipulated. After that, he redeems his conman life as a mailman in his older brother's office. Later on, he got a law certificate from an online university and wants to become a lawyer like his brother but he got rejected because of his background and bad habit that make his older brother disbelieve in him. They had a clash in Mesa Verde, Chuck won the trial but got heavily embarrassed and his allergy to electric circuits began to trigger again. Later on, he stressed and commits suicide by setting his own house on fire. A year after Charles's death, Jimmy becomes free and starts his career as a lawyer, but he chooses to change his name to Saul Goodman because the name

McGill leaves the bad memories of his brother, he denies his McGill name and creates his name as a Saul Goodman to freely practice law and his cunning act. After that, he had a stigma against his older brother's partner Howard Hamlin, even though he did what his partner asked him not to do on his intention. Jimmy starts to play pranks and harm Howard Hamlin by all means necessary to end Hamlin's career and the HHM firm. *Why You Better Call Saul* contains various psychological elements that could be analyzed.

Certainly, literature enables individuals to know and question their identities by raising awareness and consciousness. It is to be noted that man and subsistence have always been basic principles in utmost scientific studies, fine arts, and literature. As a fact from the literary work of *Why You Better Call Saul* indicate that there is a psychological element that could be elaborate and analyzed (Gaspersz, Sherly. Uktolseja, 2021).

*Why You Better Call Saul* has an opportunity with the defense mechanism analysis. Defense mechanisms, originating from Freud's psychoanalytic theory, are automatic psychological responses to emotional conflicts and stress. They are widely studied for their ability to cope with problems and emotional conflicts. (Di Giuseppe & Perry, 2021).

Jimmy's demise is more poignant for viewers who, despite knowing full well that Jimmy will become Saul. Jimmy tries to follow the rules, only to succumb to the allure of the criminal world once he has exhausted his moral compass. Despite frequently conforming to society's expectations, Jimmy becomes a victim of a system that refuses to let a former con man go legitimate, eventually becoming a criminal of society's own making. (Lyons, 2021). The same destiny is also applied when the people who uphold the morals have had enough, they turn into the people they once hate most because of the cruel destiny and had to be on the opposite side as a temporary choice. The way he chooses to change his persona is the defense mechanism.

Jimmy McGill's turn into Saul Goodman is also one of the character developments, and the process is dynamic. However, Daniel Sulmasy, a medical educator, and others have highlighted that moral growth is a dynamic process. (Carey et al., 2015) . Jimmy McGill changes into a morally challenged person when he realized that his father is a kind man but naïve. One day he discovers that his father was being tricked by the conman, his father did not believe Jimmy's opinion and that his father was being tricked. After that Jimmy replaces his Father for a while as a cashier and has a dialogue with the conman, he tells that in this world there are two choices, live as a fearless wolf or live as a lowlife naïve sheep. Then Jimmy realized that he did not want to be like his father and chose to be a wolf to

survive. This is based on the aforementioned description, research needs to be done to study more thoroughly the relationship between a child's character development and their parenting style and biological characteristics. (Asbari et al., 2020)

The transformation from the ex-conman artist to a lawyer is one of the long journeys Jimmy McGill had. The reason people transform into something they wish they are not is because of trauma and bad experience (Observation, 2022). People are most willing to change into a different person that is being analyzed by the change of personalities and habits because of the experience they had, for example, such as the traumatic experience to give the signal in the future that the bad past will not happen again in the future.

The reason he broke badly is all of the misfortune and bad coping mechanisms he had. Jimmy slowly walks through his downfall. The people turn into evil because of the trauma and the bad solution they had. (Eye, 2022). The villains are born from bad experiences and bad influences. They tend to elaborate their pain to others for they are not the ones who had the bad experience, they tend to make people also feel the pain they had.

The trauma that Jimmy had led him to change his perspective on society. Freud concludes that everything forgotten by a patient must have been distressing; alarming, painful, or shameful, and that

this is why it was erased from conscious memory. (Olugunle, 2020). Such as when we had a traumatic experience, we choose to forget about it as our defense mechanism.

The pressure when Jimmy deals with the problem he had, he chooses to get rid of it by practicing a defense mechanism as a solution and to be able to get rid of the problem by practicing the defense mechanism (Dachrud & Soleman, 2018). Jimmy's defense mechanism leads him to his self-destruction as a negative effect. Misusing the defense mechanism could lead to self-destruction (Febrita & Sagimin, 2020). Defense mechanisms could be a bad thing if we could not do them right. So, the practice of using defense mechanism should be under control, and knows about the effect, not only for ourselves, but the people around us. (Ratri et al., 2019). To be able to make a positive impact by doing the defense mechanism properly. The defense mechanism has a positive impact on problem-solving. (Yuliastuti & Putri, 2019). Jimmy's defense mechanism has a positive impact on him by encouraging him to do the hard work and be able to move on against his problem. During this research, we more focus on the misusing of the defense mechanism. Misusing defense mechanisms instead of protecting ourselves, could harm others.

In this research, the researcher is trying to elaborate on the type of defense mechanism that is being misused by Jimmy McGill, the main character in *Why You Better Call Saul*. Choosing the defense

mechanism because it is still relevant these days in modernity era whereas the impact of it could cause a problem that needs some problem-solving called the defense mechanism. But the defense mechanisms it is not entirely good, it could be bad if we are misusing them that could harm other people. Therefore, by making research about misusing the defense mechanism, we could learn from it, be careful to use it, and keep it under control.

### **1.2. Statement of the Problems**

Based on the background of the study above, the following problems can be identified:

1. What are the types of defense mechanisms shown by Jimmy McGill?
2. What are the causes of Jimmy McGill's defense mechanism?
3. What are the impacts of Jimmy McGill's Defense Mechanism against his fate?

### **1.3. Objectives of the Study**

Based on the statement of the problems above, the following objectives of the study are:

1. To elaborate on the types of defense mechanisms shown by Jimmy McGill from *Why You Better Call Saul*
2. To know the causes of Jimmy McGill's Defense mechanism with his fate



3. To find out the impacts of Jimmy McGill's defense mechanism

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

First of all, the researcher highlights the type of defense mechanism. Next is elaborating on the causes of Jimmy McGill's defense mechanism. The last is the impact of Jimmy McGill's defense mechanism

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

This research has some purposes theoretically. First, this research is anticipated to give some useful further information for the compendiums about the proposition of the defense mechanism of a character. Second, this research also anticipated enriching the anthology's knowledge, experience, and perception as well in the use of materials research, especially about the knowledge of the human ego. The last, this research would come to a comparison for future research.

Also, this research has a virtual purpose that is anticipated to be useful for the following sides. First, this research aims to enrich the scholars' English language knowledge in the literature field, especially in defense mechanism theory. The circumstances of the situation decide whether the defense mechanism could be positive or negative. This research also gives some references to the compendiums which are trying to extend human knowledge about the defense medium of a character in the novel. The significance of the

study in this research could be advantageous to know the characteristics and to help a person that has a hazardous defense mechanism.

### **1.6. Approach to the Study**

This research uses a qualitative descriptive method, in which description is used to present, analyze and interpret data. This research design is especially relevant to the present research because it involves literary analysis in the form of words or textual data. This type of research is descriptive and interpretation from the subject rather than numbers and quantification. It applies a context-oriented approach. The research is based on the Freudian defense mechanism. According to Freudian theory, defense mechanisms are the various ways people handle their pain because of the difficult experience (Febrita & Sagimin, 2020). There are the procedures of the research.

First of all, the procedures began by reading the book. Reading the book, there are contains important information in the book and things we want to analyze. After that identification, elaborating on the type of defense mechanism and there is various type of defense mechanism, their cause, and effect of it. The next is by analyzing the theory of Sigmund Freud that exists in *Why You Better Call Saul*, and analyzing the cause and effect of the defense mechanism. Finally the interpretation, by explaining the research based on *Why You Better Saul*, with Freudian's defense mechanism theory.

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

Chapter I presents the introduction, which consists of a background of the study, a statement of the problems, the objectives of the research, the scope of the study, the significance of the study, the approach of the study, and the organization of the paper. The crucial points of comprehending the research are placed in this chapter.

Chapter II presents the Synopsis and the biography of the writer.

Chapter III presents a theoretical framework.

Chapter IV presents the analysis and discussion.

Chapter V consists of a conclusion and suggestion. The entire paper is summarized through this section with the benefits of what could the reader learn from the Paper