

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Humans experience conflict in their daily social life. Conflict is caused by differences in beliefs, choices, expectations, two wishes, and other problem (Nurgiyantoro, 2010:124). Each party has its purpose and wants victory. In addition, conflicts are hitting each other in Latin which originally namely "configere". (Muspawi, 2014). Each party has its purpose and wants victory which they seek various ways to win. Conflict is divided into two, internal conflict and external conflict. Internal conflict comes from within humans and is related to individual feelings. Meanwhile, external conflicts come from within humans related to conditions or the environment of individuals. To deal with a conflict, humans naturally rely on defense mechanisms when dealing with feelings, thoughts, and situations that are difficult to express or can cause them to feel anxious. Defense mechanisms protect humans from shame and guilty feelings. According to Sigmund Freud as stated in Cramer (2015), it was further suggested that there may be various defense mechanisms that work to protect the ego from instinctive demands.

Literature has become a science admitted by scholars and it can be learnt by the students as well as society. The student who chose literary work as the object of study must learn about it by reading and understanding it. There are some types and genres that can be found in literature. Literature has three genres;

prose, poetry, and drama. One form of the prose genre is the novel. In the novel contains expressions about aspects of the social environment as literary works in prose genre fiction. (Nurjam'an et al., 2023)

Several approaches can be used to discuss the story in the novel. There is psychoanalytic theory of Psychology in the literature approach. Through this approach, we can study human personality and behavior. In addition, it also can be self-reflected from the individual to the literary work character. The author describes the human soul's desire and thought through his literary work's characteristics and characters. (Yuniarti, 2013). Therefore, the characters in the novel can be studied using psychoanalysis because their activities are similar to humans.

The surrounding community can influence literature. Therefore, an author must try to enter the culture that they write for their novel, which cannot be understood only by imagination, no matter how imaginative an author is. (Andriyanto & Hardika, 2017). Novel authors can combine their imagination and work background in the real world to write novels. That is why the novel does not only contain the imagination of the author but also a collection of feelings that the author directly feels that occur in the real world so that it can become a reflection. One of the reflections is in the novel entitled *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* which tells the story of popular celebrities whose lives are always exposed by cameras and fans. The researcher of this study is interested in analyzing and knowing Evelyn Hugo's psychological aspect as the main character in the novel *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*. This study focused on Evelyn Hugo's

defense mechanisms and her conflicts in the novel. She has many experiences in her life and a love story for being an actress.

*The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* is a novel by American author Taylor Jenkins Reid and about a psychological thriller. The novel was published in 2017 and became The New York Times Best Seller. The researcher's interest in the main character, Evelyn Hugo, describes as a hard-worker woman, but in other hand full of anxiety because of her childhood life, divorce, sexuality status, and her life as a popular 60's actress. The point is, Evelyn Hugo cannot move on and always struggle in her life for being a two-faced actress. Evelyn Hugo wants to life a quiet and pleasant without any problems, she wants her love and life as a popular actress balance. All her problems such as divorce, abusive and toxic relationship make her so frustrated, despairing, worried, and frightened about something worst and they affect her psychology.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problems**

There are five questions that aim to analyze Evelyn Hugo as the main character. It is appealing to know how Evelyn overcome her life problems. Therefore, researchers conduct an analysis of this study. In findings and discussion later will answer five questions related to the topic.

1. What are the conflicts experienced by the main character, Evelyn Hugo?
2. What are the causes of the conflicts experienced by the main character, Evelyn Hugo?

3. What ego defense mechanisms does Evelyn Hugo experience?
4. What are the causes of the ego defense mechanisms experienced by Evelyn Hugo?
5. What are the impacts of ego defense mechanisms to Evelyn Hugo?

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

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

1. To find out the conflict experienced by the main character, Evelyn Hugo.
2. To find out the causes of conflict experienced by the main character, Evelyn Hugo.
3. To reveal ego defense mechanisms Evelyn Hugo experiences.
4. To reveal the causes of the ego defense mechanisms in Evelyn Hugo.
5. To find out the impacts of ego defense mechanisms.

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

The researcher limits the discussion of conflict and ego defense mechanisms in *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*. The researcher focuses on how Evelyn Hugo experiences conflict and defense mechanisms in the novel.

This study will analyze the internal and external conflicts experienced by the main character and its causes. In addition, this study also analyzes Evelyn's ego defense mechanisms and its causes. Finally, the research discusses on the

impact of ego defense mechanisms in the novel *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*.

## **1.5 Significance of the Study**

This study is expected to provide the following contribution and benefits:

### **1.5.1 Theoretical Benefit**

This study is expected to assist and contribute to the development of literary knowledge. Especially in *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid literary study.

### **1.5.2 Practical Benefit**

#### **1. For the researcher**

The practical benefits of this study are expected to fulfill the requirement for a Bachelor of English Literature at Department of English Literature of Stikubank University Semarang.

#### **2. For other researchers**

In addition, *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* can be used as a research guide book in literary studies. This study is expected to provide additional information to other researchers interested in conducting additional research in the related field.

## 1.6 Approach of the Study

This research conducted by using qualitative approach. The qualitative approach originates from the theoretical ideas of researchers based on their experiences which are developed into problems and ways of solving them with solutions to obtain verification in the form of empirical data in reports. (Hardani et al., 2020:254). The object of this study is *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* novel by Taylor Jenkins Reid. This study analyzed conflicts and ego defense mechanism data with the psychoanalysis theory by Sigmund Freud by applying the descriptive method. The researcher used two data sources, the primary data is *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* novel by Taylor Jenkins Reid. The secondary is taken from other sources that support the data such as articles, journals, and books.

For the purpose of collecting data, the researcher conduct library research.

This technique consists of the following steps:

- a. Reading the book several times and some other resources related to *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* novel until the researcher gets adequate information.
- b. Taking notes on the relevant utterance, sentences or paragraph of both primary and secondary sources.
- c. Classifying utterances, sentences, or paragraphs into categories based on the experience of conflicts, causes the conflicts, experience of the ego defense mechanisms, causes the ego defense mechanisms, and the impacts of ego defense mechanisms to get the data.

- d. Analyzing of the data of utterances, sentences, or paragraphs based on conflicts and psychoanalysis of ego defense mechanisms theory.

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

The research will be systematically divided into five chapters to make it easy to understand as follows.

Chapter I is the introduction which contains explanations of background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, approach to the study, and organization of the paper.

Chapter II is the biography of Taylor Jenkins Reid and the synopsis of *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* novel. This chapter contains specific explanations of the biography of Taylor Jenkins Reid and synopsis of *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* novel.

Chapter III is a review of related literature which contains a literature review that examines literary research works of three previous researchers. In addition, it also explains internal conflict and external conflict. This chapter also explains the types of ego defense mechanisms such as suppression, regression, rationalization, sublimation, sublimation, reaction formation, and displacement using psychoanalysis theory by Sigmund Freud.

Chapter IV is findings and discussions. The researcher analyze *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* novel, which relates to internal and external conflict. In addition, also analyzes ego defense mechanisms of the main character in the

novel, such as suppression, sublimation, regression, and reaction formation using Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis theory.

Chapter V is a conclusion and a suggestion which contains conclusion and some suggestions from the researcher for further research.