

CHAPTER I

Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Human has a mechanism to defend themselves against their anxiety. The feeling that arises from an uncomfortable situation or stressful event creates the ego defense mechanism. According to Cramer, this unconscious mechanism is common in humans, and its purpose is to help us overcome anxiety and maintain our self-esteem (Cramer, 2008). Sigmund Freud has been noted in his psychoanalysis theory that there are several ego defense mechanisms in which are usually used by a human, such as repression, denial, sublimation, projection, regression, reaction formation, and displacement

The anxiety can arise through the conflict that humans face in the environment. Human beings always face conflict, whether it is due to the opposite with the family member, environment, or belief. When a person contradicts the family belief or tradition, it creates a conflict. The conflict may not only be seen through a person fighting another person but also in how a person is against himself. Usually, it is a dispute between the desire and belief toward moral value in society. Here, the id, ego, and superego play the roles. According to Siegfried, Sigmund Freud argued that the id acts according to the pleasure principle; Siegfried also argued that the ego makes sure to express the id acceptable in the real world. Besides that, the internalization of cultural rules is reflected in the superego. The superego opposes the id because it seeks to act socially and morally appropriately. Meanwhile, the ego is the one in the

middle (Siegfried, 2014). Thus, the contradiction among the id, ego and superego leads conflict.

The issue that is still controversial, especially in a conservative and religious family, is homosexual or individuals who have same-sex attraction. Homosexual people in most countries or environments still get a prejudiced view in society. The prejudiced attitude of society caused the Lesbian and Gay people cannot speak up for their identities. The stereotype does not only discriminate against women as inferior but also against the sexual minority. Gender stereotype depicts the traditional male gender role as superior and masculine, causing discrimination and stigma against homosexuals in societies whose actions and bodies are more feminine. According to Thompson, in his paper research, about the theoretically embedded universal role of sex in men. There is a traditional subjective standard of men's image that there are definite restrictions on what should and should not be in men (Thompson et al., 1985). So, there are a border lined of a man how to behave like a man and how a man looks like to be.

Family and environment play a part and influence the coming out or disclosure of their identity. Some of them may be born into an acceptable family, but there are still homosexual people who struggle to be accepted in their family or environment. Most of them who live in conservative families who address traditional sex roles find it challenging to speak up about their identity, or even there is a rejection of their identity. On the other hand, the child who lives in a religious family may also face difficulty expressing their

identity, which is opposed to what they believe. Liboro stated that things that affect the negative thought or perspectives toward themselves of the Lesbian and Gay people, especially adolescents, is the other people's behaviour towards Lesbian and Gay and religious beliefs. Hence, it can lead to mental health issues (McCann et al., 2020). McCann argues that religious organizations' assistance can help reduce difficulties and stress in LGBT people (McCann, Donohue, & Timmins, 2020).

This case has a high potential to make homosexual people repress their sexual identity and act the opposite way to adapt to the social environment. In the paper research, Butler and Astbury found that 18 participants of Lesbian and Gay during the coming out process and realizing their same-sex attraction used ego defense mechanisms to cover and conform to the feeling of stress (Butler & Astbury, 2008). Problems that still occur in society show that LGBT people still receive oppression. LGBT people, with such oppressions and conflicts, are psychologically LGBT depressed under discrimination. Nowadays, many movies and novels depict these issues that are difficult to communicate.

Boy Erased: A Memoir of Identity, Faith, and Family written by Gerard Conley is his childhood memoir that brings a queer issue to depict homosexuality in a conservative family. A teenage boy, Gerard Conley, is a son of a religious family. In college, his parents discovered of his son sexuality as a gay. However, the family did not accept his sexuality and tried to curse him or change the sexuality of their son. Finally, his parents sent him

to a gay conversion camp named LIA (Love in Action) program. With his choice and hope, Gerrard Conley wants to try to change his sexual attraction toward men and comes to LIA program. Changing sexual identity is not easy; Gerrard finds many conflicts to erasing his sexuality.

The writer is interested in this memoir because *Boy Erased* gives an overview of a gay man who lived in a religious family. The prejudice in society depicts clearly in this book. On the other side, the main character, Gerard Conley, shows the structural psychology that contributes to his internal and external conflict and the ego defense mechanism that Gerrard used to reduce his conflict.

1.2 Statement of the Problem:

This study is organized into three problem statements. This problem is based on the following topic. As a result, the following are the problems that will be discussed:

1. What are the internal conflict and external conflict experienced by Gerard Conley as seen in *Boy Erased: A Memoir of Identity, Faith and Family*?
2. How do the id, ego and superego of Gerard Conley contribute to the conflict?
3. What ego defense mechanisms of Gerard Conley are found to overcome the conflict in *Boy Erased: A Memoir of Identity, Faith and Family*?

1.3 Objective Study

The purpose of the study is to answer based on the statement of the problem as follow:

1. To find out the internal and external conflict seen in the character Gerard Conley.
2. To reveal the id, ego and superego of Gerard Conley toward the conflict.
3. To find out kinds of ego defense mechanisms that Gerard Conley use to overcome the conflict.

1.4 Scope of the Study

This study is limited to discussing the internal and external conflict of the main character, Gerald Conley, a homosexual who rises in a conservative and religious family. Thus, this study continues to understand how the id, ego, and superego contribute to Gerrard Conley's conflict. Therefore, the last of the research of this study is only focused on the ego defense mechanisms of Gerard Conley.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The writer uses the topic with the hope of giving some benefits to the readers. First, the researcher hopes that the readers who read this thesis can get an overview of the conflict and the psyche of homosexuals. Second, the researcher hopes this thesis will give our environment an insight into the pressure homosexual people experience under unsupportive and

discrimination environment. The last hope is that for the readers who want to use the same topic, the researcher hopes it will help further research.

1.6 Approach of the Study

1) Approach

This study uses a context-oriented approach, in which it is used to analyse the text not only based on the content of the whole story but also on the meaning of the text may have a context or connected to the social condition. According to Klarer, the context-oriented method attempts to categorize texts into historical genres and periods while also seeking to place literary compositions in the context of historical, social, or political development. It shows that the context-oriented approach sees the text in the historical, social, and political context or examines the sociocultural and the environment of the text. For example, besides the genre of the literary work is fiction, the text can contain a depiction of social conditions in real life at that time. (Klarer, 2004)

2) Theory

To analyse this study, the writer uses psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud, which focuses on the psychic apparatus and its ego defense mechanism. The title of the book *'The Ego and The Id'* explained how the mind works with a focus on the ego, which is influenced by the id and the superego. In other words, the process of the id derives satisfaction from releasing the object cathexis, which is carried out through the ego. The ego

will control the id's energy, which it can also repress (Freud, 1989a). Besides that, the superego works to repress the id's impulses, which consist of aggressive and sexual impulses (Hall S, 2019). Meanwhile, the ego defense mechanism was created by the ego to overcome and reduce the anxiety that arises from the conflict between the id and superego (Feist & Feist, 2008).

3) Procedure of Research

To analyse this research, the writer does some step as follow:

- A. The first step the writer uses to analyse this research is reading '*Boy Erased: A Memoir of Identity, Faith and Family*' by Gerald Conley. Then, the writer tried to find the topics or the problems that could be submitted as a problem analysis.
- B. The second is that the writer tried identifying the object based on the problem statement. The writer starts to collect the data of the memoir novel that are by the problem and sticks to the theory that has been chosen.
- C. Third is analyzed. The writer analyses the data based on the theory and the approach used. The theory is psychoanalytic by Sigmund Freud. The book was written by Sigmund Freud, such as *The Ego and The Id*, *An Outline of Psycho-Analysis*, and the other supporting resource from several media such as e-book or books, journals, websites, and some internet sources is collected to answer the question.

D. The last is Interpretation. after analysing the data, the writer tried to interpret it with an overview of the approach, which is the context-oriented approach and the psychoanalytic theory. After that, the writer concludes the analysis result and concludes several points that answer the problem or the topic.

1.7 Organization of Paper

This research organization is divided into 5 (five) chapters, as follow:

Chapter I: Introduction

The first chapter, namely the introduction, this chapter will consist of 7 (seven) sub-chapters. The first is the background of the study. The second is the problem statement. The third is the study's objective, and the Next is the scope of the study. And then, it will contain the significance of the study, approach to the study, and organization of the paper. Then, those subchapters consist of the main interest and how important this research is, the problem that has been formulated, and uncovers the benefit of this research. And then some theories which will support the content of the research and the procedure of the research.

Chapter II: Literature Review

This chapter will explain the synopsis of *Boy Erased: A Memoir of Identity, Faith, and Family*. It also describes the biography of Gerald Conley as the writer of this memoir.

Chapter III: Theoretical Framework

This chapter explains the theories used to analyse the memoir to keep the research valid and reliable.

Chapter IV: Finding and Discussion

In this chapter, the writer analyses the data as the finding. The problem statement in chapter I will be answered in chapter IV. This chapter also provides the discussion.

Chapter V: Conclusion and Suggestion

The conclusion is drawn from the analysis. Then, the writer suggests further research that discusses a related topic or object.