

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Choosing Subject

In the literary world, language is used as a medium or means to express a character in a story. The characteristics of literary works generally come from the imagination or can even reflect the author's desires in various ways, one of which is through describing the characteristics of the characters created by the author. This makes someone interested in the story or the meaning of the story. In literary works, the author inserts psychological aspects into his work through characters without exception who also have coherence with the social and cultural dimensions that the author develops in the work.

And in understanding character in novels, humans are creatures who are influenced not only by environmental factors but the role of internal factors within themselves such as feelings, beliefs, and so on (Al-Qalb, 2021). Not infrequently, in analyzing someone's psychology, the patient is asked to tell the therapist about various thoughts and feelings, and the therapist listens and then maps them and helps the patient to "see" into his unconscious area which is the cause of the problem (Lukman, 2016: 32). Citing the ideas of Freud and Watson, which look at the psychology of modern science (psychoanalysis and behaviourism), Freud believed that early psychosexual events and intrapsychic

forces explain and control human motivation and behaviour. Where psychosexual mean involving the psychological aspects of the sexual impulse, and intrapsychic force is a psychological phenomena that arise or occur within the psyche or mind. Meanwhile, in behaviourism, Watson believes that human behaviour is determined by environmental influences, considering humans to be materialistic machines that are entirely controlled by environmental influences (Rahmat, 2003: 111).

Human life is not only a physical need, but also a need for recognition of its existence (Wibawa, 2021: 953). The feeling of wanting to be recognized in humans is something that is natural for every individual to feel, both consciously and unconsciously. This is what makes an individual have the desire to be accepted in the environment or social group. Because humans can be said to be social creatures and individuals, they are said to be social because humans cannot fulfill their own needs, so they tend to group together. Humans are also individual creatures because they have different general and personal interests, so these differences can cause conflict. Therefore, to create harmonious relationships between people, social norms are needed to protect them. It can be interpreted as instructions or guidelines for behavior that should or should not be done in everyday life, based on a certain reason (Wibawa, 2021: 954). Norms usually apply in a society with unwritten rules, but people consciously obey them. There are various kinds of norms, namely religious norms, moral norms, civility norms, and legal norms.

It can be interpreted that norms are habits or general behavior that guide the social behavior of a society, and develop along with agreement by the surrounding community, or another term for social regulations. Norms concern appropriate behavior in social relationships. And the existence of norms in society forces individuals or groups to act in accordance with existing social rules. This is what makes some people or individuals feel alienated if they do not conform to the norms that apply in society. Where the pressure on applicable norms without realizing it creates a desire to be accepted by the environment.

Social relations related to norms, rules and so on are represented in the work through characters. Characters are an important part of literary works, especially novels. Through the main characters, the author strings and arranges event after event to create a complete story in a novel. Even through the main character, the author can give a message or message to the reader. Thus, the main character in a literary work becomes the main means for writers and readers to communicate with each other.

Recently, to understand a literary work such as a novel, the approach is not only based on substantive literary aspects, but also other aspects such as psychoanalysis. The concept of psychoanalysis itself is actually a concept that has existed for a long time in the 20th century, literary theory was hit by very rapid development, various theories emerged, both along the lines of structuralism, semiotics, literary sociology and psychoanalysis.

Many researchers have studied the characters in novels using a psychoanalytic approach. This is of course not without reason, but because

prose or fictional stories are part of a reflection on life. Its presence does not come from a vacuum, but rather originates from various realities of people's lives which are then packaged by an author fictionally.

One of them is found in the works of Albert Camus. Albert Camus was a French novelist, essayist and playwright. He became famous for his novels *The Stranger*, *The Plague*, and *The Fall*. He was born in Mondovi, Algeria, to French parents. He first made his debut with the first novel *The Stranger* (1942), with a flow of absurdity, with a concept that focused on his writing which questioned the meaning of life. In the novel, Camus refers to topics ranging from alienation to a lack of traditional values.

The Stranger is a novel with Meursault, a French citizen from Algiers, as the main character. He went to pay his respects after learning that his mother had died in a nursing home outside the city. Before being buried, he was asked if he wanted to see his mother's body, but he refused. He returned to Algiers after everything was over, and the next day, he continued his routine and went for a walk with his girlfriend. He fell out with one of his neighbours for killing an Arab man in Algiers after several weeks of mourning. The result of this was his trial and death sentence. The book is divided into two parts, each of which offers a first-person perspective, that of Meursault before and after the murder. In the novel *The Stranger*, Camus shows his absurd side by creating a character named Mersault who sees life differently from what normal people see. Melancholic, indifferent, unenthusiastic, and apathetic, Meursault lacks enthusiasm in life. These characters are represented in his everyday life. As one

of the quotes in the novel *The Stranger* that shows the strangeness of Meursault's character is “*It occurred to me that somehow I'd got through another Sunday, that Mother now was buried, and tomorrow I'd be going back to work as usual. Really, nothing in my life had changed.*” (Camus, 1946: 17).

This is the reason why researchers want to see Meursault's desires in terms of his character and habits, where his seemingly unambitious life makes the people around him judge his behavior and perspective on life. Seeing Meursault's character who desires to live according to his perspective and desires, which is of course clearly different from most people. This conflict with social norms in his environment makes researchers interested in examining Meursault's character using the theory of desire.

Of course the existence of characters in a novel certainly does not stand alone. There are factors that influence the creation of a character's personality in a novel. According to Faruk, human desires are personal deficiencies that need to be satisfied so humans can have them throughout their lives (Faruk, 2012: 196). However, because desire is seen as bringing conflict to the symbolic order, desire is always hidden and suppressed. We can study humans using psychology which discusses the psyche. The theoretical concepts developed by Sigmund Freud have made many contributions and inspired observers of literary psychology (Minderop, 2016: 2). Psychology in literary works is about personality development, about human nature and psychotherapy methods. For psychoanalysis, the term personality is a priority that contains a thinking

structure colored by emotion, such as an author who unconsciously inserts psychological aspects in his work making the unconscious as an object.

There are several factors that shape a character's personality, one of which can be identified through the psychoanalytic approach of Jacques Lacan, a philosopher and leading thinker in the field of psychoanalysis. This identification is identified based on Lacan's three theoretical concepts, namely Imaginary, Symbolic and Real.

Psychoanalysis developed by Jacques Lacan is modern psychoanalysis which departs from the thoughts of Sigmund Freud. In this research the author adheres to modern psychoanalytic theory developed by Jacques Lacan. Jacques Lacan is a figure in modern psychoanalysis who was born in Paris on April 31, 1901. He was an active intellectual in 1934, he became a candidate at the Societe Psychanalytique de Paris, this can be proven in various universities in the world, the name Jacques Lacan is included as one of the a successor to Freud's tradition as a topic for teaching literary theory (Susanto, 2012:67).

Jacques Lacan is quite an influential figure in the history of psychoanalysis after Freud. The unconscious area is a part of human consciousness that is known or unknown to other people. According to Freud, this unconscious area is the area where a person's desires and needs lie (Lukman, 2016: 42). In Lacan's theory, the desire contained in the subject is a form of himself, of which the subject is unconscious. Therefore, Jacques Lacan's theory of desire is divided into three orders of subjectivity

(Imaginary, Symbolic, The Real) where these three aspects are related to each other with subjectivity related to a person along with their psychological development. Just like what happened to the main character in the novel *The Stranger* by Albert Camus.

According to Lacan, the Imaginary stage is an imaginative process where the ego exists before it has the capacity to understand language, where the Imaginary order precedes the Symbolic order. At this stage, the "mirror stages" also occur, where when the baby reaches the age of six months, this mirror period begins. At this stage, the child considers that he who is reflected in the mirror is "other" because he cannot yet differentiate between his own image and another image. At the Symbolic stage, the Symbolic world is the subconscious world which is then associated with subconscious thinking and examining aspects of language. The Symbolic order is an order filled with linguistic dimensions. The Real stage, this Real order is apart from the Symbolic order, but this order also allows the Symbolic order to occur. In this order there is only perfect fullness, wholeness. Therefore, Lacan calls this order beyond language and cannot be expressed in language.

Based on the story above, the researcher then applied a psychoanalytic approach to Jacques Lacan's theory of desire. Psychology is the scientific study of the body, mind, and behaviour. In Lacan's perspective, the basically unstable desires of the subject (human) turn into needs. Because it is the domain of human desire, the subconscious has a structure similar to language. The deepest desire that can be expressed verbally or otherwise is the desire itself. Moreover,

Meursault's desire would be analysed through his behaviour and fortuitous events. In this state, Meursault also experienced an unplanned event that would change his life. Besides, observing learning is also used to analyse the desire of Meursault.

The Stranger itself has been translated into 60 languages and sold six million copies. Albert Camus received worldwide appreciation for the works he created, Albert Camus was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1957 at the age of 44. This makes him the second youngest recipient in history, the Nobel for literature category and Albert Camus's works are considered to have contributed the most to the emergence of a new school or understanding in philosophy, absurdism. As a thinker and artist, Camus' works explore existence and the meaning of life. Like other important works, the book was influenced by Camus' personal philosophy and approach to life. Albert Camus remains an important figure in the world of literature and is very influential in both the fields of literature and philosophy.

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B. Problem Formulation

Based on the explanation above, the researcher needs to answer some question:

1. What is Meursault's desire?

C. Objective of The Study

This study tries to analyse Meursault's desire that is expressed in his daily life. With Lacanian psychoanalytic perspective, this study tries to show ideas about three subjectivity orders that are represented in the main character of the novel .

D. Review of Related Studies

In this part, researchers get some research results that have been completed related to the topic of this research. The researcher needs some references from previous studies with similar objects or theories to this research, and the researchers found two thesis with the same theory also other journal/or thesis with the same novel from previous studies and those are:

The first researcher was conducted by Abdullah, A. M (2021) with the journal "*Alienation in Albert Camus' the Stranger*". The purpose of the study is to reveal Meursault character, because Mersault describes existentialist philosophy in social life. The author using existentialism of Jean-Paul Sartre as the theory in this study. The results showed that character Meursault in the novel

The Stranger experienced alienation from himself and society. Meursault's alienation is illustrated by the habits, jobs and responses of other characters to his presence. Mersault also has a tendency to reject the values of his societies. Meursault's radical freedoms made him confused about determining the limits of freedom. Meursault's all kinds of alienation were a form of Camus existentialism. The similarity between Abdullah's research with this research is the novel, while the difference is the theory.

The second researcher was conducted by Bishay, B (2018) with the thesis “*Rebellion and the Absurd: Reading the Novels of Albert Camus*”. The purpose of the study is to compare the two protagonists and their environment in the novel *The Plague* and *The Stranger*, by using Albert Camus theory of the absurd. The author analyse based on the absurdity that contains through the celebration of rebellion in the novels. The result showed that researcher found that two novels under examination suggest that a rebellious respond to life’s inherent absurdity is not only possible but is a credible response to the human condition. The similarity between Bishay research with this research is the novel, while the difference is the theory.

The third researcher was conducted by Hasni Maulida, et al (2021) with the thesis title “*Louisa’s Freedom of Desire in The Short Story: A New England Nun in Study of Lacanian Psychoanalysis*”. The purpose of the study is to reveal fragments of the desire of freedom from the main character by using Lacan’s psychoanalysis. The result is that the story of Louisa's life, told by Mary Freeman, shows readers about women's personalities, which in reality can be

shaped by their own egos. The similarity between Maulida, et al. research with this research is the theory, while the difference is the novel.

The fourth researcher was conducted by Budiman, M. A., & Listiyarini, I (2018) with the thesis title “*Analyses of Short Stories Using Lacan’s Psychoanalysis*”. The purpose of the study is to reveal characteristics of the characters portrayed in the short stories published in monthly magazines. The results indicate that the short stories published in “Nurul Hayat” magazines and in the website deliver positive and constructing ideas. Those stories tell that as a person we should not easily give up when facing difficult obstacles. They also say that all obstacles can be overcome as Lord does not create them exceeding the human capability. It means that when we try our best, there will be solutions to the problems we face. For that, the researchers agree if these kinds of stories will be used as teaching media to the children. The similarity with this research is the theory, while the difference is the novel.

E. Research Methodology

1. Data and Source Data

- a. The primary data of this research is from dialog, conflict and the personality that presented Meursault. This study uses the novel *The Stranger* by Albert Camus in English version that was published in 1946 by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. The form of the data that was used from this research are dialog, monologue, and the narration of the book.

- b. The secondary data of this research, the author uses other thesis and journals, articles about desire, and then as well as critical works that support and can be used in this research.

2. Method of Collecting Data

In conducting this study the author used library research as a technique used in the study. In the library research the author, read the whole novel and then start collecting data from the content of the novel, especially from the society, dialog and the conflict in the novel. Then used systematic browsing, to find the theory and compare it with other journals or articles. For collecting the data, the researcher analysed and classified the three orders of desire that were represented in Meursault in the novel *The Stranger* by Albert Camus.

3. Method of Analyzing Data

The data collected by the researcher is analysed and interpreted using psychological theory which relates to the desire theory. The researcher addresses the problem formulation and discusses how the condition might be explained by the theory that was applied. Through Lacanian theory, researchers want to identify the Meursault character's personality in the novel using the theory of desire which includes Lacan's three orders of subjectivity, Imaginary Order, Symbolic Order, and The Real Order. Where the desires of the main character in the novel can be revealed.

F. Presentation

This research will be presented in four chapters, chapter I is an introduction, which contains the background of choosing the subject, objective of the study, review of the study, research methodology, theoretical approach, collected data, and presentation. Chapter II is a theoretical framework and approach, which contains the theories and the approach of research. Chapter III is an analysis of this research. Chapter IV which is the last chapter, there is a conclusion, which contains a conclusion of this research.