

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literature is creative writing that refers to works of creative imagination such as drama, fiction, and non-fiction. Literature is also an expression written through words. The discussion covers human life, traditions, culture, social relations, and many more. It serves as a reflection of the reality of everything that happens in society and is recorded through literary works. In other words, human life is manifested in literary form. This manifestation is based on tragedy and human feelings to inspire and provide information for other humans (Ahmed, 2017).

In literary works, humans are described as objects of discussion that reveal life events and human behavior. A writer represents life by the goals, perceptions, and ideologies to be conveyed to readers to arouse emotions and help them find meaning in life. David Lodge (2002) in Goksen Aras states, "Literature is a record of human consciousness, the richest and most comprehensive we have. Lyric poetry is arguably man's most successful effort to describe qualia. The novel is arguably man's most successful effort to describe the experience of individual human beings moving through space and time" (2015). Literature is one of the most important means of acquiring knowledge about humans.

Humans are defined as complex creatures that have personality and behavior. Both are closely related to the psychological aspects of humans.

It means that literature and psychology are related to one another. According to Goksen Aras, literature and psychology have a strong relationship regarding the facts about both of them dealing with humans and their reactions to perceptions of the world, desires, fears, concerns, conflicts, and their solutions through various concepts and approaches (2015). According to Freud, the psychological aspect emphasizes the understanding that each individual has different characters in shaping personality (Vazire, 2014).

In his journal, Songyang Zhang explained that psychology is the science of thought and behavior, a combination of biology and philosophy. One of the well-known psychological theories is psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud. This theory emerged from the 19th century, which focused on the analysis of the unconscious and dreams. Personality psychology is a divided subject that studies individual psychological types and personalities (2020). Therefore, psychoanalysis is an analysis that takes a psychological point of view. This study will analyze the psychological aspects of the anxieties experienced by Kamila Sidiqi as the main character in Gayle Tzemach Lemmon's novel *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana*.

The Dressmaker of Khair Khana is a novel that tells the story of the struggle of a girl from Afghanistan named Kamila Sidiqi and her siblings during a war situation in her country that is getting hotter. Their lives became getting harder when the Taliban came to power and imposed

strict regulations, mainly aimed at women. According to the regulations, Kamila could not do anything, and her family was in a severe economic crisis. But in the end, Kamila managed to find a solution by starting a sewing business with her siblings to fulfill their daily lives.

This novel is interesting to be analyzed because the character of Kamila Sidiqi as the main character shows many psychological problems. Kamila Sidiqi shows the anxiety, despair, fear and panic created by the ongoing war situation in her country, Afghanistan. By looking at these problems, this study wants to analyze the psychological aspects that focus on anxieties and defense mechanisms of Kamila Sidiqi in Gayle Tzemach Lemmon's novel *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana* using the theory of psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud.

B. Problem Formulation

Based on the explanation of the background of the study, this study formulates the following problem formulations:

- a. What are the anxieties experienced by Kamila Sidiqi as the main character?
- b. How does Kamila Sidiqi as the main character use Defense Mechanisms to cope her anxieties?

C. Limitation of the Study

This study will be limited and focused on the psychological problems in Gayle Tzemach Lemmon's novel *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana*. It will analyze the anxieties and defense mechanisms experienced by Kamila Sidiqi as the main character.

D. Objectives of the Study

Based on the explanation above, this study focuses on finding the following objectives:

1. To identify the anxieties experienced by Kamila Sidiqi as the main character.
2. To explain the defense mechanisms used by Kamila Sidiqi as the main character to cope her anxieties.

E. Significance of the Study

This study has the following expectations as a result:

1. This study is expected to provide benefits and broad knowledge for readers, especially for students of the Faculty of Languages and Communication Sciences of Sultan Agung Islamic University who major in English Literature Program.