

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides an explanation of research topic which consists of research background, research question, objective of research, significant of research, limitation of research, and definition of key terms.

### **A. Research Background**

Indonesia in recent years has faced the low of literacy issue. Several previous studies had shown that the condition is very concerning. Mardiah, et. al. (2024) stated that Indonesia has not experienced a significant increase in literacy level. Then, Mudjib (2022) explained in his thesis that data from UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural), there is 0,1% of children in Indonesia that have interest in reading. Hence, this issue is important and complex to be discussed further to find a solution.

There are many factors that cause the low literacy level in Indonesia. As stated by Kusumarizky (2018), one of them is lack of interest in reading, hence make it difficult to develop a reading culture. In accordance with Pranowo and Herujiyanto (2015) that comprehension in reading will not be good if do not have a reading culture. The culture is not instantly formed, but there is a process during it. As individual to build it, need a habit which is done in daily life. So, people should develop this habit in interesting way for build the reading culture.

Novel is a popular form of literature that many people can enjoy. When they read novels, it helps them gain a deeper understanding of life because literature often reflects real-life experiences, especially those involving human emotions, relationships, and struggles. According to Alber (2011), studying literature is linked to the social aspects of life, meaning that literature helps us better understand how people interact with one another and with the world around them. Literature, especially novels, can serve as a mirror to life, helping readers to reflect on their own experiences and learn from the stories of others.

Elements in a novel that support the story consists of theme, plot, setting, character, characterization, point of view and moral message. Researcher is interested in conducting research on character, especially on the character's personalities. As mentioned by Wardani (2017:4) that, "Character portrays in a narrative or dramatic work". Examining the personalities of characters in novels is important because it is the main element that brings the story to life and influences the development of the plot. By understanding the characters' personalities, we can uncover the motivations, inner conflicts, and emotional developments that occur throughout the story. This analysis not only helps readers better understand the reasons behind the characters' actions and decisions but also offers deeper insight into the themes and messages the author wants to convey. In addition, by analyzing characters, we can find reflections of ourselves or others in real life, so that we better understand the psychological and social complexities of humans.

To analyze the personality can use psychoanalysis theory. The theory that is often used is by Sigmund Freud (1923) because as Minderop (2010) stated that psychoanalysis theory is closely connected to how human mind works (as cited in Rohmah, et al., 2023:83). Psychoanalysis theory allows for a deeper understanding of the complexities of human behavior. According to Ambarini (2008: 22), this theory is mostly used to analyze literary works because it gives detail explanation than other personality theories. Freud's psychoanalysis theory breaks the mind down into three main parts: the *id*, *ego*, and *superego*. Through the concepts of the personality structure (*id*, *ego*, and *superego*), Freud's theory helps explain the hidden motivation behind the main character's actions. There are a lot of previous studies that discuss about the psychoanalysis theory such as: in article by Rohmah, et al. (2023), Sartika, et al. (2022), Chalamah, et al. (2023), and so on, then in thesis by Aswandi (2017), and Ningtyas (2022). Those previous studies show analysis of character in story which used psychoanalysis theory by Sigmund Freud. The literary works that are used are different like novel and short story with different genres. In this research, researcher uses Durian Sukegawa's novel which translated by Alison Watts by the title "Sweet Bean Paste" because the novel shows the complexities

of main character's behavior which contains changes of the personality, and value of rise from adversity.

Durian Sukegawa's novel "Sweet Bean Paste" is a fiction novel within a genre of slice of life. This novel is originally from Japan and published in 2013, because of its popularity this novel is translated officially in English by Alison Watts and published in 2017. The main character of this novel is Sentaro who is told as a dorayaki seller in Doraharu Shop. Sentaro has had a difficult life journey. Analyzing his personality aims to understand his struggle and complexity of his behavior. This analysis helps readers see how complex emotions and psychological struggles shape a character's decisions and actions, offering a richer interpretation of the novel.

Furthermore, Sentaro can be a role-model from his personality, hard working, and self-development to rise from an adversity. Self-development is essential for personal growth including improving skills, self-awareness and other aspects in life (The Women's Organisation, 2023). Self-development is important in those several aspects to empowers individuals to become the best versions of themselves while positively impacting every aspect of their lives. So, analyzing the main character's personality in Durian Sukegawa's novel *Sweet Bean Paste* can give more understanding of the aspects implicate in his self-development.

From the background above, this research has aims to know personality structure of the main character including defense mechanism that is built using theory of psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud and the implications in main character's self-development. Then, because of its focus, the title of this research is "*Analysis of the Main Character's Personality in "Sweet Bean Paste" Novel Based on Freud's Theory and Its Implication in Self-Development*"

## **B. Research Questions**

The research question is formed as a finding of problem from the research background, as follows:

1. How is the personality structure of the main character in the Durian Sukegawa's novel "Sweet Bean Paste" based on Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis theory?
2. What defense mechanisms are employed by the main character in Durian Sukegawa's novel "Sweet Bean Paste" according to Freud's psychoanalysis theory?
3. What are the implications of the personality structure and defense mechanism in Durian Sukegawa's novel "Sweet Bean Paste" in main character's self-development?

## **C. Objective of Research**

In accordance with the research questions, this research has aims, as follows:

1. To know the personality structure of the main character in the Durian Sukegawa's novel "Sweet Bean Paste" based on Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis theory.
2. To know defense mechanisms that are employed by the main character in Durian Sukegawa's novel "Sweet Bean Paste" according to Freud's psychoanalysis theory.
3. To know the implications of the personality structure and defense mechanism in Durian Sukegawa's novel "Sweet Bean Paste" in main character's self-development.

## **D. Significant of Research**

The results of this research are expected to provide benefits, as follows:

### **1. For Readers**

The analysis can help readers gain a deeper understanding of the main character's personality, motivations, and emotional struggles. By using psychoanalytic theory, readers can appreciate the complexity of the

character and how it reflects real human experiences. Readers may find the exploration of psychological dimensions in the character enriching. This can enhance their overall reading experience by encouraging them to think critically about characters and their development in literature.

## 2. For Researcher

This study contributes to researcher understanding of literary analysis by using psychoanalytic theory to look at a specific book. It offers a way to analyze characters in literature, which can help other researchers who are investigating similar ideas or themes in their own work.

## E. Limitation of Research

Based on the research questions above, this research needs limitation so the research is more directed and focused on problems that will be discussed. Therefore, the researcher limits it by focusing on the personality structure and self defense mechanism contained in the main character in the Durian Sukegawa's novel "Sweet Bean Paste" that use Sigmund Freud theory and what the implication of it through self-development of main character.

## F. Definition of Key Terms

1. **Novel** is one of literary works in form of narrative which has elements such as themes, plot, setting, character, characterization, point of view, and moral message.
2. **Psychoanalysis** theory is a theory by Sigmund Freud that explains about human's personality structure which consists of id, ego and superego.
3. **Id** is element that human has since they were born, and it works in unconscious level.
4. **Ego** is part that help human deal with reality or world around. The ego works to satisfy the id's desires in realistic.
5. **Superego** is element that holds idea right or wrong. The superego is affected by human's environment.
6. **Self-development** is a process to improving several aspects of life through personal growth, learning, and self-awareness to become best version of person's self.