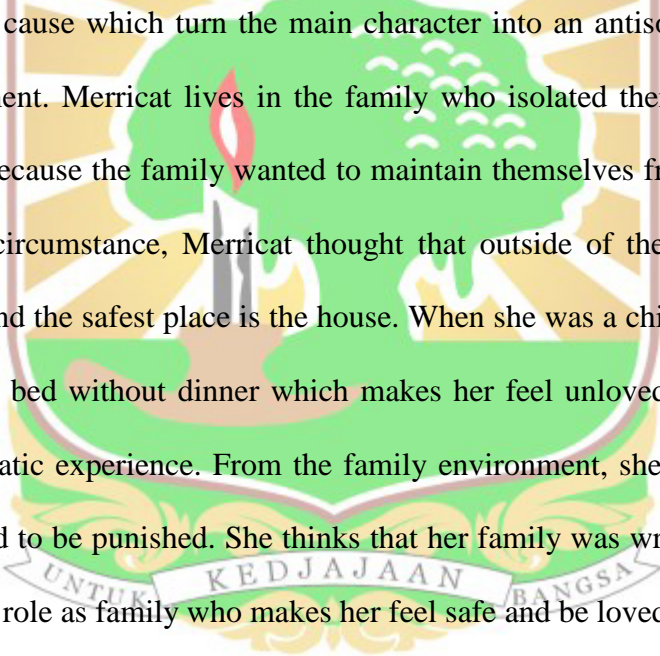


CHAPTER IV

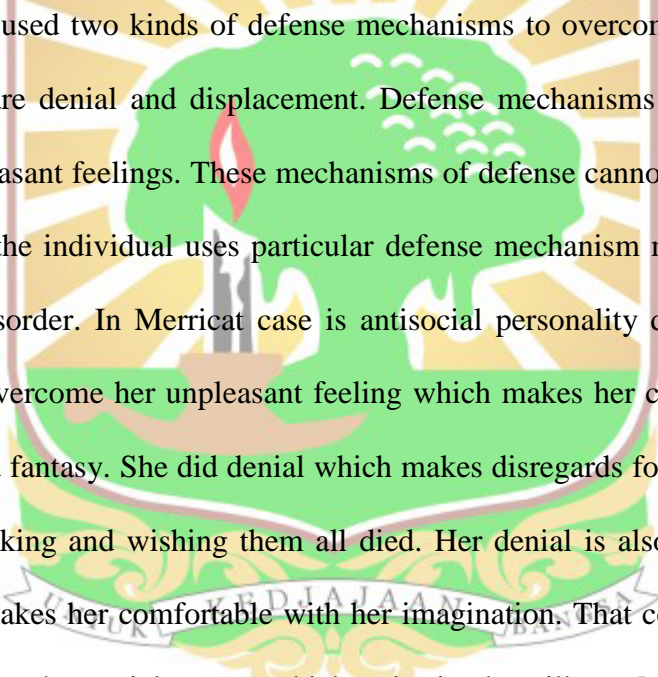
After analyzing Shirley Jackson's We Have Always Lived In The Castle novel, the writer has two conclusions. The first conclusion is there are two causes which turn the main character, Merricat, into an antisocial person. They are the unhealthy family environment and fear of loss. The last conclusion is there are two types of defense mechanisms which are used by the Merricat: denial and displacement.



The first cause which turns the main character into an antisocial is an unhealthy family environment. Merricat lives in a family who isolated themselves from society. It was because the family wanted to maintain themselves from unworthy people. In this circumstance, Merricat thought that outside the house is full of terrible people and the safest place is the house. When she was a child, she was often punished and sent to bed without dinner, which makes her feel unloved and became her childhood traumatic experience. From the family environment, she learnt that every wrongdoing needs to be punished. She thinks that her family was wrong because they do not play their role as a family who makes her feel safe and be loved. In this case, she wanted to punish the family by poisoning them with arsenic.

The second cause which turns her into an antisocial is the fear of loss. Merricat got no affection from her parents. She only got affection from her sister Constance, which makes Merricat obsessed with her. She learnt from the family that the safest place is the house while outside is full of terrible people. She does not want to lose

the only one who loves her. For this reason, he kept her sister in the house. She did not want the terrible world take her sister away, the source of her affection. The writer found that Merricat there is unconscious motivation which makes Merricat killed her family. The unconscious motivation of Merricat is because she is a lesbian. She is very protective over Constance. She wants Constance's affection and attention is only exclusively claims for her. She is afraid that Constance will love other person and leave her.



Merricat used two kinds of defense mechanisms to overcome her unpleasant feelings, those are denial and displacement. Defense mechanisms are used only to reduce the unpleasant feelings. These mechanisms of defense cannot be used to solve the problem. If the individual uses particular defense mechanism more often, it can cause mental disorder. In Merricat case is antisocial personality disorder. Merricat used denial to overcome her unpleasant feeling which makes her comfortable in her own thought and fantasy. She did denial which makes disregards for the safety of the villagers by thinking and wishing them all died. Her denial is also leads her to the fantasy which makes her comfortable with her imagination. That comfort makes her failed to confront the social norms which exist in the village. Merricat also does displacement which leads her to aggressive behavior.

The family is very important in personality development because we are each a product of the role we are given in the family-complex. A healthy family environment will develop a healthy personality. While on the opposite, an unhealthy family environment will produce bad personality. Traumatic childhood experiences

can cause antisocial behavior as a defense mechanism. As seen in Merricat who use denial and displacement as defense mechanisms which lead her to antisocial behaviors.

