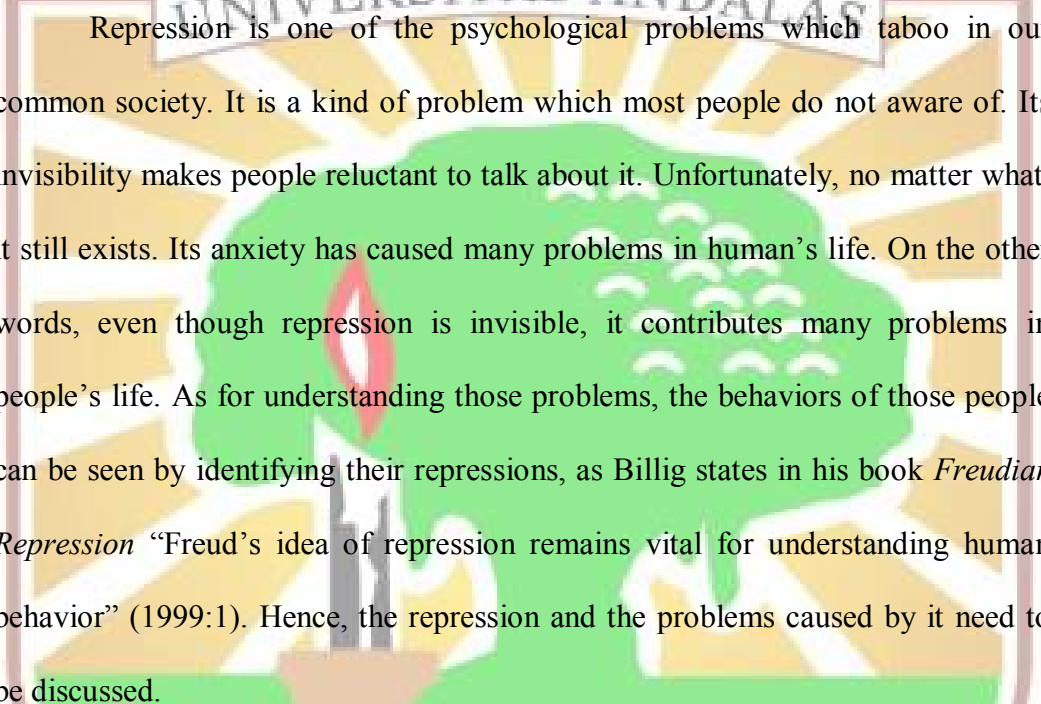


CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Research



Repression is one of the psychological problems which taboo in our common society. It is a kind of problem which most people do not aware of. Its invisibility makes people reluctant to talk about it. Unfortunately, no matter what, it still exists. Its anxiety has caused many problems in human's life. On the other words, even though repression is invisible, it contributes many problems in people's life. As for understanding those problems, the behaviors of those people can be seen by identifying their repressions, as Billig states in his book *Freudian Repression* "Freud's idea of repression remains vital for understanding human behavior" (1999:1). Hence, the repression and the problems caused by it need to be discussed.

One of the problems which caused by the repression is the ones in married women. When married women bear the repression, there are many things which can be affected. It is the husband, the children, and the marriage itself which become the ones to be concerned the most. Their status and demand even contribute more complication to the problems. As the result, they cannot avoid to have wars in their minds. Those conflicts precisely cause them more burdens.

Hence, the writer chooses the topic of married woman's repression because she wants to contribute for the sake of married woman's importance that

almost all of their problems mostly caused by the repression which they do not aware of. Since the repression is processed in the unconsciousness, the writer believes, not many people can realize that they are bearing certain kind of repression. Thus, the writer wants to aim this research as the reminder that problems in married women need to be discussed. These are also what Alice Munro tries to portray in most of her short stories.

Alice Munro is one of the contemporary authors who attempt to develop the complexity of human personality on her characters. She is a Canadian short story writer who was born on July 10, 1931, in Wingham, Canada. Throughout her short stories, she chooses woman issues as the complex icon. All of her short stories mostly talk about women and their phenomenon. This 2013 Nobel Prize winner for literature is honored as the ‘master’ of contemporary short stories since she is the only one short story writer who becomes the Nobel Prize winner. Cynthia Ozick wrote, “She is our Chekhov, and is going to outlast most of her contemporaries.” Michiko Kakutani in *The New York Times* also has the same idea as Ozick, that the collection *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage* proved Munro’s “Chekhovian” skill to represent a flawless character as real as the people in the real life can meet.

Munro’s short stories collection titled *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage* is her tenth collection which was first published in 2001. This collection contains nine short stories, “Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage”, “Floating Bridge”, “Family Furnishing”, “Comfort”, “Nettles”, “Post

and Beam”, “What Is Remembered”, “Queenie” and “The Bear Came Over the Mountain”. This collection seems to be one of her most monumental works. Two of the short stories in this collection have been even adapted into movies, *Away from Her* (2006) based on the last short story of the collection “The Bear Came Over the Mountain”, and *Hateship, Friendship* (2013) based on the first short story of the collection “Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage”.

Munro’s main characters in all of her short stories in *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage* just like the short stories in her other collections, are all women. She believes that it happens naturally since she is a woman. While writing her stories, she follows her natural intuition as a woman to portray women and their experiences. On an interview, Munro said, “Naturally my stories are about women—I’m a woman. [...] In the beginning I used to say, well, of course I’m a feminist. But if it means that I follow a kind of feminist theory, or know anything about it, then I’m not. I think I’m a feminist as far as thinking that the experience of women is important. That is really the basis of feminism.” Without any doubt, her own experiences as a woman also become the main influential inspiration in writing her stories.

In the collection *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage*, Munro represents the complicated married women through her main female characters. Some of them are described to have good marriage but in fact seek an opportunity to escape from the burden of being a wife. The other seems to be desperate because of a terminate illness, yet a simple kiss from a stranger can

bring her back to life. At a glance, those married women seem to be hard to understand. They seem to have certain psychological problems. Indicating by their anxieties, they bear a lot of inner conflicts because they repress certain desires, fears or feelings in their unconsciousness.

Out of the nine short stories, five of them share a common thread about the inner conflicts of married women which become the reason why the writer chooses these five short stories as the object of the analysis. They are “Floating Bridge”, “Comfort”, “Nettles”, “What Is Remembered” and “The Bear Came Over the Mountain”. The married women which are represented by the main female characters in these five short stories have the same pattern of problem. They are all married women whose role as a wife and/or a mother in the marriage has bridled them in articulating their desires, overcoming their fears, or even in expressing their feelings. Those things are finally repressed deep in their unconsciousness. They, the writer argues, do not even realize that they have such repression. Unfortunately, the desires, fears or feelings always seek the channel to be comforted. Each main female character’s repression finally tries to find the channel to be articulated. It is shown by the different symptom from each character through how they behave and how they face their daily life. Here, the main point which makes each character becomes complex is their marriage status. The repression and the position of the characters as a wife and a mother make the characters become more complicated and finally lead them to have the conflicts in their minds.

In order to analyze the inner conflicts and the way the characters solve them, the writer uses psychoanalytic criticism particularly the Freudian theory about repression. The first reason why the writer chooses this approach is that this research mainly discusses the characters and their psychological problems, which later makes them anxious. And second, the Freudian theory of repression is suitable to analyze a character who psychologically represses certain desires, fears or feelings. And for that reason, the writer would like to entitle this research **“Married Woman’s Repression in the Selected Short Stories of Alice Munro’s *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage*”**.

B. The Identification of the Problem

There are several problems of repression found in married women of the collection. First, repression oppressed married woman. Second, because of their status and demand, the repression on married women can be more complicated. Third, the repression can create the conflicts in their mind in restraining their desires, fears, or feelings. Forth, for the sake of their comfort, the restrained desires, fears, and feelings which become their inner conflicts seek the channel to be articulated.

C. The Scope of the Research

In this research, the writer focuses on the inner conflicts of the married women in Alice Munro’s five selected short stories from her collection *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage*. They are: Jinny in the story “Floating

Bridge”, Nina in the story “Comfort”, the narrator in the story “Nettles”, Meriel in the story “What Is Remembered”, and Fiona in the story “The Bear Come Over the Mountain”. The writer sees that, because of their married status, each woman from these five short stories, through how they behave and how they face the problem, has the symptom which shows that they repress such kind of desires, fears or feelings. Hence, the writer attempts to analyze the inner conflicts of the married women as well as the different ways they do to comfort themselves.

D. The Research Question

To limit this research, the writer will focus on answering the following questions:

1. From the selected short stories, what are the inner conflicts repressed by the married women?
2. How do those women overcome their inner conflicts for the sake of their comfort?

E. The Objective of the Research

The objection of this research is to reveal the inner conflicts of the married women in the collection *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage* by Alice Munro as represented by each main female character. The discussion covers the cause of the conflicts and the way the women overcome them from the perspective of psychoanalytic criticism by Sigmund Freud.

F. The Review of the Previous Studies

In order to support this research, the writer needs some previous studies which are related to this topic. This previous study is aimed as the medium of comparison to achieve deeper understanding. The writer reviews other studies conducted by other researchers in order to find the different point of view and opinion to enrich the analysis.

The first related study is the book published by Bernard J. Paris entitled *A Psychological Approach to Fiction* (2010). In this book, Paris conducts a psychological study to five novels, they are, *Vanity Fair* by William Makepeace Thackeray, *The Red and the Black* by Stendhal, *The Mill on the Floss* by George Eliot, *Notes from Underground* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky and Joseph Conrad's *Lord Jim* by using the theories about neurotic processes from Karen Horney and Abraham Maslow's Third Force psychology. Here, Paris develops the theories to mainly analyze the character and the consciousness of the implied author in fiction because he argues that yet no particular critical perspective is aimed to analyze them. This book is very helpful to the writer since the book's author focuses on the character's analysis by using psychological theories. The book is a clear example of how to analyze the character in literary work through the theories of psychology. The book also introduces the writer to those two unfamiliar theories in psychoanalytical criticism.

The second related study is an article by Hande İsaoglu in *The Journal of Academic Social Science Studies* entitled "A Freudian Psychoanalytic Analysis of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*" (2015 vol.-, no.32, pp.499-511). This

article analyzes Nathaniel Hawthorne's main characters in the novel *The Scarlet Letter* by using psychoanalytic criticism which focused on the Freudian theory of repression. He finds that the inconsistency of id, ego, and super-ego affects the main character's life and personality and leads them into repression. He argues that the characters Hester Prynne and Arthur Dimmesdale act as their tempting ids order them, and they get the gratification from it even though puritan's rule costs them much punishment. This article becomes the writer's main sample in conducting her research because İsaoglu also focuses his analysis on the repression of the main characters. This article also enriches the writer's references list to expand her analysis more.

The third related study is an article in *International Journal of Applied Linguistic & English Literature (IJALEL)* by Raheleh Bahador and Esmaeil Zohdi. The article entitled "Alice Munro's 'Runaway' in the Mirror of Sigmund Freud" (2015 vol.4, no.2, pp.169-176), focuses on Munro's another short stories collection *Runaway* by using Freudian theory in psychoanalytic criticism, the same approach and theory that the writer uses. Bahador and Zohdi discuss Munro's *Runaway* based on Sigmund Freud's theory of the unconscious and its connection with the interpretation of dreams as well as the symbolization of three main characters based on tripartite agencies of the id, ego, and superego. It makes this article different with the writer's research since the writer does not apply any dream interpretation in analyzing the characters. In this article, Bahador and Zohdi argue that every character in the collection is driven by the Freudian mental agencies and undergo phases of the physic disorder. Through this article, Bahador

and Zohdi prove that the three main characters they focus on, in terms of the Freudian psychic trilogy, fit the psychological Freudian terms. Meanwhile, in her research, the writer will not prove anything instead to show that each main female character in Alice Munro's *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage* represses certain desires, fears or feelings, and unconsciously tries to find the way to overcome their repression.

The forth related study is an article in *Academic Research Journals* entitled "Psychological Interpretation of the Novel *The Stranger* by Camus" (2008 vol.2, no.6, pp.73-86) by R. Gnanasekaran. Through the novel *The Stranger*, Gnanasekaran finds that Camus brings out various concepts like existentialism, nothingness, the death of god, etc. Hence, he aims the article to explore the consciousness of the author and his works in general and to provide an in-depth understanding of Absurdism, Existentialism, Freudian concept of unconscious mind and some psychological problem in particular. It makes this article different with the writer's research since the writer only limits her research in analyzing the psychological repressions of the characters from the work without going further to analyze the absurdism, existentialism, etc in detail. In analyzing the novel, he also uses psychoanalytical criticism and psychological interpretation in additional. Thus, this article is really helpful to the writer to conduct her research as the medium of references comparison.

The fifth related study is an article in *Indian Journal of Psychiatry* entitled "A Study in Dualism: The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" (2014

vol.50, no.3, pp.221-223) by Shubh M. Singh and Subho Chakrabarti. This article analyses R. L. Stevenson's novel *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by using Freud's structural theory of the mind. It makes this article becomes the example of the writer in conducting her research. They argue that the names of Jekyll and Hyde have become synonymous with multiple personality disorder. Hence, they aim this article to examine the novel from the view point of dualism as a system of philosophy and as a religious framework. Singh and Chakrabarti use the same approach and the theory that the writer uses, but the writer will not talk about anything related to dualism.

The last related study which writer found is a senior thesis in Andalas University, a thesis by Vyola Lovely Permata entitled "Female Voice about Love and Affair in Alice Munro's Three Selected Short Stories from Alice Munro's Short Story Collection *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage: Gynocritic Reading*" (2015). This research analyzes three selected short stories of the same collection *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage* by using feminist criticism particularly gynocriticism. She analyzes Alice Munro's point of view of women and marriage. She finds that the society's demand of marriage which affects the psychology of the main woman characters derives them to escape through an affair. Although the writer also conducts the research which focuses on the characters, it does not make the research similar. First, the writer conducts the research with the different approach, second, the writer analyzes five short stories, and the last, the writer does not consider any point of view from the short story's author.

As the final point, based on those previous studies, the writer has set a different study from those researchers. The writer emphasizes her research on the main female characters in the five selected short stories in Alice Munro's *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage* who repress certain desires, fears or feelings, as well as their ways to overcome them, by using the theory of repression by Sigmund Freud in psychoanalytic criticism.

G. The Theoretical Framework

This research applies psychoanalytic criticism which focuses on the theory of repression by Sigmund Freud. The writer chooses this approach because she wants to see how the main female characters from the selected short stories by Alice Munro in the collection *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage* deal with their unconsciousness. This approach is capable of helping the writer to analyze those main female characters.

Psychoanalytic criticism is one of the literary criticism forms which applied the psychoanalysis in interpreting the literary work (Barry 2002:70). Applying psychoanalytic criticism in analyzing the literary work means to see what the literary work itself can tell the reader about human being's psychological relationship to the real-life issues (Tyson 2006:35). The real-life issues which are portrayed in literary works can be seen through this criticism. "Literature and the other arts, like dream and neurotic symptoms, consist of the imagined, or fantasied, fulfillment of wishes that are either denied by reality or are prohibited by the social standards" (Abrams 1999:248). The theory of consciousness itself

was found by Sigmund Freud and developed by many other critics. “All of Freud's work depends upon the notion of the unconscious, which is the part of the mind beyond consciousness which nevertheless has a strong influence upon our actions” (Barry 2002:70). The unconscious itself according to Lois Tyson (2006), is a medium of every painful experiences and emotion which one do not want to be aware of because the fear of being overwhelmed. These experiences occur from the very beginning of someone’s life (12-13).

Norman Holland in his book *Holland's Guide to Psychoanalytic Psychology and Literature-and-Psychology* (1990) thinks that psychoanalysis is “evolved in three chronological phases: a psychology of the unconscious (1897-1923), ego psychology (1923-), and a psychology of the self (c. 1950-)” (5). In the second phase, ego psychology, “Freud complicated the simple division of the mind into conscious and unconscious by mapping it onto the ‘structural’ hypothesis” (8). In this phase, Holland argues, that “the mind’s workings consisted not of a simple polarity, but of the interaction of id, super-ego, reality and repetition compulsion under the governance of a presiding ego” (8). The id is “the physic representation of biological drives” (8). The super-ego is “the incorporated commands of one’s parents, both to do and not to do, violation of which leads to guilt or depression” (8). The repetition compulsion is “the human tendency to try old solutions even on new problems” (8). And the ego is “the synthesizer and executive that chooses strategies and tactics that best balance these competing needs” (8).

The 'structural' hypothesis itself can be found in every mind of human – adults, and children. In the other words, minds work based on the interaction of this hypothesis. There will be a moment when the id, ego, and super-ego of someone's mind are in conflict. In minds, the overlapping or the inconsistency of id, ego, and super-ego will affect the main character's life and personality and finally leads them to repression.

Repression is something invisible, hidden but real. Repression is a process in someone's mind to distress thoughts, memories, impulses or even desires which can lead him/her to behave anxiously. Hoffman said that "repression is the mechanism by which unconscious impulses or drives are forbidden access to conscious life... The repressed instinct does not 'give up' when it is denied entrance into consciousness. It expresses itself digressively, disguisedly, in derivatives" (in İsaoglu 2015:501). When someone is oppressed, the unspoken and hidden desires, fears or feelings are kept in the unconscious which functioned as the store of every painful experience. According to Simon Boag, "the motivation of repression is unpleasure and distress resulting from the recognition of incompatibility" (2012:5). The repression is kept and produced in the consciousness of someone's mind and operated in the unconsciousness. As for Freud, "the part where all the repressed feelings, desires and private ideas or thoughts of an individual are kept in the level of conscious mind" (in İsaoglu 2015:502). Boag defines that, in the unconsciousness, it is the ego that suffers the inner conflicts which instigate repression (2012:6). Strachey also states that "repression is simply a motivated response to pain that could occur without

knowledge of its occurrence (Boag 2012:7). Later, as the result of the inconsistency, the inner conflicts which are kept in the unconscious give serious impacts to his/her psychology. Freud wrote that “repression was the ‘centre’ to which all the other elements of psychoanalytic thinking were related” (Billig 1999:1). As the result of the repression, being anxious is the kind of repressive act which occurs unconsciously and could only be identified by the ego (Boag 2012:41). Ego itself (quoted by İsaoglu) “is both conscious and unconscious: in that fact lays the explanation for the conflict between instinctual pleasure and reality which takes place within it” (Hoffman in İsaoglu 2015:502). Freud states that “from this ego proceeds the repression, too, by means of which it is sought to exclude certain trends in the mind not merely from consciousness but also from other form of effectiveness and activity” (Boag 2012:41).

Psychological criticism in literature will deal mainly with the authors, characters, and the readers. “Psychologies, however, deal in the first instance not with poems or stories, but persons. Hence, psychological criticism will discuss the author, some member(s) of the author's audience, a character, or ‘the language’” (Holland 1990:30). Bernard J. Paris in his book by quoting other Norman Holland’s book writes that there are “three possible minds to which the psychological critic customarily refers”, they are “the author’s mind, a character’s mind, and the audience’s mind” (2010:1). In this research, the writer focuses on analyzing one of the three: the character’s mind. Many psychoanalytic critics had defended the application of this theory in understanding and analyzing the fictional character's behavior in literary works, concerning on two important

things. First, even though the fictional characters are not real, however, they are the representation of the psychological experiences of the real human being in general. Second, it is legitimate to analyze the fictional characters psychologically as Feminist, Marxist and any other critical theories analyze literary representation as the portrayal of the real-life issues (Tyson 2006:35).

Based on the information given above, the writer decides to use psychoanalytic criticism particularly the Freudian theory about repression to analyze the inner conflicts kept by Alice Munro's main female characters in *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage* together with the way they overcome them in order to comfort themselves.

H. The Method of the Research

This research is conducted as a textual analysis. In conducting this research, the writer uses three steps. The first is collecting the data. The second is analyzing the data. The last is presenting the result of analysis.

1. Collecting the Data

There are two kinds of data used in this research, the primary and the secondary data. The primary data is taken from the selected short stories: "Floating Bridge", "Comfort", "Nettles", "What Is Remembered", and "The Bear Come Over the Mountain" from Alice Munro's tenth short story collection *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage*. Then, the primary data is supported by the secondary data that the writer takes from various literary theory

books and articles related to psychoanalytic criticism, the application of repression theory by Sigmund Freud, and Alice Munro's work's analysis. The data is collected by using the library research methods: by reading the books, articles, and browsing the internet.

2. Analyzing the Data

In analyzing the data, the writer applies some steps. First, the writer reads all the nine short stories from the collection *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage* by Alice Munro comprehensively to get a better understanding and then chooses five short stories out of the nine because they share common thread by their main married female characters with the psychological problems who deal with repressions. Second, the writer identifies the inner conflicts repressed by the main female characters and their way to overcome them in order to comfort themselves. Third, the writer reads other books and articles related to psychoanalytic criticism focuses on the theory of consciousness by Freud.

3. Presenting the Result of Analysis

The last step is presenting the result of analysis. Since this research is a qualitative research, the method used in presenting the result of the analysis is a descriptive method. So the data are elaborated through words, not in the form of number and picture.