

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

The writer assumes that the main concept behind psychoanalysis is to address and resolve any issues that arise due to lack of harmony with the three structural elements of the mind, which include “id, ego and superego”. Hence, psychoanalytic is geared towards attaining self-understanding as the character becomes more capable of determining and handling unconscious forces that may either motivate or fear her. Considering these structural components of the mind (id, ego, superego), it is important to understand it as a dynamic energy system of a human being. In order to obtain a person’s mental well-being, it is important that all of these elements are in harmony with each other (Perry 1998:34). Otherwise, psychological problems may occur including neurosis due to repression, regression, and traumatic events.

The main concern of the writer here, is to analyze the psychological problems of the main character Mary Lennox in *The Secret Garden*. Mary Lennox suffers several behavioral problems due to her parent’s neglect in her early childhood. She has been abandoned by everyone and no one gives enough attention to her. This situation has put her in her misery and depression. She is unable to trust other people, and often treats others impolitely. Of course her misbehaviour is affected by her traumatic experience in the past, which eventually transforms her to a tyrannical selfish little girl.

Additionally, children are different in their temperaments, in reading the situation, in their worries and fears, in their psychology, in their personal

strengths, and in the ways they go about handling problems (Perry 1998:40). These differences can influence recovery from trauma and how the children survive from those awful memories. For example, when Mary finds something or given something that she does not like, she will easily irritates and blame everyone. However, anxious children like Colin Craven responds with more fear, and have a lot more trouble calming down. He might have more difficulty determining the danger of a next situation that will happen in the future. It is important to understand that situations of danger and trauma can cause types of responses other than post-traumatic stress reactions.

This traumatic experiences leads to misbehaviour of the main character, Mary Lennox. The progress of her development is crucially neglected. She becomes aggressive, temperament, disrespectful, and depressed. She cannot think straight how to behave to other people. From a psychological perspective, trauma might happen when a child experiences an intense event that threatens or causes harm to his or her emotional and physical condition, basically only to themselves.

Mary's misbehaviour also can be categorized as a response to defense mechanism. Either her attitude toward adults or her obsession about taking care of the secret garden, both of those characteristics are included into forms of defense mechanism. In this research, the writer concludes that taking care of the garden is the most crucial part in changing Mary's course in life. By taking care of the garden, she slowly regains her mental and physical health. As the garden becomes more and more prettier than before, Mary herself also transforms to be more acceptable little girl in society. Her tempers slowly reduce and the way she behaves is far better than before she finds the garden. The writer concludes that in

order for the main character to deal with conflict and problems in her life, she needs to employ a range of defense mechanism.

Furthermore, the writer finds the contribution of the secret garden and another minor characters in the story that eventually helps Mary to regain her health, both physically and mentally. Those characters are Dickon and Colin, who are also believed by the writer to symbolize “id and superego” of the main character. The writer concludes that Dickon symbolizes superego because he represents all the good side of young children. Dickon is two years older than Mary, and he teaches Mary lot of things. Not only about gardening, but indirectly he teaches her about how a child is supposed to behave. However, the other character Colin, who symbolizes “id”, represents the type of bad children, just like Mary, even worse. Colin also experiences a traumatic event. His mother died before giving birth to him, and his father eventually blames him for the incident. His father neglect has damaged his mental health which transforms him to an irritable selfish little child. As the story goes on, when Mary meets Colin and realizes how irritating he is, she starts to realize that her attitude toward people this whole time is wrong. In the end, after she understands about which one is good and which is bad, Mary’s misbehaviour slowly transforms into a more acceptable way in her environment.

The Secret Garden is a great book, a little different, and more sentimental work by Francis Hodgson Burnett. The story is all about the damage that neglect can do to children, emotionally and physically. The writer believes that children who suffers from traumatic stress are the ones who have been exposed to several traumatic experiences over the course of their lives and develop reactions that

persist and affect their daily lives after the traumatic events ended. But in the end, the main character, Mary Lennox, manages to find a better way to heal herself, along with the presence of the secret garden and all the other character who helps her to be a better child.

