

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 The Background of the Research

The literature world has a bond with real-life especially because it represents life itself. There is a sense of *Deja Vu* when we read a literary work. It is because we can see our life or see someone else's life through the storyline in literary work. As the representation of life, literary works can be used to see and to analyze what happens in society through the way how human beings deal with their problems in life.

A work of literature contains some elements, such as plot and characters. Roberts and Jacobs (1987: 61) mention that there are eleven elements of fiction; they are the character, plot, structure, theme, style, point of view, dialogue, description, commentary, tone, and symbol. Among those many aspects, the character might be one of the most discussed aspects by the readers. The character undertakes actions, they experience problems, and they too will overcome the problems they face. This point leads to the benefit that a literary work offers, which is to explore the storyline. An author puts a character into different matters of life so that the story would be more dynamic. For instance, a character might have anxiety when meeting a lot of people; another might have anger management issues or considers himself as the most superior person among others. By looking at what a character says, thinks, and acts, the readers could have an

understanding of him/her. Readers can draw a conclusion about the personalities of the characters they read in literary work.

As a matter of fact, an analysis of characters in literary works can open the link between literature and another discipline outside literature itself, one of which is psychology. Barry in *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory* implies the relationship between the world of literature and psychoanalysis, especially Freudian psychoanalysis. Literature is not involved with making direct statements about life, but with showing and expressing experience through imagery, symbolism, metaphor, and so on. (Barry, 2002: 102)

In this study, the writer has chosen a novel entitled *The Fall* written by Albert Camus and focuses on the personality of the character in the novel. To make the analysis of the novel become sufficient and appropriate, the writer uses psychological approach. Abrams (1986:227) stated that psychology approach can be used in analyzing someone's personality. Because this approach deal with an expression, describes the personality, the state of mind and the character's or the author's feelings in literary works. In other words, this approach can be used in analyzing the human's personality.

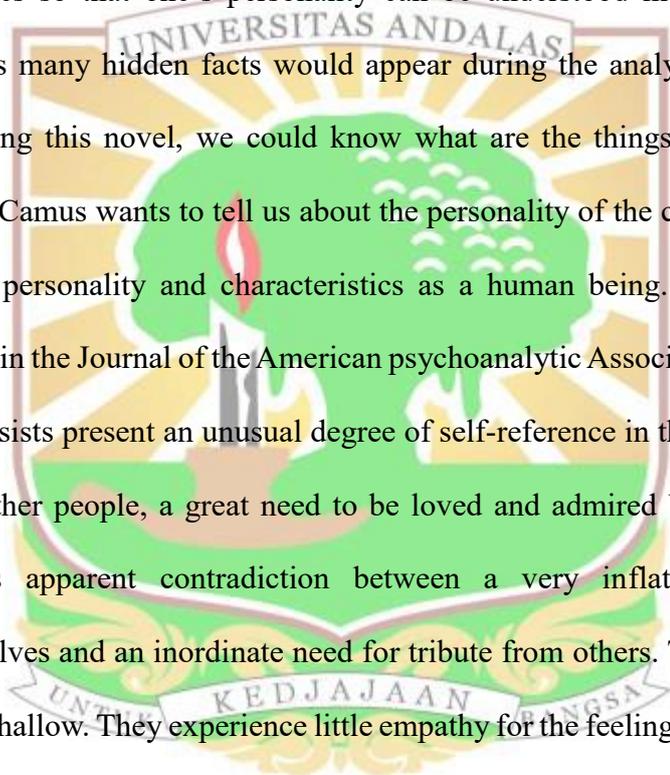
Albert Camus is one of the most famous writers who attempted to portray a complicated human personality in his characters. Albert Camus is an Algerian-born French writer who was born on November 7, 1913, in Mondovi, Algeria. He has been awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in

1957 and became the first African-born writer to receive the award. Camus has died in a car accident in Villeblevin on January 5th, 1960. His father is a French, died in early World War I and his mother was Spanish descent. The struggle of his thirties in Algeria and also his origin has influenced his thought and his work. It was during his years in the Resistance that he developed his philosophy of the absurdity of life, which he expressed clearly in his first novel, *The Stranger* (1942). Soon after he published *The Myth of Sisyphus*, expounding further on the ideas presented in the novel. Later novels, including *The Plague* (1948) and *The Fall* (1957), also met with widespread success, lead him to win the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1957. Throughout his career, Camus was also fascinated with the theater, writing several plays and also translating and adapting numerous works by others for the French stage.

Albert Camus's *The Fall* tells a story about a former Parisian lawyer named Jean-Baptiste Clamence. This story takes place in a bar in Amsterdam called *Mexico City*. Clamence engaged in a conversation with a stranger in the bar. He tells the story of his life experiences to the stranger. He says that he was once a famous lawyer in Paris. In general, he was enamored by his own admirable nature. He is popular and demanded in all the best circles. Yet with all of this, he describes himself as a consummate play actor whose entire focus is on himself while he pretends to be a benefactor to all. But there is a big accident that changes his entire life. It is when he ignores a woman who wants to jump off the bridge and this event

really affects his life.

The interactions between people create feelings that lead humans to feel that they love something or someone. This is the basis of social interactions to learn some kind of feelings that determine our behavior of how to treat people, how to behave in society and build our personality. A study about someone's mind or behavior deals with the way in finding true identities so that one's personality can be understood more deeply, and perhaps many hidden facts would appear during the analysis as well. By analyzing this novel, we could know what are the things and value that Albert Camus wants to tell us about the personality of the character related to our personality and characteristics as a human being. Otto Kernberg (1967) in the Journal of the American psychoanalytic Association stated that "narcissists present an unusual degree of self-reference in their interactions with other people, a great need to be loved and admired by others and a curious apparent contradiction between a very inflated concept of themselves and an inordinate need for tribute from others. Their emotional life is shallow. They experience little empathy for the feelings of others, they obtain very little enjoyment from life other than from the tributes they receive from others or from their own grandiose fantasies, and they feel restless and bored when external glitter wears off and no new sources feed their self-regard. They envy others, tend to idealize some people from whom they expect narcissistic supplies and to depreciate and treat with contempt those from whom they do not expect anything (often their former idols)."



(p. 655. Vol. 15)

The writer decides to analyze the characteristics of Jean-Baptiste Clamence in the novel *The Fall* by Albert Camus and examines the relation between Clamence's mind, behavior and personality development. The writer has reasons why she chooses this topic. To discover the characteristics of Jean-Baptiste Clamence's personality through his life story, to know the reason why Jean-Baptiste Clamence ends up having a narcissistic personality and to know why Albert Camus as the author shows the change in personality of the characters in the story.

Jean-Baptiste Clamence's personality evolves from the beginning of the story. In the beginning, his narcissistic personality dominates his attitude towards others as seen in the story that he sees himself as a perfect person. But when the story comes to the end, we can see that his personality has changed after many things happen in his life and these things have a big impact on his personality. The writer thinks that there must be a reason why he has this kind of personality because there is always a reason why we act and behave the way we do. In order to analyze the narcissistic personality of Jean-Baptiste Clamence in the novel *The Fall* by Albert Camus, the writer uses psychoanalytic criticism particularly Freudian theory about narcissism. Jean-Baptiste Clamence in the novel *The Fall* by Albert Camus has a narcissistic personality and it is shown by Albert Camus in the storyline of the book and we also can see from the life experiences that Jean-Baptiste Clamence tells in the conversation with the stranger he met in the story.

Albert Camus also describes the change in personality of Jean-Baptiste Clamence from the beginning to the end of the story. The writer would like to entitle this research **“The Narcissistic Personality of Jean-Baptiste Clamence in the novel *The Fall* by Albert Camus.”**

## **1.2 The identification of the Problem**

Albert Camus in the novel *The Fall* wants to explain human existence and human behavior. The writer sees that there is an interesting topic about character's personality that represents human's personality in general. In the novel *The Fall* by Albert Camus, the character Jean-Baptiste Clamence is described as having a personality disorder. He lives with high self-love, selfishness and he always shows his superiority. Living as an individualistic person, his personality affects his relationships with other people in society. This personality disorder is called narcissism. The writer wants to find out the personality disorder that he has and whether there is a change in his personality from the beginning to the end of the story and how much is this personality affects a person's acts and behavior in society. After analyzing this topic, we could have a deeper understanding of the novel and the main idea that Albert Camus wants to deliver to us as a reader.

## **1.3 The Scope of Research**

In this research, the writer narrows the main focus of the research to analyze the narcissistic personality disorder of Jean-Baptiste Clamence in

the novel *The Fall* by Albert Camus and its characteristics, and all the aspects that affect his personality. The writer also wants to explore the change in his personality from the beginning of the story to the end of the story.

#### **1.4 Research Question**

In this research, the writer focuses on the personality of Jean-Baptiste Clamence in the novel *The Fall* by Albert Camus, concentrating on two scopes :

1. What are the characteristics of Jean-Baptiste Clamence's narcissistic personality? and how does he act towards others with this kind of personality?
2. How is the change in the narcissistic personality of Jean-Baptiste Clamence related to his feelings of guilt and confession of sin?

#### **1.5 The Objective of the Research**

The objective of the research is to describe how Albert Camus explains Jean-Baptiste Clamence's characteristics and life. How he is depicted in the novel and explain his personality. Revealing Clamence's characteristics is essential in order to have a deeper understanding of his character as well as the personality he has and also to understand the novel itself. The objective of this research is also to find out the cause of his narcissistic personality and how he has changed in personality by observes

the events or things that happen in his life as seen in the story that he tells the stranger in the storyline of the book.

## 1.6 The Review of Previous Studies

To support this research, the writer reads several related studies that discuss the same object of research with a different topic and also different objects but has a similar topic. The purpose is to compare the topics that the writer takes to get a deeper understanding.

The first related study is a journal written by Peter Roberts from the University of Auckland which published in Educational and Philosophy theory, vol. 40. No. 7. 2008. The title of this journal is “Bridging Literary and Philosophical Genres: Judgment, Reflection, and Education in Camus’ *The Fall*. In this journal through the character and words of Jean-Baptiste Clamence, prompts readers to reflect deeply on themselves, their motivations and commitments, and their relations with others. This research discusses the origin and structure of the book, identifies some of its key philosophical themes, and explores some of its educational implications.

The second research is an article written by F. P. A Demeterio entitle “A Comparative Study on the Theme of Human Existence in the Novels of Albert Camus and F. Sionil Jose”. This research analyzes the similarities and differences between Camus and Jose’s novels with regard to the theme of human existence. By comparing the novels of Camus and Jose, this article aims to grasp the temporally and culturally distant speculations of the

former on human existence through the more familiar texts of the latter. In conclusion of the article, Demeterio stated that “the respective conceptualizations of human existence for Albert Camus, human existence is situated at the plateau of modernism, where man, driven by the modernist logic of accumulation of knowledge, power, and wealth finds himself saturated with things that isolate him from humanity and could not infuse his own existence with meaning”.

The third previous study is a thesis written by Bovis Narendra Pratama (2017) titled “Willy Wonka’s Narcissistic Personality in Roald Dahl’s *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*.” He is an undergraduate student at Sanata Dharma University. This research is aimed to show the causes of Willy Wonka’s narcissistic personality. The writer uses psychoanalytic criticism to analyze the novel. The analysis shows that Willy Wonka is loved to be the center of attention by putting on outrageous attire. He can not stand questions and considers them as criticisms or threats. He always wants to take control of every situation, including taking control of his successor. The characteristics imply that Wonka has a narcissistic personality disorder.

The fourth related study is a journal article written by Ramzi Fatfouta from the University of Portdam, Germany. The title of the research is “Facets of narcissism and leadership: A tale of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde?.” This research aimed to provide an update and critical review of the potential promises and the trap of narcissistic leadership. It is said that narcissistic leaders need to work on their self-awareness and, hence, gain insight into

their individual strengths, areas of development, and derailing tendencies. Therefore, it is necessary to move beyond the good-versus-bad debate to a more nuanced “It depends” perspective.

Based on those previous studies the writer has mentioned before, the writer concludes that the writer conducts different research from those previous studies. The writer emphasizes the research on the Narcissistic personality of Jean-Baptiste Clamence in the novel *The Fall* by Albert Camus. The writer uses the theory of narcissism by Sigmund Freud in Psychoanalytic Criticism.

### **1.7 Theoretical Framework**

In this research, the writer focuses on analyzing the character’s personality. In the novel *The Fall* by Albert Camus, the writer narrows the personality of the character by analyzing the narcissistic personality of Jean-Baptiste Clamence. It is necessary to learn the relation between literature and psychology. The writer uses the psychoanalytic approach to analyzes the character. Wellek and Warren (1956) also described the relationship between literature and psychology in *theory of Literature 3rd Edition* as “the psychological study of the writer, as type and as individual, or the study of the creative process or the study of the psychological types and laws present within works of literature, or finally, the effects of literature upon its readers (audience psychology).” (81)

#### **Psychoanalytic Literary Criticism**

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). It means the issues that related to the real-life can be analyzed with this criticism. "Literature and the other arts, like a 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 psychoanalytic theory was developed by Sigmund Freud (1856-1939). 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. Psychological criticism in literature usually deals mainly with the authors, characters, and the reader. As Norman Holland stated in his book *Holland's Guide to Psychoanalytic Psychology and Literature-and-Psychology* (1990) that "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'"(30).

### **Narcissism**

The term 'narcissism' originated from the Roman poet Ovid's *Metamorphoses* (Book III) in the first-century story of Narcissus and Echo, and much later evolved into a highly specialized psychoanalytic term. In Ovid's myth, Narcissus is a handsome young man who spurns the advances

of many potential lovers, including the nymph Echo, named this way because she was cursed to only echo the sounds that others made. After Narcissus rejects Echo, the gods punish him by making him fall in love with his own reflection in a pool. Finding that the object of his love cannot love him back, he pines away and dies.

Freud (1914/1991) published his pivotal essay “On Narcissism: An Introduction” writing from a more developmental perspective. To him, narcissism was a normal maturational phase of healthy development in all children, a “complement to the egoism of the instinct for self-preservation” (p. 74). Freud theorized that before children are able to invest their “libidinal” energy in other people, they go through an adaptive period of primary narcissism in which they are egocentric and cannot take the perspective of others. Healthy development “consists of a departure from primary narcissism” (p. 100) when people invest their libidinal energy into another person rather than themselves. Freud believed in an economic model of love in which each of us has limited libidinal energy that can only be invested in one place at a time. Thus, when people progress from primary narcissism to object love, their own feelings of self-regard are lowered. When individual’s love objects are unable or are unwilling to return the love, they regress to an unhealthy state of narcissism, called secondary narcissism, in order to love and gratify themselves as a compensatory mechanism.

Freud describes the narcissistic personality in his 1931 essay

“Libidinal Types”. He describes a narcissist as someone who was primarily focused on self-preservation, who was independent, not easily intimidated, aggressive, extraverted, high inactivity, and unable to love or commit in relationships. He also notes that these people often attract a lot of admiration and attention, and readily take on leadership roles.

Based on the information given above, the writer decides to use Freudian Theory about Narcissism to analyze the narcissism of Jean-Baptiste Clamence portrayed in the novel *The Fall* by Albert Camus. The first reason for choosing the psychological approach is because the writer thinks that the best approach to analyze someone’s personality is using psychoanalytic criticism. Second, the writer chooses this approach because it discusses the narcissism theory criticism in detail. Third, the Freudian theory of narcissism is suitable to analyze the narcissistic personality of Jean Baptiste-Clamence in the novel *The Fall* by Albert Camus who has this personality.

## **1.8 The method of the Literary Research**

In conducting this research, three steps are used. First, collecting the data. Second, analyzing the data. Third, presenting the result.

### **1.8.1 Collecting the Data**

In conducting the research, the writers applied library research. There are two kinds of data used in this research, primary data and secondary data. The primary data is taken from the novel *The Fall* by Albert

Camus. The secondary data use to support the primary data which is taken from various literary books, article journals, and internet websites that are related to psychoanalytic criticism.

### **1.8.2 Analyzing the Data**

In analyzing the data, the writer applied some steps. First, the writer reads the novel entitled *The Fall* by Albert Camus comprehensively to get a better understanding. Second, the writer identifies the narcissistic personality of Jean-Baptiste Clamence shown in the novel *The Fall* by Albert Camus. Third, the writer reads other books and articles related to the topic and the theory that the writer chooses to analyze the topic. In analyzing the data, the writer applies psychoanalytic criticism.

### **1.8.3 Presenting the Result of Analysis**

In presenting the result of the analysis, the writer uses descriptive research. The writer collects the data by taking the quotation from the novel, the definitions, arguments, opinions, and critics related to books or sources in order to support the analysis.

