

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Lord of the Flies is a dystopian novel written by William Golding published in 1954. A dystopian novel shows a world of imperfection where things go wrong. Dystopian novel shows disturbing images that might happen to the actual real world (Anoosheh et al 163). Being of a dystopian genre, this novel shows barbaric acts done by civilized English boys on an inhabited island. The writer, William Golding, was born on September 19, 1911, in Saint Columb Minor, Cornwall, England. In 1935 he started teaching English and philosophy in Salisbury. He temporarily left teaching in 1940 to join the Royal Navy. In 1954 he published his first novel, *Lord of the Flies* (also referred to as “LotF” in this research). In 1983, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. On June 19, 1993, he died in Perranarworthal, Cornwall, England (“William Golding Biography”).

This novel begins by showing the new life led by group of English boys with age ranging around 6 to 13 on a desert island around the event of WW2. The pace of the story telling is quite fast, the novel starts with the survived boys assembly after their plane crash lands on the island called by the sound of a conch blown by a boy named Ralph and they decide to elect a leader. At first everything goes smoothly. These English boys plan to survive and to get rescued. Problems arise when there's conflict between the two most dominant boys and their followers.

Some of them want to be rescued, maintain order, to be civilized even on a desert island. The others want to have fun. It gets worse when they are faced by fear, by the so-called “beast”. Their fear clouds their reasons. Conflict arises, separation happens. Some of the boys, led by a boy named Jack Merridew, submits to Lord of the Flies that is in this novel represented as human’s evil nature. Lord of the Flies itself is a term referring to Beelzebub, another name of the devil in Hebrew mythology (Singh 482). Jack’s group, blinded by fear, killed Simon in a chaotic situation when he is telling them that the “beast” doesn’t exist. And later Jack and his group rob Piggy’s glasses and eventually killed him by squashing him with a boulder (Golding 141).

William Golding himself states that the theme of *Lord of the Flies* is to show the intricacy of human nature and how it is related to behavior, which also affects the society humans live in. (qtd. in Bufkin 40). *Lord of the Flies* illustrates the innate evil of human nature, it represents what terrible deeds humans are capable of doing (Singh 482). From Golding’s statement above, the writer is inspired to look into the personality and behavior of the character named Jack Merridew, as well as his interaction and relationship with other characters in the novel. In reading *Lord of the Flies* the writer finds out that character named Jack Merridew exhibits symptoms Narcissistic Personality Disorder (also referred to as NPD), some types of self defense mechanism, and violent behavior throughout the story. The term Narcissistic Personality Disorder itself originated from Greek mythology ‘Narcissus’. According to the myth, Narcissus was a handsome and

proud young man. Upon seeing his reflection on the water for the first time, he became so enamored that he could not stop gazing at his own image. He remained at the water's edge until he eventually wasted to death (Tyminski 162).

Cattell defines personality as how we tend to behave and what we are like as a person. Personality is the way of thinking, feeling and behaving that makes a person different from other people. An individual's personality is influenced by experiences, environment (surroundings, life situations) and inherited characteristics (qtd. in Cloninger 3). A personality disorder is a deviation in a human's personality that betrays the custom of society, causing problems and lasting over time. ("What are Personality Disorder?"). The prominent one that is represented since the beginning of the story is the narcissistic personality of the character Jack. According to *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, Narcissistic Personality Disorder (NPD) is characterized by a long-standing pattern of grandiosity, an overwhelming need for admiration, and usually a complete lack of empathy toward others. People with this disorder often believe they are of primary importance in everybody's life or a sense of entitlement. (American Psychiatric Association 670).

Krug et al. describes violent behavior as any behavior that causes harm or injuries to others verbally or physically. As shown in the novel, violent behavior threatens social boundaries and can lead to breakdowns in relationships (Hamby 169). Violence can also be categorized according to its motivation. Reactive or emotional violence involving the expression of anger, a hostile desire to hurt

someone. it comes in response to a perceived provocation. Proactive or instrumental violence is the calculated one and is often performed intentionally and aimed for some reward. (Jacquin).

Freud's defense mechanisms are tactics developed by ego to cope with the sub consciousness and superego. The individual is not aware of the fact that he or she uses these mechanisms. The defense mechanisms somehow damage, transform or ignore the reality. The function of defense mechanisms is to change the perceived reality for the purpose of decreasing the psychological tension experienced by the individual. Coleman et al pointed out that defense mechanisms are important to comfort one from anxiety, tension, and emotional wound, and to sustain one's feeling of worth. (qtd. in Gokdag 5).

In short, *Lord of the Flies* portrays a person with troubling personality, and how it affects his self defense mechanism, behavior, and his surrounding. Through analyzing how personality, behavior, and self defense mechanism are connected to each, the writer hopes to reveal the problem in society that is related to human nature as represented by William Golding's novel *Lord of the Flies*.

1.2 Identification of the problem

The writer notices in the novel Narcissistic Personality Disorder, self defense mechanism, and violent behavior of a character named Jack Merridew. He is the main and worst trouble maker on the island, and therefore the writer decides to watch this character closely. Jack lives in a condition without parental control. He

also undergoes stressful experiences such as war, plane crash, being marooned on an island, as well as humiliating experiences, for instance not getting the approval of his peers and being rejected by them. The writer finds out that as time goes in the story Jack's actions worsen during his stay on the island. The writer assumes that Jack Merridew's Narcissistic Personality Disorder and the factors stated before have influence over his violent behavior, as well as his self defense mechanisms.

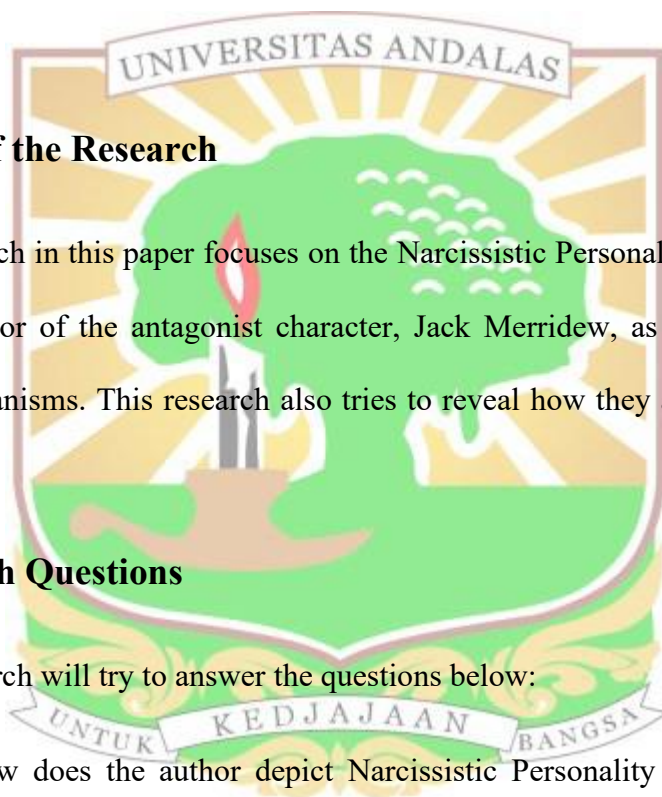
1.3 Scope of the Research

The research in this paper focuses on the Narcissistic Personality Disorder and violent behavior of the antagonist character, Jack Merridew, as well as his self defense mechanisms. This research also tries to reveal how they are connected to each other.

1.4 Research Questions

The research will try to answer the questions below:

1. How does the author depict Narcissistic Personality Disorder in the novel?
2. How do the types of self defense mechanism of Jack Merridew contribute to his violent behaviour
3. What accounts for Jack Merridew's violent behavior?



1.5 Objective of the Research

The objectives of this research is divided into two points. First, is to analyze the personality of Jack Merridew, his behavior, as well as his self defense mechanism. Second, this research aims at revealing the connection between these three factors.

1.6 Review of Related Studies

In order to make an authorized research, reviewing the previous studies is necessary, to show that this research is not imitating another research and to support my idea.

The first study is an article entitled “The Problem of Evil in *Lord of the Flies*“ by Paramvir Singh (2015). In the journal he applies psychoanalytical theory by Sigmund Freud.

According to this article the novel is about discovering the darkness in man’s heart, that we must look into ourselves to see it and to recognize it to weaken its grip. The writer sees in the article how Singh shows evil symptom starting to emerge from within the boys. Singh concludes that in this novel the ‘devil’ is not a religious matter but rather a part of human nature. The writer discusses that the civilization, society, and childhood is mask and aren’t strong enough to prevent evil from roaming the earth. Singh’s article and this research may have things in common such as analyzing the same novel and using psychoanalytical theory by Sigmund Freud, but they differ in their focuses. While Singh’s article focuses on

the representation of the religious term 'devil' as human's Id in the novel, this research focuses on personality aspect of the character and utilize Freud's theory to see character's motivation behind their behavior. Singh's research arrives at different conclusions. While Singh argues that civilization cannot contain human's evil nature, the writer sees civilization as one of the factors that can prevent human's evil nature from going lose. Singh regards the violent behavior of Jack solely as the result of the Id part of human. Singh does not specifically claims this behavior to have to do with Jack's personality, he does not seem to seek the correlation between the personality and behavior, which is exactly what the writer is focusing on in this thesis. The writer finds this journal is helpful to the research because it helps in seeing the human nature represented in the novel.

The second study is an article by M.A. Danni: "William Golding and *Lord of the Flies*". This article mainly talks about the novel and its relationship with the writer through exploring his biography and symbolism in the novel *Lord of the Flies* and comparing it to other "deserted island" literature. Golding was sent to Oxford by his parents to become a scientist but after 2 years he changed major to English literature and the study of Anglo-saxon. Through this article we know that Golding himself contributed in the WW2. He commanded a ship during the liberation of France in 1944. After the war he started writing novels. His first novel *Lord of the Flies* was published in 1954 and received a lot of attention.

Danni compares *Lord of the Flies* to *Coral Island* by R.M. Ballantyne. In the *Coral Island* there are also a group of boys in a deserted island, but, unlike in

Lord of the Flies, the boys shows “a reasonable imitation of pious-Victorian English society. It is as though the novel shows that English people is at the highest point of evolution, that they are the splendid example to all others. The boys in Golding’s story quickly change into savagery and destroys the island and the chance of new beautiful life they have. In Ballantyne’s the evil comes from outside, like pirates, and savages, whereas in Golding’s it comes from inside of the humans themselves. The comparison in this journal makes the writer understands deeper about the human’s nature presented in William Golding’s work and the intrinsic elements of the novel.

The third study is an article about the NPD entitled: “The Cracked Mirror: Features of Narcissistic Personality Disorder in Children” (2009) by Karen K. Bardenstein. In this article she focuses on the occurrence of NPD in children. This article help shows clarity on the difference of normal and pathological narcissism as well as the existence of NPD in childhood. Bardenstein proves this by bringing in cases regarding the matter and discussing experts opinion on the subjects. This article helps the writer by providing how to explore the NPD in children and also analysing its relationship to violent behaviour. It helps the writer in understanding the matters regarding NPD in children.

The fourth study is a thesis entitled *Unresolved Psychological Problem In Dennis Lehane’s Shutter Island* (2018) by Ahmad Lutfi. In this thesis Lutfi analyse the hallucination of the main character, Teddy Daniels in the novel *Shutter Island* by Dennis Lehane. In analysing the object of his research he apples

psychoanalysis theory and self defense mechanism by Sigmund Freud, and also hallucination theory. He found out that the hallucination of Teddy Daniels that he keeps repeating is the result of Teddy's ego undergoing self defense mechanism in order to cope with Teddy's trauma. As result of this mechanism Teddy experience the hallucination. The writer looks at this thesis as example of how to analyse the mechanism of defense of characters in novels.

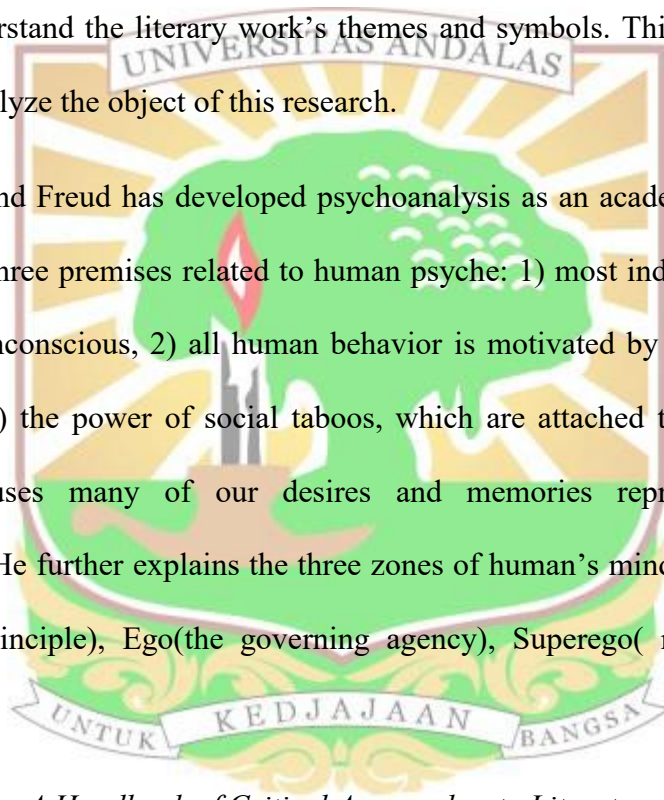
The next studies are about NPD and violent behaviour. First is an article entitled "Serial homicide and Pathological Narcissism: Review and Case Report" (1998) by Louis B. Schlesinger. In this article Schlesinger reviewed case reports on criminal activities that involve violence and theories regarding their link to NPD. He explained that many crimes involving violent behaviour were based on Narcissism. Schlesinger argued that narcissism can be traced to the psychology of serial killers. The second study regarding the relationship between NPD and violence is an article entitled : "Isn't It Fun to Get the Respect That We're Going to Deserve?" Narcissism, Social Rejection, and Aggression" (2003) by Jean M. Twenge. In this article the authors focused their research on the case of Columbine school shooting. They analysed what brought the perpetrators to commit such violent act. They theorized that it was due to external factors, such as social rejection. Both of these studies contribute in helping the writer to analyse the link between NPD and violent behaviour done by the character Jack Merridew in the novel LOTF by William Golding.

1.7 Theoretical Framework

1.7.1. Psychoanalysis

In this study, the writer applies the basic of psychoanalytical principles established by Sigmund Freud about the three divisions of human's mind; the Id, Ego, and Superego. The writer chooses this theory because it presents possibility to better understand the literary work's themes and symbols. This theory is most suitable to analyze the object of this research.

Sigmund Freud has developed psychoanalysis as an academic disciplines. He proposes three premises related to human psyche: 1) most individual's mental process are unconscious, 2) all human behavior is motivated by libido or sexual energy, and 3) the power of social taboos, which are attached to certain sexual impulses, causes many of our desires and memories repressed into the unconscious. He further explains the three zones of human's mind , which are the id(pleasure principle), Ego(the governing agency), Superego(moral censoring agency).



Freud in *A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature* (2005) says:

“The oldest and best meaning of the word "unconscious" is the descriptive one; we call ‘unconscious’ any mental process the existence of which we are obligated to assume-because, for instance, we infer it in some way from its effects-but of which we are not directly aware. . . . If we want to be more accurate, we should modify the statement by saying that we call a process ‘unconscious’ when we have to assume that it was alive at a certain time, although at that time we knew nothing about it.”(qtd. In Guerin 155).

He implies that the id could force its way to gain all pleasure without concerning the social and moral values, which causes problems in civilized society. The Superego will censor it by sending the taboo wish to the unconscious to be repressed. It seems that there is always an ongoing conflict between superego and id in human's rational governing process. Depending on the individuals, which one is more dominant and powerful, will affect the results taken by the individual through governing process, which is the Ego.

Sigmund *Freud's* psychoanalytic theory of personality argues that human behavior is the result of the interactions among three component parts of the mind: the id, ego, and superego. *According to Freud*, behavior is motivated by internal or psychological forces, and abnormality is caused by an imbalance in the internal forces that motivate behavior. In short, Freud's theory will help the writer in seeing the motivations, thought, and feelings behind the character Jack Merridew's behavior.

Questions may arise regarding analyzing a character's psychology in a literary work, such as: what are the limits of being readers and psychiatrists?, to what extent is it legitimate to analyze literary characters as if they were real people?. According to Lois Tyson in her book *Critical Theory Today* (2006) many objections have been made towards psychoanalyzing literary characters due to them not being a real person and therefore do not possess actual mind that can be

analyzed (35). However many psychoanalytic critics have defended this practice on two important grounds:

(1) when we psychoanalyze literary characters, we are not suggesting that they are real people but that they generally represent real human's mental experience

(2) other critical theories can also be subjected to this objection as they also do not analyze real-life society and or human beings, but the illustrations of them.(Tyson 35)

Another theory by Bernard J. Paris (1997) supports the theory above. This theory comes from Paris' experience seeing that motivational systems of highly individualized characters in novels can be understood through psychological theories, and in his case he uses Horney's psychological theories. This indicates that applying psychoanalysis on literary works' characters is highly possible. Paris claims that the rejection of the idea that literary characters can be analyzed through psychoanalysis method as if they are real people has been a big critical mistake. Although he admits to the possibility that there are some kinds of characters to which such objection can apply to, due to different types of characterization which would require different ways of interpretation.

Paris argues that it is justified when we encounter a mimetic character to analyze his motivations, the way we do a real human being.(Paris 5). Mimetic characters are those who usually have multiple details that make them appear

realistic in terms of their motivations (5). Paris concludes that psychoanalysis theory is related to the literary presentation of the phenomena it describes, in a way that theory provides knowledge that lets us reach the interpretations of the author about the workings of human psyche (Paris 6). In conclusion, psychoanalytic theory and literature both offer a fuller understanding of human's mental realm.

1.7.2. Narcissistic Personality Disorder & Violent Behavior

In 1967, Otto Kernberg developed a theory of narcissism that suggested three major types: normal adult narcissism, normal infantile narcissism, and pathological narcissism that can be of different types. In 1968, Heinz Kohut came to a different understanding of "narcissistic personality disorder" and went on to take some of Freud's earlier ideas about narcissism and expand upon them. Narcissism played an important role in Kohut's theory of self-psychology. He suggested that narcissism was a normal and essential aspect of development and that difficulties with early "self-object" relationships could lead to challenges in maintaining an adequate sense of self-esteem later in life, contributing to narcissistic disorders. In 1980, narcissistic personality disorder was officially recognized in the third edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder and criteria were established for its diagnosis (Cherry).

In analyzing Narcissistic Personality Disorder represented in the novel the writer applies the theory proposed by American Psychiatric Association in their book: *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders fifth edition* (2013).

Brummelman et al argue that the information of the exact origin of NPD is insufficient (1), so the writer will only try to speculate the origin of Jack Merridew's NPD. Meanwhile, American Psychiatric Association suggests that narcissistic personality disorder causes significant impairments in personality in terms of functioning and is accompanied by a number of pathological personality features. There are several features of narcissistic personality disorder, such as 1) viewing oneself as the most important, 2) fantasizing about having immense power and brilliance, 3) believing oneself to be 'special', 4) hungry for attention, 5) feeling privileged, 6) is exploitative, 7) lacking empathy, 8) is often envious, 9) showing arrogant behaviors or attitudes. (American Psychiatric Association 671).

According to DSM-V, the person who is diagnosed as NPD's patient must have at least five of these diagnostic features. The writer is going to analyze the main antagonist character's psychological problem by understanding all of these diagnostic features to gain a better result in this research.

To reveal the link between NPD and violent behavior the writer leans on theories proposed by different experts. The first one is Bardenstein that argues that violent behaviour of individuals with NPD is due to their ego being impaired. It means that they have poor ability to connect with or to feel empathy toward other people, to recognize that others also have feeling and thought like themselves (148).

The second theory is by Louis B. Schlesinger. In his article Schlesinger reviewed case reports on criminal activities that involve violence and theories

regarding their link to NPD. He explains that many crimes involving violent behaviour were based on Narcissism. Schlesinger argued that narcissism can be traced to the psychology of serial killers. The violence done by Narcissistic individuals are rooted from the internal pressure to do so . It is because of the sense of complete control he got from overpowering his victim, describes Schlesinger.

The third theory proposed by Twenge et al (2003). In their article the authors focused their research on the case of Columbine school shooting. They analysed what brought the perpetrators to commit such violent act. They theorized that it was due to external factors, such as social rejection.

1.7.3. Self Defense Mechanism

To support and give a more complete analysis the writer sets foot in the subject of self defense mechanisms. The self-defense mechanism is the development of Psychoanalysis Theory proposed by Sigmund Freud in which Freud introduces the structural theory, the id-ego-superego. The self defense mechanism is a technique discovered by Sigmund Freud in which the Ego tries to deal with anxiety, guilty feeling, and drives in regard to the moral conscience of the society. (Boeree, 175). Kline et al (2004) describes several types of defense mechanisms proposed by Sigmund and Anna Freud such as:

- a. Sublimation

In short Sublimation is “deflection of aims” (Freud, in Kline et al 44).

An instance is sadism becomes masochism. An active act becomes passive to conform to moral conscience.

b. Repression

Rejecting something (e.g. traumatic event) out of consciousness resulting in the the subject not being able to recall certain events.

c. Denial

Refusing to be aware of external events, reality, unpleasant experience, etc. that would be painful as a way to protect the self from getting hurt.

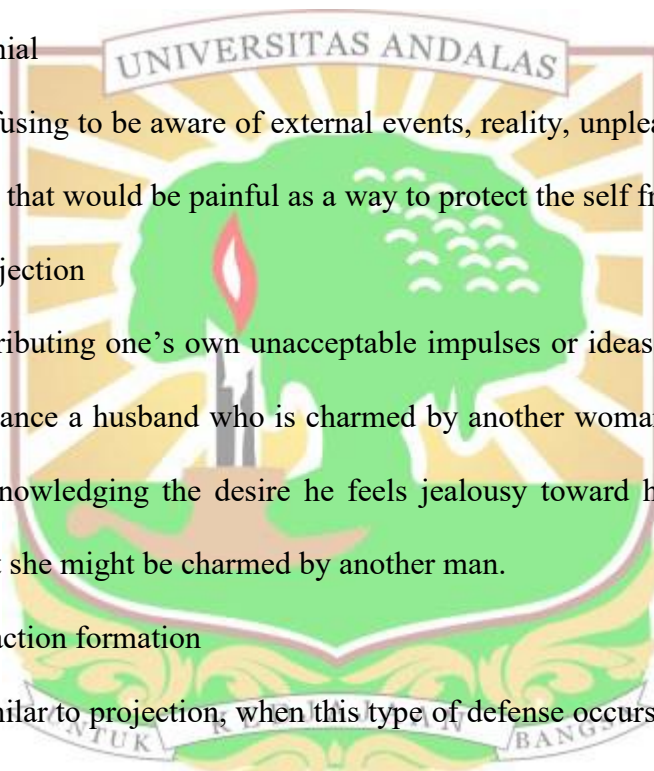
d. Projection

Attributing one’s own unacceptable impulses or ideas onto others. For instance a husband who is charmed by another woman, and instead of acknowledging the desire he feels jealousy toward his wife, anxious that she might be charmed by another man.

e. Reaction formation

Similar to projection, when this type of defense occurs the desire of the person is attributed to someone else. The insatiable desire from the id is faced with unacceptable social norm, superego, then the ego formulates a reaction to those desire.

f. Isolation



In short Isolation is isolating ideas or feelings from the rest of his thought. A person with stressful job may isolate his work life from his family life to avoid the stress from affecting the family life.

g. Regression

Regression occurs when someone reverts back to behaviors in his earlier age which he associates to happier times as a way of seeking comforts for the stress, anxiety, etc. he experiences in current life.

h. Displacement

It is displacing or redirecting an impulse to a substitute target. For example, a boy expressing his frustration toward his toy after being scolded by his parent. (43-45)

To provide a more accurate analysis on this matter the writer looks toward sources related to self defense mechanism by other psychologists. Apart from the types of defense mechanism mentioned previously, Horowitz (1989) proposed another types of defense mechanisms, such as: 1. Acting-out: Acting out the impulse without thought of the consequences. E.g. kid storming out of the room after being scolded by parents, 2. Dissociation: When this mechanism happens the consciousness fails to integrate with dangerous material that might cause stress, trauma, anxiety, etc. (qtd. in Kline et al 47).

The writer feels that analysing the self defense mechanisms of the character is necessary because not only are they influenced by one's personality, they can also shape the self (Perry et al 33). Perry discussed that SDM can shape

the self. When a person's ego feels comfortable using a specific type of SDM his ego tend to use it over and over again. This repetitive using of specific defence mechanisms would then shape that person, in a way that the benefits the self receives from the defense mechanisms that it does enforces their use overtime, and this persistent use of the specific defense mechanisms maintained the personality traits of the person. If the types of SDM don't seem to provide a true long-range solution for Jack's problem it can be problematic. The SDM may shape his ego to be comfortable doing behaviour that is inappropriate to social norms such as, violence, it could ease him into it. Overtime the usage of these SDM may erode his moral conscience, making it easier for him to do violent behaviour.

1.8 Methods of the Research

The writer conducts three steps in this research of a literary work. They are: collecting data, analyzing data, and presenting data. In conducting the research, the writer applies the library research. Abbott (2017) describes library research as:

“Library research is the art of figuring out which of the many things that are staring you in the face is the one you ought to have wanted to look for. It has almost nothing to do with searching for known items. Finding something is easy. It's knowing you ought to be looking for it that is hard. You search for known items only once you have done all the real work.” (qtd. in Lutfi 25).

There are two kinds of data: the primary data and secondary data. For the primary data the writer use the novel written by William Golding *Lord of the Flies*.

The writer also gathers information from books, journals, and essays, as well as online articles, that support the topic of the research.

In analyzing the data the writer reads this novel extensively in order to understand the intrinsic data. Then, the writer will identify the intrinsic elements of the novel which are the personality disorder and self defense mechanism of the main character and how they are related to his behavior. After that, the writer applies the theory of Psychoanalysis proposed by Sigmund Freud.

In presenting the data, the writer applies the qualitative method. According to Hatch (2002) “data analysis is a systematic search for meaning. It is a way to process qualitative data so that what has been learned can be communicated to others. Analysis means organizing and interrogating data in ways that allow researchers to see patterns, identify themes, discover relationships, develop explanations, make interpretations, mount critiques, or generate theories.”(qtd. in Lutfi 26). The writer believes this qualitative method to be suitable in presenting the data gathered and analyzed because the data is elaborated through words, instead of in the form of numbers or pictures.

