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SELF DEFENSE MECHANISM OF CHRIS McCANDLESS IN INTO THE WILD BY JON KRAKAUER

THESIS



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Padang, August 2010

The Writer

ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini membahas tentang mekanisme pertahanan diri yang diambil untuk mengatasi konflik dari kondisi psikologi Chris McCandless selaku tokoh utama dalam novel yang berjudul Into the Wild karya Jon Krakauer. Konflik tersebut dipengaruhi oleh pembentukan elemen-elemen pikiran yaitu id, ego, dan superego. Analisa yang dihadirkan pada skripsi ini dimaksudkan untuk melihat elemen-elemen pikiran karakter yang menimbulkan konflik dan memberi dampak dalam kehidupan karakter yang menyebabkan karakter melakukan mekanisme pertahanan diri. Mekanisme pertahanan diri ini diambil untuk menghindari abnormalitas dalam diri karakter.

Dalam menganalisa novel ini, penulis menggunakan pendekatan objektif oleh MH. Abrams dan teori psikologi sastra yang dikemukakan oleh Sigmund Freud. Terkait mekanisme pertahanan diri, penulis mengaplikasikan teori Freud tentang bentuk-bentuk mekanisme pertahanan diri. Untuk pengumpulan data, penulis melakukan metode kajian pustaka dengan cara mencari dan mengumpulkan buku-buku serta artikel-artikel yang berkaitan dengan topik analisa. Sedangkan untuk menganalisa data tersebut, penulis menggunakan metode kualitatif yang kemudian dijabarkan dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif.

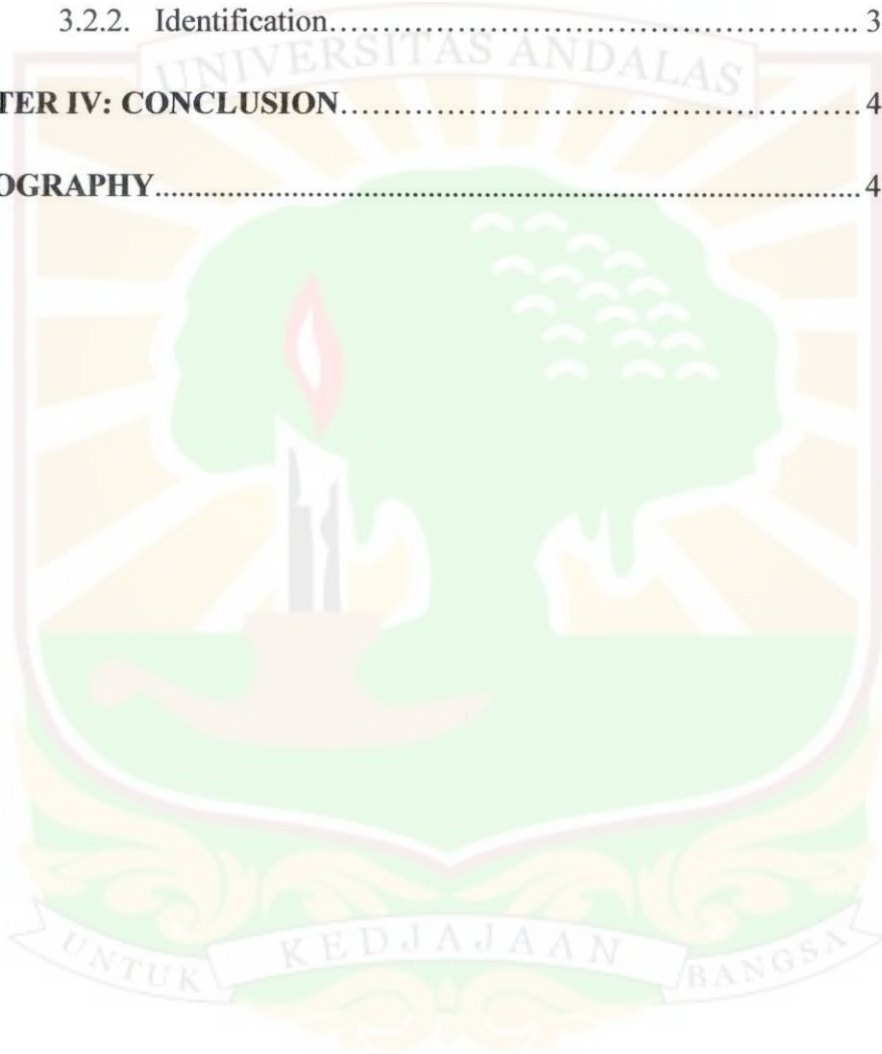
Setelah menganalisa novel ini, penulis menyimpulkan bahwa untuk menyelesaikan konflik psikologi yang dialami oleh Chris McCandless, dia harus menggunakan mekanisme pertahanan diri dalam menghadapi konflik. Dari hasil analisis yang telah penulis lakukan, dapat disimpulkan bahwa mekanisme pertahanan diri yang digunakan oleh karakter utama dalam novel ini adalah *acting out* dan *identification*.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Background of The Research

Literature is work that is presented in words reflecting in daily life. Abrams in his book the Mirror and the Lamp stated that literature is one of human art. (10) It records human experiences, dreams and thoughts of human being. It also shows the psychological aspect of the human being in the story. As we know, all human beings on this earth have their own specific personality. Each person has their own personality that depends on their own habits. Moreover, in this life human being cannot face his life by his own ways. They need the other to fulfill the needs of his life. Relationship with each other will take an important part in this life. By the communication with the others, a human being can show their own habits and personality. The bad communication from this people can make a bad impact to the human relationship.

The psychological conflict in the entire human being often reflected in the other form of human creativities. Some of psychological aspect are reflected into literary works. Through writing a literary work, an author can indicates all events of social life, or people life and shows the experience or imagination of human life. Furthermore, literary work presents the reflection of human being in their daily life. Some of psychological aspect is reflected in the literary works. Sometimes, the psychological conflict reflects in the form of novels, plays, and poets.

Novel as popular literary work also gets the impact. Today, novel becomes the guide to understand the history and the author's community. Novel tells the readers about the history or an even that happened in the past. It can be the historical event or reflection from the author life or his community. Even, author's experiences and all the psychological conflicts have been showing in his novel. The author's conflict that reflects in novel becomes the main theme and the main data of the psychological developments from the characters. Mostly the character in a novel is a representation from the author's life, experience or his community. Nevertheless, sometimes the author takes the social life in his community as the main idea of his novel.

As a writer, Jon Krakauer has done the same thing. He explain the novel based on somebody's life experience in his community. The entire event in his life becomes the basic data for his novel. Jon Krakauer puts the psychological issues as the main theme for his novel especially Into the Wild (1996). Into the Wild is a novel about the psychological conflict that happen in its main character, Chris McCandless. This novel is telling about mysterious life of Christopher Johnson McCandless. In this novel, Jon Krakauer describes Chris McCandless as a brilliant and comes from rich family. His father, Walt McCandless has everything. He set up a good future for his son by asking him to follow all his rules. Walt McCandless is also asking him to take a law school. Unfortunately, Chris McCandless does not want to follow his parent's rules. It makes the psychological conflict of him. Finally, he decided to leave his family. He went to the wilderness, left anything he has. He burned his credit car as well as his money.

Therefore, I want to analyze the psychological conflict that is happening in Chris McCandless. I really want to know why McCandless choose to do all of that. Chris McCandless who has everything, rich, has brilliant brain, parents who love him, sister who closed with him chooses to leave everything. In this analysis, I use psychological criticism. According to Sigmund Freud, there are three-psyche zone of human being they are id, ego and superego. These work together and make personality balance. If they cannot, it means that there is conflict.

Based on the explanation above, I am motivated to analyze the novel, Into the Wild by applying psychological approach to the novel and entitle the thesis “Self Defense Mechanism of Chris McCandless in Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer.”

1.2. The Identification of the Problem

The psychological conflict has been showed in the personality of Chris McCandless, the main character in the novel Into the Wild written by Jon Krakauer. His father, Walt McCandless dominates his life. His father really wants his son to follow all his rules. In the other side, Chris McCandless does not want to follow his father's rules. It makes the psychological conflict in his personality.

In this research, I use the psychological theory that is proposed by Sigmund Freud. This theory investigates the conflicts in the main character personality. This theory is divided in to three parts, id, ego, and superego. The three parts from human psyche zones plays the important parts in the main charter personality.

1.3. The Objective of the Research

This research aims to find out the psychological conflicts in Chris McCandless personality. The important thing is to investigate how Chris McCandless finds out the breakthrough from all the conflicts that he faces. I begin this research by finding out and analyzing the psychic zones of the main character of this novel. Then, I analyze how they work in the characterization.

The other objective theoretically is these research findings are expected to give contribution to literary studies, especially to English Department studies. Practically, I also hope that it will give knowledge to the readers for more understanding about psychological approach. Then, how we apply this approach in analyzing a literary work.

1.4. The Scope of the Problem

The aim to specify this research, I make a limitation to reveal the psychological conflict in Chris McCandless personality. I only focus on the psyche zone and self defense mechanism of the main character, Chris McCandless in the novel Into the Wild. I limit the analysis just to answer several questions:

1. How are the psychic zones of Chris McCandless in Into the Wild?
2. What are the self defense mechanisms of Chris McCandless in Into the Wild?

I limit the analysis by choosing these question research because by answering them, I will find the psychological conflict of the main character. I also can identify the solution that is taken by the character.

1.5. The Review of Previous Studies

In doing this research, I find a thesis written by Feri Hadi Saputra (2010) entitled Self Defense Mechanism in the Main Character as seen in Daniel Defoe's Moll Flanders. In this thesis, Hadi Saputra identified three ego defense mechanisms which are done by the main character in the novel. They are denial, reaction formation, and repression (26-44)

Besides that, I also find some articles that related to this research. First is an article written by Emily Moore entitled Character analysis: Christopher McCandless & Alexander Supertramp from "Into the Wild". In this writing, Emily writes that Chris is naturalist. He wants life back to the nature and free in the nature.

At the age of twenty-two, Chris wanted to "clinch a thirst for adventure," his life was about "taking risks, experiencing nature and discovering ultimate freedom." Chris McCandless character encompassed some of traits of naturalism. (2 – 6)

From the quotation can be assumed that Emily Moore writes that Chris want to get the freedom in the nature. Chris McCandless wants to go to the nature. He wants to spend his time there without thinking about the risks if he live there. Chris wanted to experience life fully he was not after security in society. She concluded that Chris was naturalist, without seeking the consequents and the wilderness of the nature.

The other analysis comes from Emile Hirsch (2008). She compared the book of Into the Wild with the film. In her article that entitled Into the Wild: between Book and Movie, she said that this book is build as a narration story deductively, but make intake of conclusion inductively. Novel of Jon Krakauer is investigative novel. It is not a novel which describe the character dramatically. As quoted below, "Novel Krakauer adalah novel investigatif ilmiah, bukan sebuah pembangun karakter dramatis. Karena memang dari awal dibuat sebagai artikel untuk majalah non fiksi." (1)

Meanwhile, according to Emile Hirsch, the film, Sean Penn adapted the book become dramatic story. There is a different perspective in placing McCandless. Krakauer looked into McCandless of third person eyeglasses. As stated: "Krakauer memandang McCandless dari kacamata orang ketiga. Sementara di film, lakonnya adalah McCandless." (1). In other words, Emily Hirsch wants to show that Into the Wild written by Jon Krakauer showed by different media and different perspective, between the books and the film.

The next is John P. Sisk (2002). His article entitled Into the Wild: Civilization and Wilderness. He said that Chris McCandless is spiritually ill at ease in his well-to-do East Coast bourgeois home and strikes out on his own, impelled by a need to make a new life for himself. In a haphazard way, he sees a good deal of the Southwest, canoes down the Grand Canyon to Mexico, wanders about the Pacific coast and into Montana. Along the way he works in an Italian restaurant in Las Vegas, fries hamburgers for McDonald's, and works on a harvest crew. Determined to live authentically on the edge, he makes his way to Alaska

where, provisioned with ten pounds of rice and a collection of his favorite paperbacks, he establishes himself north of Mt. McKinley in an abandoned Fairbanks city bus and proceeds to live off the land, supplementing his rice with moose meat, small game, and berries. In four months, he is dead of starvation and the poisoning effect of wild potato seeds. (1)

1.6. The Theoretical Framework

In doing this research, I use objective approach. In the relation to the objective approach, Abrams in his book, The Mirror and the Lamp Romantic Theory and Critical Tradition, states that:

Objective approach is the objective orientation which on principle regards the work of art in isolation from all these eternal points of reference, analyzes it as a self-sufficient entity constituted by its parts in their internal relations, and sets out to judge it solely by criteria intrinsic to its own mode of being... (26)

From the quotation above, it is clearly concluded that in analyzing a literary work by using objective approach means that I analyze text itself. Therefore, in this research, I just focus on the literary work without caring the other. By using objective approach, can be seen the book as it is.

Furthermore, in this research, I use psychological criticism, especially psyche zone proposed by Sigmund Freud. Psychological approach is one of approaches to analyze the literary work Endaswara has argued this point (97). In turn, the crucial limitation of the psychological approach is its aesthetic

inadequacy: psychological interpretation can afford many profound clues toward solving a work's thematic and symbolic mysteries (Guerin, et al 117). Sigmund Freud's theory concern with the nature of unconscious mind. He identified three components of human psyche; they are id, superego, and ego.

Id is irrational, unknown and unconscious part of psyche. Id is about desire and pleasant. Id is the source of our instinctual psychical desires. As Wilfred Guerin state in his book, A Handbook of Critical Approach to Literature "the id is the reservoir of libido, the primary source of all psychic energy. It functions to fulfill the primordial life principle, which Freud considers to be the pleasure principle". (Guerin, et al 129) The id is the only component of personality that is present from birth. This aspect of personality is unconscious. It is also including of the instinctive and primitive behaviors. According to Freud, the id is the source of all psychic energy, making it the primary component of personality. The id is driven by the pleasure principle that strives for immediate gratification of all desires, wants, and needs. If these needs are not satisfied immediately, the result is a state anxiety or tension. For example, an increase in hunger or thirst should produce an immediate attempt to eat or drink. The id is very important early in life.

Superego concerns with norms and morals of society. As Wilfred Guerin state in A Handbook of Critical Approach to Literature, "the other regulating agent that which primarily functions to protect society is superego. Largely unconscious the superego is the moral censoring agency the repository of conscience and pride. (Guerin, et al 131) From the quotation, it can be inferred

that superego internalized societal and parental standards of good and bad, right and wrong behavior. The superego is the aspect of personality that holds all of our internalized moral standards and ideals that we acquire from both parents and society, our sense of right and wrong. The superego provides guidelines for making judgments. According to Freud, the superego begins to emerge at around age five.

In the other hand, ego is rational, logical, orderly and conscious. As Wilfred Guerin state in A Handbook of Critical Approach to Literature:

The first of these regulating agencies, that which protects the individual is ego. This is the rational governing agent of the psyche. Though the ego lack the strong vitality of the id. It regulates the instinctual drives of id so that they may be released in nondestructive behavioral patterns. (130)

It can be concluded that ego the moderator between the id and superego, which seeks compromises to pacify both. The ego is the component of personality that is responsible for dealing with reality. According to Freud, the ego develops from the id and ensures that the impulses of the id can be expressed in a manner acceptable in the real world. The ego functions in the conscious, preconscious, and unconscious mind.

The ego operates based on the reality principle, which strives to satisfy the id's desires in realistic and socially appropriate ways. The reality principle weighs the costs and benefits of an action before deciding to act upon or abandon impulses. In many cases, the id's impulses can be satisfied through a process of

delayed gratification--the ego will eventually allow the behavior, but only in the appropriate time and place.

1.6.1. Self Defense Mechanism

With so many competing forces, it is easy to see how conflict might arise between the id, ego, and superego. Freud used the term ego strength to refer to the ego's ability to function despite these dueling forces. A person with good ego strength is able to effectively manage these pressures, while those with too much or too little ego strength can become too unyielding or too disrupting. Yumizone in his article The Mechanisms of Defense [http://www.share.com/sigmund/The Mechanisms of Defense \(Mekanisme Pertahanan\)/Yumizone.mht](http://www.share.com/sigmund/The_Mechanisms_of_Defense_(Mekanisme_Pertahanan)/Yumizone.mht) stated that when id becomes too overwhelming, it is then the place of the ego to employ defense mechanisms to protect the individual. Feelings of guilt, embarrassment and shame often accompany the feeling of anxiety. In the first definitive book on defense mechanisms, *The Ego and the Mechanisms of Defense* Anna Freud introduced the concept of signal anxiety; she stated that it was "not directly a conflicted instinctual tension but a signal occurring in the ego of an anticipated instinctual tension". The signaling function of anxiety is thus seen as a crucial one and biologically adapted to warn the organism of danger or a threat to its equilibrium. The anxiety is felt as an increase in bodily or mental tension and the signal that the organism receives in this way allows it the possibility of taking defensive action towards the perceived danger. Defense mechanisms work by distorting the

id impulses into acceptable forms, or by unconscious or conscious blockage of these impulses. (1)

Although defense mechanisms serve a useful protective function, they usually involve some measure of self-deception and reality distortion, and may seriously interfere with the effective resolution of the actual problem. Self defense mechanisms are considered maladaptive when they become the predominant means of coping with stressors. Self defense mechanisms are developed to deal with inner hurt, pain, anger, anxiety, sadness and self-devaluation. They operate on relatively automatic and habitual levels. As has been stated Yumizone (1)

Freud, in "Introduction to Psychology" (1980) written by Linda L. Davidoff states that to keep and to protect themselves, someone used mental tactics unconsciously to falsify threatening experiences, impulses, conflicts, and ideas. There are some ways of self defense mechanism:

1. Repression is an extremely important ego defense mechanism in that it affords protection from sudden, traumatic experiences until time has somewhat desensitized the individual to the shock. Repression may also help the individual to control dangerous and unaccepted able desires- and at the same time alleviate the anxiety associated with such desires. Unacceptable or unpleasant impulses are pushed back into the unconscious.
2. Rationalization is justifying maladaptive behavior by faulty logic or ascribing it to noble motives that did not in fact inspire it. Rationalization has two major defensive values: it helps justify specific

behaviors, and it aids in softening the disappointment connected with unattainable goals.

3. Projection is a defensive reaction by means of which others are seen as responsible for one's own shortcomings, mistakes, and misdeeds; and others are seen as responsible for one's unacceptable impulses, thoughts, and desires. Projection is perhaps most commonly evidenced by the first tendency. The student who fails an examination may feel that the teacher was unfair.
4. Reaction formation is illustrated by the old story about the spinster who looks hopefully under her bed each night for fear that a man may be lurking there. On a more complex level, reaction formation may be manifested by people who crusade against loose morals, alcohol, pornography, gambling. Often such people have a background of earlier difficulties with these problems themselves. In addition, their zealous crusading appears to be a means of safeguarding themselves against recurrence of their difficulties.
5. Displacement. In displacement, there is a shift of emotion or symbolic meaning from a person or object toward which it was originally directed to another person or object. Often displacement involves difficult emotions, such as hostility and anxiety. A common subject for cartoons about displacement is the meek office clerk who has been refused a raise by his domineering boss. Instead of expressing his hostility toward his employer which would be dangerous—he goes

home and snaps irritably at his wife because dinner is a few minutes late. The expression of an unwanted feeling or thought is redirected from a more threatening, powerful person to a weaker one

6. Emotional Insulation. Here the individual reduces his emotional involvement in situations that are viewed as disappointing and hurtful, since many disappointments are encountered in life, people usually learn to keep their anticipations within limits.
7. Sublimation is diversion of unwanted impulses into socially approved thoughts, feelings, or behaviors. For example, a person with strong feelings of aggression becomes a soldier.
8. Isolation (Intellectualization). This defense mechanism is related to both acting out and rationalization. Here the emotional reaction that would normally accompany a painful event is avoided by a rational explanation that divests the event of personal significance and painful feeling. The hurt over a parent's death is reduced by saying that he or she lived a full life or died mercifully. Failures and disappointments are softened by pointing out that "it could have been worse."
9. Undoing is designed to negate or annul some disapproved thought, impulse or act. Apologizing for wrongs, repentance, doing penance, and undergoing punishment are all forms of undoing.
10. Regression is a defense mechanism in which one returns to the use of reaction patterns long since outgrown. When a new addition to the family has seemingly undermined his status, a little boy may revert to

bed-wetting and other infantile behavior that once brought him parental attention; the young bride may return home to her mother at the first sign of trouble.

11. Identification often takes place in imitative learning, as when a boy identifies with his father and uses him as a model. Identification may also operate as a defense mechanism in enhancing feelings of worth and protecting the individual against self-devaluation.
12. Introjection is closely related to identification. As a defense reaction it involves the acceptance of others' values and norms as one's own even when they are contrary to one's previous assumptions. After revolutions leading to dictatorial forms of government, for example, many people interject the new values and beliefs as a protection for themselves.
13. Compensatory reactions are defenses against feelings of inferiority and inadequacy growing out of real or imagined personal defects or weaknesses, as well as out of the individual's inevitable failures and setbacks.
14. Acting out is a reaction in which the individual reduces the anxiety and tension associated with dangerous desires by actually permitting their expression. The acting done is usually antisocial and may take the form of acting on the impulses of an addiction to garner attention (eg. throwing a tantrum or behaving promiscuously). In general usage, the action performed is destructive to self or others and may inhibit the development of more constructive responses to the feelings. (454-456)

Those ways of ego defense mechanism also have already mentioned by Dr. Achama Lenu Thomas, BHMS, MD. These self defense mechanisms are ordinarily used in combination, rather than singly, and often they are combined with task-oriented behavior. Because they are essential for softening failure, alleviating anxiety and hurt, and protecting one's feelings of adequacy and worth, we may consider them normal adjustive reactions unless they seriously interface with the effective resolution of stress situations.

1.7. Method of the Research

In this subchapter, I focus on the steps that must takes to finish this research. There are three steps that must follow, they are collecting the data, analyzing the data, and presenting the result of the analysis.

In conducting this research, I use library research in collecting the data. I try to divide the data in two kinds: the primary data and secondary data. For primary data, I use the novel Into the Wild written by Jon Krakauer. Whereas in secondary data, which is the information taken from some books connected to the theory. I consult and search the books, which related with the novel and the objective of my research as well. Therefore, the library of Faculty of Letter, Andalas University, internet, and private collection are fully consulted.

In doing the analysis, I start by analyzing the primary data, which help I to understand the novel well. After that, I analyze the psyche zone (id, superego, and ego) of the main character, Chris McCandless. Then I am going to find the form

of self defense mechanism that is done by the main character in Into the Wild, Chris McCandless.

In presenting the result of the analysis, I use the qualitative research. According to Roberts C. Bogdan and Biklen in their book *Qualitative Research for Education* that: “Qualitative research is descriptive the collected data is in the form of words or picture rather than numbers.” (20) From quotation, it is clear enough that in qualitative research, I use words to describe the result of the analysis. In addition, I present them descriptively.



CHAPTER II

THE PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS

In analyzing this novel, I concern and use this chapter to explain the intrinsic elements that obtain in this novel. This analysis concerns to make this research understandable. In this chapter, I focus in explaining about the plot, setting, theme, character, and point of view.

2.1. Plot

Plot is an arrangement of the events in the literary work. It encompasses the events in a story. Therefore, that it will be guiding the reader to find the pattern of the story, not only as elements in a temporal series but also an intricate pattern of cause and effect. As Kenney in his book, How to Analyze Fiction says, "...plot reveals events to us, not only in their temporal, but also in their causal relationships. Plot makes us aware of events not merely as elements in a temporal series but also as an intricate pattern of cause and effect." (13-14). by plot, can be seen the story's arrangement. The unification of the structure of the story is the opening, the rising action, climax, falling action and the resolution.

In this story, the author, Jon Krakauer tells story based on the experience of persons who ever met Chris McCandles. This story begins by explaining the life of McCandles's family. About his life before he chooses to take decision to leave all things that he has and goes to Alaska. He was graduated from Emory University in Atlanta, a brilliant student who passes cumlaude. As quoted below:

...Chris graduated from Emory University in Atlanta, where he'd been a columnist for, and editor of, the student newspaper, *The Emory wheel*, and had distinguished himself as a history and anthropology major with a 3,72 grade point average. (20)

From quotation above, it is clear enough that he was a brilliant student who gets good grade. Krakauer describe McCandless's family as rich family and use money to get everything. It can be seen when Chris McCandless's father bought a car as the reward on the Chris McCandless's graduating. Whereas Chris still has a car. In the opening of this novel, the author also describe that McCandless has one sister who very closes for him.

The raising action of this story happen when for the first time McCandless pass graduated. His father asked him to take the law school. He did not want to follow that. Finally, he is making decision to leave everything he has. For the first, he thinks that there is no usage of his life if he still follows his father's rules. His life means nothing. Almost all of his life spares to follow his father's rules and give himself as his father's puppy. Moreover, unconsciously, he chooses to leave his family.

The climax of this story begins when he chosen the decision to leave his family and everything he has. The author tells the reader about the life of Chris McCandless as long as his journey. He met with so many people, where he fell that they are his real family. They are closely related. One of them was Wayne Westerberg, a man who knew Chris McCandless as "Alex" before his death. Westerberg recounted the day he picked up Alex, who was hitchhiking. The

weather was bad and Alex was ill equipped. Therefore, Westerberg suggested him staying on with him for a while. Alex agreed and spent three days with Westerberg.

In his journey, he also met with Jim Gallien, who drove him to the Alaska by using car. Alex seemed to be carrying a light load for someone planning to live off the land for a few months. As Alex elaborates on his plan, Gallien tried to make him change his mind. Gallien convinced that Alex is not prepared for life in the Alaskan outdoors. He even offered to buy him some decent gear, but Alex refused. Before Jim Gallien leave McCandless in Alaska, he gave him an old pair of rubber work boots. He persuaded him to take them "they were too big for him, Gallien recalls." (7). finally, he walked in to the wild. There, Chris McCandless met a broken down bus. A bad smell comes from the bus. But, Chris McCandless decided to stay at the broken down bus.

The falling action takes place in the Alaska. McCandless start aware because there is no food anymore. He also misses his family and wants to meet them. In Alaska, he realized that the happiness would be real when he can share with the other. Whereas, there is no one who can to share the happiness in Alaska. Finally, Chris McCandless made the decision to leave the wilderness, Alaska. Unfortunately, a big river does not allow him. He went back to his broken down bus.

Then, the resolution of this story is the author tells about the end of Chris McCandless's life. He died because of starvation in Alaska. "At the time of autopsy, McCandless's remains weighed sixty seven pounds. Starvation was

posited as the most probable cause of death.” (14) from the quotation can be seen that in the end of this story, the main character, Chris McCandless died because of his ill prepared in going to the wilderness Alaska.

2.2. Setting

Setting is a term that can apply to the furniture of one room or to a whole era. As Kenney in his book, *How to Analyze Fiction* says, “setting is the element of fiction which reveals where and when the events happen. In the other words, the term “setting” refers to the point of time of space, which the events of plot occur.” (38) The setting of a narrative or dramatic work is the general locale, historical time, and social circumstances in which its action occurs. Setting of an episode or scene within a work is the particular physical location in which it takes place.

This story overflows in the United States, although some smaller or more obscure place names may prove elusive and tricky. This is also travels back and forth in time of Chris McCandless life. Jon Krakauer gave sharp descriptions of the forbidding Alaskan terrain that Chris McCandless battled. He tried to survive in the ice locked mountainside. These Alaskan depictions are especially graphic, striking, and thrilling, probably because this land and the bus that became his home on the Alaska. The author described the story start from Southwest, Cano, Grand Canyon and also Mexico and Las Vegas. This book follows the travels of Chris McCandless mostly in the western portion of the United States, as well as in Alaska, Mexico, and Virginia. The events in the book span various years but most

important events take place in the 1990s.

2.3. Theme

Theme is a very important thing in a work. Without theme, the reader cannot catch what the author try to say about, because theme is the meaning of a story. As Robert Diyanni in his book Literature: Reading Fiction, Poetry, and Drama says, "theme is its idea or point formulated as a generalization...theme is related to the other elements of fiction more as consequence than as parallel element that can be separately identified." (86) Theme sometimes is used interchangeably with motif, but the term is more usefully applied to an abstract claim, or doctrine, whether implicit or asserted, which an imaginative work is designed to incorporate and make persuasive to the reader. From theme, can be taken the meaning and the purpose of the story was made. By understanding the theme, the reader can get the deepest understanding of a story.

The main theme of this story is about role of man in nature. The main character of this story, Chris McCandless believed that nature can give all things that human being need. Even the joy and happiness can only be found in interaction with nature. Chris McCandless was a maniac reader. His favorite authors such as Jack London and Henry David Thoreau are quoted frequently to support McCandless's view of natural communion and their immense respect for nature influences the impressionable of Chris McCandless. However, nature is a fickle beast, turning from friendly ally to cruel enemy in the blink of an eye. McCandless is not insensible to this fact. His personal experience and the literary

accounts he enjoys reading both teach him that nature's laws do not change for any man.

Furthermore, the other theme of *Into the Wild* is about a life in pursuit of independent happiness. Chris McCandless is trying to reach the point in which he is happy and nothing can satisfy him more knowing he achieved happiness on his own. Chris McCandless achieved the point in his life in which he is satisfied. It seems that this eccentric idea of 'starting a new life' was based on achieving his idea of happiness. In Chris position, he sacrificed all his possessions to complete an interesting unity with man and the wild. This is Chris's idea of happiness. That happiness will be real when it is shared.

2.4. Character

Character is known as one of the primary elements in a literary work. It is created in order to build up the whole of the story from the inside. As proposed by Kenney in his book *How to Analyze Fiction*, "characters in fiction to be similar to people in life." (24) Characters are the persons presented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with moral and dispositional qualities that are expressed in what they say by the dialogue and by what they do the action. Furthermore, characters are divided into two simple (flat) and complex (round). "The simple or flat characters are less the representation of a human personality that the embodiment of a single attitude or obviously more lifelike than the simple, because in life people are not simply embodiments of single attitudes." (19) In this story there are some character, they

are:

1. *Alex Supertramp or Chris McCandless*

Chris McCandless is the major character in this novel. He grew up in the Washington D.C. metro area and attended Emory University. In this novel, he is a round character. He is a smart student. He is a brilliant student and gets the scholarship to continue his study. When he graduated college, he donated his money to charity and headed out West.

We know all of this because McCandless documented the burning of his money and most of the events that followed in a journal-snapshot album he would later leave with Wayne Westerberg for safekeeping before departing for Alaska. (29)

He perhaps wants to share his money for the other, especially kids in the charity. Away from home, Chris went by the alias "Alex" and adopted the moniker Alexander Supertramp while hiking.

Chris died of starvation on a much-anticipated stint in the Alaskan wilderness. Chris McCandless was the hardest worker. As quoted below:

"Didn't matter what it was, he'd do it: hard physical labor, mucking rotten grain and dead rats out of the bottom of the hole jobs where you'd get so damn dirty you couldn't even tell what you looked like at the end of the day. "He was the hardest worker I've ever seen." (18).

If he started a job, he would finish it. It was almost like a moral thing for him. He was what we would call extremely ethical. He set high standards

for himself. In his childhood, Chris McCandless follow the roles of his parents. But when he became teenager, he was trying to against that.

In the other hand, Chris McCandless try to against his father role toward his life. Extrimisly, he really hate his parents.

...I'm going to completely knock them out of my life. I'm going to divorce them as my parents once and for all and never speak to either of those idiots again as long as I live. I'll be through with them once and for all forever. (64).

He really want to leave his parents and go to the wilderness alaska. He decide to leave his family.

2. *Wayne Westerberg*

Wayne westerbeg is a minor character in this novel. Wayne Westerberg, as the protagonist employed Chris McCandless in Carthage, South Dakota. Chris McCandless became friends with Westerberg and enjoyed his time in South Dakota so much that he claimed South Dakota as his home thereafter. Westerberg was able to supply authorities with McCandless's social security number when he was found dead, leading them to a positive identification. "Westerberg, in his mid-thirties, was brought to Carthage as a young boy by adoptive parents. A Renaissance man of the plains, he is a farmer, welder, businessman..." (19) Shortly before he met Chris McCandless, however, one of his talents had him in trouble with the law. Westerberg is flat character.

3. *Walt McCandless*

Walt McCandless is Chris's father. He is a minor character who as a protagonist in this novel. He is rich man. In later years, Chris became angry with Walt when he learned Walt had a child by his first wife after Chris had been born to Walt's second wife. He is an eminent aerospace engineer who designed advanced radar systems for the employ of NASA and Hughes Aircraft. "His father, Walt, is an eminent aerospace engineer who designed advanced radar systems for the employ of NASA and Hughes Aircraft in the 1960s and '70s. (19 – 20) he is described as temperament. His moods can be dark and mercurial, although they say his famous temper has lost much of its volatility in recent years. His son, Chris McCandless is disappearances scared and chastened him. A softer, more tolerant side of his personality came to the fore. "His son's disappearances scared and chastened him." (105) he had been raised the comfortable upper middle-class environs of Annandale, Virginia.

4. *Billie McCandless*

Billie McCandless is Chris's mother. She and Walt began a private consulting firm and became successful enough to give Chris and his sister privileged lives. Billie McCandless is a minor character in this novel. As like her husband, she also want to set the good future toward her son. Not only that, she also a person who hypocrisy her life. She life in full of luxuriousness. Billie and his husband work very hard to get the money and the luxuriousness. "They ran a real good business together and eventually

stared making bunches of money, but they worked all the time.” (107) from the quotation, can be inferred that Billie think that money is everything. And work very hard to get much money.

5. *Jim Gallien*

Jim Gallien is a minor sharacter in this story. He delivered the hitchhiking McCandless to his final destination. Gallien tried to make McCandless change his mind about his plans. He is certain that Alex, as McCandless calls himself, is not prepared for life in the Alaskan outdoors. Gallien even offered to buy him some decent gear, but Alex refuses. “gallien offered to drive Alex all the way to Anchorage, buy him some decent gear, and then drive him back to wherever he wanted to go. “No, thanks any way,” alex replied”. (6) Gallien insisted that Alex take his boots and his lunch for the day; he gave Alex his phone number, told him to call if he makes it out alive.

6. *Ronald Frantz*

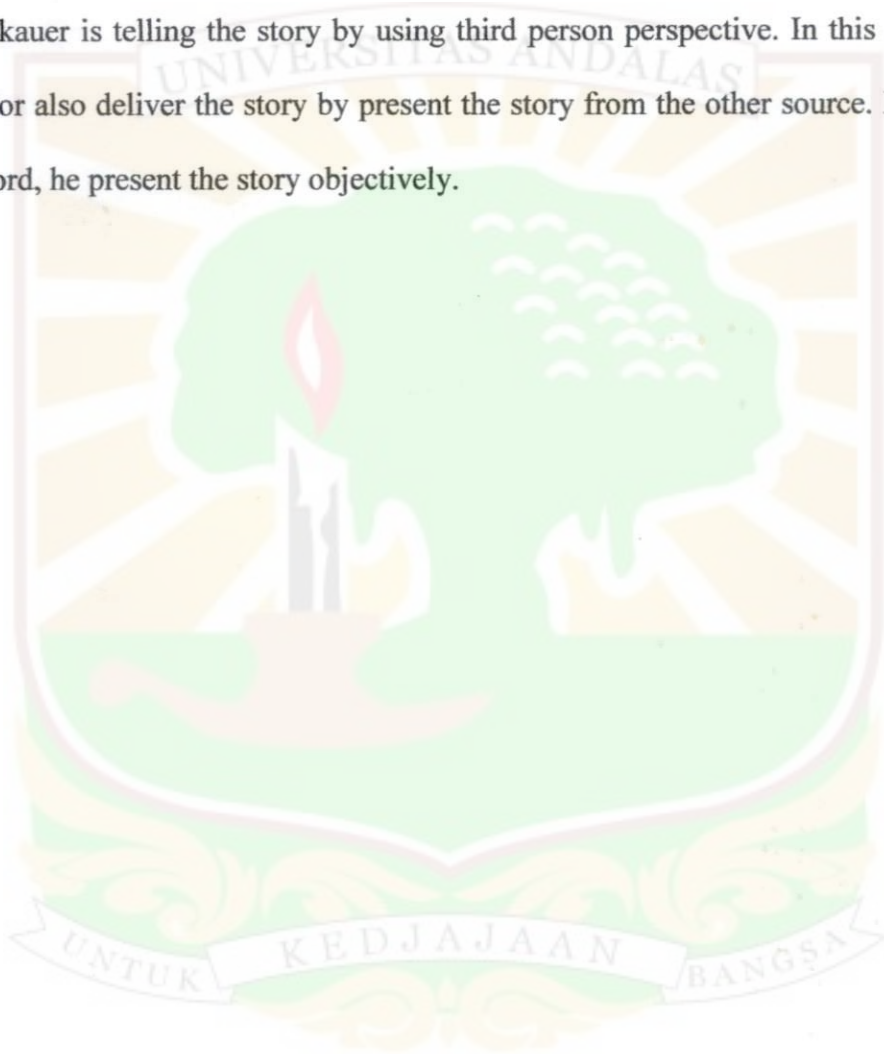
Ronald Frantz gave “Alex” a ride to his camp at Oh My God Hotsprings. Frantz, who is a minor and protagonist character had lost his wife and only son some forty years earlier in a car accident. He felt a connection with Alex. Frantz and Alex developed a relationship and spent a lot of time together. Frantz, who was a leatherworker, instructed Alex in the craft. Frantz also fed Alex. One day Alex announced that he was going to San Diego. Frantz was sad, but insisted on driving him. McCandless went on to Seattle, but returned soon to California. In California,

McCandless met up with Frantz again. Alex wanted to go out to South Dakota, where Wayne Westerberg had a job waiting for him. Frantz drove him part way there, videotaping their journey. Later, Alex wrote Frantz a letter from South Dakota, urging him to become more nomadic. Frantz took his advice, and occupied Alex's old campsite

2.5. Point of view

Point of view is how the author to deliver the story. Point of view marked the way of an author in presenting a story by the characters, actions, setting, and events which constitute the narrative in a work of fiction. As Mario Klarer in his book An Introduction to Literary Studies states: "The term point of view, or narrative perspective, characterizes the way in which a text presents person, events, and setting." (20) From the quotation above, can be seen that point of view is the mode of author's perspective. Point of view comes in three varieties. First is *First-person* point of view is in use when a character narrates the story with *I-me-my-mine* in his or her speech. The second is *Second-person* point of view, in which the author uses *you* and *your*, is rare; authors seldom speak directly to the reader. The last is *Third-person* point of view is that of an outsider looking at the action. The writer may choose *third-person omniscient*, in which the thoughts of every character are open to the reader, or *third-person limited*, in which the reader enters only one character's mind, either throughout the entire work or in a specific section.

In this story, the author uses third person limited point of view. He tells the story by using third person's perspective. The story is based on the story from the people in the author's community. "at the end of July, he accepted a ride from a man who called himself Crazy Ernie and offered McCandless a job on a ranch in northern California..." (30) From this quotation can be assumed that the author, Jon Krakauer is telling the story by using third person perspective. In this story, the author also deliver the story by present the story from the other source. In the other word, he present the story objectively.



CHAPTER III

SELF DEFENSE MECHANISM OF CHRIS McCANDLESS

IN INTO THE WILD BY JON KRAKAUER

Into the Wild written by John Krakauer is a novel, which reveals and tells about the psychological aspects in the main character; Chris McCandless who change his name become Alex Supertramp. This novel has published for the first time in 1996. The most important in this novel is about the psychological conflict of the main character, Chris McCandless. In this chapter, I analyzes about the form of self defense mechanism of this main character. For making it clear, for the first, I begin the analysis by analyzing the three-psyche zone of Chris McCandless. Finally, I am going to analyze the form of self defense mechanism have done by the main character, Chris McCandless.

3.1. Three Psychic Zones of Chris McCandless

In this subchapter, I will explain about three psychic zones (id, ego, and superego) in Chris MacCandless personality. As I have mentioned before in the first chapter, id is irrational, unknown and unconscious part of psyche. Id is about desire and pleasant. It is the source of our instinctual psychical desires. In this story, the id of Chris McCandless occurs unconsciously. He was life in the pressure of his father. So that he wants to be free from his father and unconsciously, go far away from his family.

Chris McCandless comes from rich family. McCandless had been raised in the comfortable, upper-middle-class environs of Annandale, Virginia. His father, Walt McCandless was an aerospace engineer who designed advanced radar systems for the employ of NASA and Hughes Aircraft "His father, Walt, is an eminent aerospace engineer who designed advanced radar systems for the employ of NASA and Hughes Aircraft in the 1960s and '70s." (19 – 20) Then his father ran a small but very prosperous consulting firm with Chris's mother, Billie. There were eight children in the extended family: Chris, Carine, a younger sister, with whom Chris was extremely close, and six older half siblings from Walt's first marriage. In later years, Chris became angry with Walt when he knows that Walt had a child by his first wife after Chris had been born to Walt's second wife.

Walt McCandless is temperament. His moods can be dark and mercurial "According to members of the extended family, his moods can be dark and mercurial, although they say his famous temper has lost much of its volatility in recent years." (105) He is a bad temperament and gives the regulations that have to follow by his son, Chris McCandless. He wants to make his son to follow all his rules. As an example when he was set a good future for Chris as he wants.

The final two years of his college education had been paid for with a forty-thousand dollar bequest left by a friend of the family's; more than twenty-four thousand dollars remained at the time of Chris's graduation, money his parents thought he intended to use for law school. (20)

From the quotation above, it can be observed that Chris McCandless's father, Walt McCandless, was preparing the fee to pay his son's education. There is no lack anymore. So that Chris McCandless just follow that rules and will get well education.

Walt McCandless really want to make his son to be a success man in his life. Chris McCandless's parents are wishing their children could get the good life. According to them, there is no successful in the future without hard working in their young. As Chris McCandless's mother says, "we worked very, very hard, Billie emphasizes. We did without when the kids were little, saved what we earned, and invested it for the future" (115) From this quotation, can be assumed that Chris McCandless's parents do all thing by their selves and work very hard to get the successful in their future. They want this doctrine also come into Chris McCandless's mind and heart.

Chris McCandless have to follow his parents and their regulation. Nevertheless, when he was graduated, Chris McCandless decides to go far away and get his freedom. Chris become hated his father.

...I'm going to completely knock them out of my life. I'm going to divorce them as my parents once and for all and never speak to either of those idiots again as long as I live. I'll be through with them once and for all forever. (64).

From the quotation above, can be inferred that Chris McCandless was much hated his parents. He does not want follow his father's rules anymore and intended to

invent a new life for himself, one in which he would be free to wallow in unfiltered experience. He goes far away without give any information about himself. "As for me, I've decided that I'm going to live this life for some time to come. The freedom and simple beauty of it is just too good to pass up." (33) From the quotation, it is clearly known that Chris McCandless really wants to get the freedom.

So that unconsciously, Chris McCandless choose to fulfill his wishing to get the freedom and finally go far away from his parents as well as his family. "As for me, I've decided that I'm going to live this life for some time to come. The freedom and simple beauty of it is just too good to pass up. "(33) Chris McCandless started this new life to create a path to pursue independent contentment. Chris McCandless construe independent bliss as satisfaction acquired without the help from others. He rejected deep relationships and society's materialism, which is needed to achieve dependent pleasure, and created his own secluded life without the necessities desired for dependent joyfulness. He earned independent happiness, and died satisfied.

As mentioned before, Superego concerns with norms and morals of society. It internalized society and parental standards of good and bad, right and wrong behavior. The superego is the aspect of personality that holds all of our internalized moral standards and ideals that we acquire from both parents and society our sense of right and wrong. The superego provides guidelines for making judgments. In this novel, the superego of Chris is that in this life, everyone cannot against their parents. Parents will give the best to their children.

They want to make their children become success in their life. Like as things that happen to Chris's parents. The other superego is those human beings cannot life alone without the other. Human beings have to life and stay together. Everyone, everybody no matter who they are, when, and where they are, they cannot life alone. They have to make an interaction or making a relationship with the others.

Ego is rational and logical. It is the moderator between the id and superego. The ego is the component of personality that is responsible for dealing with reality. It operates based on the reality principle, which strives to satisfy the id's desires in realistic and socially appropriate ways. The id of Chris McCandless wants him to fulfill he desires in order to get the freedom in his life. In the other side, his ego tries to make balance between id and superego. He has to defense his ego by the anxiety.

3.2. Self Defense Mechanisms of Chris McCandless

Ego is rational, logical, orderly and conscious. Ego is the moderator between the id and superego, which seeks compromises to pacify both. It can be viewed as the "Sense of Self." The ego is the component of personality that is responsible for dealing with reality. It operates based on the reality principle, which strives to satisfy the id's desires in realistic and socially appropriate ways. The reality principle weighs the costs and benefits of an action before deciding to act upon or abandon impulses. In many cases, the id's impulses can be satisfied through a process of delayed gratification--the ego will eventually allow the behavior, but only in the appropriate time and place.

When id becomes too overwhelming, it is then the place of the ego to employ defense mechanisms to protect the individual. Feelings of guilt, embarrassment and shame often accompany the feeling of anxiety. Defense mechanisms work by distorting the id impulses into acceptable forms, or by unconscious or conscious blockage of these impulses.

In this novel, the psyche zone of the main character, Chris McCandless was fighting each other, between his id and the superego. Then, to balance them, his ego makes self defense mechanism. Therefore, in this chapter, I am going to analyze the Chris McCandless's self defense mechanism. In this story, I identify two forms of self defense mechanism, which is taken by Chris McCandless. They are:

3.2.1. Acting out

As I have mentioned before in the first chapter, acting out is a reaction in which the individual reduces the anxiety and tension associated with dangerous desires by actually permitting their expression. The acting done is usually antisocial and may take the form of acting on the impulses of an addiction to garner attention (eg. Throwing a tantrum or behaving promiscuously). In general usage, the action performed is destructive to self or others. By acting out, someone can do something unusual.

In the novel Into the Wild written by Jon Krakauer, the main character, Chris McCandless was disappointed toward his father, especially his father's roles

in regulating his life as well as his future. Not only that, but also about the hypocrisy of his parents. His father was trying to make his son become a blue collar who has a college degree. Because they come blue-collar families so that Walt McCandless want to make that also to his son. "Both of Billie and I come from blue collar families ... go to college, get a law degree ..." (114) From the quotation can be concluded that Chris McCandless's father really ambitious to take his son become a college degree just like him and his families. They thought that if they are a blue collar, if their families are blue collar, it means that their son also has to be a blue collar too. Therefore, Chris McCandless's father, Walt McCandless was set up a well education in law school for his son.

Chris McCandless's parents were very ambitious person. They life in upper middle, and have all things. "In truth, McCandless had been raised I the comfortable upper middle-class environs of Annandale, Virginia." (19) From this quotation, it is clear enough that Chris McCandless's parents were living in rich enough. They are rich enough to fulfill all of their necessities. Chris McCandless did not want this condition. Because as he known, in the other hand, there are so many people who are living in their destitute, suffering, and their unhappiness. As quoted below:

So many people live within unhappy circumstances and yet will not take the initiative to change their situation because they are conditioned to a life of security, conformity, and conservatism, all of which may appear to give one peace of mind, but in reality nothing is

more damaging to the adventurous spirit within a man than a secure future. (57)

From the quotation, can be assumed that there are so many people want to be live in prosperous as Chris McCandless's parents. Chris McCandless know that and he did not want to live above their suffering. Therefore, Chris McCandless is a figure who did not like live in the luxuriousness, wealth and the prosperousness because of those conditions. "Her son, the teenage Tolstoyan, believed that wealth was shameful, corrupting, and inherently evil." (115) Indeed, his attitude towards money and wealth make him do not want to be live in the luxuriousness and the wealth. By seeking the way of life his parents who full of luxuriousness, whereas there are so many people live in the suffering, Chris McCandless does not understand that and also accept that. Because of that, Chris McCandless become disappointed to her parents.

Not only that, Chris McCandless also disappointed to his parents when he know that Walt McCandless has the other wife without knowing of his family. In later years, Chris became angry with Walt when he knows that Walt had a child by his first wife after Chris had been born to Walt's second wife. (109) Chris McCandless cannot accept his father has done. He married with other woman when he is still the husband of the other. Moreover, he did not give any information to them until that day.

Because of his disappointments, to the roles of his father toward his life and about his parent's life style, Chris McCandless's ego makes acting out as

his self defense mechanism to reduce the anxiety and tension that caused by the unbalance between his id and his superego. His action associated with dangerous desires by actually permitting his expression. It can be seen from his actions. For the first, he decided to hate his family, especially his father. Finally he went far away from his family. Chris McCandless leaved them without giving any information about his action.

...I'm going to completely knock them out of my life. I'm going to divorce them as my parents once and for all and never speak to either of those idiots again as long as I live. I'll be through with them once and for all forever. (64).

From the quotation above, I assume that Chris McCandless is really wants to leave his parents. This is the first action that have done by Chris McCandless. Before doing his journey, Chris McCandless gave all his money to a charity and burned all his id card as well as the last money that he has. "He told us about abandoning his car, about burning all his money." (30)

The action that has done by Chris McCandless as his defense mechanism is deciding to get the freedom in the nature. "I've decided to head for Alaska no later than May 1st, but I've got to raise a little cash to outfit myself." (53) Chris McCandless become anti-social. He lives alone in the wilderness Alaska. Chris does not give any information to everybody about what his done even to his younger sister Carine with whom he is very close related. In Alaska, he found an old bus, he called this magic bus. "magic bus day, he wrote in his

journal. He decided to lay over for a while in the vehicle and take advantage of its crude comforts.” (163) from the quotation, it is clearly know that Chris McCandless life in that bus.

In the process of his acting out, he adventured in the United States, although some smaller or more obscure place names may prove elusive and tricky. This is also travels back and forth through time as Krakauer includes sharp descriptions of the forbidding Alaskan terrain that McCandless battled in his doomed bid to survive and the ice-locked mountainside that nearly claimed Krakauer himself as a young man. His adventure starts from the travels of Chris McCandless mostly in the western portion of the United States, as well as in Alaska, Mexico, and Virginia.

3.2.2. Identification

As I mentioned before in the previous chapter, identification is a form of self defense mechanism that follow or identify a person or person’s behavior and effort to be this. In this kind of self defense mechanism, person tries to raise his own self-esteem by patterning his behavior after the behavior of another person, neither by reading books or seeing the reality.

In this story, Chris McCandless does this self defense mechanism. Chris McCandless identifies the way of life and the behavior of his favorite naturalist writer, Jack London and Henry David Thoreau as Chris McCandless has read. Many quotes from Chris McCandless originated from various naturalist authors such as Jack London and Henry David Thoreau.

The naturalism itself is well known as an important thing in philosophy and literature. Mark Flanagan said in Contemporary Literature:

Naturalism is a theory in literature, which emphasizes the role of environment upon human characters. Rather than focusing on the internal qualities of their characters, authors called out the effects of heredity and environment, outside forces, on humanity. (1)

From the quotation above, can be assumed that naturalism is a ideology that view that environment or nature is most important in this life. Not only Mark Flanagan, but also Mark Eastman, M.D says something about naturalism in all about Philosophy:

Naturalism is the metaphysical position that "nature is all there is, and all basic truths are truths of nature. Naturalism, commonly known as materialism, is a philosophical paradigm whereby everything can be explained in terms of natural causes. Physical matter is the only reality everything can be explained in terms of matter and physical phenomena. Naturalism, by definition, excludes any Supernatural Agent or activity. (1)

From the quotation was clear that naturalism stated that the truths are arrived from the process in the nature. It is quite clear that nature can give something that is needed by human being. Naturalism is a philosophical paradigm whereby everything can be explained in terms of natural causes. Physical matter is the only reality everything can be explained in terms of matter and physical phenomena.

According to George McMichael in Anthology of American Literature: “from social Darwinism London had absorbed the idea that to survive, man must adapt to irresistible natural forces and to “the stress and strain of life, its fevers and sweats and wild indulgences” (885) from the quotation, can be assumed that Jack London is a person who take the risks for survive, especially survive in the nature. Furthermore, Mark Flanagan said in Contemporary Literature: In American Literature, Jack London is an example of a naturalist writer depicting man's struggle for survival in his environment. (1) From that quotation, it is clear enough that Jack London was a naturalist.

In this novel, Chris McCandless identifies Jack London by reading his books. As stated one such quote in particular written by Chris related to Jack London's written as it stated: “It was the masterful and incommunicable wisdom of eternity laughing at the futility of life and the effort of life. It was the Wild, the savage, frozen-hearted Northland Wild.”(9) The other quotation from Jack London in this novel which was read by Chris McCandless is: “The dominant primordial beast was strong in Buck, and under the fierce conditions of trail life it grew and grew. Yet it was a secret growth. His newborn cunning gave him poise and control. - *Jack London, the call of the wild* –“(38) From those quotation can be assumed that the quote from Jack London's book is showing that Chris McCandless's acts was identification Jack London's thought by his book that has read by Chris McCandless. Meandering through the tangled, rolling bottomland is the Stampede Trail, the route Chris McCandless followed into the wilderness.

Chris McCandless had been reading Jack London's books. He had been infatuated with Jack London since childhood. McCandless perspective mirrors the naturalist who observed, "A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds". Chris McCandless shared the naturalist perspective of simplicity. To McCandless, nature was a mechanism to find something more dear and connate than in streets or villages. He lived meagerly in nature, devoid of the lavish pleasures of civilization. "London was his favorite. He'd try to convince every snowbird who walked by that they should read *Call of the Wild*." (44) Chris McCandless had been read Jack London's works and he begins to like the way of life of Jack London as he read. "McCandless read and reread "*The Call of the Wild*", "*White Fang*", "*To Build a Fire*", "*An Odyssey of the North*", "*The Wit of Porportuk*." (44) He was so enthralled by these tales, however, that he seemed to forget they were works of fiction, constructions of the imagination that had more to do with Jack London's romantic sensibilities than with the actualities of life in the subarctic wilderness. It means that Chris McCandless was identified Jack London. McCandless conveniently overlooked the fact that Jack London himself had spent just a single winter in the North and that he had died by his own hand on his California estate at the age of forty, a fatuous drunk, obese and pathetic, maintaining a sedentary existence that bore scant resemblance to the ideals he espoused in print.

Jack London was an adventurer who moved from one place to the other places. As seven of notebook stated that "Jack undertook an expedition to Alaska and Klondike region (27) from the quotation can be assumed that Jack London is an

adventurer who likes to move from one area to another. Just like Chris McCandless who does the same. Until he decided to go to the wilderness Alaska. Chris McCandless embarked on a snowy trail into the Alaskan wilderness in solitude, never to be located again. Over a twenty-year period, he had gotten to know the country well as a carpenter, angler, journalist, and occasionally as an imperiled mountain climber. He is in a position to recognize that Chris's naive idealism was greatly responsible for the mistakes that led to his death. Chris wanted to "clinch a thirst for adventure," his life was about taking risks, experiencing nature and discovering ultimate freedom. Chris McCandless's character encompassed some of the traits of naturalism. He was not seeking consistency in the wilderness of Alaska. Chris wanted to experience life fully; he was not after security in society.

After Jack London, Chris McCandless also made identification toward Henry David Thoreau as his self-defense mechanism. Henry David Thoreau written as it stated:

All nature is your congratulation, and you have cause shortly to bless yourself. The greatest gains and values are farthest from being appreciated. We easily come to doubt if they exist. We soon forget them. They are the highest reality. . . . The true harvest of my daily life is somewhat as intangible and indescribable as the tints of morning or evening. (47)

This quote expresses how he enjoyed the independent life and every now and then, escaped the secluded life to experience the social life. Eventually he will leave societies materialism and will retreat to his private life to once again enjoy reading, music, nature, etc. This quotation was identified by Chris McCandless.

“I’ve decided to head for Alaska no later than May first.” (53) From the quotation, can be assumed that Chris McCandless done the same thing as Thoreau has done. That Chris was living is what made him happy. This is Chris’s idea of living an independent, happy life.

By then Chris was long gone. Five weeks earlier he would loaded all his belongings into his little car and headed west without an itinerary. The trip was to be an odyssey in the fullest sense of the word, an epic journey that would change everything. He had spent the previous four years, as he saw it, preparing to fulfill an absurd and onerous duty: to graduate from college. At long last he was unencumbered, emancipated from the stifling world of his parents and peers, a world of abstraction and security and material excess, a world in which he felt grievously cut off from the raw throb of existence. Driving west out of Atlanta, he intended to invent an utterly new life for himself, one in which he would be free to wallow in unfiltered experience. To symbolize the complete severance from his previous life, he even adopted a new name. No longer, would he answer to Chris McCandless; he was now Alexander Super-tramp, master of his own destiny.

McCandless preferred to survive with only the bare necessities. As he trekked off into Alaskan wilderness, the only subsistence he possessed was a ten-pound bag of rice. When he was offered a plane ticket to Alaska, he refused, preferring to arrange his own transportation to Alaska. McCandless asserted that he did not need monetary resources to survive he thought that money was inherently evil and made people greedy. Before his voyage to Alaska, McCandless

donated all of his money to a famine relief fund and burned the remaining cash in his wallet.

What Walt, Billie, and Carine didn't know when they flew down to Atlanta to attend Chris's commencement—what nobody knew—was that he would shortly donate all the money in his college fund to OXFAM America, a charity dedicated to fighting hunger. (20)

However, despite his lack of material resources and turmoil, McCandless rejoiced in nature. In his last days before dying of starvation, his journal entry read beautiful blueberries. Even though McCandless was feeble and sorrowful, he delighted in the blossoming fruit because in the presence of nature, a wild delight runs through the man in spite of real sorrows.

Like the naturalists, McCandless viewed the wilderness as sanctuary of solace from the harsh realities of life. Despite having many characteristics of a naturalist, McCandless reported feeling lonely in solitude at times. To Henry David Thoreau, living in solitude did not evoke feelings of loneliness. Chris McCandless viewed his adventure into the woods as a rite of passage. Conquering nature became a game, a test of his survival skills and manhood. Chris McCandless's desire to conquer nature is an aversion to Thoreau's perspective. Chris McCandless wanted movement and not a calm course of existence. He wanted excitement, danger, and the chance to sacrifice himself for the love. By using nature as a mechanism to play a game, it no longer is a divine masterpiece but a mere toy. Chris McCandless's adventurous journey into the wild indicates

that his character incorporated many values of naturalism. He sought nonconformity, refuge and simplicity in the Alaskan wilderness.

This is just one of the many responses to a naturalist piece of literature. This quote from Chris McCandless as well as Henry David Thoreau gives the reader various interpretations of the meaning of happiness. This can apply to the response Chris made as another way of saying that people are not taking advantage of life, so he will live it for others. Of course, his idea of life is living out in the wilderness fending for him, and gaining motivation and inspiration from Henry David Thoreau's books.

From the explanation above, it was clear enough that the main character in the novel Into the Wild written by Jon Krakauer was doing identification as his self defense mechanism. The growing Chris McCandless soon learns that the way in which others evaluate him depends heavily on his Family and his book. Not only does society evaluate the individual in the light of his group memberships, but also Chris McCandless comes to evaluate himself in the light of his favorite writer. By doing so, he take as their own some of the desirable attributes of his favorite writer to which he belong.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

After analyzing Into the Wild written by Jon Krakauer, I conclude that this novel described about the psychological conflict of the main character, Chris McCandless. The important issue in this novel is about the self defense mechanism of Chris McCandless. I get a full description of kinds of self defense mechanisms that is presented by Jon Krakauer in his novel Into the Wild. Self defense mechanism becomes pathological only when its persistent use leads to maladaptive behavior such that the physical or mental health of the individual is adversely affected. The purpose of the self defense mechanisms is to protect the mind from anxiety, social sanctions or to provide a refuge from a situation with which one cannot currently cope. Self defense mechanism itself can be taken by ego to save his mind from anxiety.

They are more accurately referred to as self defense mechanisms, and can thus be categorized as occurring when the id impulses are in conflict with each other, when the id impulses conflict with super-ego values and beliefs, and when an external threat is posed to the ego. The psyche zone, id and the superego of the main character, Chris McCandless was fighting each other. Then, to balance them, his ego makes acting out and identification as his self defense mechanism. These may occur in response to certain events or situations in society or in one's personal life.

Acting out can prevent one from fulfilling many goals because the individual may avoid taking risks for fear of rejection or disappointment. Chris McCandless was disappointed toward his father, especially his father's roles in regulating his life and his future. His father was trying to make his son become a blue collar who has a college degree. Because they come from blue-collar families so that Walt McCandless want to make that also to his son. Because of his hated and his disappointment and also caused by the hypocrisy of his parents toward his parents, Chris McCandless make acting out as his self defense mechanism.

I also conclude that the main character also use identification as his self defense mechanism. It can be an attempt to overcome inferiority by taking on the characteristics of someone important, such as a parent or teacher, but it is often part of a more natural development process. In the former, the individual feels that doing so will help her to be perceived as worthwhile, and self-worth is enhanced. Identification is adaptive in that it creates a process of assuming culturally appropriate behaviors, but it can also be negative when it is used to mask feelings of inferiority. In this novel, Chris McCandless identifies the way of life and the behavior of his favorite naturalist writer, Jack London and Henry David Thoreau.

Finally, I conclude that the self defense mechanism that have taken by Chris McCandless was failed. It failed because in the end of the this story, Chris McCandless was died because of starvation. At the time of the autopsy, McCandless's reamins weighded sixty-seven pounds. Starvation was posited as the most probable cause of death.

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