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DEFENSE MECHANISM IN THE MAIN CHARACTER OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS' A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

THESIS



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ABSTRAK

Dalam skripsi ini penulis menganalisis sebuah drama karya Tennessee Williams berjudul A Streetcar Named Desire. Skripsi ini membahas gangguan kejiwaan seorang tokoh perempuan yang berperilaku aneh di dalam drama ini. Perilaku-perilaku aneh yang dialami Blanche Dubois adalah: takut berada di ruangan yang bercahaya terang, sering mandi air panas ketika suhu udara sedang panas, suka berbohong dan suka berhalusinasi. Analisis ini bertujuan untuk menjelaskan kondisi-kondisi kejiwaan yang dialami Blanche dan penyebab dari kondisi kejiwaan nya tersebut. Selain itu, analisis ini juga bertujuan untuk menjelaskan mekanisme pertahanan diri yang digunakan oleh Blanche untuk melindungi diri nya dan untuk mengurangi dan menghilangkan ancaman, dorongan, dan konflik.

Penelitian ini bersifat kualitatif, yaitu dengan mengambil kutipan-kutipan sebagai pembuktian dan pendukung analisis dalam skripsi ini. Hasil dari analisis tersebut dipaparkan melalui metode deskriptif. Dalam analisis data penulis mengaplikasikan teori Psikoanalisis Sigmund Freud, yang mengarahkan analisis pada kondisi-kondisi kejiwaan serta teori mekanisme pertahanan diri yang juga dikembangkan oleh Sigmund Freud.

Dari hasil analisis data ditemukan kondisi-kondisi kejiwaan seperti: Phobia, Hallusinasi, perasaan bersalah dan psikosis. Kondisi-kondisi kejiwaan ini adalah gambaran dari konflik yang terjadi antara struktur kepribadiannya: the *id*, *ego*, and *superego*. Serta perilaku yang ditampilkan tersebut dominan muncul dari perilaku yang tidak disadari (*the unconscious*). Penyebab dari kondisi kejiwaan itu adalah: kehilangan harta warisan leluhur, kematian suami, kehilangan pekerjaan dan diperkosa adik iparnya. Dari penelitian ini penulis juga menemukan tiga mekanisme pertahanan diri yang digunakan oleh Blanche, yaitu: *fantasy* (fantasi), *denial of reality* (menyangkal kenyataan), dan *regression* (regresi).

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Human beings have mind or soul that makes them different from other creatures and it is used by the human beings to control their life. According to Freud in Guerin, "by using their mind consciously or unconsciously, human beings organize and coordinate all of their actions by means of their mental process." (123). Human can feel, memorize, and think by using their mind or soul which is known as psyche, and it can be studied in a specific discipline which is called psychology.

Furthermore, psychology takes the important role in literature, because the composition of literary work in its story could not be apart from the psychological aspect. According to Thomas, the relationship between literature and psychology "is that both of sciences are from the same branches that are humanity sciences." (10). It can be concluded that all psyche problems and conflicts that human faced in their life can be existed in the literary work.

Here the writer chooses a play to be analyzed. Because it is the kind of literary works beside novel and poetry that portrays human life. In this case, the writer analyzes Tennessee Williams' play which is entitled A Streetcar Named Desire. Tennessee Williams (March 26, 1911- February 24, 1983) was an American playwright. He had written many plays and got two Pulitzer Prize and

four New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, beside A Streetcar Named Desire (1947), his other great work are The Glass Menagerie (1944), The Rose Tattoo (1950-1951), Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (1955), Orpheus Descending (1957-1958), Sweet Bird of Youth (1959), and Night of the Iguana (1961).

It is interesting to analyze A Streetcar Named Desire by using psychological approach because this play portrays the life of a woman that has strange behavior namely Blanche Dubois. The strange behaviors such as: she often takes shower and bathing on hot tub when temperature is hot, she feels scared to stand up in the bright light, she always lies, and always wants to be seen perfect in front of men. All of the problems are caused by some factual backgrounds that influence the life of Blanche Dubois such: marital failure with her loving husband who commits suicide, losing her own home Belle Reve which made her poor, her scandal in Laurel. Then, she always forced her sister to leave the house where she stayed with her husband, because that house is the picture of the poor people's house.

From the fact above, the writer assures that the past memory and the traumatic experience that happened in the life of Blanche Dubois, give the big influence to her attitude as seen in the drama A Streetcar Named Desire.

Based on the explanation above, the writer wants to analyze this play by applying psychological criticism and entitled this thesis **“Defense Mechanisms in the Main Character of Tennessee Williams’ A Streetcar Named Desire.”**

1.2 Identification of the Problem

The play entitled A Streetcar Named Desire tells us about a woman that has psychological conflicts in her life, her name was Blanche Dubois. She cannot accept the reality that happened in her life that made her behavior strange. Such as: often talking lie, afraid to stand in the bright light and often bathing in hot tub when the season is hot. The strange behaviors of Blanche Dubois are caused by some factual backgrounds such: lots of her home plantation, the death of her husband, losing her job, and raped by her brother in law.

So, in conducting this research, the writer focuses on the analysis of the strange behaviors which is shown by Blanche Dubois (the main character), the self defense mechanisms which are used by Blanche to face her conflicts. The strange behaviors of Blanche and the way that she uses these defenses are the main problems that the writer wants to analyze.

1.3 Objective of the Research

The objective of the study is to describe the strange behaviors of the main character (Blanche Dubois) as seen in Tennessee Williams' A Streetcar Named Desire by searching her psychological conditions, and analyze the causes of her psychological conditions, and to find out what kind of self defense mechanisms which are used by the main character in facing her conflicts.

1.4 Scope of the Research

In order to focus the analysis, the writer has to limit the problem of analysis. The writer focuses on:

1. The psychological conditions of the main character in Tennessee Williams' A Streetcar Named Desire.
2. The causes of the psychological conditions of the main character in Tennessee Williams' A Streetcar Named Desire.
3. The type of defense mechanisms, used by the main character in Tennessee Williams' A Streetcar Named Desire.

1.5 Review to Previous Study

The analysis that is related to the play A Streetcar Named Desire, the writer finds a thesis by Harsudasev, a student of English Department of Andalas University Padang which analyzes this play in Linguistics study area. Her thesis entitled Preliminary Analysis of Situation-Sentences in Tennessee Williams "A Streetcar Named Desire" (1998), in her research she focuses on the situation sentences in conversation in the play A Streetcar Named Desire. Because situation sentences are very important elements to begin a conversation. By knowing and understanding how to begin and use a good start to speak to someone, whom we know well or whom we do not know yet, we will create a good conversation and even a friendly one and we hope that our conversation will have a communicative impression. These situation sentences include greetings, calls, exclamations, requisitions, requests and statements.

Another researcher who has done a research on A Streetcar Named Desire is Nicole Morgan (2003) cited in <http://www.helium.com/>. In her analysis she found that Williams' work is often considered as "one of the most savage indictments of culture in our time" and A Streetcar Named Desire is no exception. The play challenged the taboo issues of violence, homosexuality, and promiscuity whilst the 1951 film adaptation caused great controversy despite censorship carried out by the Motion Picture Association of America and the Catholic Legion of Decency. Since it is Stanley's rape of Blanche that leads to her inevitable demise, it is important to consider the significance that Williams' use of violence bears to the play as a whole.

Thus, the previous study that used same criticisms, psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud is the writer found as a thesis of English Department, Andalas University, conducted by Destri Zulaika (2005). In her research Destri Zulaika focuses on the impact of superego on Esther's personality in the novel Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath. She found that the main character Esther Greenwood is categorized as a young woman for she is still nineteenth years old. Normally, in that age the teenager has some personality developments and self-reorganizations. What happens to Esther is contradictory which cannot balance between her needs, her instinct, and the norms which exist around her. Moreover, it gives negative effect to her personality in brings her to the dark world named madness.

Then, another student named Noveriandi (2005). In his research, he focuses on the effects of psychological problem on the main characters in the novel Long Day's Journey into Night by Eugene O'Neill's. He found that the

main character in this novel: Mary Tyrone and James Jr. Tyrone have ill psychological problems (disappointment and fear) which give the effect to each character by incidence of drug addiction and alcoholism. Mary is addicted to morphine and James drinks whiskey as an escapist. He analyzes the effect of these main characters' psychological problems by applying Freud's psychoanalysis on three zones human personality: the id, ego, and superego and also scrutinizes their ego defense mechanisms. They used: Denial, Projection, Rationalization, and sublimation.

It is different from entire researches, the writer focuses her analysis on psychological conditions of the main character, and then how the main character uses the ego defense mechanisms in solving her conflicts. The writer uses Sigmund Freud theory (three psychic zones: the id, ego, and superego) and defense mechanism.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

To analyze A Streetcar Named Desire, the writer applies psychoanalytic criticisms by Sigmund Freud, in Metodologi Penelitian Sastra by Endaswara, psychoanalytic criticism has three sides of analysis:

Pada dasarnya, psikologi sastra akan ditopang oleh tiga pendekatan sekaligus. Pertama, pendekatan tekstual yang mengkaji aspek psikologis tokoh dalam karya sastra. Kedua, pendekatan reseptif-pragmatik, yang mengkaji aspek psikologis pembaca sebagai penikmat karya sastra yang terbentuk dari pengaruh karya yang dibacanya, serta proses resepsi pembaca dalam menikmati karya sastra. Ketiga, pendekatan ekspresif, yang mengkaji aspek psikologis sang penulis ketika melakukan proses kreatif yang terproyeksi lewat karyanya, baik penulis sebagai pribadi maupun wakil masyarakatnya. (97- 98).

the death instinct or wish. It functions to fulfill the pleasure instincts in every human body. It is lawless, asocial and amoral.

The Ego is the surfaces of personality, and it is governed by the reality principle. The Ego operates on both conscious and unconscious and functions as the thinking or deciding system. The Ego understands that other people have needs and desires and that sometimes being impulsive or selfish. Like Id, Ego also has desire to maximize the achievement satisfaction, but the ego based on secondary process thinking. It is the realistic thinking based on rational, realistic and oriented toward the solving problem.

The Superego represents the value and standard of the parents that are incorporated in to the individual personality. Its development is attributed to the parental influence. It is dominated by morality principle. The Superego function is to protect society. The Superego is the moral consoling agency, the repository of consciences and pride. The Superego consists of two parts: the ego ideal includes the rules and standards for good behavior, and conscience, includes information about things that are viewed as bad by parents and society.

Psychological conflict appear when the Id, Ego, and the Superego are not balanced, because these three psychic zones competing to each other. To make it balance, a person uses self defense mechanism in order to get comfortable life. Self defense mechanism is psychological strategies used by individuals or group to cope with the reality or to maintain self-image. The aim of self defense is to reduce the anxiety and to get comfortable life.

In this analysis the writer focuses on the self defense mechanisms to explore the analysis. The defense mechanism also comes from Sigmund Freud. In "Introduction to Psychology" (454-456) by Linda L. Davidoff, Freud classifies some ways of the self defense mechanism:

1. Repression

Repression is defined as the exclusion of anxiety-arousing motives, ideas, conflicts, memories, and the like from awareness. When repression is working, the banished material does not enter consciousness, although it does influence behavior.

2. Denial of Reality

When people deny reality, they ignore or refuse to acknowledge the existence of unpleasant experiences (of which they are fully aware) to protect themselves.

3. Rationalization

Rationalization often involves thinking up socially acceptable reasons for behavior to hide the truth for oneself. Rationalization occurs when people deceive themselves by pretending that bad situation is really good and a good one is really bad.

4. Intellectualization

People deal with situations that would ordinarily generate strong feeling in detached, analytic, in intellectual ways. In other words, they treat potentially stressful experiences as events to study or to be curious about, to avoid becoming emotionally involved. Intellectualization enables

1.7 Method of the Research

In conducting this research, the writer uses three steps: first is collecting the data, second is analyzing the data, and third is presenting the result of analysis.

1.7.1 Collecting the Data

The method of the research that the writer used in gathering the data is the library research method. The writer divides the data into two categories: primary data and secondary data. The writer uses the play A Streetcar Named Desire as the primary data. It should be read several times in order to acquire a deep understanding on the play and the problem. And the secondary data is obtained by reading and understanding several books, articles, essays related to the subject of the study, and the writer also search the data from internet in supporting this research.

1.7.2 Analyzing the Data

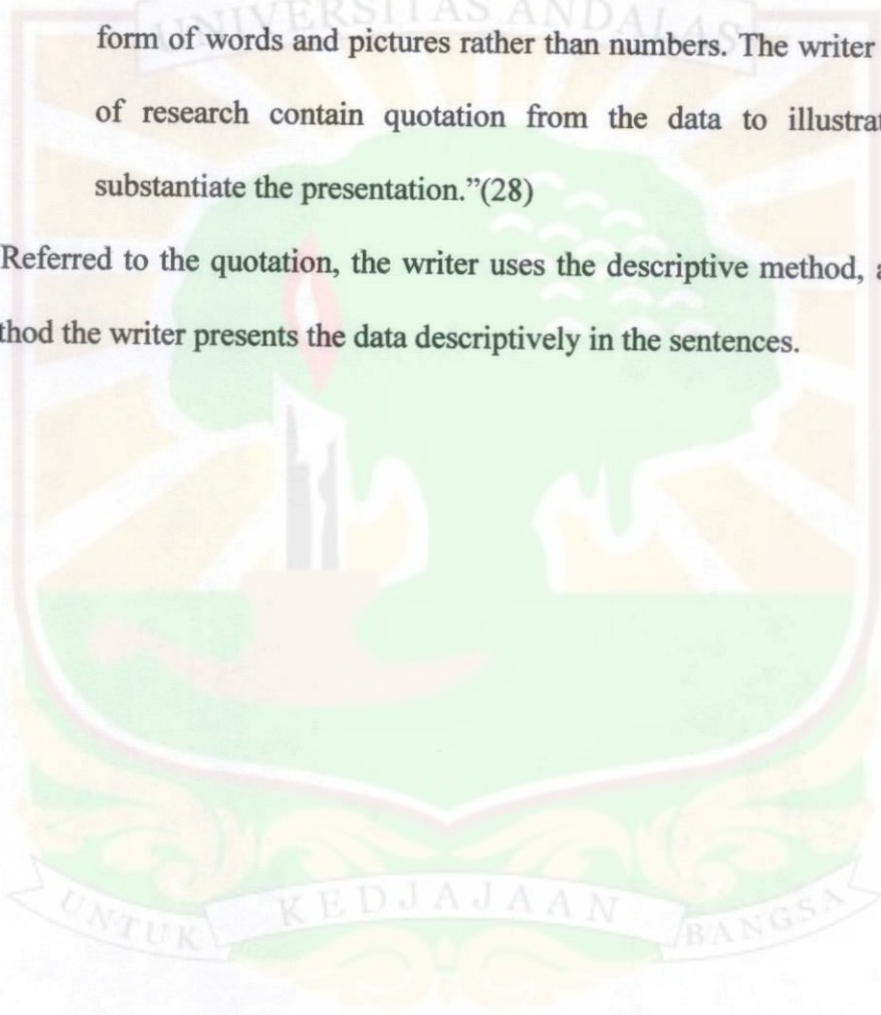
In analyzing the data, the writer applies qualitative method since her analysis is an interpretation of the play in the form of words. Then, firstly the writer finds the psychological conditions of the main character. The data are comprehended by using the theory about id, ego, and superego by Sigmund Freud. After finding the psychological conditions, the writer finds the cause of the main character (Blanche Dubois) psychological conditions. Finally the writer analyzes the self defense mechanisms which are used by the main character to overcome her conflicts by using Freud's theory about psychoanalysis.

1.7.3 Presenting the Result of Analysis

In presenting the result of analysis, the writer uses descriptive method. As Bodgan stated in his book *Qualitative Education and Introduction to the Theory and Method*:

“Qualitative research is descriptive. The data is collected in the form of words and pictures rather than numbers. The writer results of research contain quotation from the data to illustrate and substantiate the presentation.”(28)

Referred to the quotation, the writer uses the descriptive method, and by this method the writer presents the data descriptively in the sentences.



CHAPTER II

PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS

Literary work contains of several elements, which build a complete features of literary works. In this chapter the writer will describes some elements of literary work they are plot, theme, setting, character, and point of view of the play. Therefore, this chapter divided into four subchapters.

2.1 Plot

In How to Analyze Fiction By William Kenney (1966), plot reveals even to us, not only their temporal, but also their causal relationship. 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). Plot is ordered sequence of events in the story. Generally, plot can be divided into four essential parts; they are exposition, rising action, climax, and raising action.

A Streetcar Named Desire starts by telling the reader about Stella and her husband. Stella is Blanche's sister, she has married someone from lower status, Stanley Kowalski. Stanley is from Poland who works in a factory, he got less education, but he is extremely passionate and handsome. Stella and Stanley have strong chemistry which fuels their love. They live in the lower flat of a house located on Elysian Fields in New Orleans.

The conflict arises when Blanche arrives in New Orleans to stay with her sister, Stella Kowalski. Blanche too overacts with her appearance, cleanliness, dress, and upper-class mentality, while Stella married with someone from the

lower status. From the beginning of her stay, Blanche and Stanley are odds, opposing ideals, ways of life, and each other on every minute detail of life. Blanche tells Stella that she has lost Belle Reve, their childhood plantation home. Stanley wants to see the paperwork regarding to the property and confronts Blanche about it. During their first conversation, they argue and discuss about Blanche's past. Stanley tells her that Stella is pregnant. And when Blanche in New Orleans, she also has a brief romance with Mitch (Stanley's friend). They share to each other and Blanche wants Mitch to marry her. In fact, it never happened in her life.

The climax of the story is when the relationship between Blanche and Stanley become worse. Blanche constantly insulting him and Stanley becomes more angry and aggressive. Stanley learns about Blanche's past secret, he searches for evidence on Blanche's past blemished and finding people who knew her in Laurel, the town where she lived and taught English. In fact, she lived at a second rate hotel called the Flamingo and has a relationship with many men. She has scandal with a seventeen year old boy at her school, which is the reason for her to lose her job. She was also thrown out from the hotel, because they did not like Blanche's lifestyle. Stanley also hates Blanche, he told about her past secret to Stella and Mitch which make Mitch did not want to marry her. He tells Blanche that she is not clean enough for him. Then, Stanley also takes out his anger physically, and he practically defined by his sexual aggression, he raped Blanche.

The story ends when Blanche turns completely into madness after being raped by Stanley and after Mitch leaves her. Her mental condition became very unstable. She often told something that never happened in her life. After Stella has a baby, Stella's reaction to Blanche's condition and story regarding her husband, and her decision to carry on her marriage in spite of it. She decides to send Blanche to a mental institution. Blanche believes that she is going on a vacation in the country with Ship. Instead, a doctor and nurse arrive at the door to have her committed. She screams and tries to stay with Stella. After a skirmish, the doctor is kind to her and she begins to trust him. She walks out of the house with him and go to the institution. Stella cries, wondering if she did the right thing while Stanley hopes that everything will go back to normal now that Blanche has gone.

2.2 Theme

In How to Analyze Fiction by William Kenney (1966), theme is meaning, but it is not 'hidden' and it is not illustrated. Theme is the meaning of the story releases it maybe the meaning of the story discovers. (91)

From the definition above the writer conclude that theme is the central idea and the main problem which is raised by the author to develop the story by presenting some actions and characters. It also shows the purpose of the story and gives some message from the story. In general, the theme can be identified by reading the literary work. After reading and understanding the play, the writer finds there are two themes occur along the story:

First theme is the loneliness which caused when a person unable to adapt with her society. Nobody wants to be lonely, it is natural human being tends to be together in a group be it families, friends, relatives, and social groups. In fact, human beings cannot live alone. If there is no one care, the feeling of loneliness may comes to our mind. Thus, human being needs to adapt to their society. It happened to the main character in this play, she unable to adapt to her society. Therefore, when her husband and her family are died, and after the lost of her home plantation, and then she apart from her sister, Blanche became alone in the world. She loved once and deeply and the world has had no love in it for her. She had longs and deep connection with another human being. But her pathetic attempt to find love through sexual affairs with casual acquaintances has only made her situation became worse. She was fired from her job as an English teacher and she forced by the community to leave Laurel Town. Blanche becomes loneliness, more deeply and she digs herself into it.

Then, when she comes to New Orleans, she meets Mitch. At the first time they meet, they share to each other and they have a brief romance. They hope to find happiness together. But this romance do not go along, the situation do not support them. When Mitch knows about the Blanche past from Stanley, he rejects Blanche and do not wants marry to her. At least, Blanche and Mitch are same get failure in their relationship. So, Blanche continued loneliness in their life.

Blanche's loneliness is contrasted to Stanley who never alone in his life because he has many friends. He enters into male friendships with easy, and he

effortlessly wins and retains Stella's love. Unlike Blanche, he is well adapted to his society. So in her small apartment where they live with Stella that contains of many races there are Steve and Eunice their neighbor that always ready to help them. It is only Blanche who is unable to adapted to her society and unable to find her own niche.

The second theme of this play is the contradiction between Fantasy and Reality. Blanche could not face the reality that happened in her life because the reality is too harsh. So to protect herself, she creates fantasy that will allow her to maintain her life. When Mitch wants to switch the light on so that he can get look at her, she tells him that she does not want realism, she wants magic. This means that she seeks to manipulate reality until it appears to be what Blanche thinks it ought to be happened. She wants to be lived in a permanent romantic glow, like the light that lit up the entire world when she first fell in love. But in this play, reality is dominates. It never happened in her life. So, to fulfill her desire, she has fantasy by creating her millionaire boy friend and go on a trip with him.

2.3 Setting

Like plot, setting also takes the important role to build the story. In How to Analyze Fiction by William Kenney (1966), setting is element of fiction which reveal us, where and when of event. In other word, the term "setting" refers to the point in time and space at which the events of plot occur. (38). In this preliminary analysis, the writer divides the setting into time and place. Time setting of A

Streetcar Named Desire is the 1940's during World War II. And place settings are:

Belle Reve

Belle Reve is an old plantation house and the family home where Stella and Blanche grew up. That house was very big and beautiful, as the quotation below:

Eunice : And you're from Mississippi, huh?
 Blanche : Yes.
 Eunice : She showed me a picture of your home-place, the plantation.
 Blanche : Belle Reve?
 Eunice : A great big place with white columns.
 Blanche : Yes... (Scene I, P. 9).

Blanche lost the house because of its high mortgage and she unable to manage it after her sister (Stella) goes to New Orleans. The lost of her ancestral house "Belle Reve" make her became poor, but she cannot face it, so she still acts like a noble.

Elysian Fields Home

Elysian Fields was the name of a street in New Orleans where Stanley and Stella lives. The building where Stella and Stanley lives contain of two flats, upstairs and down and they live in the lower flat of that building. Steve and Eunice live upstairs. This area is mixed races and is known for being bawdy and colorfully alive. We can see it from this quotation below:

The exterior of a two-story corner building on a street in New Orleans which is named Elysian Fields and runs between the L & N tracks and river. The section is poor but, unlike corresponding sections in other American cities, it has a raffish charm. The houses are mostly white frame, weathered grey, with rickety outside stairs and galleries and quaintly

ornamented gables. This building contains two flats, upstairs and down. Faded white stairs ascend to the entrances of both. (Scene I, P. 3).

From this quotation we can see that this place is very different to Blanche's house before. So, she was really surprised and did not believe when she knew that her sister lived in that small apartment.

Flamingo Hotel

The Flamingo Hotel is one of Blanche's homes of the past after she lost her ancestral house "Belle Reve". It is a second rate hotel in which she lived and practiced prostitution with the stranger because the salary is not enough to pay her lifestyle and pleasure, so to fulfill her desire, she did it. The hotel eventually threw her out due to her lifestyle.

Laurel

Laurel is a small town in Mississippi where Blanche teaches English, she lived there for some time. Stanley has friends who travel through Laurel and find out about Blanche's past.

Bathroom

Blanche frequents the bathroom in Stanley and Stella's home. She primped and bathed in, and she was in the bathroom when she needed a place to cry, wash up, or be alone.

New Orleans

New Orleans is the city in which the play takes place. It is a mixture of all races. It also is a city of great history in the South. New Orleans has streetcars, which make a lot of noise and disturb Blanche during her stay. So, when Blanche is in New Orleans she needs a bathroom to calm herself by taking a long bath.

2.4 Character

In How to Analyze Fiction by William Kenney (1966), character obviously relevant to us and our experience if it is like ourselves or like others whom we know. Lifelikeness, then, is properly understood as one form of relevance. A character is relevant if there are a lot of people like him in the real world. (27) Character is the actor of the story who convey their personal qualities through dialog and action by which the reader or audience understand their thoughts, feelings, emotions, and their motives. In a story, the character will be involved in a conflict, the nature and use of the character as determined in the story. The characters in this play are:

Blanche Dubois

Blanche Dubois is the main character in this play, she is talkative woman from Mississippi and she is about twenty years old woman. She goes to New Orleans to visit her sister Stella and stays there throughout the summer. Blanche is the older sister of Stella and she was a schoolteacher of English in Laurel. She was married to a young man named Allan, who committed suicide when she was very young. After the death of her husband, the lost of her home plantation, and the lost of her job, she becomes poor. But she cannot face it, so she often drinks and smokes and tells lies. Blanche cannot be around direct light and is too overacts with her appearance, accessories, bathing, and age. As the quotation below:

“She is daintily dressed in a white suit with a fluffy bodice, necklace, and earrings of pearl, white gloves and that looking as if she were arriving at a summer tea or cocktail party in the garden district. She is about five years older than Stella. Her delicate beauty must avoid a strong light. There is something about her uncertain manner, as well as her white clothes, that suggest a moth” (Scene I, P 5).

Then, Blanche has a brief romance with Mitch, Blanche wants to marry with Mitch, but after Mitch knows about Blanche past, he rejects her. And the last she committed to a mental institution.

Stanley Kowalski

Stanley Kowalski is Stella's husband. He twenty eight years old, handsome but he is from the lower status and works in a factory. It is that make Blanche does not like him and always forces her sister to leave him, but Stella loves him so much. Stanley has trouble controlling his temper. He is smarter than he appears and he is the first person to see through Blanche's secret past. He plays poker, bowls, drinks, and he is completely in love with Stella.

Stella Kowalski

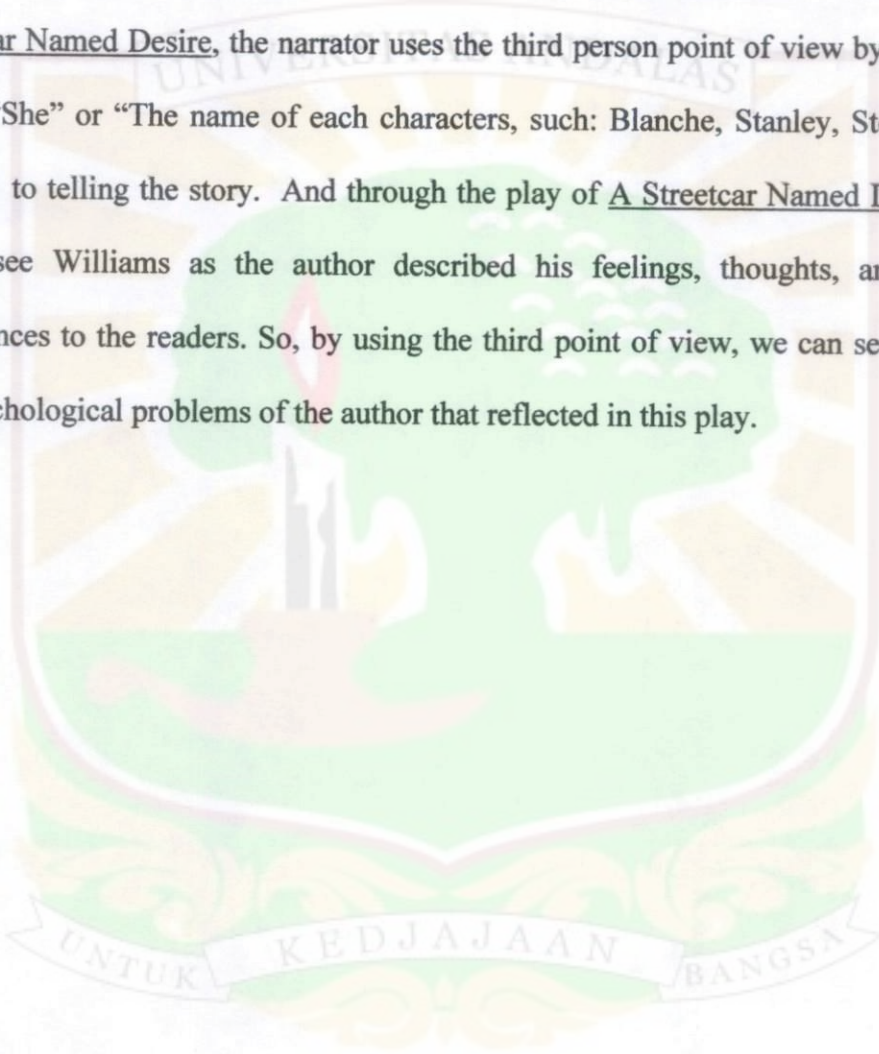
Stella is Blanche's sister and young wife of Stanley. She twenty five years old and a gentle young woman. She moved to New Orleans from Mississippi when she was young and fell in love with Stanley. She is pregnant during the course of the play and she is completely torn between her strong love for her husband and her devoted love to her sister.

Harold Mitchell

Mitch is one of Stanley's friends from the factory as well as one of his poker buddies. He is about thirty years old and he develops a romance with Blanche and believes her to be unique, beautiful, and proper. But he rejects

2.5 Point of View

Point of view is the position from which the story is told. According to Mario Klarer, the term point of view or narrative perspective, characterizes the way in which a text presents persons, events, and settings (20). In the play A Streetcar Named Desire, the narrator uses the third person point of view by using “He”, “She” or “The name of each characters, such: Blanche, Stanley, Stella or Mitch” to telling the story. And through the play of A Streetcar Named Desire, Tennessee Williams as the author described his feelings, thoughts, and his experiences to the readers. So, by using the third point of view, we can see how the psychological problems of the author that reflected in this play.



CHAPTER III

DEFENSE MECHANISMS TOWARD THE MAIN CHARACTER IN TENNESSEE WILLIAMS' A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

In this part of analysis, the writer analyzes the self defense mechanisms which are used by the main character to overcome her conflicts that comes to her life. Before analyzing the self defense mechanisms that the main character used, the writer wants to explain how the psychological conditions of the main character and the cause of her psychological conditions. Then, the writer quotes some statements from the play that supports the analysis.

3.1. The Psychological Conditions of Blanche Dubois

The writer finds some psychological conditions in the behavior of a twenty seven years old woman named Blanche Dubois, such: Phobia, hallucination, feeling of guilt, and psychosis.

3.1.1 Phobia

In this story Williams shows that there are some strange behavior and actions in Blanche Dubois' character, such as in scene one the writer finds that Blanche is afraid of the bright light. It can be seen from the quotation below:

She continues to laugh. Blanche comes around the corner, carrying a valise. She looks at a slip of paper, then at the building, then again at the slip and again at the building. Her expression is one of shocked disbelief. Her appearance is incongruous to this setting. She is daintily dressed in a white suit with a fluffy bodice, necklace and earrings of pearl, white gloves and hat, looking as if she were arriving at a summer tea or cocktail party in the garden district. She is about five years older than Stella. Her delicate beauty must avoid a strong light. There is something about her

uncertain manner, as well as her white clothes, that suggests a moth. (Scene 1, P 5).

As mention above, we can see that Blanche is scared of the bright light. This condition in psychology is called Phobia. Mandrake states that phobia is uncommon scare response to an object or certain situation that cannot be controlled (10). He adds that it is caused by traumatic experiences or the unpleasant situation which contain of scary feeling. The unpleasant situations are often store in human unconscious mind. These unpleasant memories are converted to fear after some repetition of same situation that make a person became phobic. And the kind of phobia that Blanche has is "photophobia" that is fear of light (<http://phobialist.com/>). Another resource that Blanche has photophobia is found in the dialogue between her and other character.

Mitch : Not Sunday afternoon. I've asked you to go out with me sometimes on Sundays but you always make an excuse. You never want to go out till after six and then it's always some place that's not lighted much.

Blanche : There is some obscure meaning in this but I fail to catch it.

Mitch : What I mean is I've never had a real good look at you, Blanche. Let's turn the light on here.
"Mitch crosses the switch. He turns the light on and stares at her. She cries out and covers her face. He turns the light off again". (Scene 9, P 145).

From the quotation above, we can see that she always avoid the light. It is shown when Mitch turn on the light and she cries out and cover her face with her hand. The writer assures that Blanche scares to stand in the bright light because she wants to manipulate the reality that happened in her life. She not believes that she not rich anymore and not lives in a permanent romantic glow like she first fell in love. Therefore, to make her feels comfortable, she always avoids the bright

light. And Blanche has photophobia is also caused by the death of her husband who commit suicide in the dance floor that has a strong light.

Then, another example that Blanche has photophobia, we can see from this quotation below:

Blanche : I bought this adorable little colored paper lantern at a Chinese shop on Bourbon. Put it over the light bulb! Will you, please?
 Mitch : Be glad to.
 Blanche : I can't stand a naked light bulb, any more than I can a rude remark or a vulgar action. (Scene 3, P 60)

From the statement above, that she bought a little colored paper lantern at a Chinese shop on Bourbon and asked Mitch to put it over the light bulb, because she cannot stand in bright light. And in scene 9, page 143 shows:

Blanche : What is in your mind? I see something in your eyes!
 Mitch : (getting up). It's dark in here.
 Blanche : I like it dark. The dark is comforting to me.
 Mitch : I don't think I ever seen you in the light. (Blanche laughs breathlessly) That's a fact!
 Blanche : Is it?

This quotation shows that she cannot stand in the light area and she prefers the dark. When Mitch told her that he never seen her in the light, she just laughs to Mitch and she does not care what Mitch says about her. From all the quotations above, the writer has assumption that this behavior is the indication of abnormality.

3.1.2 Hallucination

The second condition is hallucination. Blanche often and disturbed by the varsouviana music when she hears in her head. It is the music which often used by Blanche to dance with her husband when her husband still live. So, when she

hears that music, she always remembered her dead husband, Allan. Eventhough at the same time, Mitch who was talking to her did not hear anything, no music, no voice of shot that he hard:

- Blanche : something's the matter tonight, but never mind. I won't cross-examine the witness. I'll just-(she touches her forehead vaguely. The polka tune starts up again.)-pretend I don't notice anything different about you! That-music again...
- Mitch : What music?
- Blanche : The "Varsouviana"! The polka tune they were playing when Allan-Wait!
(A distant revolver shot is heard. Blanche seems relieved).
There now, the shot! It always stops after that.
(The polka music dies out again.)
- Mitch : Are you boxed out of mind? (Scene 9, P 141)

From the quotation above Blanche heard the music and the voice of a shot when Allan, her husband who committed suicide. While Mitch who was talking to her did not hear anything. In psychology this is called Hallucinations. In Encyclopedia Britannica (1974) hallucination is experiences that seem to originate when no external source of such stimulation appears. For example one's name is called by a voice that no one else seems to hear. This condition is classified into abnormality, because Blanche could not separate the imagination result of memory images and what she saw or heard as something real. She told Mitch about the music and voice of shot she hears as event or object is happening in reality, but Mitch does not hear anything.

In Blanche's hallucination, she hears the music that makes her remember her past experience when she was married to her loving husband, Allan. She cannot forget what happen to her husband, because she really loves him who gives the protection to herself. Blanche is dominated by Id, because the Id acts by

primitive intention or an attitude which cannot be accepted by the people. Blanche still considers that her husband still alive, but in fact, her husband has died and she cannot forget the death of her husband. In this case, the superego of Blanche cannot press her id appearing from unconscious to conscious or ego's place.

Blanche has tried to forget the death of her husband into unconsciousness, but there is a weakness of control from superego, so the hallucination that is out from unconscious could be out, and the result is Blanche can see and feel the death of her husband again through the voodoo music.

3.1.3. Feeling of Guilty.

The third condition of Blanche Dubois was feeling of guilty about her scandal in Laurel and to Dubois family because the lost of ancestral house "Belle Reve". This feeling is reflected in her behavior like often bathing and taking bath all afternoon. She said it is to calm her nerves, she spent all afternoon in New Orleans by taking long bath. We can see in:

- Stanley : What's all this stuff for?
 Stella : Honey, it's Blanche's birthday.
 Stanley : She here?
 Stella : In the bathroom.
 Stanley : (mimicking) "washing out some things"?
 Stella : I reckon so.
 Stanley : How long she been in there?
 Stella : All afternoon.
 Stanley : (mimicking) "Soaking in a hot tub"?
 Stella : Yes.
 Stanley : Temperature 100 on the nose, and she soaks herself in a hot tub.
 Stella : She says it cools her off for the evening.
 Stanley : And you run out an' get her cokes, I suppose?...(Scene 7, P 117-118)

This condition was not the cold season but the hot season, while Blanche spent her afternoon bathing in a hot tub. According to Freud in Fromm, state that behavior is doing by individual because the feeling of guilty, usually she cleans herself from the sins that she has done. She inclined to the action and attitude in order to clean herself. This problem actually do not free from social adjustment process.(60). It occurs when Superego of Blanche becomes very powerful and it is flooding her ego by the feeling of guilty or the feeling of shame. And in this play, Blanche clean herself from her sins that she has done by taking long bath in a hot tub, this condition indicated to abnormality.

3.1.4. Psychosis

The last psychological condition of Blanche Dubois was psychosis. She became psychosis after being raped by her brother in law. Her mental condition became unstable, she turns into madness. We can see it from this quotation below:

I can smell the sea air. The rest of my time I'm going to spend on the sea. And when I die, I'm going to die on the sea. You know what I shall die of? (She plucks a grape) I shall die of eating an unwashed grape one day out on the ocean. I will die-with my hand in the hand of some nice-looking ship's doctor, a very young one with a small blond mustache and a big silver watch. "Poor lady," they'll say, "the quinine did her no good. That unwashed grape has transported her soul to heaven." (The cathedral chimes are heard) And I'll be buried at sea sewn up in a clean white sack and dropped overboard-at noon-in the blaze of summer-and into an ocean as blue as (chimes again) my first lover's eyes! (Scene 11, P 170)

From this quotation we can see that Blanche believes that she is to leave New Orleans to go to the Caribbean cruise with one of her old beaux, Shep Huntleigh and she will spend the rest of her life on the sea. But it is will never happened in her life because Stella will send her to a mental intuition. According

to psychology, this condition indicated to abnormality and called psychosis. Psychosis is a loss of contact with reality, usually including false beliefs about what is taking place or who one is (delusion) and seeing or hearing things that are not there (Hallucination). ([http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/com/.](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/com/)) Psychosis is the psychological condition in which Id becomes very dominant. So, the pressures of superego to Id are reduced thoroughly. Therefore, all decisions of ego come from the Id pressures without superego intervention. A person with the psychosis condition actually cannot control her or himself consciously because the weakening of superego. They cannot differentiate between fantasy and reality.

Those conditions above which are found in Williams' play A Streetcar Named Desire are included as psychological problem. From the psychological problems above we can conclude that Blanche Dubois as the main character in this play cannot face the reality, but she just escapes from the reality by channeling her id into strange direction.

3.2 The Causes of Blanche's Psychological Conditions

In the Play A Streetcar Named Desire the writer finds the cause of Blanche's psychological conditions, why her behavior such Phobia, hallucination, feeling of guilt and psychosis appear in her life.

3.2.1. The Lost of Home Plantation (Parents and Relatives are Dead)

She lost her ancestral home “Belle Reve” and saw the death of the older generation and the end of the Dubois family fortune. It made her live unwealthy.

The writer find in:

- Stella : About-What?-Please!
- Blanche : (slowly) The loss-the loss...
- Stella : Belle Reve? Lost, is it? No!
- Blanche : Yes, Stella
- (They stare at each other across the yellow-checked linoleum of the table. Blanche slowly nods her head and Stella looks slowly down at her hands folded on the table. The music of the “blue piano” grows louder. Blanche touches her handkerchief to her forehead)
- Stella : But how did it go? What happened? (Scene 2, P 20-21)

The lost of her ancestral home “Belle Reve” made her life far from wealthy as her older generation life. She cannot do anything when she saw her ancestral home Belle Reve lost, and then:

- Blanche : I, I, I took the blows in my face and my body! All of those deaths! The long parade to the graveyard! Father, mother! Margaret, that dreadful way! So big with it, it couldn't be put in a coffin! But had to be burned like rubbish! You just came home in time for the funerals, Stella. And funerals are pretty compared to deaths. Funerals are quit, but deaths-not always. Sometimes their breathing is hoarse, and sometimes it rattles, and sometimes they even cry out to you, “Don't let me go!” Even the old...How in hell do you think all the sickness and dying was paid for? Death is expensive, Miss Stella! And old Cousin Jessie's right after Margaret's hers! Why, the Grim Reaper had put up his tent in our doorstep!...Stella, Belle Reve was his headquarters!.... Which of them left us a fortune? Which of them left a cent of insurance even? Only poor Jessie-one hundred to pay for her coffin. That was all, Stella! And I with my pitiful salary at the school....(Scene 1, P 21-22).

After the lost of her ancestral home “Belle Reve”, she saw how her parents and her relatives died. She had to burn them like rubbish because they could not be put in a coffin. Stella leaves her without any news from her, so she has to handle what happen in her ancestral home by herself. Then in her life Blanche dwelled in fantasy that primary means of self defense. She defended herself from the weakness and her inability to confront the truth head on. She lived in a fantasy by acting still as a noble and denied the reality. We can see it in scene 1, P 5:

Her expression is one of shocked disbelief. Her appearace is incongruous to this setting. She is daintily dressed in a white suit with a fluffy bodice, necklace and earrings of pearl, white gloves and that, looking as if she were arriving at a summer tea or cocktail party in the garden district.

From the quotation above, we can see that Blanche could not face the reality. She has lost her plantation and her ancestral house “Belle Reve”, means that she did not have anything and became poor but she cannot face that, so she still act like a noble. She was really surprised and did not believe that her sister lived in small apartment which is very different from her house before.

So, to protect herself from the tragedy, she has a fantasy that she had endured.:

Blanche : Well, I did. I took the trip as an investment, thinking I'd meet someone with a million dollars.
 Stella : Did you?
 Blanche : Yes. I ran into Shep Huntleigh- I ran into him on Biscayne Boulevard, on Christmas Eve, about dusk...getting into his car-Cadillac convertible; must have been a block long!
 Stella : I should think it would have been-inconvenient in traffic!
 Blanche : You've heard of oil-wells?
 Stella : Yes-remotely.
 Blanche : He has them, all over Texas. Texas is literally spouting gold in his pockets.

As the quotation above, we can see that in Blanche fantasy, she create her boy friend Shep Huntleigh the Texas Oil Millionaire. Her wishes, fantasy that she went with him during the Christmas holiday.

3.2.2 The Death of Her Loving Husband

When she was a teenager she married a young boy whom she fell to. The boy turned out to be depressive and homosexual. Not long after her married, Blanche has suffered through the death of her loving husband. He committed suicide and she saw her loving husband's death. We can see it in the quotation below:

I ran out-all did!-all ran and gathered about the terrible thing at the edge of the lake! I couldn't get near for the crowding. Then somebody caught my arm. "Don't go any closer! Come back! You don't want to see!" See? See what! Then I heard voices say- Allan! Allan! The Grey boy! He'd stuck the resolver into his mouth, and fired- so that the back of his head had been-blown away! (Scene 6, P 115).

That incident was the traumatic experience in Blanche life. She is always disturbed by "Varsouviana" music and voice of shot. It made her constantly hallucinate when hearing it. It also made phobia because there was a strong light in the dance floor where her loving husband committed suicide. In other word it can be said that she got fails in her marriage.

3.2.3. Raped by Her Brother in Law

She moved to New Orleans after she lost her job. In seeking for protection and shelter, she goes to her sister's apartment. But there was Stanley, Stella's husband who was angry to Blanche because she was calling him an ape-like and

primitive and always forced Stella to leave him. At last, reveals all Blanche's lies and rape her. As seen in scene 10, P 161-162:

Stanley : What are you putting on now?
(They are now both inside the bedroom.)

Blanche : I warn you, don't, I'm in danger!
(He takes another step. She smashes a bottle on the table and faces him, clutching the broken top.)

Stanley : What did you do that for?

Blanche : So I could twist the broken end in your face!

Stanley : I bet you would do that!

Blanche : I would! I will if you—

Stanley : Oh! So you want some rough- house! All right, let's have some rough-house!
(He springs toward her, overturning the table. She cries out and strikes at him with the bottle top but he catches her wrist.)
Tiger-tiger! Drop the bottle- top! Drop it! We've had this date with each other from the beginning!
(She moans. The bottle-top falls. She sinks to her knees. He picks up her inert figure and carries her to the bed. The hot trumpet and drums from the Four Deuces sound loudly.)

Stanley has the chance to get near Blanche because there is nobody else at home, there are only both of them. Stanley used this chance to rape Blanche in the bedroom. Blanche tries to fight back but she is just a woman and Stanley is stronger than she is. And she could not do anything when Stanley raped her.

3.2.4. Scandal in Laurel

She was involved in prostitution while she staged at the second class hotel named Flamingo in Laurel. At this hotel, she fulfills her desire with a stranger by seeking companionship and protection in arms of stranger:

Stanley : Our supply-man down at the plant has been going through Laurel for years and he knows all about her and everybody else in the town of Laurel knows all about her. She is as famous in Laurel as if she was the President of the United

- States, only she is not respected by any party! This supply-man stops at a hotel called the Flamingo.
- Blanche : (singing blithely) "Say, it's only a paper moon, sailing over a cardboard sea-But it wouldn't be make-believed in me!"
- Stella : What about the -Flamingo?
- Stanley : She stayed there, too.
- Stella : My sister lived at Belle Reve.
- Stanley : This is after the home-place had slipped through her lily-white fingers! She moved to the Flamingo! A second class hotel which has the advantages of not interfering in the private social life of the personalities there! The Flamingo is used to all kinds of going-on. But even the management of the Flamingo was impressed by Dame Blanche! In fact they was so impressed by Dame Blanche that they requested her to turn in the room-key-for permanently! This happened a couple of weeks before she showed here. (Scene 7, P 119-120).

Everybody knows Blanche, she was very famous in Laurel. When she was involved in prostitution at the hotel, the management of the hotel was impressed by her. This was the place for all kinds of going-on. And worst, she gets in scandal at the hotel with a seventeen year old boy. Because of her scandal, she was fired from her job as a teacher and community forced her to leave Laurel town.

- Blanche : I don't want to hear any more!
- Stanley : She's not going back to teach school! In fact I am willing to bet you that she never had no idea of returning to Laurel! She didn't resign temporarily from the high school because of her nerves! No, siree, Bob! She didn't. They kicked her out of that high school before the spring term ended-and I hate to tell you the reason that step was taken! A seventeen-year-old-boy-she'd gotten mixed up with! (Scene 7, P 122)

From the causes of the psychological problems above, the writer has assumption that the fourth criteria is the main cause of psychological problem that faced by Blanche. Stress comes to her life because of social and psychological

factor. The sources or types of stress that faced by Blanche comes from frustration, conflict, and pressure. According to Coleman Frustration occurs when one's striving are thwarted either by obstacles that block progress toward a desire goal or by absence of an appropriate goal (123). A wide range of obstacles both environmental and internal can lead Blanche to frustration. Approach-avoidance conflict also involve Blanche in strong tendencies both to approach the apartment of Stella for looking protection and shelter, but there was Stanley, the one who must be avoided. While, getting pressure by society that relate to Blanche's life in Laurel and New Orleans also lead her stress and the problem in her psychology.

3.3. Types of Defense Mechanisms

In analyzing the play, the writer finds some ego defense mechanisms that used by Blanche Dubois to reduce her tension and anxiety. According to Sigmund Freud, by referring from book Linda. L. Davidoff said that, "to protect themselves, people used mental tactics unconsciously to falsify and distort threatening experiences, impulses, conflicts and ideas." (454). In addition, from Teori Kepribadian Sigmund Freud by Ferdinand Zaviera (98):

Ego berusaha sekuat mungkin menjaga kestabilan hubungannya dengan realitas id, dan superego. Namun ketika kecemasan itu begitu menguasai, ego harus berusaha mempertahankan diri. Secara tidak sadar, dia akan bertahan dengan cara memblokir seluruh dorongan atau dengan menciutkan dorongan-dorongan tersebut menjadi wujud yang dapat diterima dan tidak terlalu mengancam.

Ego strives to stabilize the relationships of id and superego. Nevertheless, when the anxiety is very powerful, ego has to try to defense itself. Unconsciously, it will defense by blocking all pressures or by reducing it into acceptable form.

Based on the quotation above, Freud clearly states that self defense mechanism used by a person or group to cope with the reality or to maintain self-image. Self defense mechanism occurs unconsciously and work to distort reality, and to reduce anxiety and also allows us to function normally.

The writer assumes that the way Blanche escapes herself toward her problem and her anxiety is a kind of self defense mechanisms, but here the writer only focus on the kinds of self defense mechanisms that proposed by Sigmund Freud, they are fantasy, denial of reality, and regression.

3.3.1. Fantasy

Blanche defense herself from her weakness and inability to confront the true head by fantasy. In Introduction to Psychology by Linda L Davidoff, "people achieve goals and escape unpleasant, anxiety-arousing and frustrating event but fantasizing about what might have been. Human beings who daydream a great deal sometimes find their own creations more appealing than reality and withdraw from active life." (455). Fantasy popularly imagination or daydreaming, the process usually unconscious, whereby repressed wishes are gratified indirectly. From this quotation, the writer finds that this problem also occurs to Blanche. Blanche told thing not as it was, but she want ought to be. She always lied to the people around her including to her sister, Stella:

- Stella : What are you laughing at, honey?
 Blanche : Myself, myself, for being such a liar! I'm writing a letter to Shep. (She picks up the letter) "Darling Shep. I am spending the summer on the wing, making flying visits here and there. And who knows, perhaps I shall take a sudden notion to swoop down on Dallas! How would you feel

about that? Ha-ha! (She laughs nervously and brightly touching her throat as if actually talking to Shep) Forewarned is forearmed, as they say!"- How does that sound?

Stella : Uh-huh...

Blanche : (going on nervously): "Most of my sister's friends go north in the summer but some have homes on the Gulf and there has been a continued round of entertainments, teas, cocktails, and luncheons-" (Scene 5, P 85)

From the quotation above the writer notice that Blanche was in fantasy, she told the event that did not happen in real world, but ought to be happen. She cannot face the reality that she was not rich anymore, no boyfriend, and no husband anymore. Then, her thought is controlled by the wishes and motives to fantasy, in order to fulfill her desire (the Id) that undiscovered in the reality. Fantasy is one of ego defense mechanism, it arises because the id impulse that does not appear in the world. It's function to reduce tension or anxiety of individual.

She also has the fantasy that Mitch will marry her. It can be seen in Scene 10, P 156 when she speaks to Stanley, her brother in law:

Blanche : Yes swine! Swine! And I'm thinking not only of you but of your friend, Mr. Mitchell. He came to see me tonight. He dared to come here in his work-clothes! And to repeat slander to me, vicious stories that he had gotten from you! I gave him his walking papers...

Stanley : You did, huh?

Blanche : But then he came back. He returned with a box of roses to beg my forgiveness! He implored my forgiveness...

This fantasy occurred because the truth was not like that. The reality, Mitch came to reject her that night. He never came back with a box of roses to beg her forgiveness.

- Blanche : What do you want?
 Mitch : (fumbling to embrace her). What I been missing all summer.
 Blanche : then marry me, Mitch!
 Mitch : I don't think I want to marry you anymore.
 Blanche : No? (Scene 9, P 149-150)

From this quotation is clear that Mitch does not want married with Blanche, but she wants it ought to be happen in her life. That leads her to the fantasy that Mitch will marry her, in fact, it never happened in her life. Mitch leaves her and never came back to her.

3.3.2. Denial of reality

The second ego defense mechanism in Blanche's behavior was denial of reality. This self defense mechanism, the writer see in Blanche's behavior which refusing the reality of her life, she cannot face that she was not rich anymore because in this play, Blanche family was a rich family which had a big plantation and house named Belle Reve. Economic factor was not a problem for her. But, when the Dubois family has been decay that began with the death of Blanche's parents and her relatives, Blanche became alone. She managed her inheritance alone. Then, after her sister, Stella goes to New Orleans. The plantation "Belle Reve" was lost, because Blanche was unable to manage it, then her life became poor. But she always acting like a rich person, the way of her life still likes a noble woman, although that was not her position anymore. This condition was so different from Stella. She took the destiny that she faced. She acted just like a lower middle class and lived in apartment where the lower middle class were living.

According to Freud denial of reality is when people deny reality, they ignore or refuse to acknowledge the existence of unpleasant experiences (of which they are fully aware) to protect themselves. Denial, as it usually abbreviated, always involves self-deception. A great deal of research, suggest that this strategy is a common one (Davidoff, 455). Denial of reality is the defensive appears at least temporarily, to provide insulting from the full impact of the traumatic situation. For example an individual may experience the feeling that this isn't really happening to me. In the play this action quotes in previous paragraph:

- Blanche : You hear me? I said stand up! (Stella complies reluctantly) You messy child, you, you've spilt something on that pretty white lace collar! About your hair—you ought to have it cut in a teather bob with your dainty features. Stella, you have a maid, don't you?
- Stella : No. With only two rooms it's—
- Blanche : What? Two rooms, did you say?
- Stella : This one and-(She is embarrassed.)
- Blanche : The other one? (She laughs sharply. There is an embarrassed silence.)
- Blanche : I am going to take just one little tiny nip more, sort of to put the stopper on, so to speak...Then put the bottle away so I won't be tempted. (She rises) I want you to look at my figure! (She turns around) You know I haven't put on one ounce in ten years, Stella? I weigh what I weighed the summer you left Belle Reve. The summer Dad died and you left us....(Scene 1, P 15).

From this quotation above it show that she cannot face that she was not rich anymore, she blames herself for the lost of her ancestral house "Belle Reve". If she can handle it, of course her sister will not live in a small and smelly apartment, of course she will not leave her and married a poor person.

3.3.4. Regression

The last ego defense mechanism in Blanche's behavior is regression. According to Freud regression is sometimes people confront stresses by returning to modes of behavior that are characteristic of younger ages. Regression may be employed because it offers an escape, returning to past conditions of love and security, or the person who uses regression may not have learned more effective responses to the problem and may be trying deliberately to attract attention. (Davidoff, 451)

From this quotation we can assume that regression is a defense mechanism in which one returns to the use of the reaction patterns long since outgrown, for example a man who lost his job or get fail in his love, he looks for the pleasure by drinking alcohol. Another example in Williams' play as Blanche condition.

- Blanche : ...This crashing around in the dark is my search for some liquor.
- Mitch : You want a drink?
- Blanche : I want you to have a drink! You have been so anxious and solemn all evening, and so have I; we have both been anxious and solemn and now for these few last remaining moments of our lives together- I want to create-*joie de vivre!* I'm lighting a candle. (Scene 6, P 103-104).

As the quotation above, we can see that after she lost her ancestral house "Belle Reve", lost her job as a teacher and she also lost her loving husband. She turns in looks for pleasure by drinking alcohol.

As we know that in this play, Blanche comes from the society which respected her, because she was a member of a noble family. When her family died, of course there was not much respect from the society as she usually gains. This condition must be painful for her soul. Then, to continuing her life, she tried to be a teacher of a high school in Laurel. But, the salary is not enough to fulfill her glamorous needs. Then she became a prostitute to make more money, and she had a sex scandal with 17 years old boy. This scandal made her to be fired from her job as a teacher, she was also forced by the society to leave the town. Then, she tried to find a shelter in her sister's apartment, but at Stella apartment where the lower middle class live in New Orleans, she acted like a noble, and forced Stella to leave her husband and her apartment. "Why, that you had to live in these condition" (Scene I, P.12). This action, of course is not liked by the people who lived there. And bad response from the society especially Stanley, he has no patience for Blanche and the last he raped her.

Based on the sequences above, we can see that Blanche lived in a worst circumstance of live. She lived in very bad conditions that she never imagines before. So, to protect herself, she looks for the pleasure by drinking alcohol. We can find this behavior in this play. Almost in her appearance of the dialogue, she never gets away from alcohol.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

After analyzing Tennessee Williams' A Streetcar Named Desire, the writer gets full description of kinds of self defense mechanisms that is presented by Williams in his play. The main character in this play (Blanche Dubois) has tragic experience in her life that lead her into strange behavior, such us often talking lie, afraid to stand under the bright light, often bath even the season is hot soaks her body long time in the tub. All the strange behaviors of Blanche were the reflection of her psychological condition such: phobia, hallucination, feeling of guilty, and psychosis.

The causes of Blanche strange behavior came from her life background, such us: lots of her ancestral home, the death of her husband, losing her job, and raped by her brother in law. She tries to forget what happened in her life, but she cannot remove those all from her mind. Therefore, to overcome her conflicts Blanche seems to uses the self defense mechanisms to reduce her anxiety and to make her three psychic zones (id, ego, and superego) in balance. The self defense mechanisms that she uses are fantasy, denial of reality, projection, and regression.

Fantasy used by Blanche when she cannot face the reality that she was no boy friend and no husband anymore. Blanche told thing not as it was, but she wanted ought to be, such have a rich boy friend and have a trip with him during the Christmas holiday, and she has the fantasy that Mitch will marry her. Blanche

uses this defense mechanism in order to fulfill her desire that undiscovered in the reality. It is to reduce the anxiety because of the problem.

Blanche also uses denial of reality as self defense. She uses it when she refuses the reality which happens in her life that she was not rich anymore. Therefore, she always acting like a rich person, the way of her life still likes a noble, although she got the wealth by prostitution. She uses denial of reality in order to defense her life from her weakness to confront the truth and to reduce the anxiety. Then Blanche uses projection as self defense because she have a strong dislike for Stanley (her brother in law), and she believe that Stanley does not like her too. And the last, regression, she uses it to reduce her disappointment or anxiety because of the lost of her ancestral home, the lost of her job, and the lost of her loving husband that leads her to looks the pleasure by drinking alcohol.

By analyzing the play A Streetcar Named Desire from psychological aspects of Blanche, the writer finds out that the past memory become one thing that most influential thing in Blanche life. It influence of a whole life of Blanche as we can see in this play. The traumatic experience of Blanche became psychological problem that disturbed the stability of Blanche's id, ego, and superego. This disturbance triggers the strange behavior that turns her into madness.

Finally, the analysis in this writing focuses on the psychological problem and the self defense mechanisms of the main character in Tennessee Williams A Streetcar Named Desire. However, there are more possible things that could be analyzed in this play. Therefore, the writer suggests the other researchers in the

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