

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Background of the Research

One of the advantages of studying literature is to understand character's psychology. Literature and psychology have a solid connection because they deal with humans, perceptions, souls, fears, conflicts, and others. Psychoanalytic criticism, which is always related to the character, functions as a symbol of several figures to show the way of life. Meanwhile, readers can identify themselves with characters who might be considered as a real person, too, as Wellek and Warren state: "People may model their lives upon the patterns of fictional heroes and heroines" (102). In other words, in the fictitious character's problem, readers might probably see issues of real life.

There are many common psychological problems that we see in society today. One of these is narcissistic behavior, well portrayed in Oscar Wilde's famous novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and by John Maxwell Coetzee called *Disgrace*. *The Picture of Dorian Gray* tells about a man named Dorian Gray who is obsessed with his own existence. This obsession is caused by Basil Hallward, a painter who is indeed very obsessed with the good look and charm of Dorian Gray. He assumes that his art in painting is very dependent on the good look possessed by Dorian Gray. Over time, Gray also realizes that he could not be forever young and handsome; there would be a time when he will become wrinkled and unattractive. Therefore, he would do anything to keep looking good as painted by Basil Hallward. The story evidently proves that Dorian Gray suffers from a personality

disorder called narcissism, which, in simple words, means that he adores himself too much.

Likewise, the second novel, *Disgrace* by Coetzee, brings the issue of personality problems to its main character, namely David Lurie. He is an English Professor who comes from South Africa who loses everything because of a mistake he made due to his narcissistic personality. At the age of half a century, which is 52 years, he did all his bad deeds. This causes destruction and the lack of respect from others to him. The character of Lurie in the novel is assumed by the author as a man who is psychologically incapable of behaving respectfully towards his environment and social life.

Lately, many people seem to consider narcissism as a normal thing when in fact it can be classified as a disorder called Narcissistic Personality Disorder (NPD). A study has shown that narcissism is associated with the inability of a personality to accept criticism. Narcissism as a personality disorder is being described as “bound to be aggressive towards criticism or threats that come their way. Apart from that, anger, humiliation, and violence are also attitudes shown by narcissism” (Ronningstam 277-327). Narcissism is usually depicted by individuals who have tendencies to love their-self and ask for admiration and praise from others. People who love themselves too much are called narcissists. Campbell (in Myers) says that a narcissist usually has high self-esteem; however, they lack empathy for others. Although narcissist is often considered friendly and charming, over time the centrality that is within them often cause social relations problems or problems with other people (2012).

When a person has a very high self-confidence about their personal interests and a sense of wanting to be admired, that is narcissism. Someone who is suffering from narcissistic personality disorder usually has emotional problem; they like to pretend, being antisocial and sometimes dramatist. They tend to be arrogant and constantly expect praise from others. They will boast and overstate the achievements. According to Emma-Shivani Brown, “when someone is better than them, the narcissistic person will feel very anxious and insecure” (105).

According to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (American Psychiatric Association 1994), “narcissism is described with a sense of self-interest or self-importance and excessive uniqueness, self-entitlement, infatuated to be admired by many people, exploitative tendencies toward others, lack of empathy, and arrogance”. Narcissists are really motivated to defend their own-self and others’ perceptions about them as elevated and superior beings.

The main cause of narcissistic personality disorder is actually unknown. Like other mental disorders, the cause must be very complex. A dysfunctional childhood may have a correlation with narcissistic personality disorder. This dysfunctional factor could be caused by parents who spoil their children too much, have high expectations of children, cruel treatment of children, or children are often ignored by parents (Wetzel & Robins 2016). Actually, there are genetic factors that shape narcissistic behavior. That is because there is a relationship between the brains with behavior of the children itself and the ability to think that plays a role in the development of narcissistic personality disorders.

In accordance with Oscar Wilde's novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and Coetzee's novel *Disgrace*, the writer is interested to explore the portrait of two narcissistic male main characters in these two novels. Thus, this research aims to analyze psychoanalytical disorders in Wilde and Coetzee's novels. Psychoanalytical disorder is an "...ongoing pattern of thoughts, feelings or actions that are deviant, distressful and dysfunctional" (Comer 2004). Therefore, learning about things related to psychoanalytical disorders and characters in the novel will produce a good understanding about the character and the theme of the novel. It will also improve the readers' understanding of human personality in general. Examining Dorian Gray's and David Lurie's personality from psychoanalytical perspective, therefore, will increase the readers' understanding of human's psychology and their possible psychoanalytical problems.

1.2. The Identification of Problems

The Picture of Dorian Gray and *Disgrace* are two novels that present narcissistic male characters. Dorian Gray and David Lurie are two male main characters from each novel which are assumed to have the inability to behave properly due to their narcissistic personality disorder. Gray's personality changes when he knows about aesthetic value and he considers that the bad things are always unpleasant while the beauty is the most important one. Similar with Gray, Lurie also seems to have this mental disorder, that is because he is unable to withstand the worldly desires that befall him.

The narcissistic personality disorder suffered by these two male main characters surely caused by certain reasons. The causes might come earlier when

they were younger. Additionally, this kind of problem are usually rooted in the demanding work of Id against superego. Examining the works of their Id, ego and superego of Gray and Lurie, the writer believes she can explain the causes and effects of narcissistic personality disorder of both these characters.

1.3. The Scope of Research

The writer limits the research's scope to avoid too broad analysis. In this thesis, the writer uses the psychoanalytic approach (Sigmund Freud 1856) to analyze the issue, which is narcissism; that is depicted through Dorian Gray and David Lurie. Additionally, the writer analyzes how the portrait of two narcissistic men is formed in the novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *Disgrace*: what may be the causes, and how it affects their lives.

1.4. The Research Questions

The research questions that the writer investigates are:

1. What are the causes of narcissism suffered by Dorian Gray and David Lurie?
2. How do Dorian Gray in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and David Lurie in *Disgrace* represent the symptoms of two Narcissists' men in their characterization?
3. How does the narcissism effect their lives?

1.5. The Objective of Research

This research aims to examine two narcissistic men, which are Dorian Gray and David Lurie, the main male characters in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and

Disgrace. The explanation covers the causes, the symptoms and effects of narcissism toward both male characters. People who suffer from a psychoanalytical disorder named narcissism usually show an attitude that is excessive admiration toward them. Many people consider it normal whereas this kind of attitude can actually cause harm to others. The writer hopes this thesis be useful for other researchers and readers and can enrich the literary research about psychoanalytic literary analysis. Additionally, the writer really hopes that this research will provide an understanding of human psychology, especially about narcissistic personality disorder of men.

1.6. The Review of Previous Study

While doing this research, the writer has read many other researchers' discussion about this Wilde and Coetzee's novel. Reviewing previous studies is essential for conducting legitimate research. This is also useful to support the author's opinion, proving that this research is original, and this research does not imitate existing research.

The first research is a thesis about Wilde's novel written by Aisya Rizka Naratri entitled "Psychological Conflict of Dorian Gray in the Novel Entitled *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde" (2015). The result of her analysis refers to the main character, Dorian Gray, who tries to escape from his anxiety. The researcher assumes that the anxiety comes from the conflict from Gray's id, ego, and super-ego. In this thesis, the researcher mostly talks about the psychological aspects of Dorian Gray which is in the super-ego conflict. The researcher does not explain clearly how the id, ego, and superego influence the psychological conflict itself to

Gray. Meanwhile, the super-ego influenced by Lord Henry Wotton has stronger affects in Gray that is the beauty of mind. Wotton clearly takes advantage of the innocence of Gray's mind by giving the negative things to Gray. From this research, the writer can take a few references related to the causes of narcissism suffered by Dorian Gray. This research has contributions in strengthening the idea of the writer in conducting this analysis that indeed, there is an issue of psychological conflict.

The second research is an article from Yan Zhang entitled "From Self-Identification to Self-Destruction: A Mirror Image Interpretation of Dorian Gray's Psychic Transformation" (2016). His research aims to analyze the critical mirrors in the process of Gray's transformation based on Lagan's theory so that the understanding the protagonist can be expanded. The researcher uses Lacanian Theory and assumes that Gray is unable to find his true self and has to terminate himself. This happens because he is unable to escape from the influence of others and it also causes him fails to become an independent person. This research seems to be very helpful for the author in analyzing the causes of narcissism that exist in Dorian Gray. However, the weakness of this research is that some of the statements given are not equipped with the references from experts. This article has a major contribution to this thesis, because the main topic of this is narcissism.

The third research is the article from EHUD BODNER and AMIT SHRIRA entitled "Anxieties about Aging and Death and Psychological Distress: The Protective Role of Emotional Complexity" (2015). This article tells the reader that the anxiety generated in a character is usually influenced by their living environment. The personality problem shown by Dorian Gray is certainly caused by other figures who

always praise Gray's good looks. There are various forms of reaction from anxiety to psychological stress, such as depression, abuse of drugs, and excessive drinking of alcohol (Strachan et al. 2007). In the second chapter of *The Picture of Dorian Gray* novel, the writer finds that Gray feels depressed about his youthful beauty to be withered and faded with age. This article is very complete and helpful for the writer to analyze the effect of psychological disorders produced by Dorian Gray and David Lurie in dealing with personality problems reflected to this novel by Oscar Wilde and J.M. Coetzee.

The fourth research is the article from Francoise Neau entitled "The Mass and Powerlessness" (2012), published in the *Journal of Psychoanalytic Studies Paris Diderot* at Sorbonne Paris Cite University. This article discusses David Lurie's life journey at *Disgrace* who refrains from society. After the arguments and opinions of the authors are written very well, it is concluded that this article discusses how David Lurie's life journey at *Disgrace* in restraint of society. This article states that David Lurie's life is problematic due to the freedom he never had in his society. This article shows how the Freudian Theory of mass and the unity of certain behavioral acts affects psychological problems in David Lurie. This article will be used to assist with research remains in a certain scope even though many factors of non-psychology are related strengthen the arguments in this study.

The fifth research is an article from Jessica Yakeley entitled "Understanding of Narcissism and Narcissistic Personality Disorder" (2018). Her research focuses on reviewing the concept of narcissism and why Narcissistic Personality Disorder (NPD) can occur in person. According to her article, this article discusses historical

contributions to conceptualization of narcissism and Narcissistic Personality Disorder (NPD), which also includes the evolution as a clinical diagnosis in the DSM classification of mental disorders. Additionally, narcissism is a result of the ego that is owned by someone because of changes in the economic and social society (Adorno: 67-80). The weakness of this article is the lack of explanation of the effects that occur in someone if diagnosed with narcissism. This article contributes greatly to the author, because the main topic of this research is narcissism. The topic raised by the author really needs the concept of narcissism, and the beginning of how narcissism can happen; all of these things are presented by articles written by Yakeley. However, this research certainly has a difference with the article. The author will analyze the psychoanalytical disorder that affects their lives from the two male main characters in two different novels.

Although there have been many articles discussing narcissism in characters in novels, most of these studies only discuss the causes of narcissism in general. In this thesis, the author analyzes how narcissism can happen to most men, how the symptoms are, and how narcissism affects their lives.

1.7. Theoretical Framework

The correlation between the characterizations and psychoanalytical disorders of Dorian Gray and David Lurie can be seen using a psychological approach. Currently, the development of psychoanalysis in literature has been very useful throughout history. As the root of the concept of psychoanalytic theory, Sigmund Freud through Freudian is a role model for all those who will analyze the theory. Through this theory the writer will analyze Narcissistic personality of male main

characters in Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and John Maxwell Coetzee's *Disgrace*.

1.7.1. Psychoanalytic Criticism

Psychoanalytic criticism deals with “the characters, who serve as the symbols of the world and existence to be presented as exemplary figures to expose the meaning of life” (Aras 252). Readers often feel that the characters mentioned in the novel are themselves. Because it could be that the storyline described in the novel also occurs in real life. “The creation of characters may be supposed to blend, in varying degrees, inherited literary types, persons observed, and the self Characters in plays and novels are judged by us to be ‘psychologically’ true. Situations are praised and plots accepted because of this same quality. Sometimes a psychological theory, held either consciously or dimly by an author, seems to fit a figure or a situation” (Wellek & Warren 1963: 89-91).

In term of psychology as a field of study, Hjelle & Ziegler (1992) say that “psychology consists of three elements; theory of personality and psychopathology, a method of therapy for personality disturbance, and a technique for investigating an individual's unconscious thoughts and feeling (86). Psychoanalysis represents changing values in the society and do the role in the changing of these values. Other than that, Murfin and Ray argue that psychoanalytic criticism adopts the methods of "reading" employed by Freud and later theorists to interpret what a text really indicates (11). Then, psychoanalytic critics often focus on problems or conflicts that occur in a novel. The goal is to find out what the background of the author's life is,

and whether there is any trauma that has caused this to happen to the characters in the novel.

1.7.2. Structure of Personality

The founder of psychoanalytic theory is Sigmund Freud. The writer assumes that the theory is mandatory and very helpful to conduct the analysis about the personality of Dorian Gray and David Lurie. Theory of psychoanalysis is particularly based on the concept that personality is composed of three major systems; the id, ego, and superego. According to Hall and Gardner, theory of psychoanalysis is “the personality, for Freud, consist of three major systems: the id, ego, and superego, the voice of conscience, and the ego rational thinking” (1985:33).

a. The Id: Legislator of Personality

Id is the most basic system of personality, which is the components that arise from birth, aspects of the personality that is fully aware, including those of instinctive and primitive behavior. Id is also pushed by the principle of pleasure for immediate satisfaction of all wants and needs, desire of pleasure and tries to prevent the pain. That is why; Freud calls the id as “the pleasure principle” (In Feist 1985:25). Likewise, id is a basic function that is owned by humans, which are selfish, unrealistic, and its main goal is to get as much pleasure (or so-called pleasure principle) regardless of the consequences or morality. This id is in the human’s subconscious.

b. The Ego: The Executive of Personality

Feist quoted Freud says that, the ego is “the region of the mind in contact with reality” (25). 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 encouragement of the id can be expressed in an acceptable way in the real world. The ego functions well in the conscious, unconscious, and unconscious mind. The ego works on the principle of reality, which seeks to satisfy the desires of the id in ways that are realistic and socially appropriate. The principle of reality weighs the costs and benefits of an action before deciding to act on or leave impulses. In many cases, the id's impulses can be fulfilled through the process of delaying satisfaction - the ego will ultimately allow behavior, but only in the right time and place. Freud calls ego as “the executive of the personality” (25).

c. The Superego: Judicial of the Personality

Still Feist quoted Freud claims that the superego is “.... the moral or ethical province of the personality” (26). It functions to specify whether what the human being does is wrong or right, moral or amoral, and bad or good. Superego is the last component to develop personality. Superego is the third function of humans, which is idealistic. The ultimate goal is to curb the will of the id and force the ego to act in accordance with moral principles. Superego is partly in the conscious and partly in the subconscious. The three part of personality are really related one another,

which is in the making of human's behavior and creating personality. The Ego comes from Id and Superego comes from Ego. These three factors will influence each other and make a unity all the time throughout human's life.

According to McLean, "the main characteristics of Narcissistic Personality Disorder (NPD) are the need for and dependence on admiration, as well as a lack of empathy" (40-47). This kind of behavior will lead a narcissist to self-destruction. Often times such people feel that they already have a superior spirit and like to look down on others. However, this also shows that behind these bad qualities there is a feeling of inadequacy and low self-esteem of a narcissist. There are so many theories about the causes of NPD. But in the whole theory, McLean states "often parental factors arise, for example, the excessive admiration that parents give to their children" (40-47). In addition, the lack of concern by parents for children is also the reason someone can become a narcissist.

1.8. The Methods of Research

Research design is the basis for conducting research. In addition, the research design also provides clearer guidelines for researchers in conducting their research. Experts have different views on research design; therefore the author cites one of the definitions of research design from experts. According to Babbie, "Research design is a plan that involves a set of decisions regarding what topic is to be studied among which population with which research methods for what purpose" (112).

Being able to answer research problems is the main goal of the research design. The research design is also useful for testing the conclusions of research results. In this research, the writer used qualitative approach because the research conducted

by the author is based on written analysis on various materials. Blaxter stated from his book *How to Research* that “qualitative research is one of types of research that deals with collecting and analyzing data in a form of non-numeric” (65).

1.8.1. Collecting Data

Basically, data is a collection of information or information about something that is obtained by observing or searching certain sources. The data obtained can become an assumption or fact because it has not been processed further. After being processed through research or experiment, the data can be a more complex form such as information or solutions to solve certain problems.

The method used in collecting data is library research method to collect two kinds of data; primary data and secondary data. *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde and *Disgrace* by J. M. Coetzee are the source of the primary data and the secondary data are from the other materials, supporting books, journal articles, internet web page which is focused on psychological approach, and any related sources.

The process of collecting regular observations or measurements is the definition of data collection. In this study, the authors obtained data from reading the novel entitled *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *Disgrace*. The data will be taken from the novel in question and will be used as information by the author to analyze this research. The information obtained from the data will be collected and aims to solve the problems in the research.

The steps of collecting data are described below:

1. Reading and understanding *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *Disgrace*.
2. Choosing the data dealing with cohesive device are used *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *Disgrace*.
3. Selecting the data dealing with the purpose of the study.

1.8.2. Analyzing Data

According to LeCompte and Schensul, “Research data analysis is a process used by researchers for reducing data to a story and interpreting it to derive insights” (146-154). The purpose of analyzing data is to streamline the research and answer research problems or research questions, after all the data and information collected, then the authors analyze them regularly. In order to make it systematic, the writer conducted the analysis through some steps as follow:

1. Reading and understanding *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *Disgrace*.
2. Defining it to find cohesive device are used *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *Disgrace*.
3. Finding out the theme cohesive device are used *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *Disgrace*.
4. Make conclusion based on the analyzed data.

In this research, the writer used a descriptive method. According to Glass and Hopkins (1984), “descriptive research involves gathering data that describe events and then organizes, tabulates, depicts, and describes the data collection”. The writer needs to read the novel intensively so the writer can understand the whole novel. Furthermore, the writer of this research already started noting the important description and dialogue, which indicates the building of analysis.

1.8.3. Presentation

After analyzing the data and conducting further research, the last step is presenting the result of analysis. The presentation uses descriptive method. Hence, the result is presented by emerging an opinion since the data are words, statements or paragraph and not in form of number.

