

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 The Background of the Research

In a novel, characters may represent human characteristics such as gestures, habits, personality, and other human conditions in real life. A character represents the relationship between humans as a social human being and other creatures, the relationship between humans with nature, humans with god, and other connections. Therefore, the author plays a prominent role in creating characters, and it is no doubt that the character is designed as a representation of the author's idea. Nevertheless, a character is frequently made as an outlet from the alter ego of the author. It can be seen from the authorship style of each author of the novel. So, the writer can analyze the character in a novel in the field of literature.

Furthermore, *Notes from the Underground* written by Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky was first published in 1864. This novel considered as a philosophical and existentialist novel. It takes place in Russia, St. Petersburg in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The novel is narrated by the unnamed or anonymous man called the Underground Man. The Underground Man lives in the 'underground world', which refers to his apartment. Most of Dostoevsky's work is known as existentialist work, and *Notes from the Underground* is one of them. He was exposed to literature from an early age and had already published a novel by the time he was 25 years old. Another of Dostoevsky's masterpiece was *Crime and Punishment* and *The Brother Karamazov*.

In his novel entitled *Notes from the Underground*, Fyodor Dostoevsky creates the main character as the representation of the human as a social being. Still, there is something considered 'strange' in society's eye with his personality and his relations with his environment. Therefore, the writer intends to analyze the main character's personality as the effects of his unconsciousness. The writer analyzes the main character's unconscious motives that influence the character's social interaction and cause hatred towards society. Interactions that occur between people and communities in their environment are disrupted because of their rude attitude and disrespect towards others. The main character of the novel is often avoided by the people he met in his community. The character's awareness of the environment and the symptoms of the people around him make he thinks he becomes a person who knows his environment so well. It makes him hate the people around him and stutters in communicating with others. In another time, he tries to interact, but he is avoided, and people are not comfortable being around him.

Society is a social element that is so close to humans, and humans are known as social beings. When a person grows up into an adult human being, it is required to interact with other people and establish good social relationships with the community around them. The more mature a person is, he will survive on his own among society as the law of nature. As social human beings, people are asked to be able to adjust to the surrounding situation. In the novel, it is pictured that the main character is struggling to socialize with other people because the varieties of individual human beings have a different character from each other.

The writer sees the cases of the main character's behavior towards social interaction that cause the character to hate his social environment. Therefore, the writer wants to discover the character's psychological conflicts in the novel by using psychoanalytic literary criticism, which focuses on the character's behavior. Psychoanalytic literary criticism is used to analyze the character, and how figures can be conducted to study causes, factors, the unconscious motives that support and cause such personality changes. Considering that, a person might have done things and decide specific actions without realizing an unconscious motive that makes the person do the things. "The unconscious comes into being when we are very young through repression, the expunging from consciousness, of these unhappy psychological events." (Tyson, 2006:50). The motive often leads the person to do things based on their desire, mind, which has been repressed in the unconscious mind. Human behavior is the reflection of unconsciousness.

Moreover, the writer chooses the topic of the unconscious motives because, firstly, the writer wants to reveal the information of the main character's behavior. Also, to discover why the main character behaves as a reclusive man and influences the character to be loathing his society. Secondly, the writer finds out some psychological conflicts occur in the main character's personality, and this psychological conflict affects the character's relationship and environment. Thirdly, the writer also believes it is essential to know why the main character expresses his feeling in an unusual way towards his society due to the unconscious motives. Lastly, the writer also notes exciting things from how Dostoevsky presents the main character as an anonymous man and why there are

no certain events or dialogues that reveal the character's inability to integrate with his environment.

In the process of analyzing it, the writer applies psychoanalytic literary criticism and uses the theory of psychoanalysis proposed by Sigmund Freud. Based on the explanation above, the writer will provide and analyze the information about how do the unconscious motives affect the Underground Man's personalities. The writer then entitles this research as **The Effects of the Unconscious Motives on the Main Character in Fyodor Dostoevsky's *Notes from the Underground*.**

## 1.2 The Identification of the Problem

The main character is an anonymous and called the Underground Man. He lives in a narrow and dark apartment known as the underground world. He has lived in the underground world and distances himself for almost twenty years. The Underground Man distance himself from the world and his society as the effect of his resentment towards his unreachable utopia. His behavior is considered as a 'strange' behavior among ordinary people in his community. His clumsy interaction has distance himself from the people around him. The Underground Man also tends to make an impulsive decision while he interacts with other people. The Underground Man believes that he is intellectually smart from other people, so those people should respect his existence more than just his appearance.

The Underground Man is confronted with people who dislike his existence, while he is conscious of the situation in his society. Therefore he



distracts himself from people around and chooses to isolate himself in the underground world. He deals with several unpleasant actions of his consciousness during his young age before deciding to be a misanthropic man.

### 1.3 The Review of Related Studies

Fyodor Dostoevsky is best known for his philosophical and psychological works. He has received many awards for his works. So, it is no wonder that many people have analyzed his works. Therefore, the researcher will review some of the previous studies to support the research.

The first related study is an article from Emily Rainville (2013) titled "The Underground Man and Meursault: Alienating Consequences of Self-Authentication." This article was published in *The Oswald Review: An International Journal of Undergraduate Research and Criticism in the Discipline of English*. This article uses existentialism theory to analyze the main characters in the novels. The article is about the underground man and Mr. Meursault as the main character which has a problem with alienating consequences of self-authentication. It is the comparative research between the two novels and analyses both main characters. Meursault is the main character from *The Stranger*, and the characteristics of the characters have similarities from the underground man's character. This result is about the alienating consequences of self-authentication happens with the two main characters. The writer concludes that both characters have a problem with the existence and the self-authentication that causes those characters to alienate themselves from the world. The writer found that this article

provides a good research and helps the writer find further information about the main character.

The second research is written by Mohammed Al-Hiba and Dr. Ajay Tengse (2015), "A Psychological Critical Analysis into Dostoevsky's *Notes from the Underground*: The Underground Man as an Outsider". This research journal is published in the IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IOSR-JHSS). (Mohammed Al Hiba) This Research journal analyses the critical psychological analysis of the main character. It analyzes the Underground Man's personality as an outsider or a stranger. The writer concludes that this research is different from the writer's research. This research examines the main character's double personality and finds out how a character ends up being the outcast or the outsider in society. While the writer's analysis is about how the main character's unconscious motive caused hatred toward its community and how the character deals with the community, and the final action is to isolate himself and make a distance from his surroundings. The writer finds this article is quite interesting because it analyses the same object from a different point of view.

The third previous study is from undergraduate student's thesis Latifa Ibrya (2018) titled "Moral Ambiguity Based on Life and Death Instincts in Albert Camus' *The Stranger*: Psychoanalysis". The novel set place in Paris and the main character named Mr. Mersault, which have a problem with his personality. The thesis focus on the life and death instinct of the main character caused moral ambiguity to the main character. The researcher then uses the theory of life and death instinct by Sigmund Freud to analyze the novel. The writer sees the

character deals with moral ambiguity as to the problem of the personality. The unconsciousness of life and death instinct also affect the main character and cause some trouble with the people around him. This analysis provides how the main character deals with his personality and affects the people around him. He has no will to live and also has no gut to die when he is confronted with the death penalty. It helps the writer study the causes of personality problems towards the main character by using psychological analysis.

The fourth related study is from undergraduate student's thesis Vivi Ria Yunita (2012) titled "The Unconscious Motive of the Main Character in *The Book of Lost Thing* by John Connolly: Psychoanalytical Reading". The thesis analyzes the psychological conflict of the main character of the twelve years old boy. A disappointment causes the psychological conflict that happens to the main character with the real-life, which is different from a life he knows from what his mother told him. The psychological point of view of the main character's action is that he survives his life from being lonely and isolated. The writer analyzes the changes in the main character's personality and the unconscious motive based on a psychological perspective. This analysis helps the writer because it analyzes the same topic with the writer's analysis. Even though the writer found some deficiency in this analysis, but it helps the writer to do better research.

The fifth related study is from Maimunah (2019) entitled "An Analysis of Unconscious Motives behind Jacqueline's Frustration in *Death on the Nile* by Agatha Christie". The thesis analyzes the main character's unconscious motives by using Sigmund Freud's theory; id, ego, and superego. The researcher shows the

result of the main character's unconsciousness is frustration. The research helps the writer understand the work better because the writer can elaborate on how unconsciousness affects the novel's main character. Even though the research analyzing a different subject of literature, but it can help the writer understand how the researcher elaborates the analysis.

As the conclusion based on those previous studies that the writer has mentioned before, the writer concludes that the writer has set different research from those earlier studies. The writer emphasizes the research on the main character's unconscious motives in the *Notes from the Underground*, written by Fyodor Dostoevsky, and using the theory of unconscious motives by Sigmund Freud.

#### 1.4 The Research Question

In analyzing the research, the writer limits the analysis by giving the question as follows:

- a. What are the unconscious motives displayed in *Notes from the Underground* by Fyodor Dostoevsky?
- b. How do the unconscious motives affect the Underground Man and his relations towards society in Fyodor Dostoevsky's *Notes from the Underground*?

#### 1.5 The Scope of the Research

In this research, the writer will focus on the main character's unconscious motives, which caused hatred towards its society in the novel *Notes from the Underground* by Fyodor Dostoevsky. The writer sees the character's behavior, attitude, and mind as the effect of the unconscious motives. The Underground



Man has distanced himself from society, and when he tries to interact with some people, it is considered a strange interaction by other people. As the final action, the Underground Man chooses to cut off all the interactions from other people and isolate himself.

### 1.6 The Objectives of the Study

The objective of the research is to reveal the effects of the unconscious motives that caused the hatred towards society as represented by the Underground Man as the main character in the novel *Notes from the Underground* by Fyodor Dostoevsky. The Underground Man is affected by his unconscious mind, and it represents his behavior, mind, and actions. The unconscious motive caused isolation, social awkwardness, social anxiety, questioning his existence, and impulsive decision. This is happens as an effects of childhood trauma and relationship problem.



