

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents five subchapters, namely background of the study, statement of the problems, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Sometimes someone's defenses momentarily break down, and this is when he experiences anxiety. It means that anxiety is a common experience for human life. Everyone absolutely has some problems. Therefore, they experience anxiety. For example, a student may become anxious about taking thesis. Moreover, anxiety brings painful emotional, such as distress and helplessness. It is very dangerous, because it can make some people become angry and it attributes to the other person. On the other hand, anxiety can be an important experience because it can reveal core issues (Tyson, 2006:16). It means that anxiety can be useful, because it can reveals the problems which appear in daily life.

In relation to the statement above, nowadays there are many authors who produce fabulous literary works about human life, especially novel. Through novel, they are able to create their imagination well. According to Novalis in *Theory of the Novel* states that novel is a life in the form of book (in Mckeen, 2000: 57). It means that novel portrays about human life. For example, *Every*

Last One is a breathtaking novel which portrays about family life that is written by Anna Quidlen.

Anna Quidlen is the author of five bestselling novels, *Object Lessons*, *One True Thing*, *Black and Blue*, *Blessing*, and *Rise and Shine*. Her *New York Times* column, "Public and Private", won a Pulitzer Prize in 1992. Moreover, Anna Quidlen has the best selling books, *A Short Guide to a Happy Life*, *Being Perfect*, and two children's books, *The Tree That Came to Stay* and *Happily Ever After*. She lives with her family in New York City (Quindlen, 2011). Because of her brilliant idea and her wonderful imagination, her works always get some praises.

Furthermore, the sixth novel by Anna Quidlen entitled *Every Last One* is international best seller that provides simple language and easy to understand. It is very interesting to be read, because the story of this novel portrays about the real life. This novel tells about a mother who wants to give her affection well to her children. Therefore, this novel is chosen to be analyzed in this study.

Related to the previous statement, *Every Last One* tells about the main character, Mary Beth. She faces some problems in her life. Hence, she experiences anxiety. She is a mother who has three children, Ruby, Alex, and Max. Mary Beth experiences anxiety when she was young. She not only suffers from anxiety when she was young, but also takes care of her children. She has bad experience in the past. She has an accidental baby, Ruby. She has never been able to decide whether she should tell Ruby about it someday. In addition, she does not want terrible things happen to someone she knows, for example she protects

Rachel after her parents are divorce. Furthermore, Mary Beth worries when she knows that Ruby and her boyfriend, Kiernan are having sex, smoking pot, and drinking beer. Then, Mary Beth worries about Max, because he has fallen from the tree. Therefore, Mary Beth experiences anxiety and she often distresses to look after of her children.

Since the novel tells about the main character who suffer from anxiety, thus, it is very suitable to use psychoanalysis theory by Sigmund Freud, especially concerning with anxiety and defense mechanism. Sigmund Freud is very famous. He finds a new system in psychology which is called psychoanalysis. Therefore, this theory is suitable to be used in analyzing this novel. *Mary Beth's Anxiety in Anna Quindlen's Every Last One* is chosen to be the title of this study.

Previously, psychoanalysis theory, especially about anxiety is used by some writers who analyze some different novels. The first writer is Agus Santoso (2006) who analyzes Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*. The second writer is Rina Dianita (2008) who analyzes Thomas Harris' *The Silence of the Lambs*. Those people use the same theory to analyze anxiety experienced by one of the characters in each novel. Meanwhile, this study is going to analyze the main character, Mary Beth, who experiences anxiety in Anna Quindlen's *Every Last One*. This study focuses on the topic of Mary Beth's anxiety, because Mary Beth's anxiety is one of the interesting chapters in the novel. In addition, anxiety is very fascinating to be studied since it occurs in daily life and it common happens to everyone.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of the study, this study discusses about Mary Beth's anxiety in Anna Quindlen's *Every Last One*. Then, the problems are formulated as the following questions:

1. What are the kinds of anxiety that Mary Beth suffer in the novel *Every Last One*?
2. How does Mary Beth's anxiety bring effects to her life?
3. How does Mary Beth overcome her anxiety?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statement of problems above, this study is intended:

1. To explain what kinds of anxiety that Mary Beth suffer in the novel *Every Last One*.
2. To explain how Mary Beth's anxiety brings effects to her life.
3. To explain the way Mary Beth overcomes her anxiety.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to be able to provide the theoretical and practical benefit. Theoretically, this study is expected to give better understanding about psychoanalysis, particularly anxiety and defense mechanism in the literary works. In addition, this study can help other writers to use anxiety as the theory by using different source of data. Practically, this study is expected to give more information and knowledge related to anxiety, especially for the students of

English Study Program of University of Trunojoyo Madura who take literature as their concentration. Moreover, this study is expected to give significant support to the other writers.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is about psychoanalysis, particularly anxiety and defense mechanism. The limitation of this study is the utterances of Mary Beth and the narrator's narrations which are portrayed and related to anxiety and defense mechanism in the novel, *Every Last One* by Anna Quindlen.