

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Nowadays, the study of literature has shifted the focus. It is no longer only focused on the analysis of theme, character, characterization, plot, symbolism or setting but has been broader to the area of the author's expression in delivering their point of view of what is happening to the text. In this case, the writer will study about psychology in literature.

According to Atkinson, psychology means the science of life or science that investigates and studies human behavior (2011:3). It means that psychology as a science will study about human beings that investigate human behavior, manner, and mind. Usually, it can be found in literature because there are many authors use a variety of behavior and conflict experienced by human to make the literary work interesting to read.

Besides, literature is the portrait of human life in the reality. The condition of human life is depicted clearly and beautifully by the character through a literary work. Those are strengthened by the quotation from Wellek and Warren, psychology in literary works can be used to give evaluation psychologically to the elements of literary works, such as character, plot, and theme (1989:106). Based on the statement, it shows that literature becomes an interesting material to analyze because psychology has important role in understanding of literature due to several advantages such as the importance of psychology in literature to examine the deeper aspects of the disposition, also this study can provide

feedback to the researchers on the issue dispositive developed, and this kind of theory is helpful to analyze the literature with psychological problems.

Based on the explanation above, the writer discusses the psychological condition of the main character in the novel *The Devil Wears Prada* by Lauren Weisberger. The novel was published in 2003 and become the bestseller list for six weeks in the New York Times. On the other hand, this novel is adapted into the movie with the same title in 2006. In addition, the novel can be a reference to all fresh graduate student who looking for jobs. For example, some of the characters in this novel had been looking for they dream job, Andrea Sachs want to get a great job in publishing magazine, *The New Yorker*, after college. While the other character such Alex, want to teach English for less developed school, and Lily continues her study to get her Ph.D. and get part time job in her leisure time.

The Devil Wears Prada by Lauren Weisberger is one of the novels that widely discusses anxiety. It is the first novel by Lauren Weisberger since she began to write novel in 2003. The main character in this novel is Andrea Sachs. She experiences anxiety because on working to her boss, Miranda Priestly. Andrea works as second assistant in a company with her incredible boss. The job is special because there are a millions of girls would die for the sake of the job. In the company, all of the employees must have ability in fashion world. Unfortunately, she must be fashionable, sexy, beautiful, good looking and perfect body (as like the model). Andrea cannot fulfill the requirement because she has no ability in the fashion world. Therefore, she tries very hard to make everyone

believe that she compatible to work in the company. She tells that she can do everything to get the job.

As a consequence, she experiences anxiety all the time because she is afraid of disappointed her boss. If her boss unsatisfied, Andrea will get fire and does not get the job that she dreamed. *The Devil Wears Prada* by Lauren Weisberger does not only tell about anxiety but also about love, family, and friends. It makes this novel interesting to read because it has many important lessons.

Related to the last paragraph, Andrea Sachs willing to survive at all, that for the sake of the lure of jobs in any magazine she wants. Thus, what the main character faced in the novel *The Devil Wears Prada* is a form of psychological aspect. In Freud's view, psychological aspect is consist of anxiety. Anxiety arises when the ego cannot adequately balance the demands of the id and the superego. The id demands gratification of its impulse, and the superego demands maintenance of its moral standards. This creates conflict, which creates anxiety, which leads to Defense Mechanism. Freud argues that defense mechanism is the methods which attempt to alleviate anxiety by using deny, falsify or distort reality (Hall,1961:85).

Furthermore, the writer is interested in analyzing the main character of the *Devil Wears Prada* (Andrea Sachs) because of her anxiety since working in *Runway*. Andrea began to wonder if working on the world's most ruthless boss is worth the price to be paid. Although at the end of the story, Andrea Sachs is not able to survive but she is able to direct and respond to the pressure of her

experience. From that feeling, Andrea confused about her career and the change of the situation. The development of her personality and how she continues to face her choices in her life, between work under the boss and life around her beloved people.

From the explanation above, the novel is analyzed by using psychological approaches. This approach uses to analyze how the defense mechanism set up by the character in overcome anxiety that is experienced by Andrea Sach with the use of the theory of psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud. It uses to explain how to overcome the anxiety of the main character in the novel. Therefore, this study conducted by give the title “Andrea Sach’s Anxiety in The Devil Wears Prada by Lauren Weisberger”.

There are some researches that conducted by others related with the novel, for example about the novel that focused on many aspects, the psychological analysis on Miranda (Rosyidah, 2008), the analysis of definite and indefinite possessives (Amelia, 2008), and adaptation as the exertion to achieve a goal (Indarto, 2009). More research has focused on the main character, Andrea Sachs, struggles against exploitation and alienation (Surahman, 2011) and girl power aspects and women’s disempowerment or empowerment (Prafitra, 2013). Moreover, the research was about material inclination to indicate social status (Wahyuni, 2003). However, none of them analyze the main character’s anxiety. Therefore, this study concerns on the main character’s analysis on anxiety and defense mechanism in Lauren Weisberger’s novel *The Devil Wears Prada*. The

main character that is going to be analyzed in this study is Andrea Sachs. Andrea Sachs is the Miranda's second assistance.

Meanwhile, this study focuses on the feelings of anxiety that are experienced by the main character. There are some theories in psychoanalysis are appropriate to be used in this study. They are dynamic personality, anxiety and the defense mechanism. Furthermore, this study focuses on the way of the main character overcomes and heals her anxiety.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The following questions are formulated to get the clear description of people's lifestyle in psychological problem while they are faced the same problem in our life. The problems of this study are formulated into the questions below:

1. What are the causes of Andrea Sach's anxiety?
2. What kind of anxiety that Andrea Sach's experience in the novel?
3. How does Andrea Sach overcome her anxiety ?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1. To describe the causes of Andrea Sach's anxiety.
2. To describe the kind of anxiety that appear in Andrea's character in the novel.
3. The way of main characters action in dealing with her problem in her daily lives seen from the self-defense mechanism.

1.4 The Significances of the Study

This study has two objectives, namely the theoretical objectives and practical objectives:

1. Associated with the development of science in this research is to analyze how the defense mechanism set up by the character in overcome anxiety with the use of the theory of psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud. Theoretically, the results of the study are expected to be a valuable contribution to the study of psychology and literature in literary works, especially in the novel.
2. Practically, the results of this research will add a reference, gives inspiration and knowledge to the readers who will analyze the same theory or literary work.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study analyzes the literary work based on the psychological approach by Sigmund Freud. The scope of this study is psychoanalysis which concern about anxiety and defense mechanism. Furthermore, this study limits on the character's utterances and the author's narration in Lauren Weisberger's novel "The Devil Wears Prada" (2003) that are relevant with the research question.