

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the explanation of some parts of the introduction. They are background of study, statement of the research problems, objectives, significance and scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of Study

Men and women have many differences. Beside different in physical terms, they are also different in emotional terms. Compared with men, women are more likely use feelings than logic in particular case. Women are an individuality who more often used their heart and feelings in all of situation. This women sensitivity that makes them has anxious feeling that lead to the bad psychic. Women tended to have more active limbic system than men, which some argue, explained why women were more susceptible to depression than men and were more likely to emotionally bond with children (Gunning, *et.al.*, 2002: 998). One factor that makes women have higher level of depression than men is because women have unstable hormone, such as when they are in pre menstruation condition, their emotional will be more active. They will susceptible to feel sad or angry without any certain reason, and sometimes they are also feels anxious.

Basically, anxiety is a natural thing that can be experienced by everyone. But in general, women are more prone to feel anxious than men. Usually, if some people

are in uncomfortable environment, it is easier for women to feel anxious. The anxiety is also associated with a fear or apprehension that was not related to the real situation. If some people confronted again with an unpleasant experience, then the people's tendency have an anxiety will be higher than before, for example, she or he who ever have an accident when they learn to ride a motorcycle, then if they are in a situation that makes them to ride a motorcycle again, then their anxiety will be higher than before.

Anxiety was considered abnormal only when it occurred in situations that most people could handle with little difficulty (Hilgard, et.al., 1981:456). Generally, when people in uncomfortable situation, such as worrying about something that happen, she or he feel anxious. Generally, anxiety is caused by nervousness, fear, apprehension and worrying. More anxiety someone has, they will have more fearness and worries than before. Excessive anxiety gives bad factor for the sufferer, like a depression. The depression that is caused by desperation makes the patient to do worst things in their life in mind. Most of the causes a person to suicide are desperation, and the desperation itself caused by the excessive anxiety. Therefore, they feel too anxious and also too fear to face their life in the future.

There are many novels that the story tells about anxiety, such as *The Time of My Life* by Cecilia Ahern, *Every Last One* by Anna Quindlen, *A Great and Terrible Beauty* by Libba Bray. But in this study the writer uses *The Hours* novel by Michael Cunningham which is the story also tells about anxiety. Michael Cunningham is a famous American author. He was born in Cincinnati, Ohio on November 6, 1952.

Cunningham's best work is known as the Pulitzer Prize winning author for his novel *The Hours*. *The Hours* was his fourth novel in 1998 after his novel *Flesh and Blood* in 1995. *The Hours* was the novel won both the Pulitzer and Pen/Faulkner awards in 1999. There are many interesting things contained in this Cunningham's work, besides of the beautiful language, Cunningham also was able to associate the three main characters in different era into the scope of the story.

There is something interesting in this novel. Virginia Woolf's novel *Mrs. Dalloway* seems has a big role to this novel. The story in *The Hours* is related to *Mrs. Dalloway*. Such as, Virginia Woolf as the writer of *Mrs. Dalloway* becomes one of the main characters in *The Hours*, Laura Brown as the reader of *Mrs. Dalloway* becomes one of the main character in *The Hours*, and the last is Clarissa Vaughan as the main character in *Mrs. Dalloway* also becomes one of the main character in *The Hours*. This is the uniqueness of *The Hours*, Cunningham associates both the true story and fiction in the one scope of story.

All of the characters have similar problems. They have similar problems about anxiety which they face in their life. They feel restlessness, dissatisfaction and desperation that are caused by anxiety. The three main characters in this novel have self-method to overcome their anxiety. They have to choose between their death instinct or their life instinct. Before they choose one of them, they use their methods to overcome their anxiety.

Anxiety can be analyzed by using psychoanalytic theory. Therefore, in this study, psychoanalytic theory is applied to analyze *The Hours* novel. This novel refers

to the anxiety that is experienced by the three main characters which is all of the main characters are women. Actually, there are many women characters in this novel, but the writer only focuses on the women main characters, because they have dominant anxiety in the whole story. However, the three women main characters have different kinds of anxiety. Therefore, they also have different ways to overcome their anxiety. They have self-method to protect themselves from their anxiety by using defense mechanism.

1.2. Statement of Research Problem

Based on the background of the study, the research questions are:

1. What are the kinds of anxiety experienced by the three main characters in Michael Cunningham's *The Hours*?
2. How the three main characters overcome their anxiety in Michael Cunningham's *The Hours*?

1.3. Objectives of Study

Based on the statement of problem above, this study is intended to elaborate:

1. The kinds of anxiety experienced by three main characters in Michael's Cunningham's *The Hours*.
2. The ways three main characters overcome their anxiety in Michael Cunningham's *The Hours*.

1.4. Significance of Study

Dealing with the previous discussion, this study has some benefits and some significance in both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study is expected

to give a better understanding about anxiety by using Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic, and also this study can give further study in analyzing both from the same literary work or the same theory that used in this study. On the other hand, practically this study is expected to give more information and knowledge about anxiety.

1.5. Scope and Limitation of Study

The scope of this study is psychological approach and psychoanalytic theory by Sigmund Freud. The limitation of this study is the character's utterances and author's narrations in *The Hours* by Michael Cunningham which indicate the women main characters' anxiety.