CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Literature is defined as any written expression, with the limitation that not all written works may be categorized as literature in the stricter sense of the term. (Klarer, 2004:1) Novels, poems, essays, and even films and dramas are examples of inventive literary works with exceptional style and expression, as well as universal or eternal themes. It may be argued that literature employs more words and imagination to express one's feelings and interests. One example of literary work is a novel. Taylor (1981:8), defines a novel as one of the prose forms of literary work which so interesting and easier to analyze than other branches of literary works. A novel is typically a lengthy and complex prose work that seeks to depict and convey aspects of the significance or value of human behavior or experience. (Taylor,1981:8).

As a literary work, a novel is a story in prose form that is long, this long form means that the story has many characters, a complex plot, and diverse settings. Abrams (1981:11) defines the novel as a relatively long fictional narrative, usually in prose, depicting characters experiencing events. One type of novel is a psychological novel, A psychological novel is a type of novel that emphasizes an in-depth exploration of the mental and emotional states of its characters. The focus of these novels usually lies on the inner dynamics, internal conflicts, and motivations that drive the characters behavior (Wellek & Warren, 1956:243).

Literary works are often a reflection of human psychological conflicts, where characters face anxiety and use defence mechanisms to relieve it. In everyday life, individuals often encounter conflict that triggers anxiety. Anxiety is critical relevance since it expresses our underlying difficulties such as fear of abandonment, betrayal, and low self-worth, and can result from social pressure, high expectations, or unexpected situations (Smart R, 2009:4). One of the examples is the Rachel Chu character in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians* novel. Rachel, an Asian-American woman, experiences intense anxiety when she is confronted with the vast difference in social status between herself and the family of her boyfriend, Nick Young.

The common attitude that people employ to reduce or avoid anxiety is defence mechanisms. When individuals experience serious anxiety or emotional conflict, their defence mechanisms will be activated (Freud, 1966:46). Rachel's inability to conform to Nick's family's cultural standards triggers deep anxiety and to cope with her anxieties, Rachel uses a self-defence mechanism. The writer will investigate what kind of defence mechanism that used by Rachel Chu to overcome her anxieties using the self-defence mechanism theory by Sigmund Freud.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background, the writer formulates the problems as follows:

1. What are Rachel Chu's anxieties portrayed in *Crazy Rich Asians Novel*?

2. What is the anxiety impact on Rachel Chu portrayed in *Crazy Rich Asians Novel?*

3. How does the defence mechanism cope with Rachel Chu's anxieties in *Crazy Rich Asians Novel?*

1.3 Purpose of the Study

Related to the research questions stated above, the purposes are as follows:

1. To analyze Rachel Chu's anxieties as depicted in the *Crazy Rich Asians Novel.*

2. To explain Rachel Chu's impact of anxieties as depicted in the *Crazy Rich Asians Novel.*

3. To explain Rachel Chu's defence mechanism in coping with her anxieties as depicted in the *Crazy Rich Asians Novel.*

1.4 Previous Studies

The first was published in 2018, by Dwi Rohmawati from Muhammadiyah Surakarta University undergraduate thesis entitled: "Family Conflict in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians*: A Sociological Perspective". The writer describes how the family quarrel developed. The novel has plenty of families. The writer describes and examines all the family conflicts using a sociological perspective.

The second, published in 2019, by Semarang State University students, Anindita Nikmatus's undergraduate thesis Titled: "The Domination of the Upper Class Over the Proletarian Group in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians*: Redefining Social Class Hierarchies Through Familial and Cultural Traditions.'' This study examines how Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich* Asians uses a progressive social class system as a familial and societal tradition to establish a social class hierarchy over casual encounters.

The third earlier research is from Hanifa Qurrata, from Muhammadiyah University Surakarta in 2019, who wrote an undergraduate thesis entitled: "Social Prejudice in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians* (2013): A Sociological Perspective." The paper's major topic focuses on the novel's social aspects. This study examines memoirs and their authors foundations to explain the societal viewpoints and prejudices that Kevin Kwan attempts to stress, including cognitive prejudice, affective prejudice, and conative prejudice.

Fourth, published in 2019, an undergraduate thesis by Anzdi Setya Pambudi, from the State Islamic University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya, entitled; ''Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians* Main Characters Reflect the Popular Romance Formula.'' In this study, the writer examines the romance formula in the novel and proposes hypotheses based on the popular romance formula and new critique. The writer also explains how the protagonists meet and love, and the way the relationship concluded at the novel's end.

Fifth, Meldyana Wijaya from Buddhi Dharma University, authored an undergraduate thesis entitled; "The Analysis of Moral Values in Kevin Kwan's novel *Crazy Rich Asians*" (2019). This study utilizes theories of character and characterization, along with moral value theory, to analyze the characterization of each character in the novel.

Sixth, Dhaneswara Dhaka Paramastri from Sanata Dharma University, wrote an undergraduate thesis entitled; "Class Conflict as Seen in the Selected Characters of *Crazy Rich Asians*: A Marxist Study." It was published in 2021. The

writer applies the Marxist method and characterization theory to evaluate the portrayal of characters in the story and identify class conflict.

Seventh, published in 2021, is an undergraduate thesis by Deny Naufal Kurniawan from Diponegoro University. He wrote about the ''Repression of Rachel Chu in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians*.'' This research explores the repression experienced by Rachel Chu, the protagonist in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians*. The study aims to analyze repression within the framework of the psychoanalytic defence mechanism theory.

Eighth, Anindithalangit Nugroho Sanata Dharma University, wrote an undergraduate thesis entitled "Marriage Conflict and Social Class in Astrid and Michael's Relationship in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians* (2021)." The study employed a sociological perspective alongside character and characterization theory to examine the marital conflict between Astrid and Michael, highlighting and defining the differences between them.

Ninth, published in 2022, from UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya by Nabila Matahati, an undergraduate thesis entitled; ''Conflict Faced by Rachel Chu in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians*. This study examines the conflicts experienced by Rachel Chu, the protagonist in *Crazy Rich Asians*. It also analyzes how these conflicts are resolved within the novel.

Tenth, published in 2022, by Sakuntala Ariesti Ruswandi from Padang State University, an undergraduate thesis entitled; "Self-Reliance in *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan." The objective of this study is to highlight the theme of self-reliance in Kevin Kwan's novel *Crazy Rich Asians* (2013). The issue of self-

reliance refers to how the character handles negative treatment from others while being able to cope. This analysis is a textual interpretation based on Elizabeth B. Hurlock's Self-reliance Theory. This analysis employs literary techniques such as character, storyline (conflict), and place to help uncover the issue.

These previous studies inspired the writer to conduct this research, which differs from the earlier works in several ways. In this study, the focus is specifically on the protagonist, Rachel Chu, and her coping mechanisms for anxiety, analyzed through Sigmund Freud's theory of defence mechanisms.

1.5 Scope of the Study

This study focuses on the main character of *Crazy Rich Asians*, Rachel Chu, by examining her character, characterization, the internal and external conflicts she faces, and the social setting that shapes her life dynamics and causes anxiety.

The writer specifically using Sigmund Freud's theory, focuses on the anxiety experienced by Rachel Chu, and how she uses self-defence mechanisms to deal with and overcome the anxiety, which ultimately affects her character development throughout the story.

1.6 Writing Organization

The writer analyzes the *Crazy Rich Asians* novel by Kevin Kwan. There are four chapters in this study, which as are follows:

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

There are six subsections in this chapter. The study's background, research problem, objectives, previous study, scope of the study, and writing organization are covered in these sub-chapters.

CHAPTER II: THEORY AND METHODS

The theories and techniques used to examine the novel are covered in this chapter. The writer applies the concepts of intrinsic and extrinsic factors. Characters, conflicts, and settings are the main topics of the intrinsic elements, whereas the idea of anxiety and self-defence mechanism theory by Sigmund Freud are the main topics of the extrinsic elements.

CHAPTER III: DISCUSSION

This chapter includes the writer's analysis of the *Crazy Rich Asians* novel in light of the study's topic and research issues, with a primary focus on Rachel Chu's anxiety and the defence mechanism to cope with her anxiety. The analysis will use the theories in chapter two.

CHAPTER IV: CONCLUSION

This chapter consists of the conclusion of the writer's analysis.

REFERENCES