

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Trauma has become a general topic to discuss among the society. They often discuss it along with the reasons behind individuals' behaviors caused by past traumatic experiences, which can affect in different responses to the trauma. These traumas can exist due to various reasons and has impacts on various age groups. For instance, parents' divorce on teenagers.

Haker (2005) wrote a research paper regarding the effects of divorce on children and teenagers. She explained that there are factors that influence how children and teenagers behave or respond to their parents' divorce. One of the factors was the coping strategies. She highlighted that parents have an impact on children and teenagers' coping mechanism. If the parents could give a good example to cope with their divorce, then their children might have a healthy coping mechanism. However, if it turned out the parents refused to give their children an opportunity to cope, the adjustment process would likely be prolonged.

Haker's research relates to the phenomena that happened in the novel *I Think I Love You* written by Auriane Desombre in 2021. *I Think I Love You* highlights the issues of identity search, sexual orientation dilemma, and social pressures faced by teenage girls. This novel tells the story of Emma Hansen, who plans to participate in a high school film festival with her friends. Emma is a bisexual teenage girl who has a keen interest in romantic comedy movies, so she

invites her friends to make a film with her for the festival. However, the arrival of Sophia Kingsley, who has just returned from Paris, throws a wrench in her plans. Sophia is a lesbian teenage girl who is skeptical about love and relationship. Emma and Sophia's story is filled with many conflicts due to their differing opinions. Aside from their arguments between each other, they also have their own personal issues. This refers to Emma, who has not yet come out to her parents that she is actually bisexual, and Sophia, who is still struggling with the impact of her parents' divorce.

Based on the phenomenon above, this study focuses on Sophia's behaviors as a teenage girl that shows a depiction of defense mechanisms against the trauma she experienced. In order to support the study, the writer applies Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis approach, specifically highlighting at the structure of personality and *ego* defense mechanism.

Freud believes that every behavior based on instincts that defends against anxiety in the forms of defense mechanisms (Schultz *et al.*, 2017: 49). The defense mechanisms include repression, denial, reaction formation, projection, regression, rationalization, displacement, and sublimation. Among the eight categories of defense mechanisms, the writer wants to focus on the aspects of dealing with trauma through repression, denial, and rationalization portrayed by Sophia Kingsley's character in the novel.

This study is conducted to examine the character that signifies as a person in a literary work that have certain moral, intellectual, and emotion quantities which are interpreted based on the dialogue and the action by the audience (Abrams &

Harpham, 2011:32). The writer wants to analyze Sophia's characterization as the main character through her dialogue and action, also how the settings and conflict in the novel reflect Sophia's feelings by applying psychoanalysis method in this study.

1.2 Research Questions

The research questions of this study are as follows:

1. How does Sophia Kingsley's structure of personality work in Auriane Desombre's *I Think I Love You*?
2. How is Sophia Kinglsey expressed anxiety in Auriane Desombre's *I Think I Love You*?
3. How is Sophia Kingsley's characterization related to her defense mechanisms in Auriane Desombre's *I Think I Love You*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

According to the research questions of this study, there are three objectives of the study as follows:

1. To explain the structure of personality through Sophia Kingsley's behavior.
2. To discover Sophia Kingsley's anxiety expressed through Sophia Kingsley's behavior.
3. To analyze the *ego* defense mechanism depicted by Sophia Kingsley's behaviors.

1.4 Previous Studies

Currently, the writer did not find any academic article or journal that discuss *I Think I Love You* novel by Auriane Desombre. Mostly, the discussion that exist about this novel is in the forms of reviews, essay, and interviews on various online platforms. However, those discussions tend to be editorial and reader-oriented, rather than scientific research. The articles that are mentioned about the novel's reviews as follows:

The first review is entitled *Danika Reviews I Think I Love You by Auriane Desombre* in Lesbrary website in March 2021. Danika's review highlights the character represents how bisexual is perceived as an insignificant identity in society.

Another review is *Book Review: I Think I Love You by Auriane Desombre*. It is written by A.M. Molloy in November 2023. Molloy's review discusses mainly about the plot. However, Molloy also highlights the journey of Emma in achieving acceptance from her parents and Sophia accepted her family situations.

The third review is written by Eleanor Thomas entitled '*Filmmaking and F/F Hate-To-Love: A Review Of 'I Think I Love You' by Auriane Desombre*' in March 2021. It discusses about how the character expresses her struggle with her identity as queer that may resonate with people who are in a similar situation.

The fourth review is entitled *Review: I Think I Love You, Auriane Desombre* which is written by Marie and Nyx in Drizzle and Hurricane Books in April 2021. They highlight the conflicts that exist in the novel encounters by Emma and Sophia.

They point out Emma's struggle to come out as a queer individual and Sophia as a teenager who is still trying to handle with her parents' divorce.

Even though this novel receives attention and positive reviews, the main discussion is based solely according to reader reviews and tends to be editorial rather than formal academic research. Therefore, this thesis is written as academic research that analyzes this novel.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The writer limits this study by concerning on the main character in the novel *I Think I Love You*, Sophia Kingsley. The intrinsic elements that are highlighted in this study includes character, characterization, settings, and conflict existed in the novel. In order to support the analysis, the writer applies psychoanalysis approach by examining Sophia Kingsley's structure of personality (*id*, *ego*, *superego*), anxiety, and *ego* defense mechanism.

1.6 Organization of the Writing

The writer divides the parts into five following chapters in this thesis:

1. CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

Chapter I consists of background of the study, research questions, the objectives of the study, prior studies, the scope of the study, and writing organization.

2. CHAPTER II THEORY AND METHOD

Chapter II conveys the theory that is applied to examine the data by including theoretical frameworks and methods of the research in examining this study.

3. CHAPTER III RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Chapter III discusses the findings according to the data analysis. This chapter explains the defense mechanisms depicted by the main character in the novel by applying psychoanalysis to examine their behaviors through narratives and dialogues.

4. CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION

Chapter IV consists of the conclusion of the study based on the study.

REFERENCES

APPENDIX