

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Literature is often seen as a representation of human experience and social reality through imaginative narratives. Literary works portray human responses to various situations, challenges, and conflicts encountered in real life. Literature functions not only as entertainment but also as a medium for understanding different perspectives, values, and human experiences. By presenting characters with diverse backgrounds, motivations, and struggles, literary works provide insights into the complexity of human nature and the factors that shape human behavior. As Wellek and Warren state: “literature represents life, while life itself largely consists of social reality” (Wellek and Warren, 1949:94). Therefore, literary works can be analyzed not only for their aesthetic value but also for their representation of human experiences and social conditions.

One of the significant aspects of human experience frequently portrayed in literature is psychological conflict. Individuals often encounter situations in which their personal desires, emotions, and impulses are in tension with social expectations and moral standards. This condition can be understood through Sigmund Freud’s psychoanalytic perspective, which explains that human behavior is shaped by the interaction between the id, ego, and superego. When these elements are not in balance, internal tension may arise, especially when instinctual desires contradict moral values and social norms. In many circumstances,

individuals are compelled to suppress certain feelings or desires in order to maintain social acceptance and preserve a respectable image within society. When such tension persists, it may influence thoughts, emotions, and behavior. As a result, psychological conflict can affect decision-making processes, self-perception, and interpersonal relationships. It plays an important role in shaping an individual's identity and determining how one responds to various life challenges. For this reason, examining psychological conflict in literary characters can provide deeper insight into human behavior and motivation.

The issue of psychological conflict is clearly portrayed in Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Published in 1886, the novel is one of the most influential literary works exploring the complexity of human nature and the coexistence of opposing impulses within an individual. The story centers on Dr. Henry Jekyll, a respected physician who struggles to reconcile his honorable public image with desires and impulses that contradict social expectations. Unable to accept both sides of his personality, Jekyll develops a scientific experiment that enables him to transform into Mr. Edward Hyde, a figure who embodies the darker aspects of his character. Through this transformation, Stevenson illustrates the consequences of suppressing undesirable aspects of the self and the dangers of allowing internal conflicts to remain unresolved. The novel therefore provides a rich portrayal of psychological struggles and the impact of those struggles on an individual's life.

Dr. Henry Jekyll becomes a central figure for analysis due to the intensity of his psychological struggle, particularly in relation to repression and identity.

Throughout the narrative, he persistently attempts to maintain his respectable social image while concealing aspects of himself that he considers unacceptable. This struggle is closely related to the social context of the Victorian Era, which emphasized strict moral values, self-discipline, and the importance of maintaining a respectable public persona. Under such conditions, individuals were often encouraged to hide desires and behaviors that were considered socially inappropriate. Consequently, Jekyll experiences increasing psychological tension as he attempts to separate conflicting aspects of his personality. His experience demonstrates how internal conflict, when combined with social pressure, can gradually influence an individual's behavior, decisions, and psychological condition.

The psychological conflict experienced by Dr. Henry Jekyll highlights the complexity of an individual's effort to manage opposing aspects within the self. His transformation into Hyde demonstrates how unresolved inner conflict can influence behavior and lead to consequences that extend beyond personal control. This makes Jekyll's character an important subject for further analysis, particularly in understanding how individuals respond to psychological tension and internal contradictions. Examining his character allows for a more focused exploration of the ways in which individuals attempt to cope with internal conflict, especially when such conflict is continuously suppressed rather than resolved.

The writer, in writing this research thesis, will analyze how Dr. Henry Jekyll's defense mechanisms are triggered in the novel, identifies the types of

defense mechanisms he employs, and examines the extent to which these mechanisms affect his psychological condition and behavior. Through this analysis, the research aims to reveal how social pressure and internal conflict contribute to Jekyll's psychological and moral deterioration.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background described above, the research question in this research is framed to examine Dr. Henry Jekyll's defense mechanisms as follows:

1. How are Dr. Henry Jekyll's defense mechanisms triggered in the novel?
2. What types of defense mechanisms does Dr. Henry Jekyll use?
3. To what extent do these defense mechanisms affect Dr. Henry Jekyll's psychological condition and behavior?

1.3 Objectives of the Research

Based on the research questions above, the objectives of this research are:

1. To examine the triggers of Dr. Henry Jekyll's defense mechanisms.
2. To identify the types of defense mechanisms employed by Dr. Henry Jekyll.
3. To analyze the impact of defense mechanisms on Dr. Henry Jekyll's psychological condition and behavior.

1.4 Scope of the Research

The scope of this research will focus on analyzing the main character, Dr. Henry Jekyll, in Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr.*

Hyde. The writer will analyze intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the novel. For the intrinsic elements, it covers the analysis of Dr. Henry Jekyll's character and characterization, internal conflict and external conflict, and settings using the theory from the book *An Introduction to Fiction* by Robert Stanton. For the extrinsic element, the writer applies Anna Freud's psychoanalytic theory, specifically the concept of defense mechanisms as presented in *The Ego and the Mechanisms of Defense*. This research focuses on the triggers, types, and impacts of defense mechanisms reflected in Dr. Jekyll's thoughts, emotions, and behavior. The writer chose to adopt Anna's psychological theory because Anna Freud significantly expanded upon her father Sigmund Freud's initial concepts of defense mechanisms, which detailed how they protect the ego from anxiety and unwanted impulses. Therefore, Anna Freud's psychoanalytic theory is considered appropriate for this research.

1.5 Previous Research

This section provides an overview of several previous studies related to the novel "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde". These studies offer various perspectives on the analysis of the novel and help identify research gaps that will be addressed in this research. The following are ten relevant previous studies.

The first previous research is Jennifer Cook's article, "The Stain of Breath Upon a Mirror: The Unitary Self in The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" (2020). This research discusses the concept of the unitary self or unified self in the character of Dr. Jekyll. Cook explains that Jekyll tries to separate the good and

evil parts of his personality through scientific experiments. Cook focuses on whether Jekyll and Hyde are truly two different people or just different parts of one single identity. The research shows that Jekyll's attempt to divide his identity eventually leads to psychological conflict.

The second previous research is Erin Davenport's article, "Liberalism's Perverse Pleasures: Coercive Contract in *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*" (2020). This research analyzes the novel from the perspective of liberalism and social contracts. Davenport argues that the relationship between Jekyll and Hyde reflects the hidden desires and pressures within Victorian society.

The third previous research is Matthew J. Ganz's article, "Carrying On Like a Madman: Insanity and Responsibility in *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*" (2015). This research examines the novel through a legal and medical lens. Ganz focuses on the themes of insanity and how much a person is responsible for their actions when they lose control of their mind. It highlights the Victorian era's fear of mental illness and the loss of moral character.

The fourth previous research is Elizabeth A. B. Jackson's article, "Twins, Twinship, and Robert Louis Stevenson's *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*" (2013). This research focuses on the idea of twinship between Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Jackson explains that the two characters represent two sides of the same identity and illustrate the theme of duality in human nature.

The fifth previous research is Patricia Comitini's article, "The Strange Case of Addiction in *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*" (2012). This research analyzes Jekyll's behavior as a symbol of addiction. Comitini argues that

the potion and Jekyll's transformation represent the cycle of drug or alcohol dependency, focusing on how the character loses his willpower and social status because of his secret habit.

The sixth previous research is Brian D. O'Dell's article, "Character Crisis: Hegemonic Negotiations in Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" (2012). This research discusses the crisis of identity experienced by Dr. Jekyll. O'Dell explains how the character struggles to maintain social power and moral control while hiding his darker side.

The seventh previous research is Allen MacDuffie's article, "Irreversible Transformations: Robert Louis Stevenson's Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" (2006). This research examines the novel using the perspective of nineteenth-century energy science. MacDuffie explains how scientific ideas influence the transformation between Jekyll and Hyde.

The eighth previous research is Ed Cohen's article, "Hyding the Subject?: The Antinomies of Masculinity in Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" (2003). This research analyzes the novel through the concept of masculinity. Cohen explains how Victorian ideals of masculinity shape the behavior and identity of Dr. Jekyll.

The ninth previous research is L. Kreitzer's article, "R. L. Stevenson's Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde and Romans 7:14–25: Images of the Moral Duality of Human Nature" (1992). This research uses a theological or religious approach. Kreitzer explores the idea of moral duality; the battle between good and evil inside one person, by comparing Jekyll's struggle to biblical

teachings about human nature.

The tenth previous research is Janice Doane and Devon Hodges' article, "Demonic Disturbances of Sexual Identity: The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr/s Hyde" (1989). This research discusses issues of sexual identity and social norms in the novel. The authors explain that the transformation between Jekyll and Hyde reflects hidden anxieties about gender and sexuality.

All those ten previous research examine the same literary object, which is the novel *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* written by Robert Louis Stevenson through different perspectives. Most of those studies focused on themes such as identity and the unified self, liberalism and social contracts, insanity and legal responsibility, twinship and duality, addiction, hegemony and character crisis, scientific transformation, masculinity, moral duality from a theological perspective, and sexual identity. While those studies offer valuable and diverse perspectives on the novel, none of them focuses specifically on the psychological defense mechanisms used by Dr. Henry Jekyll. This is the main difference between this research and the previous ones. This research takes a more specific on psychological approach by applying Anna Freud's theory of defense mechanisms to analyze Jekyll's behavior throughout the story. This research covers the defense mechanisms employed by Dr. Henry Jekyll, the causes and impacts of Dr. Henry Jekyll's defense mechanisms. Because no previous research has examined the novel specifically through this lens, this research offers a new and different way of understanding Jekyll's actions and motivations.

1.6 Writing Organization

The writer describes how to organize things related to the scheme of research writing content in five sections, there are chapter I, chapter II, chapter III, chapter IV, and references.

CHAPTER 1 (INTRODUCTION)

This chapter consists of six sub-chapters including background of the research, research questions, objectives of the research, scope of the research, previous research, and organizations of the research.

CHAPTER 2 (THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND METHODS OF RESEARCH)

This chapter presents reviews of the theories and methodology which are used to analyze the subject of the research. The theoretical framework consists of the intrinsic and extrinsic review. The intrinsic elements cover characters and characterization, conflicts, and settings. The extrinsic element covers the theory developed by Anna Freud in the psychological framework of the defense mechanisms. Furthermore, the research method section consists of the research approach and data collection method.

CHAPTER 3 (DISCUSSION)

This chapter presents the findings related to the both intrinsics which discusses character and characterization, conflicts, and settings in the novel and extrinsic elements which use Anna Freud's theory of defense mechanisms throughout the novel.

CHAPTER 4 (CONCLUSION)

This chapter concludes the discussion by summarizing the findings from the previous chapter.

REFERENCES

This section presents all sources that have been cited throughout the research. The references are conducted by following the American Psychological Association (APA) citation style.

