



**THE PSYCHOANALYTICAL CONFLICT AND
EGO DEFENSE MECHANISM OF JASON AS REFLECTED
IN JOHN DONELLY'S MOVIE *THE PASS***

A FINAL PROJECT

In partial Fulfillment of the Requirement For S- 1 Degree in Literature In English
Department, Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University

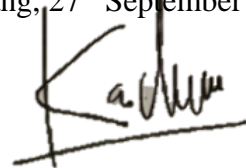
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2022**

PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer honestly confirms that she compiles this project by herself and without taking any results from other researchers in S-1, S-2, S-3 and in diploma degree of any university. The writer ascertains that she does not quote any material from other publications or someone's paper except from the references mentioned.

Semarang, 27th September 2022

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Ervina Larasati

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“Be brave, be humble, have courage”

Byun Baekhyun

*This final project is dedicated to
my beloved family and everyone
who have supported and helped me to accomplish this final project.*

APPROVAL

**THE PSYCHOANALYTICAL CONFLICT AND
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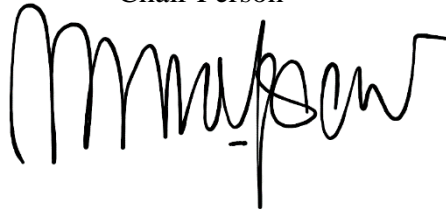
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5. All friends who always support me.

Finally, the writer expects that this final project will be useful to the reader.

Semarang, 27th September 2022

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Ervina Larasati

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ABSTRACT

This final project discusses John Donnelly's *The Pass* short movie about a gay man and his insecurities about his sexuality. The main character, Jason, a well-known football player tries with all his might to deny and reject his tendency of liking his old teammate and ex-friend, Ade. He eventually ends up begging Ade to stay with him after all the stunts and defense he put to cover his sexuality. The purpose of this study is to analyze the psychoanalytical conflict and defense mechanism of Jason as reflected in John Donnelly's *The Pass*. The analysis includes the psychoanalytical conflict and types of defense mechanism Jason faces and practices in his daily life. The writer uses the theory of psychoanalytical conflict and defense mechanism by Sigmund Freud to analyze the film. The study shows that the main character, Jason, faces psychoanalytical conflict and practices various types of defense mechanism to protect himself, that is, reaction formation, projection, displacement, undoing, isolation and denial. The writer then concludes that defense mechanism has direct relationship with social condition, environment and point of view towards an issue. The more someone rejects the issue, the more mechanism is applied.

Keywords: homosexuality, psychological turmoil, defense mechanism, freud

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The Pass (2016) is a British movie which tells the story about someone who is struggling in terms accepting his sexuality. This film can be considered as the portrayal of the turmoil someone face in identifying his sexual preferences. Those who think that they have some kind of sexual disorientation, for example being homosexual.

Homosexual is the term appointed to people whose sexual preferences is among the member of the same-sex. According to American Psychological Association (APA) male homosexual who has the sexual preferences of men is called gay. Gay as the member of homosexuality is often considered as one of sexual disorientation. The term disorientation is a strong word associated with sexuality. This term classifies which one deems normal or not. As this issue considers someone to be classified as the normal or not, trouble arises with the issue.

Almost all adults hold a favorable view of themselves. Their actions are centering around this favorable trait. When an event, whether it is external or internal causing a particular crisis in self-perception by means violating the preferred view of oneself. It is necessary for someone to put up a mechanism against the problem that may arise as the result of the event. This mechanism is called the defense mechanism (Freud, 1936). The portrayal of defense mechanism is portrayed in the movie by the main character, Jason.

In the movie it is seen that the two male characters are in love. As they are both male with their profession as professional football player, their preferences with one and another are considered abnormality in their society. Growing up with

different upbringing, Jason and Ade have inner conflict with themselves in coping the fact that they love each other as a lover. Being friends since they are little kids has made their bond stronger. Jason and Ade who kiss each other in the night before their first game embrace each other, but in the morning, Jason leaves Ade alone in their bed and never clarifies what happens between them. In the upcoming years, the movie shows how Jason copes with his life without Ade. Jason who is in love with Ade cannot let him go. Eventually, Jason and Ade meet each other again and confront their feeling with each other.

The movie exemplifies the turmoil Jason faces as an individual in a society where being a gay is frowned upon. Jason practices defense mechanism as the way to protect himself in the event. This essay explores the defense mechanism Jason practices throughout the movie as way to defend himself and how this action affects his life. The actions Jason take through the movie is believed to be defense mechanism he practiced as he cannot comprehend the fact that he is in love with another man as presented in *The Pass*.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study, the writer formulates the following research questions:

1. How is the psychoanalytical conflict of Jason as reflected in John Donnelly's *The Pass*?
2. How is the defense mechanism of Jason as reflected in John Donnelly's *The Pass*?

1.3 Purposes of the Study

The purposes of this study are as follows:

1. To analyze the psychoanalytical conflict of Jason as reflected in John Donnelly's *The Pass*.
2. To analyze the defense mechanism of Jason as reflected in John Donnelly's *The Pass*.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Intrinsic Elements

There are two types of intrinsic elements that will be discussed in this paper which are character and conflict.

2.1.1 Character & Characterization

In a movie there is a storyline in it that played by the characters. That is why character becomes so important in a movie. According to Kennedy and Gioia, a character is an imaginative person in a story (1993:60). Character can mostly be described simply as human being, but it can also be described as another thing such as animal, plant, or even just a thing.

Meanwhile, characterization is a stage in a story where the author introduces and describes a character through dialogue, actions, and descriptions. In fiction the author reveals the character of imaginary person. The creation of these imaginary persons so that they exist for the reader as real within the limits of the fiction is called characterization (Holman, 1960:75). Characterization may help us interpret a character's thought in a story.

2.1.2 Conflict

Conflict is a struggle between two or more characters, usually it happens between the protagonist character and the antagonist character. However, there is also conflict that only involves one character, it happens only to the character against himself, and it is called as internal conflict.

McDougal stated that, internal conflict can also be said as psychological conflict because it occurs when the character having two different emotions in himself (2001:46-48).

2.2 Extrinsic Elements

The theory of defense mechanism is proposed by Sigmund Freud. Freud proposed the theory as the answer to explain the event where one practices a mechanism against something that they feel violates their existence (1936).

The defense mechanism the writer applies for this research is based on six categories. They are reaction formation, projection, displacement, undoing, isolation, and denial. Related to this final project writing, the writer chooses these six categories because these categories are believed to be one that is compatible and suitable for the data of this research, namely *The Pass* movie. Below is the detailed explanation of each kind of related ego defense mechanism.

Reaction formation is the term referred to converting a socially unacceptable impulse into its opposite. This action shows when people feel the need to respond as a defense in having a trait that by norms is deemed unacceptable. (Freud, 1936).

Projection can simply be understood as seeing one's own traits in other people. This involves perceiving others in having the same traits that one seemingly

believes not to have. This action can be considered defensive when someone perceives that the trait they considered threatening is also visible in others, thus helping one to avoid recognizing it in self (Freud, 1936).

Displacement deals with changing target of an impulse. This action refers to the action where one is angered or disappointed in a target, but releases the anger on a different target in which somehow they still have the relation with (Baumeister, 1998).

Undoing is an action where somebody takes an action by trying to alter the past and so to make it seem like some unfortunate things never happen. Baumeister et al state that people mentally replay past events and imagine alternative acts and outcomes from the event. This commonly emerges on various misfortunes and traumas (1998).

Isolation understands action where an individual creates a mental barrier between what can be categorized as thoughts, consciousness, and feelings that threaten their existence or state of being (Freud, 1936).

Denial is the clear refusal to face certain facts as these facts contain something that damages self-esteem. People will reject facts that are threatening to their self (Baumeister, 1998).

3. RESEARCH METHOD

This final project uses two methods in collecting and analyzing the data and information to support the topic. Those are psychological approach and library research.

3.1 Research Approach

Based on the background of this final project that reveals the psychological phenomena in the main character of John Donnelly's *The Pass*, the writer uses the psychological approach. Psychological approach is a research which focusses on psychological phenomena of a character in a story (Bressler, 1994:4)

3.2 Method of Data Collection

In collecting and analyzing data of this research, the researcher uses library research. Library research is a technique of collecting data by learning and understanding data which has a close relation to the problem from books, theories, notes, and documents (George, 2008:3). Data and theories are collected from library materials related with the subject analyzed. The sources are books, films, reviews, and other supporting references.

4. ANALYSIS

THE PSYCHOANALYTICAL CONFLICT AND EGO DEFENSE

MECHANISM OF JASON AS REFLECTED IN JOHN DONNELLY'S

MOVIE *THE PASS*

4.1 Intrinsic Elements

Intrinsic elements deal with everything that is included in the narrative of the film. The intrinsic elements are essential because in order to understand the whole story of the movie the analysis of intrinsic elements is needed. In this chapter character and conflict as parts of the intrinsic will be analyzed.

4.1.1 Character

Jason is the main character of the film as the story centers around him. Jason is portrayed as white-skinned cheerful boy in the movie, Jason character appear as someone ignorant as he constantly teases his friend Ade without thinking about Ade's feeling towards the jokes he made. The movie portrays how ignorant Jason to his friend Ade when he asks Jason to stop joking about his race.

JASON : Ade, it is me. (Nigerian accent)

ADE : Stop it

JASON : Ade, it is me.

ADE : I said stop it Jase!

(Donnelly, 2016:1)

4.1.2 The Conflict between Jason's Id and Superego

The conflict between Jason's id and Jason's superego appears when Jason's id wants to stay with Ade while Jason's superego wants to leave for the sake of his dream.

ADE : Jase, no one gets to do the thing they dreamt when they was a kid.

JASON : Except I do, Ade. I do.

JASON : Of course I'd rather be playing professional.

(Donnelly, 2016:3)

His Id says that deep inside he really has feelings towards his friend Ade, and he wishes they can be together. At the same time, his superego thinks that being in love with someone who has the same gender as himself is against social norms. In the end, Jason then decides to follow his superego and leaves Ade without explanation because he was afraid of people's judgement toward himself.

4.2 Extrinsic Element

In this chapter, the writer will analyze the defense mechanism practiced by the main character, Jason. This chapter will be divided into six categories of defense mechanism as explained in the theoretical framework.

4.2.1 Reaction Formation: Jason Tries to Prove That He is Not Gay

Referring to the theory that reaction formation is the act of trying the exact opposite from what is deemed unacceptable by society. In this case, the main character of the movie, Jason, does reaction formation. He tries so hard trying to prove that he is not gay by acting or appear as the complete opposite as being gay. The dialogue below shows his desperation in his action trying to prove that he is not gay.

JASON : What, do you... Do you think I'm fucking stupid?

JASON : Of course I know.

LINSEY : Are you saying that you planned this?

(Donnelly, 2016:2)

The context of the dialogue above shows how Jason is trying his best to claim that he is not gay by hiring a prostitute to make a scandal. Jason hires the prostitute with the intention that the scandal is big enough to erase the gay allegation and the memory where he kisses his teammate, Ade that has been following him throughout his career. The action Jason takes is a risky move because not only it jeopardizes his career, it will also ruin his relationship with his wife. The action Jason takes is considered a reaction formation because Jason is trying to behave the exact opposite from what he fears he is, that is, being gay. Jason tries to prove that he is a womanizer by laying out the fake scenario by him and the prostitute, even without

the knowledge of the prostitute herself that their action is staged. Jason action as the means of reaction formation is also portrayed in the dialogue below.

JASON : So, if there are things I need
to get my head in the right place,
JASON : if I need a wife and kid,
JASON : yeah, if I need to fuck a woman,

(Donnelly, 2016:2)

The dialogue above shows how Jason justifies his action after the prostitute. He confronts her about the staged scandal that unfortunately do not take place. Jason says that he will do all sort of things to make his head right in the place. The meaning of get his head right in the place refers to the uncertainty he feels regarding his sexual feeling. He is willing to do anything which can erase the feeling he still held for Ade. Hence, he wants to make the scandal to popularize the idea that he is a pure womanizer.

The reaction formation of the action Jason takes in both dialogues symbolize the defense he practices to protect himself against the society and the facts that he is still in love with Ade. In both dialogues, Jason tries his best to steer away the issue of his sexuality which is particularly strong when someone is faced directly with the issue that eventually will shows their unacceptable traits. Thus, it renders him to take action in order to prove his existence in public.

4.2.2 Projection: Jason Tries to Project His Alibi

Referring to the theory that projection refers to seeing one own traits in other people. This involves perceiving others in having the same traits that one is seemingly believe not to have. In this case the main character, Jason, tries to alter

one trait that one is believed to be visible in other people, thus making the trait simply a common human action. The dialogue below shows how Jason's ego forms projection regarding his issue of hiding his sexuality.

JASON : Do you... Do you think it's just me, hmm?

JASON : Do you think people are truthful?

JASON : The whole world is full of people pretending to be something they're not.

JASON : The fuck I do or don't do

JASON : with my life is up to me, right?

JASON : No one else decides, so if I say "I ain't gay", I ain't gay.

(Donnelly, 2016: 2)

The dialogue above shows how Jason tries to project his alibi by reasoning that everyone is a liar in one way or another. When Jason is asked why he is so adamant on keeping the act as a womanizer, in his defense he says that everyone is a liar by pretending to be something they want. He projects the issue by declaring that he is not gay because he chooses to refer himself not as one regardless the action he takes which only fueling the fact that he is secretly gay. Another dialogue also shows Jason projection as quoted:

JASON : Do you know what I feel when I look at you?

JASON : Is it pity?

JASON : You mean you got the moral high ground,

JASON : because you fix people's toilets for a living?

JASON : I scored at the San Siro.

JASON : 80,000 people rose to their feet.

JASON : I inspire love, devotion.

JASON : What do you get, Ade? Invoices?

(Donnelly, 2016:3)

The dialogue above shows the conversation between Jason and Ade when they face each other in the last scene of the movie. Jason tries to reason when Ade

look at him as he was concerned with Jason situation where he cannot make peace with himself regarding his sexuality. Jason rebuttes by saying that he is the one who feels pity towards Ade because Jason get to live his dream, but Ade stuck on the common ground. In Jason defense, he projects that Ade will want the fame and glory Jason had as the result of hiding his sexuality and ignore the way they kiss each other fully conscious.

The projection in both dialogues shows other kinds of defense that is practiced by Jason, as projection is the act of refers one trait in others, Jason tries to reason with himself that his action is acceptable because he feels, that his action is as common as other people by deluding his mind. Projection as a defense protects one ego from feeling guilty of something because a person at some point refuse to accept some fault in themselves. Consequently, they see others have the same fault as them.

4.2.3 Displacement: Jason Blames Ade for His Situation

Referring to the theory that displacement deals with the changing target of an impulse. In this case, the main character, Jason, release his anger on a different target in which somehow, they still have the relation with. Displacement as type of defense mechanism can be seen from the dialogue below.

JASON : God, I'm sorry things didn't pan out,
but it ain't my fault.
ADE : That's what you think this is.
JASON : Oh, what, what?
JASON : You'd rather be fixing toilets
than doing what I do?
ADE : What, cooped up here like a nutter
going for midnight swims?

JASON : Yes, I would. Bullshit. You're jealous.
ADE : Jase, no one gets to do the thing
they dreamt about when they was a kid. That's life, mate.
JASON : Except I do, Ade. I do.
JASON : Ofcourse I'd rather be playing professional.
Thank you!

(Donnelly, 2016:3)

The dialogue above indicates the act of displacement Jason take towards Ade. When Ade tries to make Jason see things clearly, he negates by claiming that Ade is just jealous of what Jason already accomplish in the years after their departure. It may concern that the problem Jason face with his sexuality has a relation with the presence of Ade, but the actual problem is not Jason and Ade as ex best mate who kiss each other, rather how Jason struggle to come in peace with his sexuality as seen throughout the movie. Another dialogue which shows Jason act of displacement towards Ade is also shown below.

JASON : See how the other half lives, recapture the old glory.
JASON : Feel a part of something, is that it? Think what you want.

JASON : Oh, do you tell your teammates
you played with me, hmm?

(Donnelly, 2016:3).

The dialogue above shows the accusation Jason throws to Ade. When Ade tries to calm Jason down as he being hysterical when he finds out that Ade is not struggling about his sexuality, but choose to embrace it. Jason accuses that Ade find joy in telling his teammates that he once kissed him, an internationally famous footballer. Ade tries to tell Jason that he does not tell a single person about the kiss they do in their younger days, but of course Jason refuses to acknowledge it.

The act of displacement involving scapegoating where people may become angry or hostile towards one target, but they are refrained on doing any kind of aggression towards the target. The actual target as explained below is the struggle or insecurity Jason face regarding his sexuality, but as he takes the action of displacement, he changes his target to Ade. Jason targets Ade because he wants to find someone who can be blamed for the turmoil he faces for his uncertainty and the urge to proof that he is a straight man to the community. Ade is the perfect target because according to Jason he has lower social status than him. Jason feels safer to target Ade because displacement tends to direct their hostility to safer target or targeting someone with lesser position.

4.2.4 Undoing: Jason Tries to Alleviate the Past

Referring to the theory that undoing is the kind of defense mechanism where someone tries to alter the past to make it seems like some unfortunate things never happen. Below is the dialogue which indicates the action of undoing Jason takes regarding the past.

ADE : Then why did you invite me here, Jase,
if you've got so many other things going on?
JASON : Just to see if you'd come back.
ADE : Back where?
JASON : (Exhales) To this room.

(Donnelly, 2016:3).

The dialogue above shows the action of undoing Jason takes regarding a condition in the past between him and Ade. Jason takes the undoing action by referring to the past where he and Ade still a friend. Jason invites Ade back to the room where they have their first kiss indicates the undoing as a form of defense.

Jason action by inviting Ade back to the room is a way of altering the past with the question 'what if'. He wanders if he chooses to stay beside Ade and acknowledge their feeling to each other instead of pretending nothing happens between them will lessen the constant onslaught of dilemma Jason feels after leaving Ade in the past. Undoing commonly emerges on various misfortunes and traumas. It can be inferred that Jason practices Undoing as the result of the trauma he has done in rejecting his sexuality with the pressure of the community he resides with. Jason may be aware that the action of undoing will not change the future, but this action brings some kind of relive hence the term defense mechanism is applied.

4.2.5 Isolation: Jason Changes the Issue When Sexuality is Brought up

Referring to the theory that isolation deals with the action where an individual creates a mental barrier between what can be categorized as thoughts, consciousness, and feels that threaten their existence or state of being. Jason practices isolation when the talk about him being gay is brought up. The dialogue below shows the portrayal of him doing isolation.

JASON : I got the mood wrong. I misjudged things.

Come on, let's have a drink.

JASON : I was just talking sexy,
you know, I was talking a bit dirty.

JASON : I was trying to get you into it.

JASON : Thought you'd be into it. That's all.

(Donnelly, 2016:2).

The dialogue above is the conversation between Jason and the prostitute. Jason who gets angry with the girl after she refuses to tape their action and make it a scandal. The girl who knows that the scandal is all Jason idea, refuses to do anything with him. She, then, asks him whether it is a kind of dare or a kind to prove

something. Her words seem to struck a nerve because Jason suddenly tries to change the topic of the conversation. It can be inferred when Jason tries to change the topic of the conversation, he practices isolation. Jason practices isolation by saying that the hurtful words he throws to the girl are just things to rile them up before the girl has another chance to question his action of wanting to film his own scandal and put it in the news.

4.2.6 Denial: Jason Refuses to Acknowledge the Fact

Referring to the theory that denial deals with the clear refusal to face certain facts as these facts contain something that damage self-esteem. As denial is a form of self-defense, Jason also practices the action as showed in the dialogue below.

JASON : Gay? Gay?
JASON : Are you out your fucking mind?
Gay? Of course I'm not gay.
JASON : Look at me. I'm a footballer.

(Donnelly, 2016:2)

The dialogue above shows the conversation between Jason and the prostitute after they failed to create a scene where Jason *scandal* supposed to happen. The prostitute asks the reason why Jason insist to creat his own scandal which can possibly ruin his career. She asks his if this is a dare in which he have to prove something, then she realize that Jason has doubt about his sexuality. As the response, Jason immediately gets angry with the prostitute statement that he is gay. This is the action of denial practiced by Jason. Denial as stated above is often accompanied by clear dismissal and anger.

5. CONCLUSION

The Pass by John Donnelly is a film which portrays an issue in sexuality. The writer discusses the issue of sexuality between the main character, Jason and his inner-self. How oneself refuses to acknowledge their own sexuality. How he defies his own thoughts and resorts in practicing a series of defense mechanism to protect himself against his own mind. The defense mechanism in the film is analyzed in this study using the theory of defense mechanism as proposed by Sigmund Freud.

In this study it is found that, Jason faces psychoanalytical conflict. He also practiced various types of defense mechanism which are, reaction formation, projection, displacement, undoing, isolation, and denial. This happens because Jason has the urge to protect himself against the onslaught of reality that he indeed is in love with his old teammate, Ade who he leaves alone the morning after they share their first kiss.

This study shows that when one practices forms of defense mechanism it is in line with social condition and environment. Jason who is a well-known football player afraid that his sexuality will become a judgement of who he is and affect his career like what he often told Ade, his first love who has embrace of who he is, a gay football player.

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