

CHAPTER II

THEORY AND METHOD

2.1 Theoretical Framework

This research examines both intrinsic and extrinsic elements of a literary work. The intrinsic elements analyzed in this study include character, conflict and setting, which are fundamental components that shape the narrative structure. On the other hand, the extrinsic elements explored in this study consist of personality structure, anxiety, and defence mechanisms.

2.1.1. Intrinsic Elements

Intrinsic elements refer to the fundamental components found within the text itself, which contribute to the development of the plot, characters, and overall meaning of the story. In this study, the intrinsic elements discussed include character, conflict, and setting of the main character in Edgar Allan Poe's *The Black Cat* and *Berenice*.

2.1.1.1. Character

According to Abrams (1999: 32-33), characters are the individuals portrayed in a dramatic or narrative work who are perceived by readers as possessing specific moral, intellectual, emotional attributes based on their actions and words. Abrams also emphasizes that characters can be analyzed through their dialogue, actions, thoughts, and interactions with others. In this research thesis, the writer focuses on the moral and emotional quality of the main character. These

moral and emotional qualities are discussed to show the development of the main character.

Characters are not merely people in stories; they are tools of communication, shaped by the author's choices in narration, tone, structure, and detail. Every detail about a character is strategically selected by the author to influence how readers feel, judge, or understand the story.

2.1.1.2. Characterization

Characterization is method by which an author presents and develops the characters in a narrative (Abrams, 1999: 65). Abrams makes a distinction between the two main methods of characterization, telling and showing in *A Glossary of Literary Terms* (1999: 55). The author shows the characters speaking, acting, and behaving in the manner of exhibiting, also known as the dramatic method, so the reader must deduce their motivations, attitudes, and psychological traits from what is made clear by their words and deeds.

By contrast, in the method of telling, the author or narrator intervenes directly by describing, evaluating, or explicitly stating the qualities of the characters. Characterization becomes the medium through which an author conveys the inner life, emotions, and psychological conflicts of the characters, which will be the basis for the psychoanalytical analysis in this thesis.

2.1.1.3. Setting

Abrams (1999: 284-285) explains that setting refers to the action's location, historical period, and social context. Setting is an important aspect of a short story

because it creates the scenes, influences the atmosphere of the story, and affects the way a character acts and interacts with other characters. The setting is also an element that helps the reader to understand and visualize the plot of the story.

In this research thesis, the writer will analyze the influence of place and time setting on the main character's psychological conflicts. The setting of place is not only a backdrop, but it also influences characters' behavior, shapes the plot, and reinforces themes. While, the setting of time specifically concerns the temporal framework in which the events of the story occur, and it includes the historical period, season, time of day, duration of events, and the chronological structure that shapes the narrative (Abrams, 1999).

2.1.1.4. Conflict

One of the key elements of the short story's narrative is conflict. In his book *A glossary of Literary Terms*, Abrams (1999) defines conflict as the disagreement that produce dramatic tension in a story between two characters, between a character and outside forces, or within a character's own thinking. In short stories, conflict is usually more concentrated and intense due to the limited length.

Internal conflict, often known as a paradox that the character must overcome, as described by Meyer (2011: 51-52). Internal conflict often resolves a character's growth. It includes psychological issues and contains aspects such as anxiety and moral issues. The contrast between the protagonist and another character or aspect of the story, on the other hand, is known as external conflict.

The main character in this study thesis has internal conflict with himself an exterior conflict with other characters.

2.1.2. Extrinsic Elements

Extrinsic elements refer to aspects outside the text. In this study, the extrinsic analysis is focused on the psychological approach, specifically using Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory. By examining how the defence mechanisms, the analysis provides a deeper insight into the main character's psychological conflict (Anna Freud, 1936). In this study, the writer will be focusing on the defence mechanisms of the main character. But, before we go to the defence mechanism, we must analyze the personality structure and anxiety to know how the main character is.

2.1.2.1. Personality Structure

In his psychoanalytic theory, Sigmund Freud (1923) asserts that the id, ego and superego are the three separate parts of the human psyche. These elements work together to influence a person's behavior and mental processes. Additionally, Freud agree that psychological development requires individuals to face and integrate hidden parts of the self to achieve mental health and maturity. In this study, the writer will analyze the personality structure with Freud's theory, identifying three types of personality structure: the id, the ego, and the superego.

2.1.2.1.1. The Id

The id, which exist from birth, is the most basic aspect of the personality. It functions according to the pleasure principle, which aims to satisfy impulses, wants,

and desires right away, regardless of the repercussions. The id is entirely unconscious and contains the basic drives related to survival, reproduction, and aggression (Freud, 1923, 25).

2.1.2.1.2. The Ego

The ego grows to act as a mediator between the id's irrational demand and the outside world. It functions in accordance with the reality principle, striving to satiate the id's cravings in practical and socially acceptable ways. According to Freud, the ego is the portion of the id that has been directly impacted by the outside world (1923: 25-26).

2.1.2.1.3. The Superego

The moral principles and values learned from parents and society are symbolized by the superego. It produces feelings of pride or shame by judging the ego's actions and intentions and striving for perfection. Freud emphasized the superego watches the ego, commands it, evaluates it, and threatens to punish it (1923, 51).

Structural model of the psyche, the id, ego and superego are constantly in conflict. These conflicts are the primary source of anxiety. It is not part of the id or superego, but rather a psychological reaction produced by the ego when it is under pressure (Sigmund Freud, 1926, 106).

2.1.2.2 Anxiety

When the ego detects a threat from these conflicts, especially from unacceptable impulses of the id or harsh judgment of the superego, it produces

anxiety as a signal to take defensive action. According to Sigmund Freud, anxiety is a signal to the ego that danger is present from internal threats. In his theory, Freud identifies three different kinds of anxiety: objective, neurotic, and moral anxiety (1926, 76-80).

2.1.2.2.1. Objective Anxiety

Freud says objective anxiety is essentially fear of danger in the external world, and it is rational (1926, 80). This kind of anxiety can be experienced when one is threatened with punishment, physical harm, rejection, or loss. In the context of literary analysis, a character may experience objective anxiety when they fear the consequences of their immoral actions.

2.1.2.2.2. Neurotic Anxiety

Freud explains that neurotic anxiety arises out of the ego's relation to the id. The danger is that the instincts will break through and provoke some action which will result in punishment (1926, 82). This type of anxiety occurs when unconscious desires, especially those related to aggression or sexuality, threaten to rise to the surface.

2.1.2.2.3. Moral Anxiety

According to Freud, moral anxiety is the fear of the superego. It appears as a need for punishment or a fear of conscience (1926, 83). Moral anxiety occurs when the superego imposes harsh judgment on the ego for having unacceptable thoughts, desires, or behaviours, even if those actions are only imagined. This

internal pressure produces a deep sense of guilt, often unrelated to actual consequences in the external world.

2.1.2.3 Defence Mechanisms

Anxiety and defence mechanisms are inseparable. When this anxiety becomes too strong, the ego activates defence mechanisms to reduce psychological tension and protect the individual from emotional harm. The ego uses defense mechanisms, which are unconscious psychological techniques, to control worry and preserve psychological balance. The ego gives the signal of anxiety and initiates defensive measures to protect the individual from danger (Freud, 1926, 95). Defense mechanisms are unconscious processes that the ego uses to control the demands of the id, superego, and outside world in an effort to lessen psychological suffering (Anna Freud, 1936). The writer will employ three of Freud's defense mechanisms in this study: rationalization, repression and projection.

2.1.2.3.1. Rationalization

According to Freud, rationalization is a type of ego defense mechanism in which an individual unconsciously creates logical, reasonable, or socially acceptable explanations to justify behaviors, thoughts, or feelings that are driven by unconscious desires or conflicts. The ego employs defences to avoid being overwhelmed by anxiety; these defenses operate unconsciously and distort reality (1926, 96). The goal is to reduce feelings of guilt, shame, conflict and to make one's actions appear reasonable or justified.

2.1.2.3.2. Repression

Repression is the prototype of the mechanisms of defense, it proceeds by keeping something out of consciousness (Freud, 1926:148). Repression works by banishing threatening material, usually associated with unacceptable desires, traumatic memories, or disturbing thoughts, into the unconscious. Repression is a process that begins with the ego's decision to avoid anxiety by eliminating the idea or impulse from conscious thought (Freud, 1926: 96).

2.1.2.3.3. Projection

Unconsciously attributing undesirable thoughts, feelings, or impulses to another person is a defense strategy known as projection (Freud, 1894). Anna Freud (1926, 136) explained that projection is a mechanism whereby what is internal and unacceptable is instead perceived as external. Projection occurs when a person cannot accept their own hostile, aggressive or immoral impulses, so they assign those impulses to others.

2.1.2.3.4. Displacement

Displacement is a defence mechanism in which the mind redirects emotions, impulse, or desires from a threatening or unacceptable object toward a safer, less threatening one. It is one of the key processes operating in dreams, neuroses, and daily psychological functioning. According to Freud, displacement is the unconscious redirection of emotions or desires from a threatening target to a safer substitute, functioning as both a dream mechanism and a defence mechanism (1900, 339).

2.1.2.3.5. Denial

Denial is a defence mechanism in which the ego refuses to acknowledge an external reality or perception that produces anxiety (Freud, 1894: 58). Freud's most explicit account appears in *Fetishism*, where he describes denial as the simultaneous acknowledgment and rejection of reality (1927: 151). Freud saw denial not simply as "lying to oneself", but as a deep, unconscious rejection of facts that threaten the ego. Denial creates two coexisting attitudes within the ego, one that accepts reality and one that refuse it. That's making denial one of the most fundamental and structural defence mechanism in psychoanalysis.

2.1.2.3.6. Isolation

According to Freud, isolation is a defence mechanism, especially common in obsessional neurosis, in which the ego separates an idea, memory, or thought from the emotional charge connected to it (1894: 58). The person can think about the event without feeling anything. Freud describes isolation as a way disconnecting thought from affect to prevent anxiety. This makes isolation especially common in obsessive-compulsive personalities.

2.2. Research Method

Research method refers to the specific techniques of investigation used to collect, analyze, and interpret data in a study (Clarke & Clarke, 1984). The research method in this thesis is a qualitative-descriptive method, since it focuses on analyzing the text of Edgar Allan Poe's *The Black Cat* and *Berenice*. To provide a clear explanation of how this thesis is conducted, the research method is divided

into three main parts: data and data source, method of collecting data, and method of analyzing data.

2.2.1. Data and Data Source

The data in this thesis are taken from Edgar Allan Poe's short stories *The Black Cat* (1843) and *Berenice* (1835). The data consist of words, phrases, sentences, and dialogues in the stories that portray the psychological condition of the main character, especially those related to psychoanalytic conflict, anxiety, and ego-defence mechanisms.

The primary data source of this study is the original texts of *The Black Cat* and *Berenice* by Edgar Allan Poe, which provide direct evidence for analysing the main character's internal conflicts and psychological states. The secondary data sources include books, journals and scholarly articles on literary theory, psychoanalysis, and Edgar Allan Poe's works. Among these are Sigmund Freud's theory of psychoanalysis, especially concepts of conflicts, anxiety, and defence mechanisms, as well as critical works by M.H. Abrams, David M. Meyer. These secondary sources support the interpretation of the primary data and provide theoretical foundations for the analysis.

2.2.2. Method of Collecting of Data

The method of collecting data used by the writer is library research. According to George, library research is an investigation led by the researcher from start to finish. Library research is a type of structured research that employs specific

tools, rules, and techniques (2008, 1). The writer gathers the data from a variety of sources, including books, journals, and articles.

2.2.3. Method of Analysing Data

The method of analysing data in this thesis is conducted through a psychological approach. The analysis focuses on the main character's psychological conflict in Edgar Allan Poe's short stories *The Black Cat* and *Berenice* as the primary data source. The study of psychological characteristics and laws found in literary works is known as psychology of literature (Wellek and Warren, 1956, 75). The approach to analyzing the story involves the intrinsic elements, which are conflicts and the main character as well as extrinsic elements which are psychoanalytical conflict by Sigmund Freud theory. The writer analyzes the short story's intrinsic and extrinsic components using contextual techniques. According to Beard, context relates to what occurs alongside the text rather than what occurs within it (2001, 6).