

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Literature is now expanding its scope by presenting digital literature which is more practical, cheaper cost and effective recently (P, Ursula, 2017). It makes literary works are increasingly accessible to many people and the form is even more diverse. Literary work as one form of cultural imagination is a phenomenon of dynamic communication, not only involving individuals with individuals, but also involving one cultural group in a special contact relationship with other cultural communities.

Literary works have been through every era of human development: from the oral age, the age of writing; printing; and now in the age of digital knowledge based on technology. It entered the cyberspace of the internet where text space is no longer limited. In this post-modern era, literary works are interesting for further research. Therefore, in the world of literature nowadays, there is a new term called Digital Literature. It is predicted that digital literature was born in 1990 for the first time, but it has only begun to become popular since 1998 (Neuage, 1997, p.5). The birth of this technology makes the word 'digital' as a new genre synonymous with the internet. Varieties of digital literature are richly diverse, spanning all types of print literature and adding some genres unique to networked and programmable media. Readers with only

a slight familiarity with the field, however, are likely to first identify it with hypertext fiction characterized by linking structures (Hayles, 2007).

The development of this media has led to a shift and changes in mass communication theories. A phenomenon where modern society is required to be more creative in the use of science and technology for their lives and brings new progress in various fields (McQuail, 2011). There are many technologies born in this century. Technology of communication for example, or it is called social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Skype that provides the medium space for communication and interaction in cyberspace on social networks according to Rulli Nasrullah, M. S. (2016, p. 36).

This development of digital literature cannot be separated from the pros and cons of digitizing books. A survey conducted by the Pew Internet Research Center in 2012 showed that the number of Americans aged 16 and over who read e-books increased in 2011 to the following years. It also indicates the increasing of e-book ownership devices or tablets. While it can be argued as the e-books success point in 2012 and the fall of the glory of printed books but, it turned upside down a few years back. The decrease influenced by people's interest of their sensations arising from the collection of physical rather than digital library materials.

Yet, this does not mean that all printed books will be replaced by digital format. Both internal and external factors will affect the popularity of e-books in various countries, and this popularity will not overpower considering some barriers such as concern about copyright, piracy problems and plagiarism, costs

that cannot be reached by many other circles, public acceptance of technology and new reading habits. This new reading habit showed by experience and collaboration between the human author and the machine (the World Wide Web produces the work and creates it), and when the reader clicks on a link and the sensation on the new unit after that click (R, Simanowski, 2015). It is considered general in this postmodern society because it filled with everything that defines post-modern since it includes internet-based electronics and cover a wider community (F, Pianzola, 2020).

The word 'digital' was chosen because in a relatively stable unity of context it can be more descriptive than other words. In this case, digital literature in postmodern society is considered familiar because it fulfills all aspects that are characteristic of post-modern society.

Digital Literature is literary works published on internet as can be found on websites, blog sites, discussion forums and mailing lists, with various links, levels, and dimensions that are so complex, without a middle, beginning and end (this refers to its characteristics of hypertext or hyperlink), stated by Terrel Neuage (1997: p. 3). Meanwhile, Khaterine Hayles (2008), defined digital literature is "... generally considered to exclude print literature that has been digitized, is by contrast 'digital born,' and (usually) intended to be read on a computer." The definitions include the presence of literary phenomena such as written literary works that are subsequently transferred to digital form (digitized print literature), computer-based literary works that are then

published online. By using technology such as sites, mailing lists, forums, and now blogs, digital literary communities began to emerge.

One of the examples is the form of physical books slowly began to shift into digital works, such as e-books or e-journals. The phenomenon of digital literature helps spread the interest of literature to people who did not have access to literature. Nevertheless, digital literature produced literary works which make it easily accessed by many people.

In Indonesia, Wattpad was known as one of the most widely used social media spaces for digital literary activities (L, Fitriani, 2011). The internet provides a climate of freedom without censorship on Wattpad. People can use it for journalism, literacy, diary, and literature. This platform provides fiction and non-fiction writing in various genres or types either Wattpad can be a place to read and for users who like writing. Wattpad enables users to develop their writing skill as it can be accessed on the website (www.wattpad.com) or downloaded via phone mobile. Everyone is able to show their work and appreciated by readers. Moreover, the publishing needs of literary communities found the internet as a platform for socialization.

Wattpad provides the novels most teenagers like because the majority of Wattpad users are young. Just about 30% of its users are under 18 years old; 90% of its users are young, while they are millennial or Gen Z (S, Perez, 2020). Romance is the most famous genre, but there are many exciting Wattpad novels from different genres for example, about teens, friendship, and

horror genres, users as readers can choose the story they like. Many of those millennials are also incorporating social media into their daily lives.

This research is focused on the writing of digital literature platform known as Wattpad. The Broken Perfection novel was chosen because the novel is interesting which inspired by a true event as the author stated, and most importantly it delivered with enjoyable narration. It reached about 40 thousands readers since published in 2018 with kind of different themes than Wattpad usual themes (romance). The main character, Diya Sharma, is in conflict with past traumatic events, thus shape a new identity of being masculine female from the way she facing the trauma with being a bike racer. Her masculinity also seems constructed through her characteristics, and appearance. In this case, defense mechanisms helped to hide the trauma she had.

Freud's theory of psychoanalysis, particularly defense mechanism is suitable to determine the changes of the main character's personality. Meanwhile, Judith Halberstam's Female Masculinity theory intended to open the fact that masculinity also exist in the body of women and it seems to be very different comparing to men. The appearance and behavior of Diya Sharma as a masculine woman who purposely hides her past and is disguise as a man for racing. She realizes social norms that as a woman she should not have become a racer by disguising as a man just to be accepted by the community in doing so. Therefore, it is very interesting to be examined. All the content of the analysis in this novel is to get the final conclusions about the topic and the problem of how the main character constructing her masculine identity to conceal her past.

Furthermore, several studies have been conducted relating to digital literature, psychoanalysis, and female masculinity. The difference with this study is the subject.

The Digital literature in the post-modern era was discussed in several previous studies. Based on Urszula Pawlicka's journal article, "An Essay on Digital Literature as Framework" (2017), it can be inferred that digital literature extends to be more than literature. A new approach in digital literature analysis is introduced in this study: a process approach open to change, revision and exploration. Alternatively, it offers a new perspective on electronic literature as a forum for online study, textuality, art and other forms of expression. In the last part which introduces digital literature as a medium for literary, artistic and technical experimentation, authors, artists, developers, and programmers pursue these ideas.

Other study related to digital literature was written by Ivanka Kuić entitled "Postmodern Theories about Readers in Electronic Environment" (2014) explained that all the theorists share the idea that a reader is an important topic for a literary work's future life. The issue is addressed as to whether these constructs apply to the digital world (hypertext) using Iser's theory of text-reader interaction and also Fish's concept of interpretative community.

Another study with title "A New Research Programme for Reading Research: Analysing Comments in the Margins on Wattpad by Simone Reborra and Federico Pianzola" (2018). This study focuses on Wattpad as a social reading platform where people could add comments in the margins of books.

They describe a dataset built by scrapping the Wattpad website: preliminary statistics on the most commented books in the "Classics" and "Teen Fiction" categories are presented and discussed. Other study of them is still discussing about Wattpad, but in more specific focus entitled "Wattpad as a Resource for Literary Studies. Quantitative and Qualitative Examples of the Importance of Digital Social Reading and Readers' Comments in the Margins" (2020). In comparison, they review Wattpad's texts and comments, the subjects that preferred in 13 languages, the role genre plays for readers' behaviour, and the kind of emotional interaction that prevalent when young readers share stories.

Then, the study entitled "Blending Wattpad Platform and English Prose Course in Industrial Revolution Era 4.0" by Irpan Ali Rahman and Iwan Hatanto (2019) found that English Learning process can be done either face-to-face or online between lecturers and students to provide maximum learning outcomes through a blended learning concept exploration of Wattpad platform. This study used a descriptive qualitative method of research to examine the concept of Wattpad blending and English prose course. They applied Education 4.0 as theory, as the area of education is one of the field influenced by the pace of the industrial revolution 4.0. Moreover, blended learning also used to support the study as an effort today to combine cyber technology and learning.

There are also several studies about psychoanalysis that had been discussed, one of them is a study of Rohaeni, Fatma Hetami, Bambang Purwanto entitled "Anxiety and Defense Mechanism as A Means of

Constructing Psychological Thriller in Hawkins' *The Girl on the Train*" (2019), They analyze the main character of *The Girl on The Train* novel which also a female and explaining how psychological thriller constructed by anxiety and defense mechanism theory by Sigmund Freud. It shows that there are many kinds of anxiety and six defense mechanisms as the result. The findings show that these anxieties and defense mechanisms become a means of constructing psychological thriller.

Another study related to this is from Giovanny Mario, "A Psychoanalysis on The Main Character and The Author of Sherlock Holmes: A Study in *Scarlet*" (2012) that using Freud's Psychoanalysis theory to analyze the main character's personality, Sherlock Holmes, with the defense mechanisms, and biographical criticism approach. As the result, Sherlock Holmes who is the main character of the novel has several characteristics: self-destructive, selfish and perfectionist. The analysis of Holmes' Id, ego and super-ego capture these characteristics. The researcher also discover that there are many similarities between the author and one of the novel's characters.

The next study that discuss about psychoanalysis on novel is entitled "Linda's Ego Defense Mechanisms as Seen in Paulo Coelho's *Adultery: A Psychoanalysis Study*" (2017) by Azizah Nurhayati. The author analyses the forms of repression and denial found in the main character of the *Adultery* named Linda when she was dealing with her situation. The author found repression and denial as the main character's ego defense mechanisms to cope, and it is seen through her dialogue and behavior towards herself and others.

The next are studies of female masculinity using Judith Halberstam's theory. First, Retno Sulistia in her study entitled "Female Masculinity of Fa Mulan and Its Impact Towards Her Relationship with Male Characters In Disney Movie Mulan" (2016). Mulan is a girl, but traditionally she's not feminine. She is failed in performing her roles as traditional Chinese girl. The result shows that Mulan concurs that she got the qualities of a man, after sacrificing herself to replace her father's pace in the army and transforming her appearance into a man, she proves that she's better off acting as a man figure. Yet, her masculinity influences her feeling towards men and also her relationship to male characters.

The second is written by Parvathi P K, PhD, "Female Masculinity in Dystopian Adolescent Fiction – Suzanne Collins' *Hunger Games* Series" (2017), which the author use Connell's Masculinity as primary theory, and Halberstam's Female Masculinity as secondary theory. This study aims to assess whether it is a subversion or an imitation. It found that in the *Hunger Games* series, female masculinity characters gain the power associated to male power by "imitating" hegemonic masculine.

Obviously, the previous studies discussed above indicate that the corpus of this study to be examined is significantly different. Those previous studies have shown no specific discussion of the novel in Wattpad platform using Freud's Psychoanalysis, and Halberstam's Female Maculinity. Therefore, the writer will examine one novel published on Wattpad.

This is what distinguishes those studies that have similar theory of psychoanalysis by Freud with this study. This is using a novel from Wattpad platform entitled *The Broken Perfection* focuses on defense mechanism, id, ego, and superego of the main character. This study will elaborate on how the main character named Diya Sharma responds her problem by activating defense mechanism as human psyche negotiates problem. The novel is a love-themed, but it shows the traumatic past of Diya Sharma. She tries to escape from her past by finding the distraction and keep it as a secret. Yet, she is trying to deal with her past which left her broken and scars. She is like a mystery for people around her by decided not to care about what they perceive of her. She does not want to look weak, so act masculine like a man is become her choice.

Another important point in this novel is that Diya Sharma shows the action of defense mechanism to demonstrate the unconscious process which prevent anxiety or trauma, and people who have hurt her by distorting the reality. The writer decided to elaborate more the broader context of Diya Sharma by analyse it through the narrative that shows defense mechanism and female masculinity, and then draw conclusions from the dominant type of defense mechanism and masculinity construction as the result.

As mentioned above, this study also focuses on female masculinity which using Judith Halberstam's concept in order to sharpen the analysis. Halberstam (1998: 14) argues that "masculinity involves and shapes everyone, not only men, even masculinity is less related to men. Women are highlighted in various

forms of masculinity too.” This problem is formulated by representation of masculinity construction and characteristics. Therefore, the main character was chosen to be analyzed further to uncover the causing of her masculinity as her trauma reaction, and defense mechanism is activated to support her dealing with trauma from psychoanalysis point of view.

Essentially, this study shows the defense mechanism as a way to relieve anxiety, and after that, masculine behaviors began constructed that lead to masculinity as a supporting factor to avoid anxiety. In particular, the writer is going to examine the conflicts experienced by the main characters in such a way that the activation of defense mechanism often contributes to the female masculinity depicted in this novel, including the emotions, behaviors and masculinity characteristics.

1.2. Research Question

Related to the explanation above, there are two research questions as below:

1. How does the main character resist the trauma and anxiety of traumatic past event by using defense mechanism?
2. How is female masculinity of the main character depicted in *The Broken Perfection*?

1.3. Purpose of the Study

Related to the research questions, the purposes of the study are:

1. To discover how the main character resist the trauma and anxiety of traumatic past event by using defense mechanism.
2. To examine how female masculinity depicted through the main character.

1.4. Scope of the Study

The limitation based on the problem of the study are:

1. The study will focuses on dialogues, actions, thought, words, sentences and narrations of Diya Sharma as main character and her background of being masculine caused by the traumatic events in Watsapp novel entitled “The Broken Perfection.”
2. The study will focuses on exploring the traumatic past event and defense mechanism of the novel and all of the narrations showing female masculinity based on Freud’s Psychoanalysis and Judith Halberstam’s Female Masculinity.

1.5. Significance of the Study

The result of this study is intended to be a reference of initial research material that supports broader research for students who conduct research on the psychoanalysis and masculinity of female in digital literary works, particularly Watsapp. This study is expected to deepen in exploring and applying the theories of Psychoanalysis and Female Masculinity focused on the novel issue. Therefore, the results will

enhance the readers' knowledge and understanding of Wattpad in which the novel also containing interesting issue.

