

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the study

The ways human acts, feels, and speaks are motivated by drives, impulses and instincts that come from inside the human mind. Before affecting human behaviors, these impulses force their way through sensors and levels of mind. To understand the reason behind human certain behaviors, theorists have provided several approaches to study human personalities. Psychoanalysis is one of the most famous personality theories.

Psychoanalytic criticism has been considered as one of the most controversial and least appreciated critical approach to literature. But with proper application to interpretative analysis and with all of the difficulties involved, psychological criticism can be fascinating. Psychological approach is often considered as the excellent tool for reading beneath the lines in order to gain a proper understanding of the literature piece itself (Guerin et al., 1999, p. 125-126). Psychoanalysis has been most associated with Sigmund Freud.

Freud divided two levels of mind: unconscious and conscious. *Unconscious* is latent and capable of becoming conscious. This level consists of very powerful mental processes or notions. *Conscious*, on the other hand, is a notion that tends to be conscious one moment, then no longer conscious the next even though it can easily become conscious again in certain circumstances. There are two forms of *unconscious*: the latent but capable of becoming conscious and

the one—which is not spontaneously capable of becoming conscious—that consists of the repressed. For the latent component, Freud used the term *preconscious* while the term unconscious is used for the repressed one. Freud assumed that *preconscious* is much closer to the *conscious* than the *unconscious* (Freud, 2003, p. 97-98).

Freud went farther by suggesting that the powers which motivate men or women are normally and mainly unconscious. He developed an idea that the human mind is dual in nature. He called the unconscious part as id or “it” in which this part of psyche is all about passion, irrational, and unknown (Freud, 2003, p. 104). Id is the region of all basic drives such as sex and aggression. Every basic drive has its own impetus, source, aim, and object. For example, the sexual drive that has an aim to pleasure (Freud in G. Feist & J. Feist, 2008, p. 31-32).

For the conscious part Freud called the ego or “I” in which this part of psyche is rational, logical, and orderly. The ego represents what may be called as reasons and calm considerations (Freud, 2003, p. 104). Consciousness attaches to the ego and it controls the ways to activity. In dealing with illogical demands of the id, the ego does two things: puts up with them or fight them through the process of repression (Freud, 2003, p. 107). The id and ego conflict causes a reaction called anxiety. To protect itself from *anxiety*, ego uses *defense mechanisms* such as repression, denial, reaction formation, displacement, rationalization, fixation, regression, projection, introjection, and sublimation (G. Feist & J. Feist, 2008, p. 29).

Another part of the psyche, superego, as Freud called it, is a projection of the ego. The superego seems to be outside of the self, making moral judgment from what we have learned through our parents, schools, religions and society (Freud, 2003, p. 111). Freud believed superego has two subsystems which are conscience and ego-ideal. In general, the conscience results from punishment experiences and gives us the idea of what we *should not do*. As for the other system, ego-ideal develops from experiences with rewards and gives us the idea of what we *should do* (Freud, 2003, p. 110).

This approach under the leadership of Sigmund Freud has a significant role in literature because psychology is regarded as an inseparable part of literature. Psychoanalysis provides readers and critics the opportunity to examine the characters in literature and find out the causes behind their faults or unwelcome behaviors (İsaoğlu, 2015).

*The Host* is one of literary works that emphasizes psychological aspects in its story. As stated by Katherine Neville in “Books I’ve Blurbed”, the author of *The Fire* and *The Eight*, *The Host* is a fascinating, passionate, and unique psychological thriller (katherineneville.com, 2016). This novel has the psychological analysis potential because it provides the discussion on the complexity of human feelings and emotions and the reason behind their action or certain behaviors. In this study, the writer considers *The Host* as an example of the constant battle between two different personalities within a body.

The contestation between the two minds happens right away after Wanda, the alien, being inserted into Melanie’s body. This young woman and invading

alien are forced to work as one. Despite between Wanda and Melanie, the contestation also occurs inside each personality where the rationality tries to beat the irrational or vice versa. *The Host* is not only about aliens and supernatural things, but also about the mental conflict between two minds inside a human body.

The conflict occurs between the id, ego and superego in each mind of the two main characters of *The Host*. Melanie's desires and instincts to find her loved ones may lead them to dangerous captivity, so her ego works to find the safest and rational ways to find her family without leading them to the invaders. On the other hand, Wanda tries to fulfill her duty by finding the remaining humans and bringing them into her kinds. Wanda's superego that taught her to behave based on morality makes her confused because her rationality brings her to her duty and her instincts tell her to protect Melanie's loved ones. Therefore, the writer wants to investigate the psychological aspects of *The Host*. The investigation will be based on Sigmund Freud's Psychoanalysis theory. This study is conducted in order to get a more complete and detailed picture of psychological interpretation in *The Host*.

*The Host* was written by Stephenie Meyer, who was ranked No. 49 on *Time* magazine's list of "100 Most Influential People 2008" and was included in *Forbes* list of world's most powerful celebrities in 2009 at No. 26. According to *Amazon*, Meyer was the second bestselling author of the decade.

*The Host* itself has been translated in 26 languages and was debuted at No. 1 on *The New York Times* bestseller list and remained on the list for 26 weeks

(Entertainment Weekly, 2008). It also spent more than 36 weeks on *Los Angeles Times* bestseller list (Los Angeles Times, 2009). *The Host* was also No. 1 on Mclean's Magazine's list of 10 top-selling fiction books in Canada (The Canadian Press).

There are several previous related studies of this research. A study conducted by Hammad Musthaq (2010) carries out textual analysis of Andrew Marvell's *To His Coy Mistress* from the view point of psychoanalytical criticism. From the analysis, the researcher asserts that in the fight between id, ego and superego, the id took the final victory. Similar with Musthaq, Susantri Nasiki (2015) analyzes the psychological aspects of the main character (Avery Daniels) in Sandra Browns' *Mirror Image*. By using Sigmund Freud's personality theory, the researcher points out that id is more dominant than ego and superego in Avery Daniels' personality. Another psychoanalytical study was done by Esmail Zohdi (2015) in Alice Munro's *Runaway*. The researcher analyzed the short story using Sigmund Freud's theory of unconscious and its connection with the interpretation of dreams and symbolization of three main characters based on the psyche agencies of the id, ego and superego. A study entitled *A Freudian Psychoanalytic Analysis of Nathaniel Hawthorne's The Scarlet Letter* by Hande İsaoglu (2015) discusses the main characters' lives and personalities from a Freudian psychoanalytical point of view. The study reveals that the main characters' personalities are affected by their id, ego and superego with the references to their repressed childhood and past memories.

In 2010, Nellissa Samasstasa Debora conducted a comparative analysis on translation techniques used by the original translator of *The Host* and by Daerah Sumber Translator. As the findings of this quantitative study, the researcher stated that Vinay and Darbelnet's seven translation techniques (literal translation, transference, transposition, calque, modulation, equivalence and adaptation) were found in the translations of Chapter 10 of *The Host*. From those seven techniques, literal translation, transposition and modulation are the most used techniques by translators.

Bruna Dias Machado (2014) conducted a study of Utopia and Dystopia in *The Host*. By using bibliographic and exploratory methods, the researcher analyzed the novel based on the definition of utopia (Sir Thomas More, 1994; Pasold, 1999) and dystopia (M. Keith Booker, 1994; Pasold, 1999; and Michael Alexander, 2000). In this study, the researcher points out that the humans in cave in the novel makes utopia turns into dystopia. The utopia society is depicted through the resistance force, but the dystopia features are revealed by the fact that they are humans. As an addition, even though *The Host* reproduces some cliché, it offers an interesting reflection not only to utopia and dystopia themes but also about their interdependence.

A study on science fiction characteristics in *The Host* was conducted by Esty Rahayu Anggraini (2014). This study analyzed two books, *The Host* and *Ender's Game* novel. The researcher determined to identify the characteristics in these two novels using structuralism approach and several books as the main reference. Through the characters, plots and settings in the two novels, the

researcher succeeded in finding five characteristics of science fiction. The five characteristics which were found similar in the novels are aliens, technology, spaceship, apocalyptic and ecology aspect.

Another study conducted by Brilyan Nilam Pratiwi in 2014, discusses about Wanderer's motivation to live with human. Wanderer is a soul who was inserted into a girl's body named Melanie. Through human body, Wanderer is determined to hunt humans that run away from the invasion. This study focuses on Wanderer's motivation to live with human based on three problems which are the description of Wanderer's characterizations, the description of Wanderer's conflicts and how her motivation is revealed because of the influence of her characterization and conflict. This study finds at least six characters of Wanderer which are brave, strong, caring, persistent, smart, and sincere. By using Marlow's hierarchy of needs, the researcher points out that the reason behind Wanderer's motivation to live with humans is to fulfill her psychological needs, safety needs, love or belonging needs, and esteem needs.

From the previous studies above, the writer is determined to give different view on *The Host* by using psychoanalysis theory of Sigmund Freud. Even though psychological criticism has been used in one of the previous research, but it only describes Wanda's reasons to live with humans. As one body, Melanie and Wanda might have met several disagreements that cause contestation between each other's minds. These disagreements come from their own drives, impulses and instincts to survive. Therefore, this study is conducted in order to get deeper investigation of the id, ego and superego of the two main characters.

## **1.2 Research question**

How is the contestation between id, ego, and superego reflected in *The Host*?

## **1.3 Purpose of the study**

The main purpose of this study is to investigate the contestation between Freud's id, ego and superego of Melanie and Wanda.

## **1.4 Scope of the study**

This study is only focusing on main characters of the story, Wanda 'the alien soul' and Melanie 'the human soul'. Freud's psychoanalysis theory is expected to carry out the contestation between these two characters through their mental dialogues, anxieties, and behaviors.

## **1.5 Significance of the study**

The study is expected to contribute knowledge in psychological criticism study. It can also be as a reference for advance research about psychological aspects in literary works. This study will gain a deeper understanding of Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytical criticism.