

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. The Background of the Study

Language as a means of communication covers up two major functions namely transaction and interaction (Yule, 2010). The transactional function refers to the use of language for the purpose of giving information related to science or knowledge. When a speaker explains a certain object or an event, he uses the language for the transaction of scientific information.

The listener should have a certain level of understanding about the object or event which allows for equal communication between the two interlocutors. But not all people can immediately understand what we are trying to express to them through our language. With any background that is being experienced by speaker or interlocutor when they talked to each other, sometimes the interlocutor will not understand what have been said by the speaker therefore, it can cause a misunderstanding. This might be the causes of conflict. This phenomenon is known as external conflict because we as human being is a social creatures, so that our journey of life is inseparable from others.

Furthermore, as human being, we also encounter a conflict with ourselves, this is known as inner conflict or internal conflict as in literary term.

Sigmund Freud (in Kuswidyasari's, 2013) states that conflicts continuously occur between the systems of personality, the ego, id, and super ego. McCarthy (in Nugroho & Viladinia's, 2018) says that external conflict is when people struggle against other's force, while internal conflict is when people struggle

against opposing idea or feelings within their own mind, at the time they want to be independent but also an approval from others. It is clear that a conflict can be expressed in the interactional function of the language. In other words, the language of the speaker can show whether he has a conflict or not.

As it is mentioned previously that when sometimes there will be misunderstanding between interlocutors that cause a conflict, sentences that contain the reality of conflicts can be found in a description or a story told by a writer or narrator in novel. The sentences express the idea of controversies or dilemmas which can be studied by analyzing the meaning of the sentences in terms of the novel theme.

Zamil and Zurianty (2018) state that novel is one of literature that contains various problems in which they are packed intrestingly and clearly by an author with the aim to attract readers in appreciating his work. It can be concluded that not only in the real life, people have their own problem, but also a novel can show that the readers will find too many problems. Nugroho & Viladinia (2018) state that the real life does not look like a fairy tale that is filled with some unique stories. Wellek and Warren (in Nugroho & Viladinia's, 2018) state that a novel is a picture of real life behaviour, emphasizing the importance of detail, referring to reality and deep psychology. Based on the previous explanation, it can be concluded that in a novel, human beings are presented as characters, because the story that is figured out in a novel is the representation of human experiences.

In a novel, characters play certain roles to make the story interesting to read. In the novel of "Romeo and Juliet" by Shakespeare, for instance, presents

a topic about love and tragedy and its effect over the perception of the people who saw the two young lovers trying to enjoy their love relations. Romeo (as the character) is the protagonist who was actively in pursuit of his relationship with Juliet. But their love is not condoned. The opposing force or obstacle was that they were forbidden to continue their love relationship which is a conflict in terms of literary analysis.

In this study, the writer has chosen the novel "Tentang Kamu" by Tere Liye as the source of data for the analysis about conflicts and defense mechanisms. This novel is written by an Indonesian novelist who has produced several novels that capture the attention of many readers in Indonesia. This novel tells about Sri Ningsih who had an inheritance of one billion poundsterlings or around 19 trillion rupiahs and struggled her life in the darkness of her past that faithfully haunted her because of revenge and heritage even when she had moved to another place.

The interesting thing of this novel is that there is another character named Zaman Zulkarnaen, a lawyer in Thompson and Co, one of the best law firms in the world. Zaman was assigned to investigate the inheritance of Sri Ningsih's assets. On his way, tracing the legitimate inheritance of Sri Ningsih, he heard the story of Sri Ningsih told by the people who had been with her as long as she lived and witnessed the struggle of her life. The orphanage in Paris is the first place that he visited. In there, he met Aimee, a beautiful young woman, who took care of the nursing home, and its residents. He only got the diary book of Sri Ningsih but he did not get what he really wanted to know which was Sri Ningsih's inheritance letter. Sri's life journey is portrayed through

the journey of Zaman, as a lawyer assigned to investigate the rightful heirs of Sri's assets. From this resume, it can be concluded that Sri Ningsih is the main character that will be discussed. A main character plays an important role in the story or the novel.

The novel provides an insight into the nature of conflict and how it can be resolved by a character in focus. The following excerpt shows how a conflict appears and then it is resolved.

*Sri meremas jemarinya. Matanya basah. Dia lapar sekali. Apalagi setelah berjuang mengambil air di seberang. Mengapa ibu tirinya tidak bisa sedikit saja mengasihani dan peduli padanya? Sri menggit bibir, segera mengusir pikiran jelek yang melintas di kepalanya. Tidak apa, tidak apa. Sri merunduk membujuk hatinya, setidaknya Tilamuta malam ini tidur dengan perut kenyang. Itu lebih dari cukup. Dulu bapaknya berpesan, selain selalu patuh pada ibunya, agar dia menjaga Tilamuta.*

(Translated into English: Sri squeezed her fingers. Her eyes were wet. She was very hungry especially after struggling to fetch water across. Why does her step-mother ignore her and even despise her? Sri bit her lips and immediately chased away the bad thoughts that lingered in her head. It's ok, Sri tried to be humiliated to persuade her heart to make sure Tilamuta slept with a full stomach tonight. It is more than enough. In the past his father advised her not only to become an obedient daughter for her step-mother but also took care of Tilamuta.)

The situations above show the internal conflict that experienced by Sri. It can be seen that how bitter the life of Sri Ningsih, but she still wants to give her best for others, Tilamuta, and she quickly chases away her bad thoughts, and solve

the conflict that occur in her mind by remembering what have been said by her father before died).

The external conflict can be shown in the following quotation from the novel:

*Gadis usia empat belas tahun itu bahkan tidak perlu berpikir dua kali, seperti banteng terluka dia lari menuju anak tangga. "Apa yang kamu lakukan Sri?" Salah satu pemuda memegang tangannya. "Lepaskan. Aku harus naik." "Tidak ada yang boleh naik kesana, Sri. Api sudah terlalu besar." "Lepaskan!! Aku harus kesana." Sri membentak, wajahnya merah padam. "Kamu gila! Bahkan disini saja sudah panas sekali. Itu bunuh diri, tadi beberapa pemuda juga sudah berusaha naik. Kita juga tidak tahu persis dimana ibu tirimu dan Tilamuta berada." Sri menghentakkan tangannya, berhasil, pegangan itu terlepas. Dia tidak peduli, dia harus menyelamatkan Tilamuta dan Nusi Maratta. Sebelum pemuda lain berhasil mencegahnya, Sri berlarian menaiki anak tangga.*

(Translated into English: The fourteen-year old girl didn't even think twice like a raging bull running towards the stairways. "What are you doing, Sri? One of the young men held her hand. "Leave me alone. I must go upstairs. "No one can go there, Sri. The fire is very big. "Leave me alone. I must go there.

Sri shouted with a red face. "You are crazy." Even here it is very hot. That's a suicide. Just now a few young men had tried to go up. We neither know exactly where your stepmother and Tilamuta are. Sri pulled out her hands and the hold was loose. She didn't care. She had to save Tilamuta and Nusi Maratta. Before another young man could stop her, she had run upstairs.)

From the excerpts above, it can be seen that Sri wanted to rescue her step-mother and brother from the blaze, but people forbade her to do that. When the external conflict occurs, she attempts to settle it down immediately. With a single founding, she could release the tight grip of the young man who forbade her. Sri always knows how to solve her problem.

It can be concluded that although conflict exists in every human life, there is always a problem solving. In the real life, all people experience conflicts as they deal with the reality which is interpreted differently that can cause a tension. As Freud states that someone's personality can be developed by physiology development process, frustrations, conflict, and threat. These sources known as several kinds of tensions (Nugroho & Viladinia, 2018). It is clear that conflict became one of the factor that cause tensions.

A certain situation can be understood but it depends on how the people look at the tensions by the situation as people have a development personality. When people are learning to solve their problems, they denote that they are learning the ways to reduce the tension. There is a method to reduce the tension called defense mechanism (Cramer, 2006). Defense mechanism is a theoretical construct that describes a cognitive operation that occurs on an unconscious level. The function of which is to modify the conscious experience of thought or affect.

As the preliminary data which mentioned above, that even Sri Ningsih was hurt, she still cared and gave her best for her beloved brother, by thinking that everything would be fine and remembering what had been said by her father before his death. It can be seen that she was trying to deny her anxiety disorder. This is

appropriate with the theory of defense mechanism by Cramer, that is denial. Denial may be defined as the failure to see, recognize, or understand the existence or the meaning of an internal or external stimulus, so as to avoid the anxiety that would occur if the stimulus were recognized (Cramer, 2006).

As mentioned above, mistakes are made by those who have different perceptions and interpretations of life, then what is considered good by a person may be bad for another, but even though conflict can cause a tension, there is still a way for solving problem to reduce or eliminate the impact of painful experiences. That is the interesting aspect of life as narrated in the novel.

#### **B. The Problem of the Study**

The problem in this study can be formulated in the following questions:

- 1) What types of conflict does the main character experience in the novel?
- 2) How is defense mechanisms reflected in the novel to solve the problem?

#### **C. The Objective of the Study**

1. This study is aimed at finding out the types of conflict of the main character in the novel "Tentang Kamu"
2. This study is aimed at finding out the defense mechanism that is reflected in solving the problem.

#### **D. The Scope of the Study**

The study is limited to the discussion of external and internal conflicts applying Freud's theory as mentioned in Islam's book (2016). The conflicts were experienced by the main character who tried to solve the

conflict by using defense mechanisms theory by Freud as mentioned in Cramer's book (2006).

#### **E. The Significance of the Study**

The results of the analysis on the conflict of the main character as narrated in the novel can contribute something to the human values and understanding of the mystery of life. There are things that create a conflict and the attempts to solve the conflicts can be good lessons for the readers.

