

## **CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION**

### **A. The Background of the Study**

Talking about literature is basically talking about life. Literature has played an important part in human life. Literature is part of language usage of human artwork, literature combine human thought, ideas and experience and creates a new map of experience which closely used to communicate and elaborate human social life. Furthermore, it represents life in measure a social reality, even though natural world and inner of subjective world of individual also has been the subject of literary imitation.

In general, literature is divided into three parts namely prose, poetry, and drama. As Dongoran (2000: 1) states that poetry is extra ordinary because it's precious, polish, and the way in which it charges words with force and suggestion. Drama or play is different from other literary works. Drama is treated as literature to be read privately, or as the other, to be seen in public performance. While prose is the expression in a direct style, in other words we can say straight forward speech.

Prose can be divided into some parts; they are novel, short story, novella and romance, etc. Novel is an invented prose narrative and a certain complexity deals with imaginative of human experience. A short-story is a piece of prose fiction marked by relative shortness and density. A novella is a written, fictional, prose narrative normally longer than a short story but shorter than a novel. A romance is a fictional narrative in prose or verse that represents a chivalric theme

or relates improbable adventures of idealized characters in some remote or enchanted setting.

Human faces many conflicts in their daily life, whether external conflict or even internal conflict. Internal conflict is the conflict that comes from the human itself while external conflict is the conflict that comes from out of human itself. Such phenomenon is universal as the context can happen wherever the place, whenever the time, and to whoever the people.

In ways to release their problem, human usually do verbal language for instance sharing their experience/problem to the other people, writing it into diary, poem, short story and novel. Besides using verbal language, they also doing nonverbal language (doing action) for instance looking for better something or someone that can make them feeling safety and happy.

There are few studies also support the research on repression and displacement like Leslie Morrison in his journal "Coping and Defense Mechanisms of Mothers learning Disabled Children" (1986) and the result of his research is the analysis of the children's problem in studying and mothers' use of coping mechanism when involved with medical, social and educational agencies. And then Joseph Burgo in his journal "Why Do I Do That?: Psychological Defense Mechanisms and the Hidden Ways They Shape Our Lives" (2012) and the result of his research is a depressed college freshman faces many conflicts and then he did psychotherapy with an esteem doctor he credits with helping him to develop distinct "views of human nature and what drive us" which enabled him to later become a successful psychologist and threaten personal safety and

happiness. And Gurwara Simmi in his journal "Inter Personal and Intra Psychic Defense Mechanisms: Anita Desai's Fire on the Mountain" (2011) and the result of his research is his analysis is to try to cope with their basic anxiety by adopting a complaint or self-effacing solution and moving toward people, by adopting an aggressive or expansive solution and moving against people, or by becoming detached or resigned and moving away from people.

Character is a person used by the author to carry the action, language, ideas, and emotion of the story. Character can be divided into two types; they are main character and minor character. Main character is the central figures in a novel if one the main characters play the rules for more than others do, he is called the focus of the story or the protagonist. The second is minor character. The minor character is the character of less important than those of the main.

To recover from all these conflicts, human using defense mechanism which is a part of psychoanalysis. According to Freud (1969: 11) psychoanalysis is a scientific discipline which was begun sixty years ago; it's a body of hypotheses concerning mental functioning and development in a man. Freud (1974: 585) also states that a defense mechanism in which a drive or feeling is shifted to a substitute object, one that psychologically more available. For example: when someone felt depression because of failure in love, he will be shifted to a substitute objects perhaps into a better person.

To discover the conflict, human often gets in repression and displacement as the elements of defense mechanism. According to Freud which is quoted by Minderop (2010: 33) repression involves the most direct approach to avoiding the

experience of anxiety. As the result of repression, the person is not aware of his/her own anxiety-producing impulses or does not remember deeply emotional and traumatic past events. While displacement is a defense mechanism in which a drive or feeling is shifted to a substitute object, one that psychologically more available. For example, aggressive impulses may be displaced, as in scapegoating, upon people (or inanimate objects) who are not sources of frustration but safer to attack.

The human conflicts not only appear in daily life, but it is also reflected to the literary work especially in novel. A novel is a piece of literary work provides not only an interesting narrative featuring philosophical value and moral teaching but also a lesson about various aspects of life. Kennedy (1974: 43) says that a novel is a book, length story in prose, whose author tries to create the sense that while we read, we experience actual life. A novel is often used as an object of study, one of the novels is *Eat, Pray, Love*. Gilbert as the main character in the novel faces many conflicts in her life especially related to her psychology conflict. She had everything, a husband, a house, a successful career. But instead of feeling happy and fulfilled, she was consumed with panic, grief, and confusion. She went through a divorce, a crushing depression, another failed love, and the eradication of everything she ever thought she was supposed to be. This is the *repression*.

To recover the problems, Gilbert took a radical step in order to give her the time and space to find out who she really was and what she really wanted. Her aim was to visit three places Rome, India and Indonesia. She became the pupil of

an elderly medicine man and also fell in love the best way. And this is the *displacement*.

There are some reasons to choose Elizabeth Gilbert's novel "Eat, Pray, Love" by considering some points: firstly, Eat, Pray, Love is like a modern novel because its technique involves an emphasis on the devices of storytelling as well as on the telling of the story. Secondly, because it has a great adventure story and has a spiritual lesson, it educates how to discover problems in our life, how to go out from the problem and displace to another better thing. Third, this novel is very famous and interesting to read because it is one of the best seller and it has been reflected to a movie. So that is why the writer comes up with the topic "Repression and Displacement of Main character in Elizabeth Gilbert's Novel *Eat, Pray, Love*."

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

In the novel "*Eat, Pray, Love*" written by Elizabeth Gilbert, the writer would like to analyze the repression and displacement that is the element of defense mechanism which is represented by the main character. Thus, the problem of the study can be stated as:

1. What are the reasons for the main character's repressions?
2. What are the displacements that happened to the main character?

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

There are many kinds of defense mechanism by Freud. They are repression, sublimation, projection, displacement, rationalization, reaction formation, regression, aggression and apathy, and fantasy and stereotype. But in

this study, the writer just focused to reveal two mechanisms; *repression* and *displacement* to analyze the main character.

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

Repression is a condition when the characters get some conflicts in their life. They try to do displacement by going out from the conflicts to get better life.

Thus, the objective of this research is:

1. to find out the reasons for the main character's repressions.
2. to find out the displacements that happened to the main character.

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

It is very interesting and challenging to discuss repression and displacement that often happen to human life. While human repressed by the some conflicts in their life, they will try to displace to something better. In this case, the research findings is expected to the English teachers, the investigation on the novel will add the knowledge of literary work, the students, it would provide better and clearer understanding on the element of a novel and for the students who are interested in studying literary works. It is of course will be very useful for them in enriching their knowledge and increasing their language proficiency, and the readers of literature, they can get some moral teaching through the novel. It can also help the readers know and understand that human conflict can be a serious problem that may always influence somebody in his life. It does not matter who one is and where one lives.